Widening the use of restorative justice in the Youth Justice System

Restorative Justice Approaches Conference

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YJB Priorities

- Preventing offending
- Reducing reoffending
- Protect the public and support victims
- Promote the safety and welfare of children and young people in the criminal justice system

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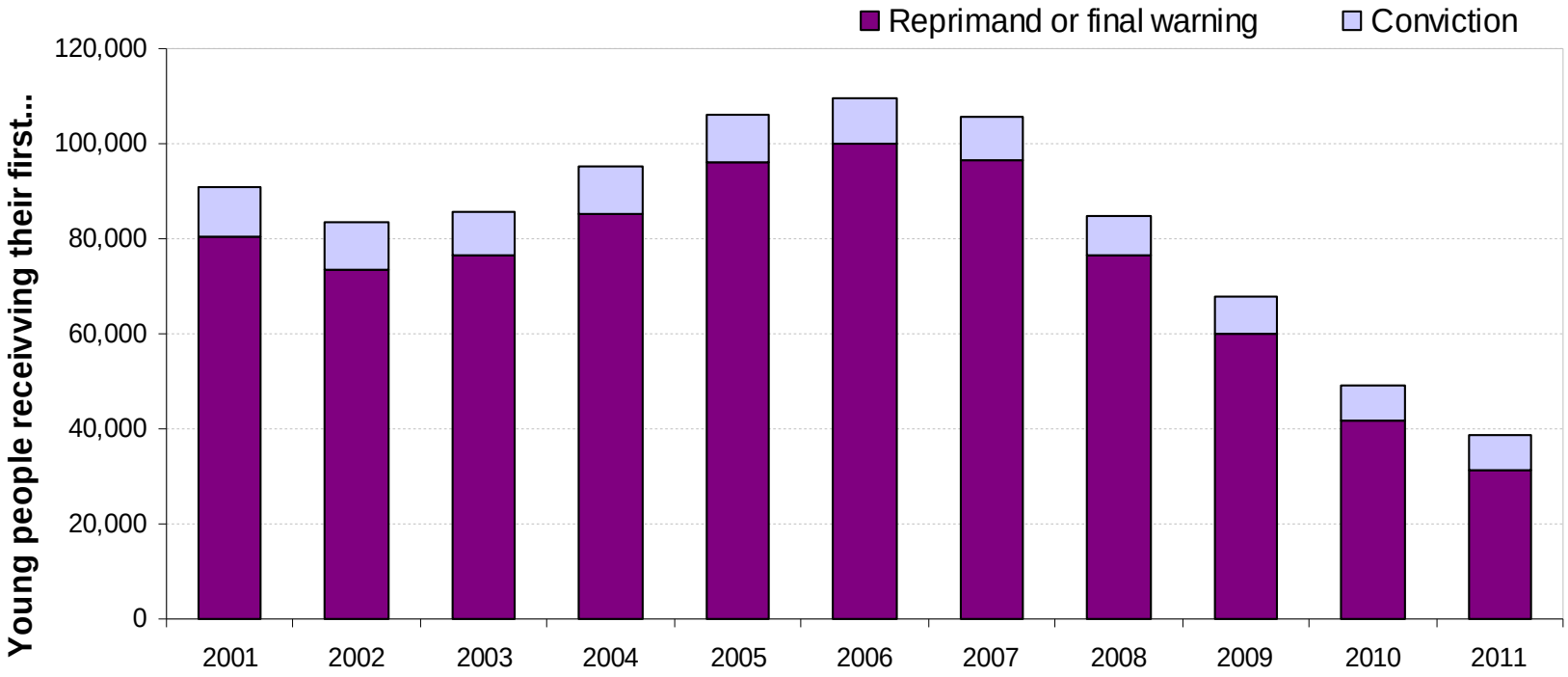
Youth Justice Board

