

Rethinking effective resettlement: BYC findings and framework


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@neilheard

BYC final summary report
November, 16th April 2018

Beyond
PAIN & PROUD

Opportunities and challenges

- Custodial sentences have worst reconviction rates
- Vulnerable – and custody can exacerbate problems
- Window of opportunity when young people are enthusiastic to change (and also at most emotionally vulnerable)
- Quick disillusionment if support not sufficient, relevant and timely
- Enhanced resettlement can improve outcomes and save money



Over 15 years of research showing correlations with reduced offending

Including:

- Evaluation of Midway Secure Training Centre (1998-2002)
- Evaluation of Midweek Court Training Order (2002-2003)
- Evaluation of RISE programme (2003-2005)
- Development of reconviction rates in resettlement (2005)
- Evaluation of Post-Release Support Project Scheme (2005-2008)
- Evaluation of the UK Resettlement Partnership Study (2011-2012)
- Trials of resettlement in North Wales and South Wales (2012-2015)

Feedback on resettlement now.


Existing policy messages from research

Consistent – seamless programme from start to beyond sentence
Coordinated – managed partnerships across sectors



Poor business as usual

- Principles of good practice not being done
- Custody focused on coping
- Agencies disaffected and misaligned
- YP still disillusioned early

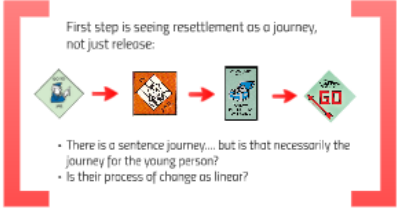


Research based criteria

Outcomes were 'Shocking'

Why is it still so poor?

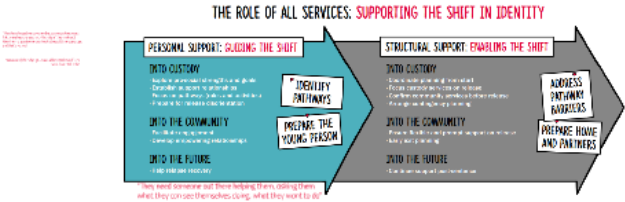
- Practitioners think they are doing 'resettlement' by putting in resources
- Overwhelmed in seeing success as their the resources and processes they offer to them is not enough
- Practitioners have a habit
- Lack of overall aim for resettlement (beyond symptomatic)
- Unclear why parts important to the whole
- Unclear of the role that support plays
- Unclear why each element would make a difference
- Lack of a theory of change



- BYC Theory of Change in resettlement: an identity shift**
- The elements of criminogenic background ensure young people make sense of themselves in ways that promote criminal activity
 - Their character in their life-story was defined in ways that would see them offend
 - Interactions with justice professionals have underlined their pro-offending identity, reinforced by custody
 - Effective and sustained resettlement involves the young person shifting their identity - that's the change journey.
 - The new identity would promote positive outcomes - desistance >
 - But how does resettlement support fit in?



THE WHY: 5 KEY CHALLENGES FOR S. PAUL



- Building the shift - Intermediate outcomes**
- Clear future goals and vision
 - Clear about roles and values
 - YP and pathway plan in place
 - Have external self-identity following release
 - Appropriate self-identity at end
 - Appropriate self-identity at end
 - Continued engagement with ETE

- Building the shift - Intermediate outcomes**
- Active programme engaged
 - Partners engaged in planning
 - Full-time on custody work started by suitable agency
 - ETE activity clearly defined
 - Stable accommodation secured before release
 - Accommodation established
 - Established place of residence and

Rethinking effective resettlement: BYC findings and framework

Professor Neal Hazel, University of Salford
@nealhazel

BYC Parliamentary event
Westminster, 16th April 2018

Beyond
YOUTH CUSTODY

Beyond

YOUTH CUSTODY

A 6-year England-wide programme examining and promoting best practice in the resettlement of children and young adults leaving custody.

