

Secretary to the Independent
Commission on Youth Crime and
Antisocial Behaviour

CtC: first impressions

- Absorbs a wealth of empirical research and turns it into a coherent, workable preventive process
- Underpinned by an elegant, convincing theory of change
- Reveals the underlying patterns of risk and protection in similar-seeming communities.

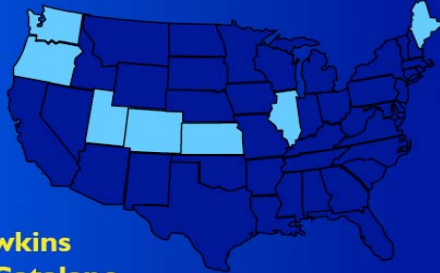
Some lessons from the first UK programmes

- CtC is 'do-able': it led to coherent action plans based on local priorities
- Measured risk factors declined where plan implementation was strongest
- Partnerships, leadership and 'champions' were critical to good implementation
- Failure to plan for budgetary and administrative contingencies – despite goodwill – led to implementation failure.

What we wish we'd known...

S D
R G

**Community Youth Development Study
A 24 Community Randomized Trial of CTC**



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Co-PI: Richard F. Catalano
Funded in 2003 by:
National Institute on Drug Abuse
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
National Cancer Institute
National Institute on Child Health and Development
National Institute on Mental Health



Time for a fresh start

The report of the
Independent Commission
on Youth Crime and
Antisocial Behaviour

Key principles

Better public protection through:

- Tackling the underlying circumstances and needs in children and young people's lives (*'prevention'*)
- Meaningful consequences for young offenders that hold them accountable to victims and the community (*'restoration'*)
- Retaining children and young people who behave antisocially and offend in mainstream or re-connecting them (*'integration'*).

Prevention proposals (1)

- A ‘public health’ approach to preventing youth crime: reducing risk factors and enhancing protection
- ‘Universal’ and ‘targeted’ preventive services based on sound evidence
- Targeted early intervention for children with chronic behaviour problems

Prevention proposals (2)

- Raise the quality of upbringing, education and support that children receive
- Apply key messages from research with greater consistency
- A structured programme of investment in cost-effective approaches
- An independent, authoritative source of guidance on effective services and good practice.

Preventive approaches

- parenting support
- pre-school education
- school tutoring
- behaviour and life-skills strategies
- family therapy
- treatment foster care
- constructive leisure opportunities; and
- mentoring programmes.

Organising prevention

- Ensure services are provided cost-effectively, without duplication
- Collate data locally and share information about children and young people at risk to plan services and specify expected outcomes
- Assemble and review evidence about the best, most effective practice
- Apply formal operating systems (such as CtC).

James's story (1)

Age

5

- Behaviour difficult to manage at home

6

- Poor progress with learning / speech delay

8

- Challenging behaviour in school / parental neglect

10

- First recorded criminal involvement

13

- Concerns about special school attendance and behaviour
- Court appearances for criminal damage and assault

14

- Strong concerns about behaviour and home life
- Court appearances for theft, TWOC, burglary
- First custodial sentence (six months)

15

- Refusing education
- Concerns about home life
- Continued offending
- Second custodial sentence (six months).

James's story (2)

- Estimated cost to public services of dealing with James's problem behaviour: £173,000*
- Estimated cost of preventive action that could have prevented his criminal career: £47,500*.

**Costs in Audit Commission (2004) updated to 2009 prices*

Counting the cost

“Sadly and disgracefully, we know from our inquiry that the youth justice system is still populated by young men ... and young women, too, with ... experiences of ill-treatment, abuse and neglect by adults, and of disregard and inefficiency on the part of overstretched public services that could have done more to help them.”

A fresh start

“The damaged lives of those who become our most serious and prolific young offenders, and the high price that falls to society when we fail them, offers the last and most compelling reason why the time has come for a fresh start.”

Independent Commission on Youth Crime