

**14 April 2010**

## **RESETTLEMENT CONSORTIA PILOT EVALUATION**

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) for England and Wales has let a contract to IRIS Consulting to evaluate its two Resettlement Consortia pilots in the Greater Manchester and Bristol areas. These consortia comprise regional groups of local authorities which are collaboratively developing an enhanced resettlement offer for young people leaving custody.

The evaluation will involve two phases:

- **Stage 1: Feasibility study and process evaluation (approximately 3 months)**
- **Stage 2: Impact Evaluation and cost-benefit analysis (12-15 months).**

This research will combine a process and impact evaluation with a cost-benefit analysis and is intended to inform future policy on resettlement into the next spending round 2011 - 14.

### **Background To The Research**

#### **Youth Justice and Resettlement Objectives**

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the statutory aim of the Youth Justice System: *'to prevent offending by children and young people'*.

Resettlement from custody presents particular challenges to youth offending and other mainstream service providers. The 7,000 or so young people (10 – 18yrs) who go into custody each year tend to be those with the most complex needs, presenting the highest risks and challenges to the system. The disruptive effect of a custodial placement can exacerbate some of the difficulties young people experience and the challenge of re-engaging with families and services, such as education and housing, post-release is considerable.

The Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) in 2008 set out a number of Government commitments to tackle youth crime, with several relating specifically to resettlement. One of these was the formation of sub-regional resettlement consortia pilots; the YJB is charged with delivering this, in connection with cross-government partners.

#### **The Pilots**

YJB is piloting sub-regional resettlement consortia in two areas:

- **Northwest:** Four Greater Manchester authorities working with HMYOI Hindley
- **Southwest:** Five local authority areas surrounding Bristol, working with HMYOI Ashfield and other secure establishments in the area.

Within the overarching aim of improving outcomes for young people and enhancing community safety the agreed national objectives for the resettlement consortia include:

- Increased collaboration between partners / with local authority services

- Improved links between the secure estate, YOTs, and Children's Services
- Improved resettlement experience for young people leaving custody
- Improved access to mainstream and specialist services for young people.

The consortia will enable all involved agencies to link up and provide a seamless transition and service for the young person. It is hoped that better communication between the three key agencies (Secure Establishments, YOTs and the wider range of local authority services for children and young people) will enhance outcomes for the young person through:

- Better use of resources through information sharing
- Potential for innovation
- Coherent practitioner development
- Dissemination of effective practice across areas of shared interest
- Continuity in relationships with the young person
- Practical arrangements for Education, Training and Employment and accommodation
- A consistent approach to resettlement.

### **Stage 1: Feasibility study and process evaluation**

#### **a) Feasibility Study**

The feasibility study is intended to identify a robust methodology for stage 2, which will evaluate the outcomes of the resettlement partnerships.

#### **b) Process Evaluation**

A small-scale process evaluation will be carried out concurrently with the feasibility study. This will look at the implementation of the resettlement consortia and delivery of the activities and will not examine impact.

The purpose of stage 1 is to determine the exact approach for conducting the evaluation to be conducted in stage 2.

Stage 2 is expected to include:

- Quantitative research examining whether the programme has impacted on outcomes for young people
- Qualitative research with young people to examine in depth their perceptions of the impact of the programme
- A cost-benefit analysis
- Qualitative research with partners to examine in depth their perceptions of the impact of the programme and working relationships.

Key research questions to be examined in the study include:

- The key components of the programmes delivered in each area
- The enablers and barriers to successful implementation of the resettlement offer (and component activities) by the partner agencies

- The outcomes for those young people participating and an evaluation of how they compare to i) young people from a well matched control group ii) previous data in the same area (where suitable data facilitates ii).

Outcomes should be considered in terms of:

- i. Reconviction (frequency and seriousness)
  - ii. Education, training and employment
  - iii. Accommodation
- The perceptions of young people about their resettlement experience in the pilot areas
  - The overall cost-benefit of the resettlement consortia to individual partners. Where possible, this should be broken down into:
    - i. Constituent elements
    - ii. Start-up versus long-term costs

Outcomes for young people who are to be examined in this study include:

- a) Re-offending – frequency; seriousness
- b) Accommodation – suitability and the effectiveness of placement processes (NI46)
- c) ETE - employment status; engagement in training/education since release (NI45)
- d) Other relevant factors (to be agreed).

### **The Research Team**

The IRIS Consulting team carrying out this project includes:

- John Harvey
- Marilyn Tyzack
- Rodney Anderson
- Ruth Kosmin
- David Sands
- Wendy Reardon Smith.

If you wish to impart information relevant to the scope of this study or would like any further information please contact John Harvey, project director, or Mary Prenovost, Research Adviser at the YJB, at the address and contact details below:

IRIS Consulting  
5 Golden Square  
London,  
W1F 9BS

Tel: 020 7 287 0822  
e-mail: [enquiries@irisconsulting.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@irisconsulting.co.uk)  
or [johnharvey@irisconsulting.co.uk](mailto:johnharvey@irisconsulting.co.uk)

[www.irisconsulting.co.uk](http://www.irisconsulting.co.uk)

Youth Justice Board for England and Wales  
1 Drummond Gate  
London  
SW1V 2QZ

Tel: 020 3 372 7952  
e-mail: [Mary.Prenovost@yjb.gov.uk](mailto:Mary.Prenovost@yjb.gov.uk)

[www.yjb.gov.uk](http://www.yjb.gov.uk)