BYC uses research to challenge, advance and promote better thinking in policy and practice for effective resettlement.

www.beyondyouthcustody.net | @BYCustody



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER



What we do

- Producing robust evidence about what works



- Giving young people a voice



- Developing and promoting good practice



- Identifying & communicating what needs to change







November 2017

Hazel, with Goodfellow, Liddle, Bateman & Pitts

Opportunities and challenges

- Custodial sentences have worst reconviction rates
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 - Window of **opportunity** when young people are enthusiastic to change (and also at most emotionally vulnerable)
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- Enhanced resettlement can improve outcomes and save money



Over 15 years of research showing correlations with reduced offending:

Including:



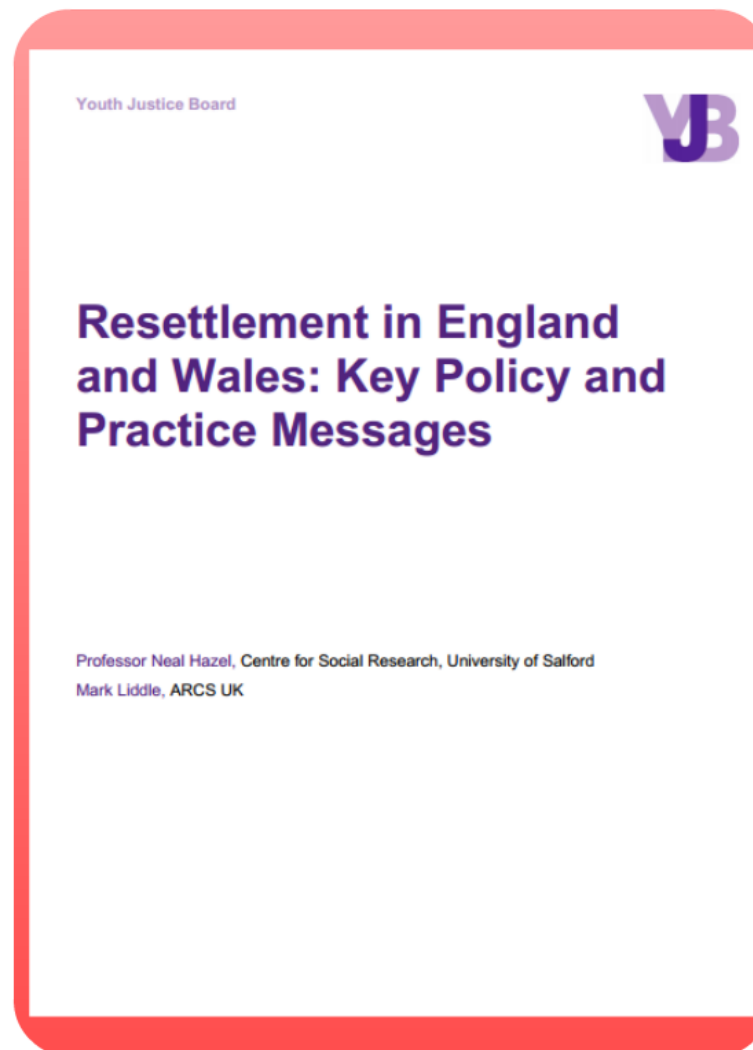
- Evaluation of Medway Secure Training Centre (1998-2000)
- Assessment of Detention and Training Order (2000-2002)
- Evaluation of RESET programme (2005-2008)
- Development of recommendations on resettlement (2010)
- Evaluation of Pilot Resettlement Support Panel Scheme (2005-2008)
- Evaluation of the YJB Resettlement Consortium Pilots (2011- 2012)
- Studies of resettlement in North Wales and South Wales (2012-2014)

Each taught us something new...

Existing policy messages from research:

Consistent - seamless programme from start to beyond sentence

Coordinated - managed partnerships across sectors



Poor business as usual



Joint thematic inspection of resettlement services to children by Youth Offending Teams and partner agencies

A Joint Inspection by:
HM Inspectorate of Probation
Care Quality Commission
Ofsted

March 2015

- Principles of good practice not being done
- Custody focused on coping
- Agencies distrustful and misaligned
- YP still disillusioned early

- Research based criteria

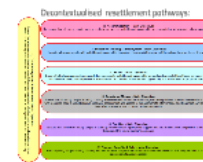
Outcomes were '*Shocking*'

Why is it still so poor?

