

Aberystwyth University

Reintegration and Resettlement Partnerships

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Reintegration and Resettlement Partnerships

Dr Kathy Hampson, Llamau



#NWRC15

Resettlement Broker Project

- Broker in post since August 2013
- Working with YOTs to develop resettlement policy and practice (seven pathways)
- Resettlement – high priority because custody leavers' high reoffending rate (73% at project start), but low custody numbers...
- Mapping report – wanted to extend Resettlement Support Panels (RSPs)
- YOTs wary of this, after previous pilot's panels not sustained



- ‘Children and Young People First’ (available at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/374572/Youth Justice Strategy English.PDF](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/374572/Youth_Justice_Strategy_English.PDF))
- “Young people eligible for resettlement and reintegration support are those placed on remand, sentenced to custody or serving community sentences and are at risk of custody if their offending behaviour continues”

Children and Young People First, p24



Responsibility for these young people is everyone's business, not just that of YOTs.

YOTs cannot answer every need on their own, and neither should they...

The answer lies in true multi-agency working across sectors (and preferably, county boundaries), involving combinations of devolved and non-devolved areas.



Reintegration and Resettlement Partnerships (RRP)

- Built on learning from Resettlement Support Panels (Phillips et al, 2012)
 - ✓ Membership strategic enough to commit resources
 - ✓ Consistency of attendance
- Slightly different model in each area (varying membership, referral criteria)
- YOT area based (some multi-county)
- Various titles (eg: Reintegration Partnership, Resettlement Advisory Group)



Reintegration and Resettlement Partnerships (RRP)

- Multi-agency (statutory and non-statutory)
- Case-based (cases presented by case manager or resettlement worker; reviews), with facility to address systemic issues
- Sub-group of YOT Management Board
- Underpinned by Terms of Reference (written by Broker, discussed and agreed in RRP)
- Frequency varying between 6 to 8 weeks
- Chaired by the Broker (independent)



Reintegration and Resettlement Partnerships (RRP)

- Case write-ups (paperwork designed by Broker, and altered reflecting consultations) prepared and distributed in advance to members by email (password protected)
- Cases presented at the meeting, then discussed by members
- Actions are agreed
- Minutes circulated, so that actions can be fulfilled
- Cases are reviewed, as appropriate, with actions not completed followed up.



Gwynedd & Ynys Môn

- Resettlement Advisory Group
- Frequency – every two months
- Referral criteria:
 - ✓ In custody, remanded to youth detention accommodation
 - ✓ In custody having received a custodial sentence
 - ✓ Secure Accommodation Orders
 - ✓ Intensive community orders at or near completion
 - ✓ Out of county transfers (in and out)
 - ✓ Transition to probation
 - ✓ High risk of harm or re-offending



Gwynedd & Ynys Môn

- First meeting 16/9/14
- Wide range of agencies from all sectors (Broker still actively engaging new agencies)
- 15 agencies at first meeting (but subsequently averaging ~7 agencies) (excluding YJC/Llamau)
- 7 meetings so far; 5 referred young people
- Alternating in venue between Caernarfon and Llangefni; bilingual paperwork
- Out-of-counties task and finish group



Gwynedd & Ynys Môn

- Is challenging the use of bed and breakfast and hostels as inappropriate
- Producing a protocol for working with care homes, plus paperwork for information sharing and identified lines of communication for new entrants to/exits from the authorities
- Greater emphasis on 'after justice' support



Conwy & Denbighshire

- Reintegration Partnership
- Frequency – every six weeks
- Referral criteria:
 - ✓ leaving custody
 - ✓ on intensive orders at or near completion
 - ✓ out of county transfers (in and out)
 - ✓ transition to probation
 - ✓ presenting a high risk of harm, re-offending, or vulnerability

Conwy & Denbighshire

- First meeting 2/10/14
- Wide range of agencies from all sectors (Broker still actively engaging new agencies)
- 16 agencies at first meeting (but subsequently averaging ~10 agencies) (excluding YJC/Llamau)
- 8 meetings so far; 7 referred young people
- Specific role has been negotiated with the youth service to act as move-on agency for 'after justice' support



Conwy Denbighshire

- Is also challenging the use of bed and breakfast and hostels as inappropriate, and difficulties in accessing accommodation *ahead* of release
- Greater emphasis on ‘after justice’ support
- One referral was from Children’s Services (not YJS), so will work with non-YJS young people *at risk of offending/custody*



Flintshire

- Initially Reintegration and Resettlement Advisory Group, now Reintegration and Resettlement Partnership
- Frequency – every two months
- Referral criteria:
 - ✓ on remand
 - ✓ leaving custody
 - ✓ on intensive orders at or near completion
 - ✓ out of county transfers (in and out)
 - ✓ transition to probation
 - ✓ high risk of harm, offending and re-offending, or vulnerability



Flintshire

- First meeting 9/3/15
- Wide range of agencies (developing over time)
- 8 agencies at first meeting (but subsequently averaging ~6 agencies) (excluding YJC/Llamau)
- 5 meetings so far, 9 referred young people
- A decision was made to split this RRP into two levels (the others have tended to operate a hybrid), an operational level (case discussions) meeting bi-monthly, and a strategic level meeting after every three (six-monthly) (first strategic meeting planned for January 2016)



Flintshire

- Taken longer to evolve into the current format
- Was able to take experiences from other areas and benefit from that (as set up much later)
- Still working on representation of different agencies (not much from non-statutory services)
- Has considered a wider range of cases than the other RRP's (hence more referrals)



Initial experience

- A wide range of cases have been brought
- RRP's have been generally well attended, with consistency of membership
- Cases discussions have resulted in important decisions regarding the young people
- Accountability for actions has been effective
- There is good buy-in from the voluntary sector in many areas
- Creative attention has been brought to 'after justice' plans.



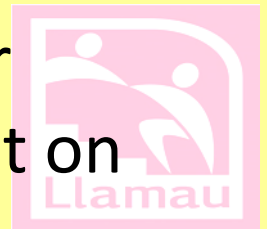
All RRP referrals

- Mainly male (18/21)
- Mean age of 16
- Wide range of YOT-level, from prevention to custodial
- Mean of 3 areas of need identified (most common ETE)
- 61% of needs had an action identified
- 82% of actions at least partially completed (but not necessarily reflecting positive outcome)
- YOTs responsible for 61% of actions (but this includes some referrals to other agencies)



Issues

- Low numbers of custody cases - reduced the priority of RRP's
- Maintaining the interest of multi-authority members
- Lack of involvement from secure estate
- There is a need more non-statutory involvement (which is where added value could lie)
- RRP's are varyingly strategic or operational, sometimes a combination
- Cases cannot be discussed effectively if key agencies are missing, which causes frustration
- Case managers can feel under scrutiny for their actions by members, if the emphasis is not kept on what services other agencies can offer



Sustainability

- RRP's are currently Chaired by the Broker (but Project is due to end) – the Chair must be proactive in:
 - ✓ facilitating effective discussion leading to offers of service
 - ✓ following up missed actions
 - ✓ challenging agencies to attend
 - ✓ inviting new members, as appropriate
 - ✓ taking actions on behalf of the RRP
- The role of Chair may be crucial to the RRP's' sustainability, acting as a catalyst for their continuance, and being a point of contact for member agencies
- The Chair should (ideally) be independent of the YOT



Any questions?

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