



A Secure Foundation

Young Offenders Academy

David Chesterton

Director, Secure Foundation

Chair of its Young Offenders Academy Steering Group

Qualified in Social Work and Community & Youth Work

Inner London Youth Court Chairman – JP (Thames)

Previously Managing Director, East Potential, created the largest provider of Foyer accommodation in the UK, accommodating 600+ young people in east London and Essex. (Foyers link housing with learning and support young people through the transition to adulthood)

More recently adviser to the Australian Commonwealth and State Governments on a national review of housing services for homeless And vulnerable young people.



Youth Custody - an expensive failure



The Foyer Experience

- Disconnection of young offenders in secure accommodation:
 - From their family
 - From the key adults in their lives
 - From public services – YOTs, Health and Mental Health, Education, Accommodation, etc.
- Poor outcomes



A step change

- A four year journey scrutinising a failed system
 - The dysfunctional system we found
 - The step change we propose



Dislocation

- Physical disconnection
- Separation from key adults
- Separation from local services (education, mental health, etc)
- Separation from local housing provision (resettlement)



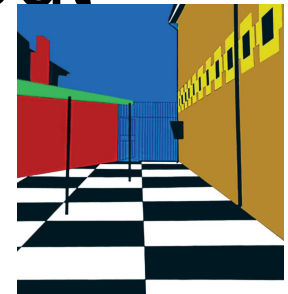
Discontinuity

- Educational progression
- Statemented children
- Mental Health
- Substance misuse



Education

- Poor quality
- Unattractive environment (for teachers and children)
- Not a priority
- Illiterate and innumerate in –
illiterate and innumerate out
- Missed opportunity



Mental Health

- Up to 80% with mental health needs
- No on-site specialist provision/staffing
- Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) – not engaged



Families

- Severing family ties
- Often part of the problem
- Chaotic and dysfunctional families
- Missed opportunity



Community Safety

- Gangs
- The current secure estate reinforces poor behaviour
- A missed opportunity



Understated Costs

- Our experience
- A top Public School – cheap at the price
- National Audit Office
- Impact of not knowing real costs



Remands and sentencing

- A perverse incentive
- Insufficient 'high level' alternatives
- Lack of confidence in community disposals
- Not everything on Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO) menu is available
- Lack of 'high end' disposals



Transparency and accountability

- Behind closed doors
- Elected representatives
- Cells very rarely visited
- Outcomes barely an issue



Europe

- Problem solving
- Remaining engaged
- Focus on mental health
- Focus on education and development
- Importance of families
- Custodial options
- Reduced use of custody



Our proposal - A step change

- Local
- 2/3 reduction in custody
- Single campus
- Education, personal development and mental health
- Continuity of relationships and support
- Transparent and accountable



Reports

- 2008 – Young Offenders in East London
- 2009 – A Secure Foundation
- 2011 – Towards a Pathfinder

Available on-line at: www.foyer.net



Funders

- City Parochial Foundation
- London Councils
- The Henry Smith Charity
- East Foundation
- KPMG Foundation
- Sainsbury Family Charitable trusts
- The Bowland Trust
- Learning & Skills Council
- Mark Leonard Trust
- The Monument Trust
- Esmee Fairbairn
- The Helen Hamlyn Foundation



Pro Bono

- **CfBT** (Education)
- **Working Links** (Skills training & employment)
- **Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health** (Mental Health)
- **Secure Healthcare** (Health)
- **Capita Architects** (Design)
- **Wates plc** (Construction)
- **Trowers & Hamlins** (Legal)
- **Thames Youth Court** (Sentencing)
- **Ernst & Young** (Financial Modelling)
- **Tribal** (Commissioning)



The Steering Group

- **David Chesterton JP**, Chair,
- **John Plummer**, Project Director,
- **David Barrie CBE**, Chair Make Justice Work,
- **Angela Camber JP**, Patron of the Griffins Society,
- **Michael Chuter**, FD National Childrens Bureau,
- **Dr Kevan Collins**, CEO London Borough of Tower Hamlets,
- **Lord Dholakia**, DL OBE, Deputy Leader Liberal Democrats, Lords
- **Sean Duggan**, Director Sainsbury's Centre for Mental Health,
- **John Graham**, Director Police Foundation,
- **Patricia Lankester**, Bowland Trust,
- **Paul McDowell**, CEO NACRO,
- **Prof. Rod Morgan**, Bristol University,
- **Lord Ramsbotham**,
- **Jane Slowey CBE**, CEO Foyer Federation
- **Anne Sofer**.

– Past members of the Steering Group: Colin Allen, Rushanara Ali MP, Robin Callender Smith, Dr Malaika Culverwell, Jennifer Izekor, Bharat Mehta, Robert Newman, Jim Semple



‘The degree of civilisation in a society can be judged by entering its prisons’
Dostoyevsky

