

Principles for Effective Responses to Young Offenders



Gabrielle Maxwell
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Principles

- Goals

- Something to do, someone to love and something to hope for
- A place to call home
 - Identity / mana whenua & whakapapa
 - Belonging / whanaungatanga
 - Nurturance / ngaki



Principles

-Philosophy and values 1

- Promote wellbeing of children & families
- Culturally appropriate and accessible
- Protect children from harm of all types
- Assist families to be responsible and prevent harm
- Ensure yps who offend are accountable, their needs are dealt with and have the opportunity to develop in responsible and socially acceptable ways
- Encourage organizations to cooperate in providing services.



Principles

-Philosophy and values 2

- Participation
- Empowerment
- Repair of harm - the interests of others adversely affected
- Family - maintaining and strengthening relationships
- Family group - consider welfare of yp and stability of family group
- Support caregivers and young people
- Age - a time frame appropriate to yps sense of time, of outcomes that recognize their age and protect vulnerability
- Minimal intervention and diversion - least restrictive approach

Impoverished childhoods



Research on factors
associated with youth
offending

Disadvantaged lives

- Transience:
 - many homes
 - many caregivers
 - many schools
- Abuse:
 - physical abuse
 - emotional abuse
 - sexual abuse
 - bullying at school

2-4 **50%**; 5 or more **31%**
>1 **38%**
4-7 **29%** 8 or more **56%**

Frequent exposure to
violence and abuse:

60%

Bullied: **30%**



Becoming involved in crime

- Truanting - finding something to do
- Finding friends to do it with
- Seeking a bit of excitement, adventure

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|------------|
| – Cars | Running away | 69% |
| – Alcohol | Alcohol use | 50% |
| – Drugs | Marijuana use | 50% |
| – Petty crime | Sex before 15 | 54% |
| | Undetected crime | 79% |



Involvement in the criminal justice system

- Treated unfairly by police **24%**
- Not understanding what would happen and their role in FGC **24%**
- Not involved in FGC **33%**
- Not treated with respect in court **29%**
- Feeling shamed and excluded **48%**
- Not feeling forgiven **19%**
- Restrictive/punitive responses **61%**
- Nothing to prevent reoffending **53%**



Afterwards

- Stigma and shame continues for some
- They are labelled - sometimes for life
- Life choices are now very limited
 - Friends with similar problems
 - Excitement from alcohol, drugs and missions
 - Early parenthood
 - Money is accessible only from illegal activities



Breaking the cycle = Redressing inequality

*Enriching the lives of families and people at risk
and of those who have offended*

- Education
- Work
- Help with mental health, alcohol and drug problems
- Help in developing skills
- Support for families
- A fair chance to make a new life



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