

An overview of the London Crime Prevention Co-commissioning Fund priorities for children and young adults

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July 2017

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About us



The **Prison Reform Trust** is an independent UK charity working to create a just, humane and effective penal system. It does this by inquiring into the workings of the system; informing prisoners, staff and the wider public; and by influencing Parliament, government and officials towards reform.

MOPAC have asked us to provide an overview on their priorities in respect of children and young adults, and in respect of women.

The co-commissioning fund

“some London challenges relating to the Police and Crime Plan priorities could be better addressed through greater collaboration. This approach will encourage co-design, co-commissioning and co-delivery of services, provide efficiencies from joining up services across areas and provides and ensure that Londoners have access to the services they need.”

[p5.]

Youth offending in London, including 18-24 year olds



MOPAC's analysis of current performance:

- Progress with diversion and reductions in custody
- Growing rehabilitation challenge for those who remain in the system
- Rise in serious violence
 - 24% rise in total knife crime in past year
 - 16% rise in number of victims of serious violence aged under 20 in past year
- Higher proportion of children transitioning into the adult criminal justice system and growing evidence of distinctive needs of young adults
- Rise in racial disparity
 - 76% children in custody from a BAME background

Youth justice performance in London



First time entrants

June 2010 7878

June 2015 3132

London fall 60%, national fall 70%

Children in custody

March 2010 554

June 2016 268

London fall 51%, national fall 59%, 71% excluding London

Proven reoffending and average number of reoffences

Slightly above national averages

Overview and commentary 1



Diversion and desistance have been the engines of change in London as elsewhere

Progress in these areas has created the confidence essential to reducing numbers of children in custody

Fall in numbers of first time entrants and children in custody slower in London than elsewhere in England and Wales (2010-2016, rise of 5 points in proportion of children in custody from London)

Engagement of wide range of partners central to this, emphasises need to maintain this momentum (panels, problem solving courts, broad based resettlement consortia)

Overview and commentary 2



What works in resettlement/rehabilitation? – our response should be data driven, how in turn can this be improved?

T2A has commissioned more than 40 reports on evidence base on needs of young adults,
[//www.t2a.org.uk/t2a-evidence/research-reports/](http://www.t2a.org.uk/t2a-evidence/research-reports/)

76% of children in custody from London are from BAME communities, against national average of 44% (or below 20% if London children are excluded)

Gaps MOPAC identifies in services



- Prevention and diversion schemes
- Greater investment in CAMHS services to *“rethink the way that mental health support is provided to children at risk”*
- Lack of accommodation for children held under PACE
- Services and support for young adults who transition to adult criminal justice systems
- Services to over represented groups such as looked after children and BAME children

Overview and commentary 3

Rethinking CAMHS services? Should this be a MOPAC priority when only 36% of CCGs spent their 'transforming' grant on additional CAMHS services in 2015/16 (and only 50% in 2016/17?)

8365 children detained overnight in police custody post change (MPS data 2015/16) – wide disparity in performance by borough – 63% from BAME background

Home Office Concordat unsigned, HMIC thematic reported *“the detention of children overnight in police cells has been a concern for many years but has not been addressed effectively through partnership working”*

<http://howardleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/DRAFT-Concordat-on-Children-in-Custody.pdf>

Overview and commentary 4

T2A Pathway identifies recommendations at each phase:

Policing and arrest – diversion – restorative justice – prosecution – sentencing – community sentences – transfer – custody – resettlement – enabling desistance

www.t2a.org.uk/model-for-change/recommendations/

Laming report highlights best practice in reducing criminalisation of looked after children

www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/ProjectsResearch/CareReview

MOPAC's areas of focus



- Improved and/or increasing diversion of triage
- Improving safeguarding of children held in police custody
- Increasing secure bed provision
- Challenging inequalities and disparity
- Improving the resettlement of children from custody or improving alternatives to custody
- Improving transitions
- Services for young adults

Overview and commentary 5

The challenge of growing racial disparity

A highly mobile population – just under half offences committed outside home borough

Loss, identity, and the impact of early childhood trauma

Contextual safeguarding, missing children and sexual exploitation

Structural and financial insecurity facing London services