- Practitioners think they are doing 'resettlement' by putting in resources

'[Resettlement] is nothing new and we have the resources and, you know, the effort is there in our service'
Practitioner, North Wales

- Lack of overall aim for resettlement (beyond symptomatic)
- Unclear why parts important to the whole
- Unclear of the role that support plays
- Unclear why each element would make a difference
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Decontextualised resettlement pathways:

(1) Case Management & Transitions – Main Objective:
Ensure that young people serving custodial sentences receive effective, end-to-end service provision based on a thorough assessment of need and risk, in order to reintegrate them into the community.

(2) Accommodation – Main Objective:

To ensure that all young people leaving custody can access suitable and sustainable accommodation with support where appropriate

(3) Education Training & Employment – Main Objective:

Provide all young people with suitable and sustainable Education, Training & Employment throughout their sentence & beyond

(4) Health – Main Objective:

Ensure that all young people in custody have access to suitable and sustainable general and specialist healthcare services, based on individual need, so that problems are assessed and treated at the earliest opportunity and in the most appropriate manner

(5) Substance Misuse – Main Objective:

Ensure that all young people entering custody are screened for substance misuse, with recognition of previous interventions. Those with identified need s should receive specialist assessment and access to the appropriate interventions and treatment services, with their aftercare needs met on return to the community

(6) Families – Main Objective:

Ensure that families of young people in custody receive timely, high-quality support and information, from the point of arrest and throughout the young person's sentence

(7) Finance, Benefits & Debt – Main Objective:

Ensure young people leaving custody and their families are provided with information and advice so that they are able to access appropriate financial support

