



# Reforming the youth courts – The impact of the Carlile report

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- Chair of the Youth Courts Committee of the Magistrates Association October 2013.
- JP for 26 years in South Yorkshire.
- Member of the Youth Panel, currently chair, for 21 years.
- Recently retired from a 30 year career as a secondary school teacher much of it in middle management as Head of History.
- Worked for most of this time in an 11 to 18 comprehensive school in an ex-mining community which was transformed into a successful academy.



# Page 56 Carlile Report. Problem Solving Approach

- Judicial monitoring
- Addressing the link between underlying needs and offending
- Multi-disciplinary team working
- Consensual decision making



# Problem Solving at Court

- Failure of Families
- Failure of Social Services
- Failure of Health Service
- Failure of Education services
- Failure of Diversion



# What Problems?

YJB figures recently for those in detention

- 31% mental health
- 60% communication
- 25% literacy and numeracy
- 25 – 50% looked after
- Persistent reoffending



# Willingness

- Previous attempts Scotland and Liverpool.
- Lose focus on the offending behaviour and the victim.
- Problems need time to solve so will sentences be extended for welfare reasons? – does this make sense?
- Unrealistically raised expectations

# First Court Appearance

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- Cases on cusp of custody
- All those under 14
- Adjourn for YOT to identify problems and address them in reports to court
- Length of sentence.



# Problem Solving with re-offenders

- Those in danger of imprisonment - first breach of ISSP – second breach of community orders
- YOT responsible for identifying problems and enlisting agencies to address them
- Magistrates monitoring and reviewing, praising success, altering conditions



# Successful Problem Solving Courts

- **Motivation of young people**
- YOT responsibilities
- Trained legal practitioners
- HMCTS pressure for speed
- Court Admin
- Involvement of other agencies
- Magistrates



# What can be solved?

- Practical problems, housing, benefits
- Keeping appointments
- Enrolment on relevant courses
- Recognition of difficulties
- Provide guidance and mentoring



# Desired Outcome

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- To achieve a change in behaviour in these young people
- To limit the damage
- Wipe the slate clean at 18 – apart from most serious cases

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