

CONFERENCE REPORT

Committee: Social Work Committee

Subject: A Diversionary Approach to Youth
Crime

Conference Organiser: Infolog Training

Venue: London

Conference Fee: £160.00 (Excl Vat)

Date (s): 6 March 1997

Recommendation: Not suitable for members to attend

A diversionary approach to youth crime

A critical & practical analysis of multi agency initiatives & ways forward

Seminar for social services, education, police and probation officers

organised by Infolog Training

on Thursday, 6th March 1997, at the Holiday Inn Kings Cross, London WC1X 9HX.

- The causes & effects of youth crime ➤ Measuring the relative effectiveness of punishment & diversion
- Making the case for diversion: Addressing the political & financial issues ➤ Diversion initiatives in the context of community safety strategies & local policing plans ➤ Practical methodologies for formulating effective diversion measures, including community involvement, monitoring & evaluation
- *PLUS Six Case Studies!* ➤ *PLUS Six Case Studies!* ➤ *PLUS Six Case Studies!*

Plan to make parents pay for delinquents

Legislation fails to curb drug abuse

The truth about youth crime

Teen tearaway could be targeted

Prison isn't working

Howard policies failing to deter crime

Offender's canal trip defended

Police get new powers to curb young drinkers

'Sharp rise' in use of drink and drugs by under-17s

Give youth a chance

Speakers include

- Nalini Varma, Chief Executive, The Rainer Foundation.
- David Utting, Advisor, Rowntree Foundation.
- Jon Bright, Director of Field Operations, Crime Concern.
- Dennis Simpson, Director of Social Services, London Borough of Southwark, and Chair, Inner London Chief Officers Youth Justice Initiative.
- Roger King, Chief Probation Officer, North Yorkshire Probation Service, and Lead Officer for Youth Justice, Association of Chief Officers of Probation.
- Barry Anderson, Head of Youth Crime Section, NACRO.

Seminar aims


- to review the latest trends in youth crime and the evidence on the effectiveness of diversion measures;
- to identify and discuss in depth the key emerging issues for partners in youth crime diversion;
- to examine the experience of six diversion initiatives, draw practical lessons and share good practice; and
- to establish clear ways forward for social services, education, the police, the probation service and other key partners.

PLUS Case Studies including presentation from Social Services, Education, Police Probation and Voluntary Sector officers.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- ✓ Directors of Social Services
- ✓ Directors of Education
- ✓ Directors of Leisure Services
- ✓ Youth Justice Officers
- ✓ Education Welfare Officers
- ✓ Youth Workers
- ✓ Chairs of Social Services Committees
- ✓ Chairs of Education Committees
- ✓ Chairs of Leisure Services.
- ✓ Elected members.
- ✓ Policy officers.
- ✓ Community Safety Officers.
- ✓ Safer Cities Officers
- ✓ Probation Officers
- ✓ Police Juvenile Liaison Officers
- ✓ Members of Police Authorities
- ✓ Voluntary agencies working on youth crime prevention.

PROGRAMME

09.00 - 09.45 Registration and coffee 

09.45 - 10.00 Introduction by chair
Nalini Varma, Chief Executive,
The Rainer Foundation.

- The role of the Rainer Foundation.
- The importance of developing and implementing diversionary initiatives.
- Funding of prevention and diversionary initiatives.

10.00 - 11.30 Session One


Youth crime & current measures & proposals

10.00 - 10.30 Youth crime: Causes & effects
David Utting, Advisor to the Rowntree Foundation.

- Youth crime and the costs to *your* community.
- The influences on offending and reoffending.
- Parenting, drugs & alcohol, poverty & alienation, truancy & exclusion, lack of training & employment, role models, peer group pressure.
- The debate on tackling youth crime: Sifting the grain from the chaff.
- How agencies can work together to tackle the causes of youth crime.
- The Rowntree Foundation's research on youth crime and youth crime prevention in the US: What lessons for the UK?

10.30 - 11.00
The truth about youth crime and the effectiveness of current measures & proposals
Barry Anderson, Head, of Youth Crime Section, NACRO.

- Trends and key statistics in youth crime.
- Attitudes of young offenders.
- The effect of cautioning.
- The likely effects of topical measures, such as: publicising the names of persistent offenders, curfews, tagging and boot camps.
- Labour's youth crime proposals: Possible impacts.

11.00 - 11.30 Panel discussion and coffee 

11.30 - 13.15 Session Two

Effective strategies & diversion initiatives

11.30 - 12.00

Developing a coordinated joint strategy for tackling youth crime

Dennis Simpson, Director of Social Services, London Borough of Southwark, and Chair of Inner London Chief Officers Youth Justice Initiative.

- Key strategic issues.
- Identifying partners and defining responsibilities.
- Setting priorities & allocating resources.
- Making the case for the new initiatives.
- Schemes to address the causes of youth crime.
- Maintaining and sharing accurate information.
- Reviewing strategies and continuous improvement.
- Implications of the Audit Commission's report, *Misspent Youth*.

12.00 - 12.25

Role of the Probation Service in diversionary initiatives

Roger King, Chief Probation Officer, North Yorkshire Probation Service, and Lead Officer for Youth Justice, Association of Chief Officers of Probation.

- Strategic involvement with local authorities on early identification and diversion.
- Diversionary schemes based around cautioning.
- Schemes with other agencies following cautioning.

