



Summary

There is insufficient evidence at this stage to draw a conclusion about the impact of receiving the mentoring service provided by The Prince's Trust on re-offending. This analysis assessed the impact on re-offending of a pilot mentoring scheme provided by the organisation The Prince's Trust. The one year proven re-offending rate¹ for 35 offenders that received the mentoring service was 54%, compared with 60% for a matched control group of similar offenders. Statistical significance testing has shown that this difference in the re-offending rates is not statistically significant²; meaning that at this stage there is insufficient evidence to assess the impact the pilot mentoring service provided by The Prince's Trust had on re-offending. However, the results of the analysis do not mean that the mentoring pilot run by Prince's Trust failed to impact on re-offending.

As this scheme was a pilot, which was further developed between 2011 and 2012, it would be recommended to repeat this exercise when further years of re-offending data are available through this service. This would mean a more accurate and recent reflection of the impact of mentoring through The Prince's Trust would be available.

What you can say: There is insufficient evidence at this stage to draw a conclusion about the impact of receiving the mentoring service provided by The Prince's Trust on re-offending.

What you can't say: This analysis shows that receiving The Prince's Trust mentoring service reduced re-offending by 6 percentage points or by any other amount.

Introduction

The Prince's Trust is a charity which aims to help disadvantaged young people. One pilot service they provided was "through-the-gate" support for young adults nearing the end of their prison sentence. Each offender willing to participate was matched with a mentor who had previous experience of being in prison and who would mentor the offender around 3 - 6 months before release, and continue doing so for 3 - 6 months post release. The aim of the service was to help the offenders break the cycle of crime and progress into positive outcomes, for example education, training and employment. This analysis relates to offenders who received mentoring

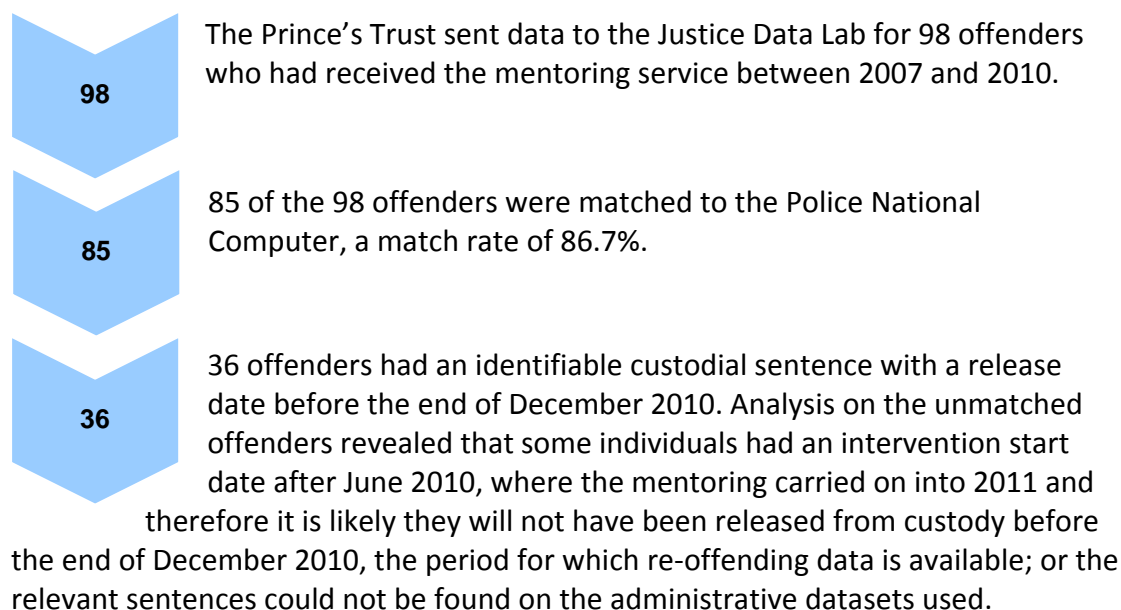
¹ The **one year proven re-offending rate** is defined as the proportion of offenders in a cohort who commit an offence in a one year follow-up period which was proven through receipt of a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning during the one year follow-up or in a further six month waiting period. The one year follow-up period begins when offenders leave custody or start their probation sentence.

