**COMMUNITY AND SYSTEMIC RISK FACTORS OF INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME**

The findings presented here are based on in-depth interviews with nine stakeholders working with young people, five young people supported by St Giles

The research aimed to explore the individual, community, and systemic reasons/risk factors for youth offending, gain insights into the experiences of young people encountering the Criminal Justice System (CJS) and understand the challenges these young people experience in attaining education, training, and employment outcomes. The research sought effective support for reducing barriers and improving outcomes for young people.

**Evaluation of St Giles Choices Programme: Depth Qualitative Study**

Evaluation of St Giles Choices Programme focuses on key factors that were considered to effectively support young people.

**Key factors that were considered to effectively support young people**

**Prevention and early intervention**

Stakeholders highlighted the importance of early intervention to prevent young people from engaging in crime. They emphasized the need to provide positive experiences and opportunities that can help young people develop a sense of belonging and purpose.

**Intervention for young people at risk of involvement in crime**

Young people referred to effective support as crucial for their successful rehabilitation. They identified the need for a non-judgemental approach, flexible support that can adapt to their changing needs, and opportunities to develop new skills in areas of interest.

**Education and awareness**

Young people felt that education, particularly around financial literacy and the consequences of offending, was crucial. They highlighted the importance of education for understanding long-term impacts of their actions.

**Support from role models**

Young people highlighted the importance of having positive role models who can provide guidance and support. They believed that role models can help young people recognize their skills and potential.

**Non-judgemental bespoke and flexible support**

Young people emphasized the need for non-judgemental and flexible support that can meet their changing needs. They highlighted the importance of support that is tailored to their specific circumstances.

**Rehabilitation and support**

Young people referred to effective rehabilitation support as crucial for their post-release success. They highlighted the need for ongoing support and opportunities to develop new skills.

**Special educational needs and disability**

Young people referred to the importance of considering young people's special educational needs and disabilities. They emphasized the need for tailored support to meet their specific needs.

**Effective pattern working**

Young people highlighted the importance of effective pattern working, including communication and collaboration between services to provide seamless support.

**Making every contact count**

Young people referred to the importance of making every contact count. They highlighted the need for effective communication and collaboration between services to provide ongoing support and opportunities to develop new skills.

**Additional needs and support**

Young people referred to the importance of providing additional support, including financial assistance and opportunities to develop new skills. They emphasized the need for ongoing support and opportunities to develop new skills.

**Effective partnership working**

Young people referred to the importance of effective partnership working, including communication and collaboration between services to provide ongoing support and opportunities to develop new skills.

**Making every contact count**

Young people highlighted the importance of making every contact count. They highlighted the need for effective communication and collaboration between services to provide ongoing support and opportunities to develop new skills.

**Violence reduction**

Young people referred to the importance of violence reduction. They highlighted the need for effective communication and collaboration between services to provide ongoing support and opportunities to develop new skills.

**Safeguarding**

Young people highlighted the importance of safeguarding. They emphasized the need for effective communication and collaboration between services to provide ongoing support and opportunities to develop new skills.

**Trusting and effective relationships**

Young people referred to the importance of trusting and effective relationships. They emphasized the need for ongoing support and opportunities to develop new skills.

**Non-judgemental bespoke and flexible support**

Young people highlighted the importance of providing non-judgemental and flexible support that can meet their changing needs. They emphasized the need for support that is tailored to their specific circumstances.

**Conclusion**

The findings highlighted the importance of effective support for reducing barriers and improving outcomes for young people who are at risk of involvement in crime. They emphasized the need for early intervention, tailored support, and effective partnership working to provide ongoing support and opportunities to develop new skills.

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**Stakeholders and young people felt risk factors were**

- Social isolation
- Poor mental health
- Special educational needs and disability
- Substance use
- Lack of parental capacity

**Findings**

- The majority of young people felt that factors such as lack of opportunity, poverty, and family conflict were major risks for young people being involved in crime.
- Young people felt risk factors were:
  - Stakeholders and young people, and five young people supported by St.Giles
  - Employment outcomes. The research explored effective support and risk factors for youth offending, gain insights into the experiences of young people encountering the Criminal Justice System (CJS) and understand the challenges these young people experience in attaining education, training, and employment outcomes. The research sought effective support for reducing barriers and improving outcomes for young people.

**Key themes**

- Stakeholders and young people felt risk factors were:
  - Social isolation
  - Poor mental health
  - Special educational needs and disability
  - Substance use
  - Lack of parental capacity

**Prevention and early intervention**

- Stakeholders/large for young people thought more and longer-term mental health support is needed for young people. The would help to prevent the risk of involvement in crime, and support for those experiencing the long-term mental health impacts of trauma linked to offending.

**Intervention for young people at risk of involvement in crime**

- Stakeholders/large for young people thought more and longer-term mental health support is needed for young people. The would help to prevent the risk of involvement in crime, and support for those experiencing the long-term mental health impacts of trauma linked to offending.

**Education and awareness**

- Young people highlighted the importance of education, particularly around financial literacy and the consequences of offending, as crucial for young people's understanding of the long-term impacts of their actions.

**Support from role models**

- Young people emphasized the importance of having positive role models who can provide guidance and support for young people recognizing their skills and potential.

**Non-judgemental bespoke and flexible support**

- Young people highlighted the need for non-judgemental and flexible support that can meet young people's changing needs, and opportunities to develop new skills in areas of interest.