12.25 - 12.50

Effective diversionary initiatives

Jon Bright, Director of Field Operations, Crime Concern.

- Research to date: success and failures.
- Good practice guidance.
- Current spending on diversionary schemes.
- Methodologies for measuring effectiveness.

12.50 - 13.15 Panel discussion

13.15 - 14.15 Lunch



14.15 - 16.45 Session Three

Case Studies

This session features two concurrent streams, each featuring three case studies with valuable lessons for youth crime diversion. The case studies include joint presentations from *social services, youth justice, education, the police, the voluntary sector* and the *community*, and address the following:

- Diversionary projects and initiatives: key issues and objectives of the participants.
- The approach to joint working and overcoming partnership fatigue.
- Formulating, agreeing and implementing diversion initiatives: Overcoming the obstacles.
- Making the case and securing political support for diversion schemes.
- *Quantifying* the financial costs and the social benefits.
- Community and business involvement.
- Short and long term funding arrangements, including private finance and EU funding.
- Methodologies for monitoring and progress evaluation.
- The practical lessons for other organisations who are in the process of developing youth crime diversion initiatives or assessing progress to date.
- Action plans for the future and hints for tackling the key unresolved issues.

	Stream A	Stream B
14.15 - 14.55	<p>The Liverpool IT initiatives: <i>Fire raisers, Young sex offenders and Autocrime</i> Paula Gallagher, John White & Arlene Rowe-Morton, Youth Justice Team, Social Services, Liverpool City Council.</p>	<p>Oxford City intervention projects: <i>Non persistent offenders, Counselling, Music and Schools</i> Ruth Kane, Co-ordinator, Safer Cities Project, NACRO.</p>
14.55 - 15.35	<p>Brent's Youth in Trouble projects Dr. John Blackmore, Community Safety Officer, and Elizabeth Rand-Greeves, Director, Youth and Community Service, London Borough of Brent.</p>	<p>The Milton Keynes Retail Theft and Youth Crime Reduction initiatives Insp. Ken Webster and WPC Joanne Dudley, Juvenile Crime Unit, Thames Valley Police, and Regional Manager from a retail outlet.</p>
15.35 - 15.45	Break	Break
15.45 - 16.30	<p>The Sussex Youth Crime Information project and Youth Action Crawley Terry Bishop, Manager, West Sussex Youth Court Service, West Sussex Social Services and Inspector Roland Mockford, Community Crime Reduction, West Sussex Police.</p>	<p>The Moss Side & Hulme Regeneration Programmes Chris Duncan, Principal Officer, Moss Side Social Programme, Manchester City Council and Father Phil Sumner, St. Wilfrid's Church and Moss Side Community Forum.</p>
16.30- 16.45	Panel discussion	Panel discussion

16.45

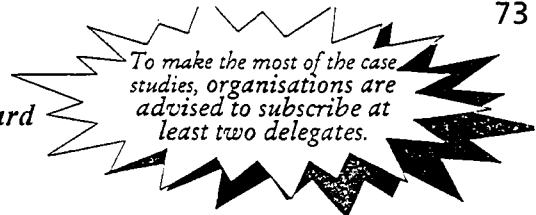
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A Diversionary Approach to Youth Crime:

A critical & practical analysis of multi agency initiatives & ways forward

Organised by Infolog Training on Thursday, 6th March 1997, at the Holiday Inn Kings Cross, London WC1X 9HX.



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Another seminar of interest to all organisations with a social welfare agenda!

Are your services safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and families effectively?

Practical inter-agency business and management tools and methodologies for needs-led, evidence-based commissioning and an outcomes-based approach to service delivery.

Seminar organised by Infolog Training on Thursday, 13th March 1997 at the Holiday Inn Kings Cross, London WC1X 9HX.

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How well are your services meeting the needs of children and families? How do you know? How can you prove it? How can you make sure that the services you commission and deliver will be effective?

These are critical questions for social services, health and education managers and practitioners. * Unfortunately, the needs of children and their families are varied and complex, and there is little readily available evidence about the effectiveness of the whole range of support measures and initiatives: the real benefits, the risks and the costs involved. Most managers and practitioners still don't and can't demonstrate that what they are doing really is effective: services are seldom commissioned on the basis of firm evidence on effectiveness, there is little monitoring of service delivery, almost no outcomes-based assessments, and there are few business and management tools to assist in the identification of needs and formulation of service strategies. Moreover, there is much cynicism about fashions and fads parading as good practice. * Practitioners are crying out for findings that show clearly what, when and how child and family welfare services work best. Clear findings and robust business tools are essential for breaking down barriers and developing the political will, financial support and inter-agency collaboration required to formulate and deliver quality early intervention services. * This seminar aims to present clear ways forward for evidence-based commissioning of children and family support, including practical and robust business and management methodologies for identifying needs, developing services and monitoring progress.

- Speakers ☐ Ian Katz, NSPCC ☐ Nigel Harper, NCH Action for Children ☐ David Thorpe, Univ. of Lancaster ☐ Luke Geoghegan, Brent LB ☐ Jane Held, Rochdale MBC. ☐ Ruth Gardner, Hackney LBC ☐ John Randall & Louise Nicols, Devon CC ☐ Anne Chan, Southwark LBC
- Target audience ☐ Directors of Social Services and Assistant Directors, Children & Families ☐ Social service, health & education managers working together for children & families ☐ Chairs of education and social services ☐ Heads of policy units.