To ensure that all young people

Provide all young people

Ensure that all young people
on individual need, so

Ensure that all young people
with identified needs short

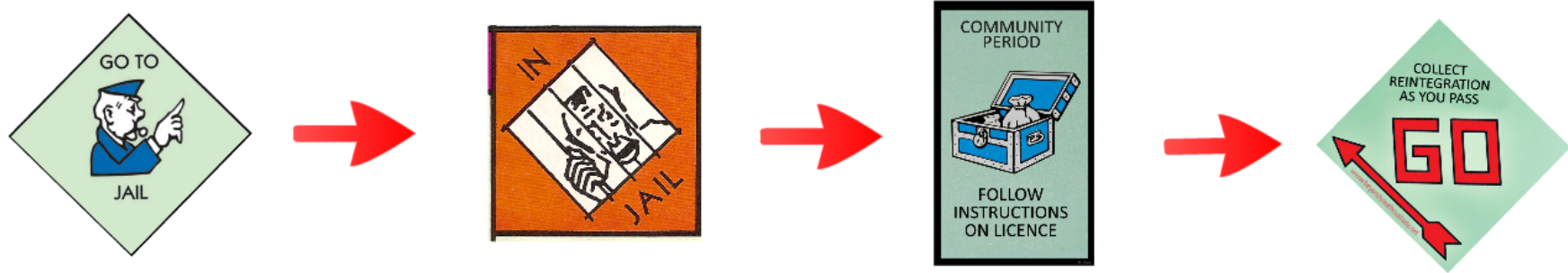
Ensure that families of young

Ensure young people learn

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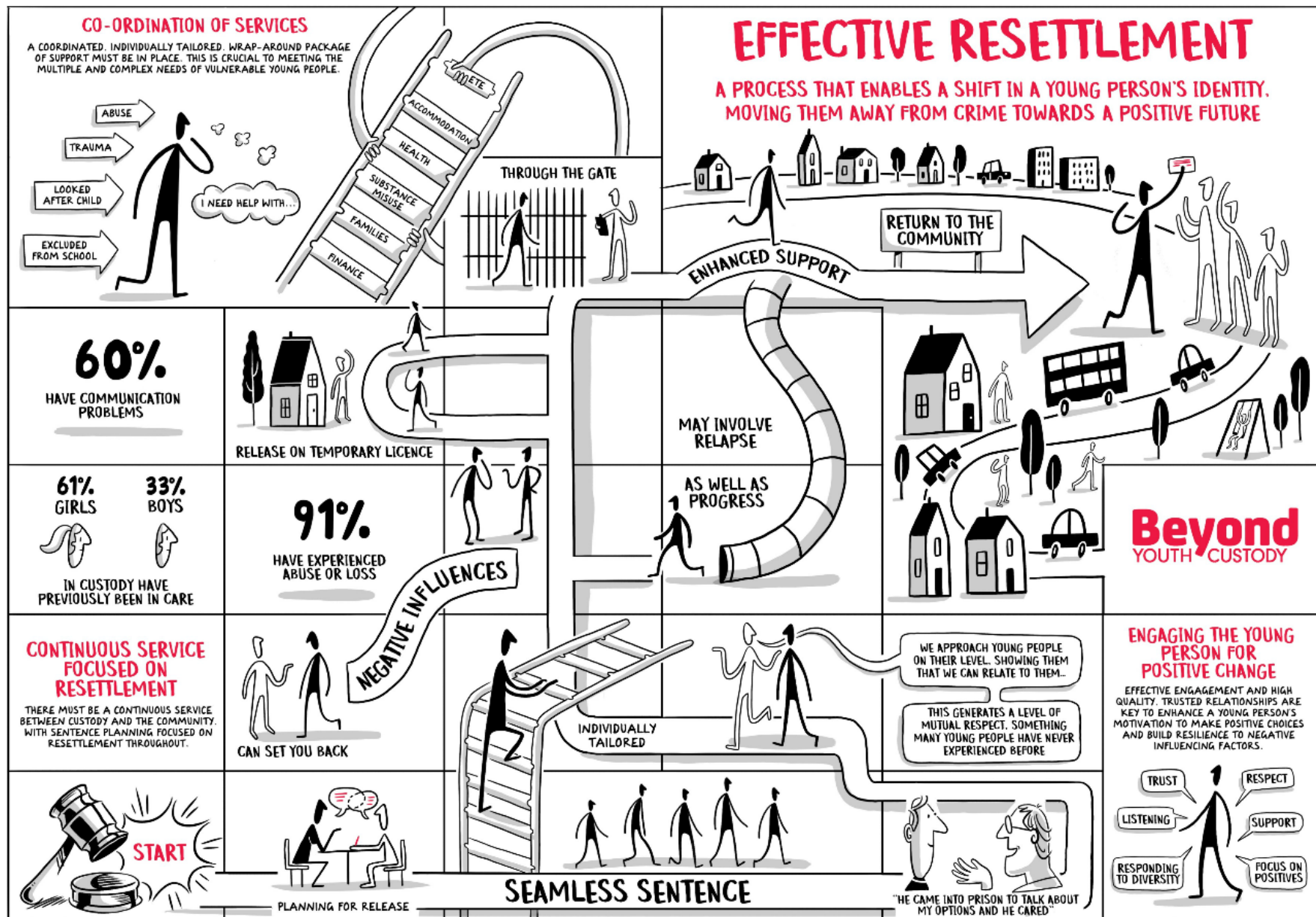
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First step is seeing resettlement as a journey,
not just release:



- There is a sentence journey.... but is that necessarily the journey for the young person?
- Is their process of change as linear?

More of a "snakes and ladders journey" for the young person:



- So, what's is happening on a successful journey?
- What is the theory of change?

ers journey" for the young

EFFECTIVE RESETTLEMENT

A PROCESS THAT ENABLES A SHIFT IN A YOUNG PERSON'S IDENTITY,
MOVING THEM AWAY FROM CRIME TOWARDS A POSITIVE FUTURE



Engagement revealed as a process of transformation



Facilitating an identity shift = desistance

BYC Theory of Change in resettlement: an identity shift

- The elements of criminogenic background ensure young people make sense of themselves in ways that promote criminal activity
- Their character in their life-story was defined in ways that would see them offend
- Interactions with justice professionals have underlined their pro-offending identity, reinforced by custody
- Effective and sustained resettlement involves the young person shifting their identity - that's the change journey.
- The new identity would promote positive outcomes - desistance >
- But how does resettlement support fit in?

"If you conduct yourself in a good way... and portray myself in a good way, people will warm to me more... Everybody I know says I seem like a man now - I can't go round talking like a child in a hoody!"

