



Keeping children in care out of trouble: an independent review

PUBLIC BRIEFING

June 2015

Please note: Following a number of requests, the deadline for written submissions to the review has been extended until 5.00pm on Tuesday 25 August 2015.

Purpose

The independent review of looked after children, 'Keeping children in care out of trouble', was launched on 23 June 2015. It was established by the Prison Reform Trust with the initial support of the J Paul Getty Junior Trust. The independent review is being chaired by Lord Laming.

The central question of the review is:

“to consider the over representation of children in care, or with experience of care, in the youth justice system - why, for example, when only fewer than 1% of children and young people are committed to the care of local authorities, yet a third of boys and 61% of girls in custody are, or have been, in care - and to make recommendations as to how the life opportunities for children and young people in care or with experience of care, who are at risk of being avoidably drawn into the youth justice system, can be transformed.”

The review will:

- (a) bring together a group of young people who are, or have recently been, in care to consult them about the review and, throughout its course, to ensure that the review benefits from their insight and knowledge;
- (b) seek evidence from children and young people, family members and carers, and relevant professional bodies;
- (c) produce an accurate count of the number of children in custody in England and Wales who are, or have been, in care;
- (d) summarise the research published, and currently being undertaken, in this area;
- (e) capture international evidence of good practice;
- (f) identify current best practice in England and Wales to inform the review;
- (g) make recommendations for national government, including its Inspectorates, to consider;
- (h) make recommendations for local authority lead members for Children's Services, Directors of Children's Services and other relevant agencies to consider; and
- (i) publish and disseminate findings and recommendations and work to ensure they are implemented.

Governance and working methods

The Prison Reform Trust is an independent UK charity working to create a just, humane and effective penal system. It does this by inquiring into the workings of the system; informing prisoners, staff and the wider public; and by influencing Parliament, government and officials towards reform. The J Paul Getty Junior Trust has provided initial funding to the independent review.

The independent review will be led by Lord Laming supported by a secretariat based at the Prison Reform Trust. John Drew, former Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Board, is secretary to the review. Care review members are volunteers drawing on their considerable experience and knowledge to act in an advisory capacity to the review. Panel members and members of the public can connect to the independent review via Katy Swaine Williams, who will be co-ordinating activities at the Prison Reform Trust.

The review has issued a call for written evidence with a closing date of 4 August 2015. Oral evidence will then be invited, and the review team will make visits to at least one young offenders' institution and local projects. The review is expected to publish its findings early in 2016.

Membership

The following individuals and/or organisations have agreed to be members of the review:

Chair

Lord Laming

Prison Reform Trust staff and pro bono assistance

John Drew (Secretary)

Katy Swaine Williams (Co-ordinator)

Dr Pamela Storey (Pro bono researcher) (formerly of Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London)

Review members (in alphabetical order)

Caroline Adams – Staff Officer for National Children & Young Persons Portfolio - National Police Chiefs Council

John Bache – Deputy Chairman – Magistrates Association

Sally Bartolo – Peer Outreach Team Manager – Education and Youth Team – Greater London Authority

Tim Bateman - Principal Policy Advisor - Office of the Children's Commissioner.

Ben Byrne – Association of Youth Offending Team Managers (England)

Stuart Carlton – Board Member – Association of Directors of Children's Services

Teresa Clarke – Governor – HM Young Offender Institution, Swinfen Hall (on behalf of

Michael Spurr – Chief Executive – National Offender Management Service)

Jeremy Crook – Director – Black Training and Enterprise Group

Darren Coyne – Project Manager – Care Leavers' Association

Natasha Finlayson – Chief Executive – Who Cares? Trust
Shauneen Lambe – Executive Director – Just for Kids Law
Juliet Lyon – Director – Prison Reform Trust
Lord McNally – Chair – Youth Justice Board for England and Wales
Mary O’Grady – Chair – YOT Managers Cymru
Elizabeth Rantzen – Director - J Paul Getty Junior Trust; Trustee – Prison Reform Trust
Nigel Richardson - Director of Children’s Services -Leeds City Council
Councillor David Simmonds – Chair of Local Government Association’s Children and Young Persons’ Board
Enver Solomon – Director of Evidence and Impact – National Children’s Bureau
Dr Jo Staines – Director BSc Childhood Studies Programme – Hadley Centre for Adoption and Foster Care Studies, Bristol University
Chris Stanley – Trustee – Michael Sieff Foundation
Professor Mike Stein – Research Professor - Social Policy Research Unit, University of York
Baroness Lola Young – Crossbench Peer - House of Lords

Young people’s consultation group

The review is supported by a group of children and young people who have experience of care and the criminal justice system. Their insights will inform the work of the review throughout its duration.

Concerns or complaints

In the event of any concerns or complaints about Prison Reform Trust staff or panel members, please contact the Prison Reform Trust Director Juliet Lyon and/or the Chair, Lord Laming at the addresses given below.

Juliet Lyon
Director
Prison Reform Trust
15 Northburgh Street
London EC1V 0JR

Lord Laming
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

All other correspondence should be sent to the care review using the following contact details.

Care review contact information

Email: carereview@prisonreformtrust.org.uk

Post: Care review, C/o Prison Reform Trust, 15 Northburgh Street, London, EC1V 0JR

Telephone: Katy Swaine Williams, Care review co-ordinator – 020 7251 5070