



There for young people 24/7
Includem 

Alternatives to Custody

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UNCRC: Article 37

- Children and young people who are deprived of their liberty should be able to challenge this quickly in court
- Children and young people must only be arrested, detained or imprisoned as a last resort and for the shortest possible time.
- Every child or young person who is deprived of their liberty must be treated with respect
- Every child or young person who is deprived of their liberty must be separated from adults, unless it is better for him or her to be with adults



Alternatives to Custody

- Supervised bail and remand schemes
- Intensive foster care/Multisystemic Therapy (MST)
- Intensive Support and Monitoring (ISMS) through the Children's Hearing System
- Individualised intensive support packages as part of a Community Payback Order or structured deferred sentence



David's* Story

All too familiar...

- 20yrs old, chaotic lifestyle
- Poor relationships with his family
- Problems with drugs & alcohol
- Mental health issues
- History of repeat offending
- 2 stays in Polmont

*pseudonym used



Working with Includem

- Practical help for immediate problem (breaching CPO)
 - travel & finances
 - times of greatest need
 - relationship with criminal justice social worker
- Addressing underlying and ongoing issues
 - alcohol & drugs
 - family relationships
- Working towards a positive future
 - employability



“I can't believe that you believe in me so much to do these things!”





Why did it work?

- Never gave up on him, even when he pushed us away
- Took the time to figure out what was going on in his life that was holding him back
- Gave him the practical support to overcome some of these challenges
- Focused on the positives – his strengths and interests
- Crucially...Believed in him, until he believed in himself!



What can we do?

- Continue to push for alternatives to custody – secure & Polmont really must be last resorts
- Alternatives to custody shouldn't be seen as "alternative", but as a default, best option for young people
- BUT... we need to be creative, patient, & willing to exercise leniency where appropriate
- AND... we need to support every young person going through this process



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CIPFA Governance Mark of Excellence 2015, Care Accolade Awards – Chairs Award 2014
Herald Society Awards 2014 , Care Accolade awards SSSC/Scot Gov. 2013
Strathclyde Chief Constables Award 2013
One of Britain's 50 New Radicals NESTA and The Observer 2012