

Home Office Research Study 214

Evaluation of the Youth Court Demonstration Project

Charlotte Allen, Iain Crow and Michael Cavadino
Centre for Criminological and Legal Research
The University of Sheffield

Contents

Forward		iii
Acknowledgements		iv
Summary		vii
Chapter 1	Background to the project	1
	Introduction	1
	Aims and objectives of the project	2
	The research	4
Chapter 2	Implementation of the project	7
	Rotherham	7
	Leicestershire	9
	Developments at other courts	11
	Verifying the aims of the project	12
Chapter 3	Engaging with offenders and their families	15
	Participants' views	15
	Views of engagement from the case studies	19
	Techniques of engagement	22
	Court observations	24
	Evaluating engagement	30
Chapter 4	The court environment	31
	Changes to court layout	31
	Views of the changes	34
	Case studies	38
	Indications from court observations	40
	Evaluating changes to the court environment	41
Chapter 5	Opening up the youth court: involving victims and the press	43
	Attendance by victims	43
	Attendance by the press	47

	Lifting reporting restrictions	50
	Attendance by other parties	55
	Evaluating attendance by victims and the press	56
Chapter 6	Feedback to sentencers	59
Chapter 7	Other aspects of the project	63
	Sentencing	63
	Overall opinions of the project	66
	Financial implications	67
	The follow-up period	67
Chapter 8	Other developments in youth justice	69
Chapter 9	Conclusions	73
Appendix A	The research	77
Appendix B	Details of court observations	81
Appendix C	Details of the case studies	93
Appendix D	The protocols	95
Appendix E	An example newsletter	111
Appendix F	Court language	115
References		117

* Further appendices giving detailed results of the questionnaires completed by court personal can be obtained by request from:
 Dr. Siobhan Campbell, Home Office RDS CCJU,
 Room 824, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT.