

Criminal Justice and Courts Bill

Fact sheet: Secure Colleges

Introduction

1. The Government published a consultation paper on 14 February 2013, *Transforming Youth Custody: Putting education at the heart of detention* (CP4/2013). This set out the Government's vision for Secure Colleges that would equip young people with the skills, qualifications and self-discipline they need to lead productive lives on release.
2. On 17 January 2014, the Government Response to the consultation was published. It set out plans to introduce a pathfinder Secure College, a new secure educational establishment which will put education at the heart of youth custody. The pathfinder Secure College will open in the East Midlands in 2017 and, if proven successful, will provide a blueprint for a network of Secure Colleges across England and Wales to replace most existing youth custodial provision.

What is the current position?

3. The problems we are seeking to solve are pressing. Sixty-nine per cent of young people leaving custody go on to reoffend within 12 months, and in Young Offender Institutions young people receive an average of only 12 hours contracted education a week. In addition, youth custody is too expensive. The average cost of a place in custody is £100,000 per annum, but in the case of Secure Training Centres (STCs) and Secure Children's Homes (SCHs) we are paying upwards of £170,000 and £210,000 a place each year respectively.
4. There are currently around 1,350 young people in custody in England and Wales. The youth custodial population has fallen by 56% since 2003/04, allowing us to realise significant savings by closing excess capacity. However, we need to reduce our reliance on the most expensive provision if we are to achieve better value for money. Currently there are three sectors of youth custody:

Sector	Capacity as at 1 Jan 2014/ No. of establishments	Operated by	Age range/ Gender	Average cost of a place per annum	Hours of education a week	Reoffending rate*
Young Offender Institution (YOI)	1,311 beds 7 establishments	NOMS (6), private providers (1)	15-17 years Boys only	£65,000	15 hours (plus 10 hours of purposeful activity)	73%
Secure Training Centre (STC)	301 beds 4 establishments	Private providers	12-17 years Boys and girls	£178,000	25 hours	70%

Secure Children's Home (SCH)	166 beds 10 establishments	Local authorities	10-17 Boys and girls	£212,000	30 hours	76%
Total	1,778 beds 21 establishments	N/A	N/A	£88,500 (accommodation and education only) £99,500 (all associated costs)	N/A	69%

*The re-offending rates by sector give proven re-offending for young offenders released from custody between April 2010 to March 2011. The overall re-offending rate gives proven re-offending for young offenders released from custody between April 2011 and March 2012.

What are the proposed changes?

5. The Government is introducing a new model of youth custody, the Secure College, which will improve outcomes and reduce cost. Education will be firmly at the heart of the Secure College, with other services designed around and intended to support innovative and intensive education delivery. Importantly, by taking a wider cohort of young people aged 12-17, the Secure College will allow us to close expensive STC provision and a number of places in SCHs, as well as YOIs.
6. We intend to develop a purpose-built pathfinder Secure College to be opened in 2017. This will allow us prove the concept of the Secure College and provide a blueprint for the development of a network of Secure Colleges across England and Wales.

How will it work?

7. The Bill will introduce the Secure College as a new form of youth detention accommodation, and give the Secretary of State powers to provide, contract for and place sentenced or remanded young people in Secure Colleges, as well as to make rules about Secure Colleges. In addition, we are legislating to provide a power to repeal provisions on YOIs and STC as appropriate in the future.
8. The primary legislation provides the framework for secure colleges. The detail of their operation will be contained in secondary legislation which will follow royal assent. Further detail will follow shortly.
9. The Bill introduces secure colleges only in England. We are discussing with the Welsh Government how the provisions can be applied in Wales. We intend to bring forward amendments extending the provisions to Wales in due course.

The clauses

10. Clause 29 gives the Secretary of State the power to provide secure colleges in England.
11. Clause 30 makes provision about contracting out the provision and running of secure colleges, about certification of secure college custody officers and about contracting out functions at directly managed secure colleges.
12. Clause 31 will allow the Youth Justice Board to enter into agreements for the provision of accommodation in relation to young people who have received certain sentences. These are:
 - i. a sentence of detention for public protection (under section 226 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003)
 - ii. an extended determinate sentence of detention and
 - iii. an extended sentence of detention for public protection.