First-time entrants to the criminal justice system

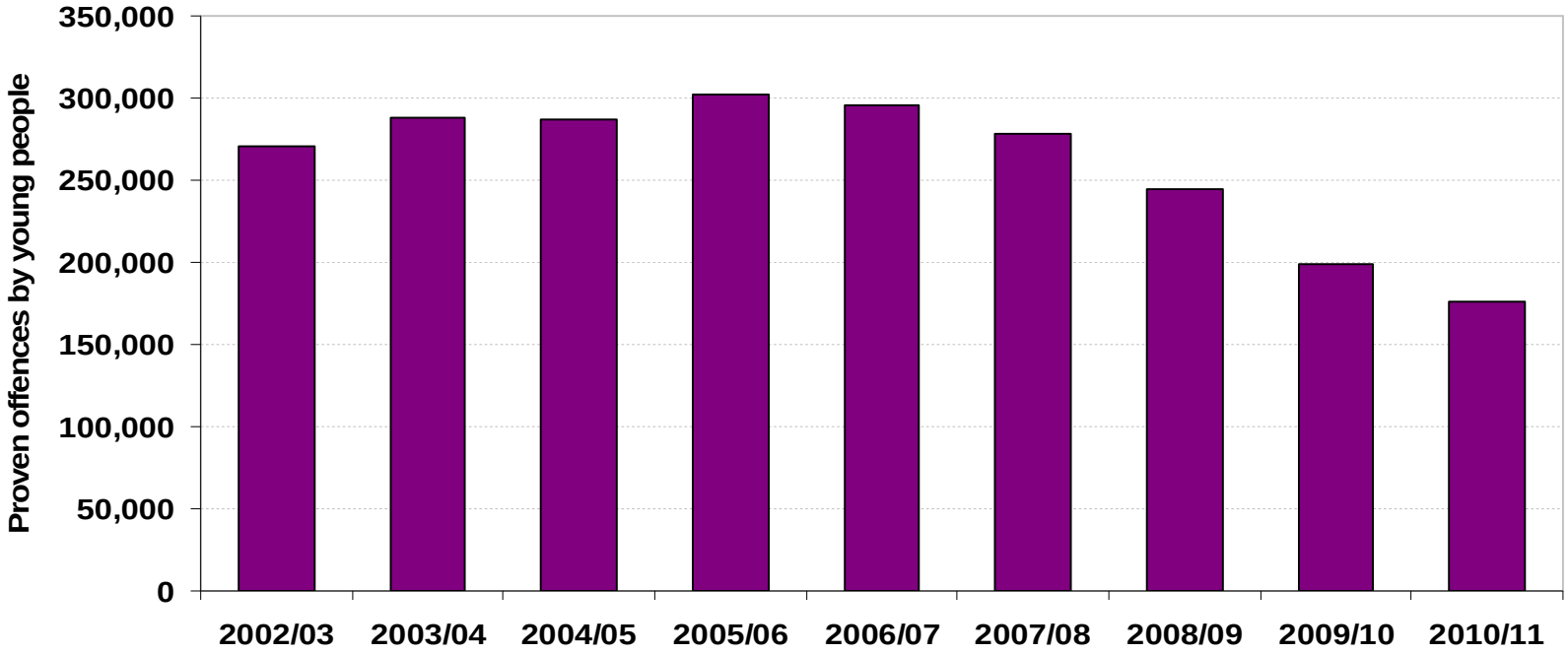
There has been a 50% reduction in first-time entrants to the criminal justice system since 2000



Youth Justice Board

Proven offences committed by young people

There has been a 35% reduction in proven offences committed by young people since 2000



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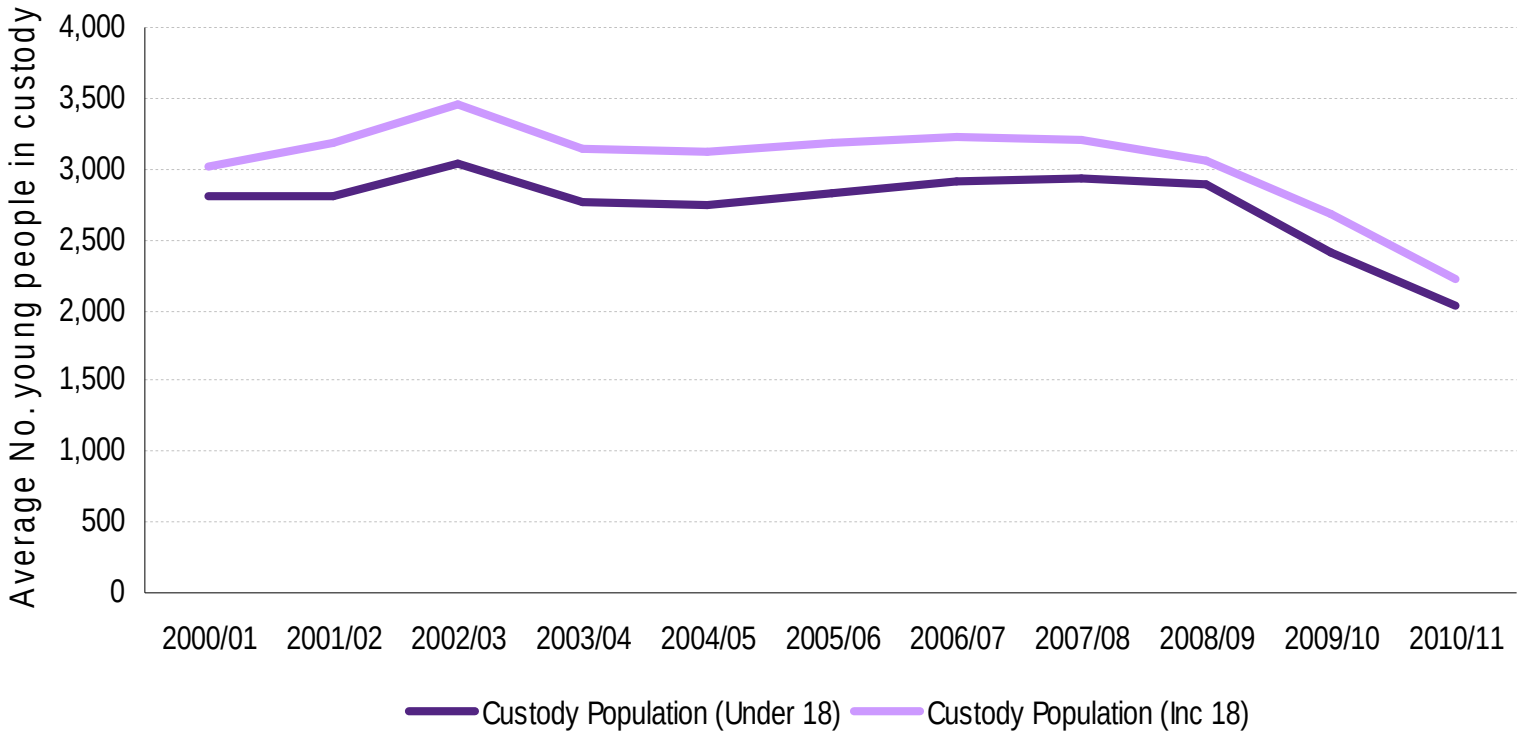
Average custody population (2000–2011)

