


Measuring the Social Impact of Secure Training Centres

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Context: Clash of punitive and welfare logics in Secure Training Centres, alongside the complexity of causation behind youth offending, has created an environment that neither benefits the young people at its heart, nor wider society.

Aim: Develop an approach to impact measurement that is centred on the young people (beneficiary-led) and that consequently policy and practice is co-developed by young people.

Methodology: Sequential mixed-method approach utilizing a questionnaire (quantitative); semi-structured interviews (qualitative) and case file analysis (quantitative and qualitative)

“I lost my mum years ago, I don't remember her much... I didn't really have a chance. I went to foster care and stuff, my brother stayed with my aunt but I was too much to handle. It's been a hard time but even my girl says I'm a strong person and I can get over it”

(Jack)

“..I'll probably end up in jail again so no point really thinking about what I might have in the future. I mean, i'm not really good at anything so if I did have something I wanted, I wouldn't get it cause I ain't so lucky right”

(Zak)

“You know I smoke drugs, not like the drugs you are thinking off though, just weed. It's the only things I have ever done and I won't stop doing that ever. It helps me cope with all the bad in life. It keeps me cool” (Liam)

“I don't have a dad though, well, I have a dad. He left years ago, before my little bro was born. He was a joke, he used to smack my mum up and stuff. He's lucky I never done him, if he came around now I would do him” (Ethan)

Resettlement Pyramid details a pathway and areas of focus for supporting young people to desist from offending and to provide them with the skills required to make successful transitions to adulthood beyond the Secure Training Centre.

Utilising measurement approaches, within the Resettlement Pyramid, provides the mechanism from which young people can be placed at the centre of policy, practice and evaluation - empowering young people can then help to reduce recidivism, generate social impact (and cost-savings for the government).

