

# PREPARE FOR SUCCESS:

## EVALUATION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE LEADERS

Juvenile justice in the U.S. and U.K. is undergoing substantial reform. Evaluation can assist in determining what works and for whom. Integrating evaluation into the policy and planning processes will assist juvenile justice leaders to deliver successful programs.



### THE EVALUATION OF THE YOUTH RESTORATIVE INTERVENTION

The Surrey Youth Restorative Intervention (YRI) is a diversion program for juvenile offenders who admit their offending. It seeks to repair wrong doing and is based on the principles of restorative justice.

#### EVALUATION AIMS & BENEFITS

GtD's evaluation provided objective evidence of the effectiveness of the restorative approach and that it was less costly than punitive approaches.

#### WE WORKED WITH THOSE INVOLVED IN THE INTERVENTION TO ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING VITAL QUESTIONS:

##### SHOULD IT WORK?

A review of previous research and interviews with stakeholders concluded that the intervention should achieve its objectives.

##### CAN IT WORK?

Interviews with management, operational staff, victims and offenders revealed that the leadership and human resources were in place to deliver the intervention.

##### IS IT WORKING?

The evaluation demonstrated that the YRI had been successful in increasing victim satisfaction and reducing reoffending.

#### VICTIM SATISFACTION

The analysis of interviews with victims showed they believed that 'justice had been done' and the offender had been held to account.

#### REDUCTION IN REOFFENDING

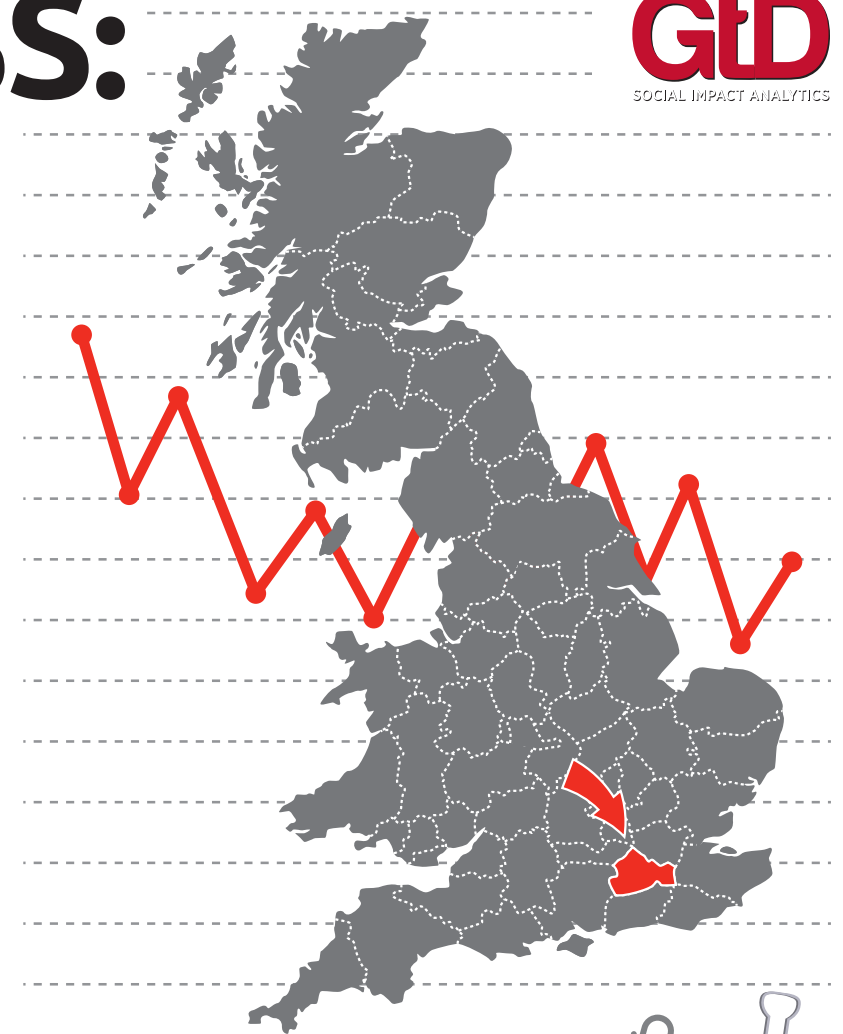
An analysis of individual offending records showed that the YRI group's reoffending rate was 6% lower in absolute terms than the control group, and this result was statistically significant.



The relative difference between the YRI and control group showed that for every person who reoffended in the control group, there were 18% fewer in the YRI group.

##### IS IT WORTH IT?

The evaluation found that the direct cost of administering the YRI per case is £360, compared to £600 for administering a caution, a saving of £240.



#### CONCLUSION

The evaluation demonstrated that the YRI was an innovative and effective response to juvenile offending. It also provided evidence on how the initiative could be more efficient, and prompted further work to see how

outcomes could be improved. Importantly, it also added to the wider evidence that restorative justice is an effective approach for diverting young people out of the juvenile justice system.