There has been a 27% reduction in children placed in custody since 2000



Source: Youth Justice Statistics 2010/11

Why restorative justice?

Victims

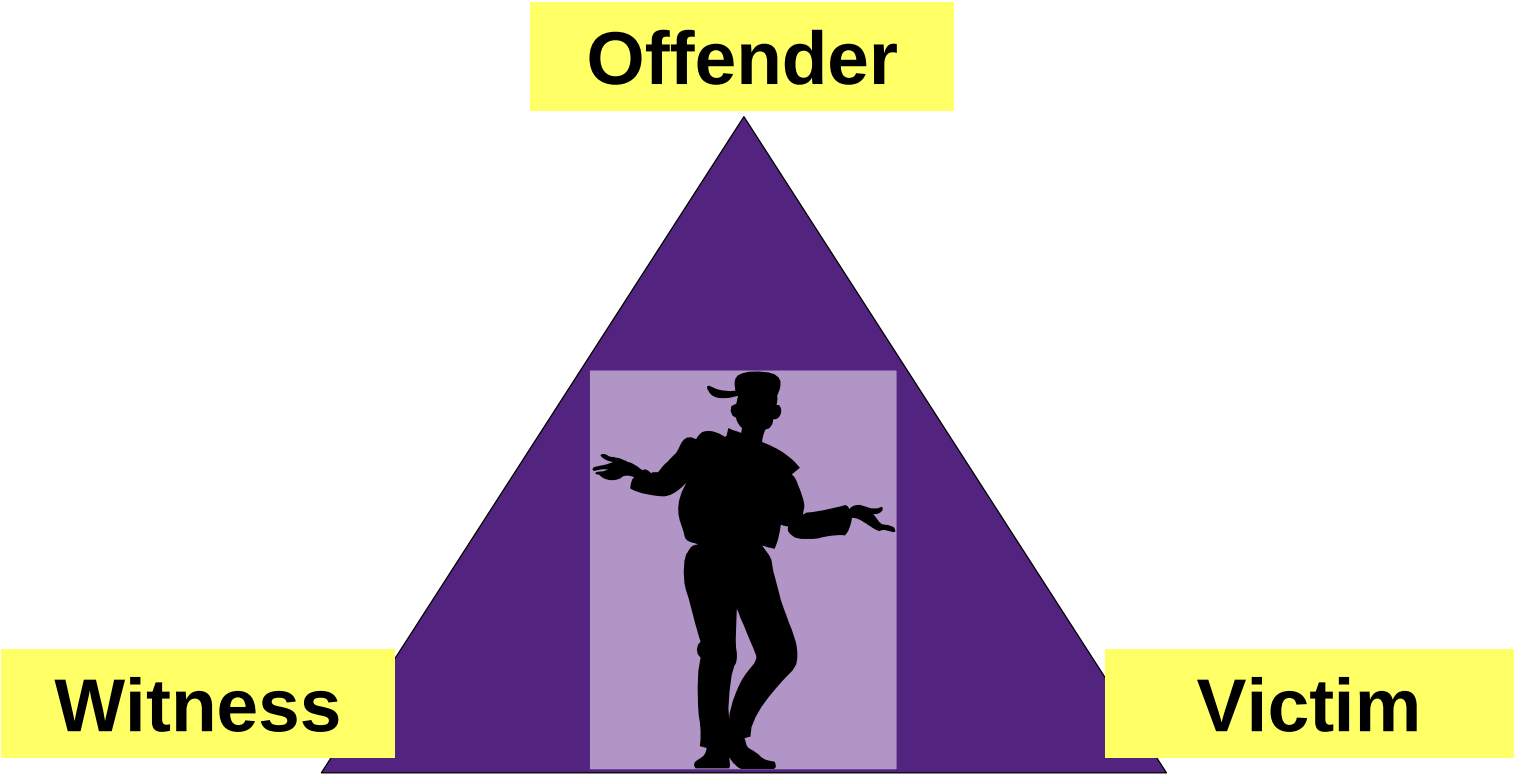
• enables victims to have their say and to talk about the full impact of a crime on their lives.
• victims can actively participate in the resolution of the offence and can receive answers to questions they may have about the incident
• receive reparation for the harm caused.
• can reduce the impact of the crime on the victim - reduce post traumatic stress

