

The first reliable data on costs and benefits of youth justice interventions backs greater investment in selected evidence based programmes.

Functional Family Therapy is one of several proven models now available in the UK that not only reduce crime but also produce a return on investment. Investing in Children calculates that every **£2,500** spent on FFT is delivering over **£27,000** of economic benefits over the participant's life-course.

The analysis also gives support for better co-ordination of services. Relatively small unit costs produce modest returns to the taxpayer alongside reductions in crime.

Consistent with economic analysis in the United States, Investing in Children finds major risks associated with the Scared Straight programme, which seeks to shock anti-social youngsters in to better behaviour.

Other youth justice interventions will come under the spotlight in future editions of Investing in Children.

Building on the model developed by the renowned Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Investing in Children has taken an approach to cost-benefit analysis that is consistent across policy areas, cautious in its estimates and relevant to the real world of public and private sector investments in child health and development.

Each edition of Investing in Children looks at a range of children's services interventions through the same lens.

1. We work out how much impact an intervention is having on child well-being. We only consider rigorously evaluated approaches.
2. We apply a standard method to calculate the unit cost of every intervention, producing an estimate that is as close as possible to what a commissioning agency will actually pay.
3. These data are entered into a carefully assembled economic model based on the best available UK data. This predicts benefits to:

The individual

For example fewer convictions will mean greater earnings in adulthood

Central government

Such as lower use of adult prison or mental health services

Local government

For instance lower demand for foster care places

Victims of crime

For example savings on medical costs or property crime

A full technical report on the work is available at:

www.dartington.org.uk

Investing in Children will be published on a regular basis, providing free and independent, advice on the costs and benefits of competing investment options in children's services.

Each edition will focus on a specific children's services system including:

YOUTH JUSTICE
EARLY YEARS & EDUCATION
CHILD PROTECTION & SOCIAL CARE
CHILD & ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH
PUBLIC HEALTH

There will be several reports for each system each year, reflecting:

- Analysis of new interventions for which there is reliable data on impact and cost
- Improvements in the data sources on which the economic model relies
- Changing economic conditions

The objective is to provide reliable information independent from government, providers or programme developers.

For more information please call 01803 762400 or email tedovald@dartington.org.uk.

The next editions will be available in:

SUMMER 2012

Investing in Children has been funded by Birmingham and Manchester City Councils as part of their continued commitment to squeeze more value from local government investments, and by the Youth Justice Board seeking to reduce crime at lower cost to the taxpayer.



Pro Bono Economics, an independent charity that matches volunteer economists with charities wishing to address questions around measurement, results and impact, has provided invaluable support.

Further funds are sought to continue the supply of free and independent investment advice for children's services.

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APRIL 2012

YOUTH JUSTICE

EARLY YEARS & EDUCATION

CHILD PROTECTION & SOCIAL CARE

CHILD & ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH

INVESTING
in children

the social research unit



Independent investment advice for children's services from the Social Research Unit at Dartington

COSTS & BENEFITS

YOUTH JUSTICE INTERVENTIONS

BLUEPRINTS FOR EUROPE	INTERVENTION TYPE	INTERVENTION	COST-BENEFIT SUMMARY									BENEFIT BY SYSTEM				
			COST	BENEFITS TO TAXPAYERS	BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS	BENEFITS TO OTHERS	TOTAL BENEFITS	BENEFITS MINUS COSTS	BENEFIT - COSTS RATIO	RATE OF RETURN ON INVESTMENT	RISK OF LOSS	YOUTH JUSTICE	EARLY YEARS & SECONDARY EDUCATION	CHILD PROTECTION & SOCIAL CARE	CHILD & ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH	PUBLIC HEALTH
		YOUTH JUSTICE INTERVENTIONS														
**	EB Programme	Functional Family Therapy	£2,501	£5,775	£2,177	£17,650	£25,603	£23,102	£10.24	109%	1%	£4,708				£20,895
**	EB Programme	Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care	£7,639	£3,978	£1,684	£11,997	£17,659	£10,020	£2.31	27%	26%	£3,153			✓	£14,506
**	EB Programme	Multisystemic Therapy	£9,529	£3,841	£1,467	£11,595	£16,903	£7,374	£1.77	15%	19%	£3,122				£13,781
	EB Programme	Aggression Replacement Training	£1,023	£5,342	£2,010	£16,504	£23,856	£22,834	£23.32	730%	12%	£4,357				£19,499
	EB Programme	Drug Court	£3,075	£3,129	£1,092	£9,767	£13,988	£10,913	£4.55	37%	8%	£2,594				£11,394
	Approach	Co-ordination of Services	£268	£810	£976	£219	£2,005	£1,737	£7.48	59%	20%	£331				£1,674
	Approach	Victim-Offender Mediation	£457	£549	£614	£166	£1,329	£872	£2.91	13%	15%	£248				£1,081
	EB Programme	Scared Straight	£54	-623	-794	-348	-1,765	-1,819	-32.69	n/e	100%	-£233				-£1,532
	Approach	Supervision of Young Offenders														
	Approach	Sex Offender Treatment for Young Offenders														

* Intervention rated good enough for current use by public systems

** Indicates the best interventions n/e Not estimated