• Wales data on criminal identity



THE ROLE OF ALL SERVICES: SUPPORTING THE SHIFT IN IDENTITY

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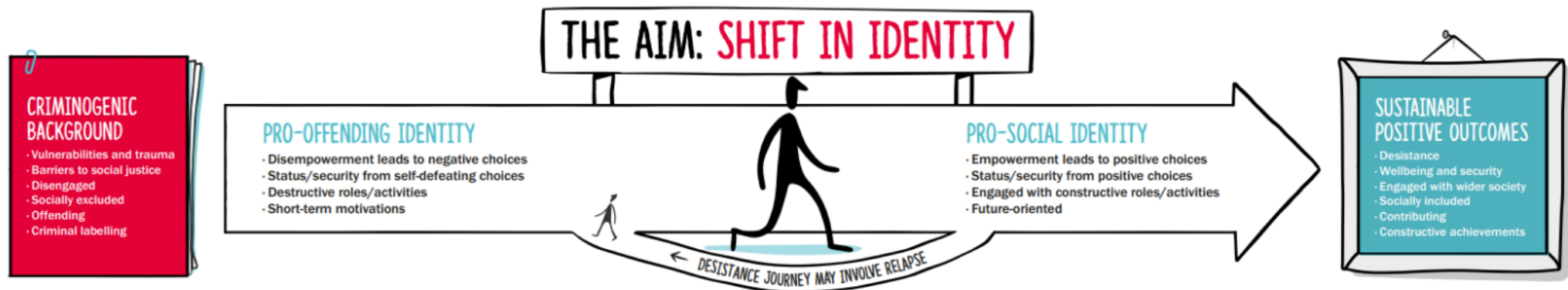
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THE ROLE OF ALL SERVICES: SUPPORTING THE SHIFT IN IDENTITY

PERSONAL SUPPORT: GUIDING THE SHIFT

STRUCTURAL SUPPORT: ENABLING THE SHIFT

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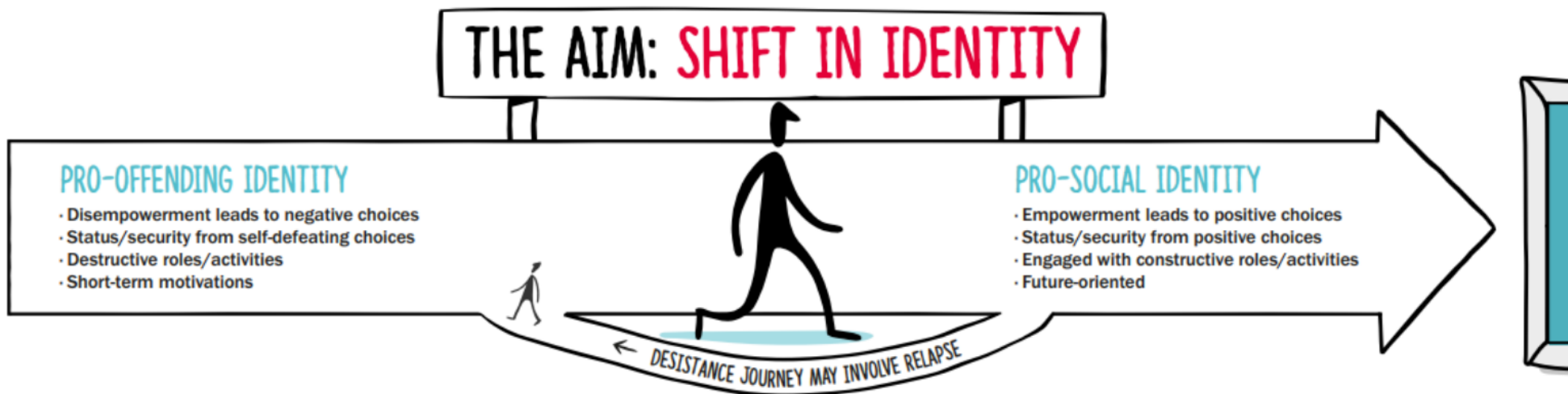
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THE ROLE OF ALL SERVICES: SUPPORTING THE SHIFT IN IDENTITY

PERSONAL SUPPORT: GUIDING THE SHIFT

INTO CUSTODY

- Explore pro-social strengths and goals

IDENTITY

STRUCTURAL SUPPORT: ENABLING THE SHIFT

INTO CUSTODY

- Coordinate planning from start

ADDRESS

"They have helped me come on that journey a long way...
A lot more has changed with the help of [my workers].
Now I'm in a position where I look at myself two years ago,
and that's not me"

