

Helping Young People Understand Brain Development and the Impact on Behaviour

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#greycells

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL
TRANSFORMING LIVES



WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN PARTNERSHIP

Hamish MacLean & Rebecca Dawson

**Helping Young People Understand Brain Development and
the Impact on Behaviour**

Bringing the Right People Together



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BRINGING THE RIGHT PEOPLE TOGETHER

Break Down Barriers
Interrupt Cycle of Offending
Reduce Reoffending



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What can we learn from young people in custody?

- 90% excluded from school
- 68% were under the influence of alcohol at the time of their offence (compared with 43% of adult men).
- High rate of speech and language difficulties
- May have difficulties in empathising with others
- **Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences**

'I was just a wee boy who couldn't be bothered with school'

'If your family drinks etc. it's difficult'



What can we learn from young people in custody?

“How many more people do I have to see die? I’m only 19 and that’s five people died already and I keep thinking to myself ‘are the rest of them gonna die?’ And then I’ll grow up alone.”

In a study of young men in Polmont YOI:

- 91% had experienced at least one bereavement and two-thirds had suffered 4 or more
- Over three-quarters had experienced traumatic bereavements (murder, suicide etc.)

Vaswani, 2014



Summary of Issues

- Behavioural problems appearing during upper primary/adolescence.
- Weakened relations between the generations/stronger peer relations
- Limited adult mentor figures
- Young people's brains are undergoing change meaning limited capability to deal with independence.
- There is a likelihood of increased risk behaviours with potential long term consequences
- Issues more prevalent in areas of high deprivation
- Bereavement and trauma can have a profound effect on children and young people's lives
- There is a new period of 'emerging adulthood' with increasing reliance on parents and the home environment, especially after age16.

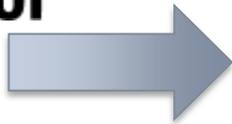
BRINGING THE RIGHT PEOPLE TOGETHER



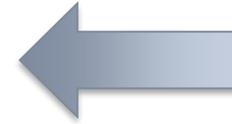
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**Community
Safety Team
Building and
Leadership
Course**