Young people who offend

• enables children and young people who have offended to talk about why they committed the crime and are given the opportunity to help put things right for the victim, for example, by repairing the damage they have caused.
• develop an understanding of the effect their behaviour has on others

•The “emotionally intelligent approach to Criminal Justice,” Sherman (2003)

Young People as Offenders and Victims



Restorative justice – the evidence

Shapland (2004-2008 published by Home Office & Ministry of Justice) - Value for money, reductions in frequency of offending

• 89% of victims chose to participate where the offender was a young person
• 85% of victims were satisfied with the process
• RJ reduced the frequency of re-offending by 14% to 27%

• Sherman and Strang (2007) – Less repeat offending, more positive outcomes for victims

RJ is not an easy option

Going face to face with your victim is hard stuff!

HMIC inspection: Facing up to offending 2012

The aim of this review was to identify benefits of RJ practices across the CJS

Findings related to the Youth Justice System

•Restorative approaches were well established in YOTs

•High victim satisfaction in panels, however overall not enough victims participating

Recommendations

1) To promote victim engagement effectively in panels, YOTs should ensure that:

• Timeliness, particularly of the initial contact meets the needs of the victim

• Communications with victims clearly focuses on the potential benefits to them

2) YOTs and the YJB should ensure that the involvement of victims and active consideration of restorative opportunities is maximised in relevant sentences across the whole range of YOT interventions

YJB restorative justice work programme

- RJ interventions as part of work to address anti-social behaviour - out of court disposals - community sentences - within custody and to support resettlement.

- **Developing and sharing Effective Practice**

- Development Network - 11 YOTs
  - Bristol, Cardiff, Ceredigion, Hull, Kent, Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Salford, Surrey, Walsall, Wigan

- Held 10 RJ development events in partnership with the RJC and Victim Support - one in Wales and in each region in England

Discussion feedback from events

*How can you **work together to widen the use of restorative justice** in your region?*

•Multi-agency steering groups to maintain regional consistency
•Share good practice
•Buy in from local council, Management and regional support

*How can you **increase victim participation**? (relates to inspection findings)*

•Better publicise the YOT and RJ, using local media
•Consider victim contact, offer a range of options to victim
•Ensure timing is right for the victim

*How can you ensure your service develops and **delivers restorative justice to the minimum national standards set by the RJC?***

•Ensure effective training of all staff to set standards
•Disseminate RJC standards more widely and familiarise with them
•Organisational commitment to RJC standards and quality assurance

Key developments

- **Restorative Justice Framework** – published November 2012
  - Encouraging use of RJ across services within schools, children's homes, policing as well as Youth Offending Teams and the secure estate.
  - http://www.justice.gov.uk/youth-justice/working-with-victims/restorative-justice/restorative-justice-framework

- **Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (2012)**
  - Changes to Out of Court Disposals (April 13)
  - Limit taken off number of Referral Orders (Dec 12)

Key developments

•**RJ Training**

- RJ training grant for 2 restorative justice conference facilitator trainers per YOT
- Panel Matters RJ upgrade training will be published shortly.
  - includes 3 days RJ Conference Facilitation Training and 2 days Referral Order Administration Training.

•**Key Date**

- ALL current volunteers and YOT staff involved in RO panels must be trained in the newly upgraded training - **April 2013**.

Thank you

www.justice.gov.uk

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