


transforming youth custody what do you think?

Learning
for the
future



A close-up photograph of a person's hands working on a bicycle wheel. The person is wearing a dark jacket and a watch. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a workshop or garage. The entire image has a purple tint. In the top right corner, there are several overlapping white circles and lines, resembling a technical or geometric diagram.

Green Paper – a paper by the Government which asks people what they think.

This paper is about custody for children and young people in England and Wales. When young people break the law too many times, or in a very serious way, they are sent to custody. This means that they are taken away from where they live to a place with locked doors where they stay for a period of time. Sometimes young people can be held in custody while a court decides whether or not they have committed a crime, and if they have committed a crime, what the sentence should be.

At the moment there are three types of custody for young people:

- Young Offender Institutions
- Secure Training Centres
- Secure Children's Homes

Consultation – how the Government asks people what they think. This consultation is all about asking for ideas. We want to hear from lots of people; this includes you, the people who work in the system and the people who could make these changes happen.

why ask children and young people?

What you think is important. We want to hear your ideas. Young people are important because you have direct experience of being young now. We have some ideas about changing custody for young people but your views matter too.

This booklet explains what we've come up with. We would like you to read our ideas and then tell us what you think. There are some questions at the end of this booklet and we are interested in your answers, but if you have any other things you want to say please feel free to say them.

Whether you have never been in custody, are in custody now, have been in custody before, know someone who is, or just have some ideas you'd like to share, we want to hear from you.

ideas



what we want to do

Custody for young people could be changing.

We think all young people, including young offenders, should get the best skills and learning for their future. The education young people get in custody should help them study more, get jobs, make a real difference to their lives and help them to stop getting into trouble.

education



what needs to change?

All young people, including those in custody, need to learn and be able to build for their future. But we think the way this happens could work better.

We'd like you to help us understand what the problems are and how things could be better. Maybe young people in custody find it hard to study or don't get enough time to study? Maybe they have to keep explaining their problems to lots of different people over and over again? Maybe the way we find out what help young people need in custody could be better?

Some ideas for you to think about:

- Are there any subjects you think young people in custody really want or need to learn?
- Do you think help with reading, writing, and numbers is important?
- What other skills do you think would be good - maybe learning to deal with anger or learning how to communicate better?
- Could information on a young person's problems and the help they need be shared in a better way, without them having to tell their story over and over again?
- What other issues are important to tackle to help young offenders change?
- What help do they need to stay out of trouble when they leave custody?

our ideas for Secure Colleges

When young people are sent to custody it is 'secure'. Secure means that there are locks, and sometimes a fence, to make sure that nobody can get out until they are allowed.

We've had some ideas about what should happen in custody and how we might change it to Secure Colleges – see what you think of our ideas.

- Education and training is really important and should be what young people's time in custody is about.
- Finding out what needs young people have, and sharing that information with the people who can help (and only those people), should be done better.
- Education and training provided in custody could be better and more interesting so young people learn what they need, faster.
- We could offer different ways for people to learn - some people do better in a classroom, others might do better in a workshop.
- What happens when young people leave custody is really important to help them stay out of trouble.
- We could make these changes happen through Secure Colleges. They could be a place where young people could learn skills and subjects they need, as well as life skills (ways of thinking and acting or behaving) to help them move on.
- Secure Colleges could also support and keep in touch with young people when they leave.
- Secure Colleges could be set up where young people are already in custody or somewhere new.
- Young people could leave Secure Colleges with a place in education, training, or a job sorted out.

conclusion

So, over to you - tell us what you think. Answer the questions on the next page, and don't forget to give us any other ideas at the end.

turn over
for questions



Learning
skills



questions

1. We want Secure Colleges to be a place to learn. Do you think Secure Colleges should be big (for lots of people) or small (for just a few people)?

- I think Secure Colleges should be big*
- I think Secure Colleges should be small*
- I don't mind whether Secure Colleges are big or small*

Or tell us how many people you think a Secure College should be for (enter a number here).

2. What would be a good place for young people in custody to learn? What would it look like and feel like?

Tell us what you think a Secure College would look and feel like and what might you do there:

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3. What other help do young people need in a Secure College? (Help with finding a place to live, help with problems – like alcohol or drugs.)

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4. Who could be in a Secure College? (Secure Colleges could be for just boys, just girls, different ages or everyone all together. What would be best?)

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5. What would be important to make sure young people in a Secure College are kept safe?

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6. What makes you want to learn? (Tick as many boxes as you think are right.)

- A subject that really interests me*
- Knowing it will help me get a job*
- Good teachers*
- Someone to work with me one to one*
- The place I am learning in*
- Feeling happy*
- Feeling calm*

Anything else and which are most important:

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7. Are there any subjects we could put together to make them more interesting? (Examples might be maths and mechanics or writing and making a list of what food to buy.)

..... and

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8. What kinds of learning should you be able to do? (We've suggested some examples.)

- Subjects (like history and geography)*
- Job skills (like plumbing, engineering and catering)*
- Help with writing and maths*
- Life skills (like confidence, social skills, dealing with anger, dealing with money, applying for a job)*

Anything else and which are most important:

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9. Does getting qualifications and certificates encourage you to learn?

- Yes*
- No*
- Doesn't matter*

If they don't matter what else makes you want to learn:

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10. If someone has a disability or special needs, what can we do to make it easier for them to learn?

Ideas:

11. Should young people in custody see someone for advice on careers?

Yes

No

12. What would help young people continue building a good future when they leave custody? What support do you think would help and who might be involved? (This might be someone to continue working with young people when they leave custody, somebody to talk to about problems or something else.)

Ideas:

13. Do you think it would be helpful for a young person to keep attending a Secure College when they leave custody?

- Yes
- No

14. Where should Secure Colleges be located? (Do you have any ideas of where in the country Secure Colleges should be located?)

Ideas:

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15. What should staff do more of, and how best can staff help young people in custody?

Ideas:

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16. Should courses at a Secure College be:

- Short (for a few weeks)
- Long (for a few months and longer)
- Don't mind

17. Tell us any other ideas you have:

My ideas:

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turn over for
more questions



information about you:

Age 10 - 14

Age 15 - 16

Age 17 +

Male

Female

Ethnicity:

White - British

White - Irish

White - other

Black or Black British - Caribbean

Black or Black British - African

Black or Black British - Other

Asian or Asian British - Indian

Asian or Asian British - Pakistani

Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi

Asian or Asian British - Other

Mixed race - White and Black Caribbean

Mixed race - White and Black African

Mixed race - White and Asian

Mixed race - other

Chinese

Other ethnic group

If other, please specify

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Are you in custody at the moment? Yes No

Have you been in custody before? Yes No