T2A Policy Overview

Young Adults in the Criminal Justice System

Shan Nicholas

The Invisible Early 20s

"In general, the provision for this age-group, with a high risk of reoffending and considerable educational and social deficits, remains insufficiently targeted and funded, as it was seven years ago, when the government's manifesto promised to increase and focus resources on them."

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons 2009

Why this age group?

- Particular needs or deserving of attention?
- At 18 supposed to be an adult
- Contrast with peers going to university with wrap around financial and emotional support
- Later maturation
- High rates of offending and reoffending

Complex Needs

- Personality disorders
- Substance misuse
- Self harm and suicide
- Leaving care
- Complex needs and sophisticated solutions

The T2A Alliance

- Broad coalition of organisations
- Set up by the Barrow Cadbury Trust
- Current approaches not working
- Youth Justice
- Publication of Young Adult Manifesto

Young Adult Manifesto

<u>Diversion</u>

- Addressing root causes of offending
- Cautions and final warnings

<u>Sentencing</u>

- Proportionate
- Mitigation
- German model

Young Adult Manifesto

<u>Custody</u>

- Inter generational impact
- Rehabilitation
- Abolition of short sentences
- <u>Resettlement</u>
- Meet at gate
- Significant adult
- Support to access work, housing etc

In short...

- Prison is the right place for some but for many it is not
- Behaviours can change
- Costs of prevention lower than costs of custody

“When you’re 18 you’re relied to do everything yourself. When you’re 16 you get help. When you’re 18 you’re left on young own” (Young woman, Birmingham)

www.t2a.org.uk