**MEDICS
AGAINST
VIOLENCE**

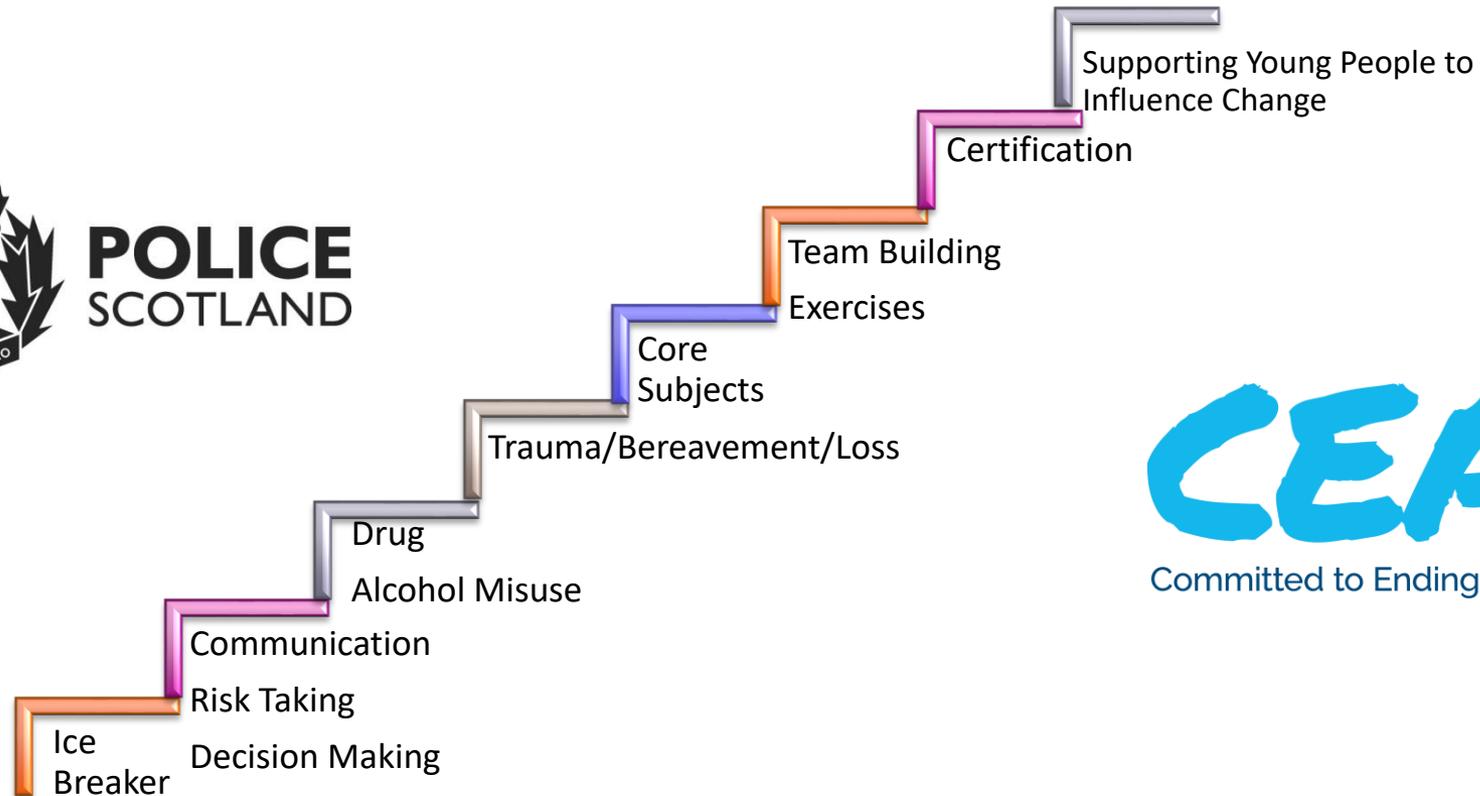


FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Aims Of The Team Building and Leadership Course

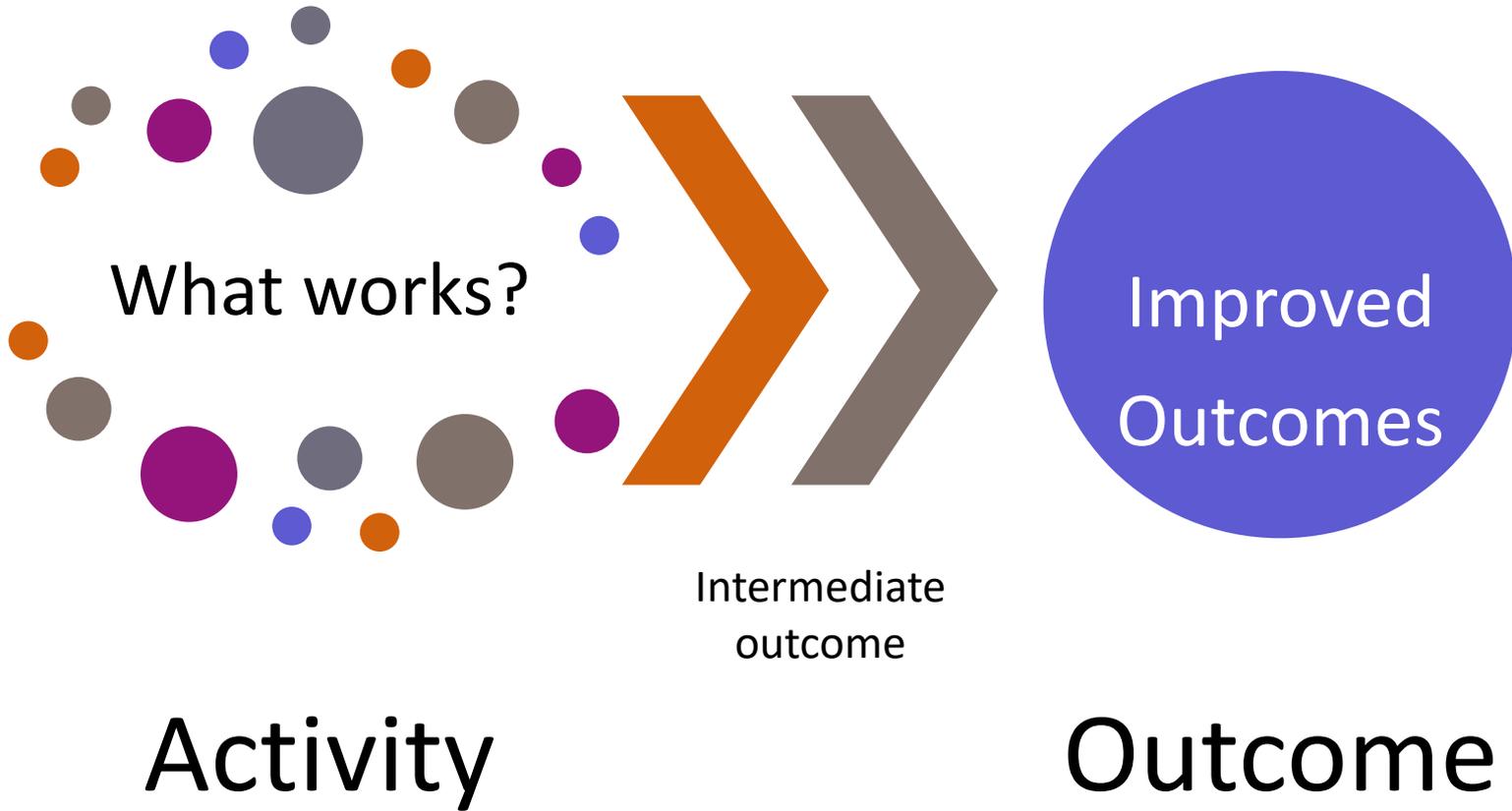


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Evolution of Police Activity



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‘The overarching aim is to provide a positive role model who builds a trusting relationship; introduces the young person to new activities; encourages them to build confidence and to develop new skills across different settings (i.e. home, work and community) thereby breaking down barriers between police and young people.’



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**What more can we do with what we know
in order to make things better for our young
people?**

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