"Because of the help I got, I was able to find myself and
what I wanted to be"



← DESISTANCE JOURNEY MAY INVOLVE RELAPSE

THE ROLE OF ALL SERVICES: SUPPORTING THE SHIFT IN IDENTITY

PERSONAL SUPPORT: GUIDING THE SHIFT

INTO CUSTODY

- Explore pro-social strengths and goals
- Establish support relationships
- Focus on pathways (roles and activities)
- Prepare for release disorientation

INTO THE COMMUNITY

- Facilitate engagement
- Develop empowering relationships

INTO THE FUTURE

- Help relapse recovery

IDENTIFY
PATHWAYS

PREPARE THE
YOUNG PERSON

STRUCTURAL SUPPORT: ENABLING THE SHIFT

INTO CUSTODY

- Coordinate planning from start
- Focus custody services on release
- Confirm community services before release
- Arrange contingency planning

INTO THE COMMUNITY

- Ensure flexible and prompt support on release
- Early exit planning

INTO THE FUTURE

- Continue support post-sentence

ADDRESS
PATHWAY
BARRIERS

PREPARE HOME
AND PARTNERS

"They need someone out there helping them, asking them what they can see themselves doing, what they want to do"

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PERSONAL SUPPORT: GUIDING THE SHIFT

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"They need someone out there helping them, asking them what they can see themselves doing, what they want to do"

Guiding the shift - Intermediate outcomes

- Clear future goals on release
- Clear about roles on release
- YP feels pathway plan is own
- Non-criminal self-identity following release
- Appropriate self-esteem at end
- Associates self with constructive activity
- Continued engagement with ETE

SUPPORTING THE SHIFT IN IDENTITY

STRUCTURAL SUPPORT: ENABLING THE SHIFT

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Enabling the shift - Intermediate outcomes

- Activity programme arranged
- Partners engaged in planning
- Full info on custody work received by outside agency
- ETE activity shortly after release
- Suitable accommodation confirmed before release
- Accommodation maintained
- Exit plan in place at sentence end

THE HOW: 5 KEY CHARACTERISTICS FOR SUPPORT

CONSTRUCTIVE

Centred on identity shift,
future-oriented, motivating,
strengths-based, empowering

1

Roles and activities are to develop identity
Empowering to make constructive choices

"In the resettlement project, I would make my goals and
feel happy with myself. It led me to where I am now "

CO-CREATED

Inclusive of the young
person and their supporters

2

Young person's journey - not an intervention to them
Depends on engagement - involvement is key
Early inclusion of personal supporters can develop constructive roles

"They should think about personal development... give
people more control over what happens to them"

CUSTOMISED

Individual and diverse
wraparound support

3

For each particular narrative - not generalised support
Diversity important - incl gender and ethnicity

"Everyone wants to better themselves in a different way.
Throwing people through the same route doesn't work"

CONSISTENT

Resettlement focus from the start, seamless, enhanced at transitions, stable relationships

4

- Providers prioritise supporting identity shift
- Continues beyond sentence end to reinforce identity

"I didn't know where I was going to go or what to do. I just came out of there. It was like my life had just stopped and swung back round and kicked me."

COORDINATED

Managed widespread
partnership across sectors

5

Partnership at strategic and operational levels
Local support menu, incl informal supporters
Focus on "service brokerage" rather than case working

"They promise you the world... it's like the left hand not speaking to the right"

Beyond
YOUTH CUSTODY

“NOW ALL I CARE ABOUT IS MY FUTURE”

SUPPORTING THE SHIFT

Framework for the effective resettlement
of young people leaving custody



"I used to run around the streets, acting like an idiot. Now all I care about is my future. I'm going to do my Level 3, then university... My life is only just beginning. I'm moving through every page of every chapter of my book. Without [my project], I'd be doing nothing or I wouldn't be alive"

"My resettlement project has given me something that I didn't know I had. It's bettered me as a person. I'm a completely different person."

- What can you do to help this approach?
- What are the barriers to adoption?
- How can these barriers be removed?