² The difference was non-significant, $p = 0.49$. Statistical significance testing is described on page 5 of this report.

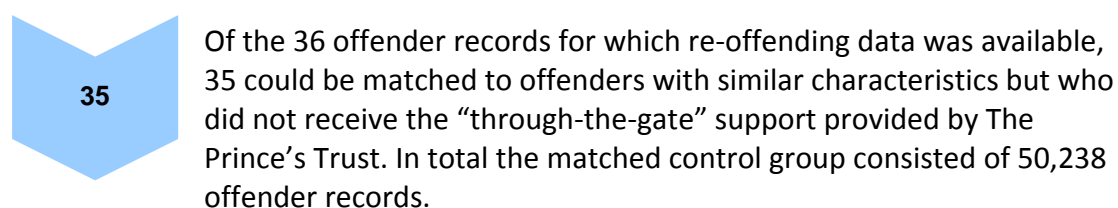
between 2007 and 2010 in South West (Guys Marsh, Portland) and South East (Reading, Winchester, Lewes), UK.

The Prince's Trust has developed their mentoring service significantly since the pilot - this analysis will therefore not reflect the impact of the improvements they have subsequently made to the service.

Processing the Data



Creating a Matched Control Group



The Annex provides information on the similarity between the treatment and control groups. Further data on the matching process is available upon request.

Results

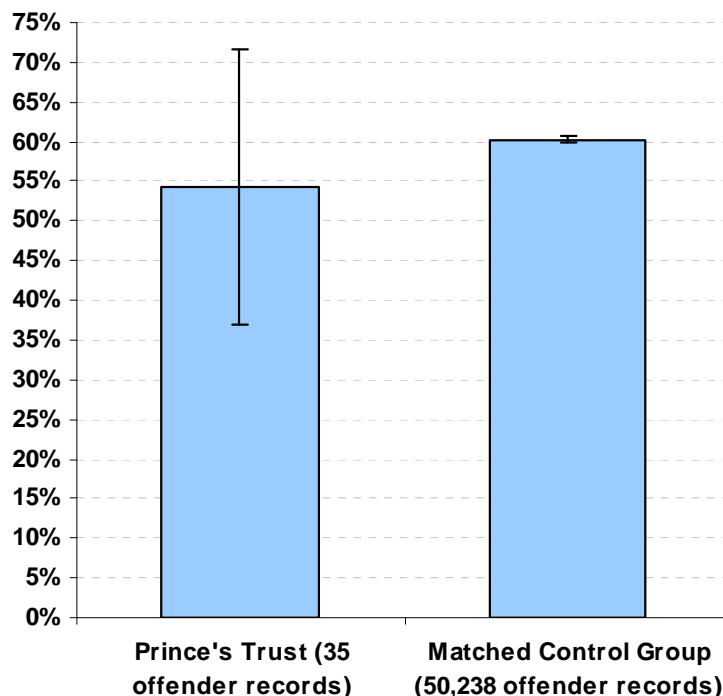
The one year proven re-offending rate for 35 offenders who received the mentoring service from the Prince's Trust was 54%. This compares to 60% for a matched control group of similar offenders. This information is displayed in Figure 1.

Figure 1 below presents the 95 per cent confidence intervals for the re-offending rates of both groups, i.e. the range in which we can be 95 per cent sure that the true

re-offending rate for the groups lie. For this analysis we can be confident that the true difference in re-offending between two groups is between 12 and -24 percentage points. It is important to show confidence intervals because both the treatment and matched control groups are samples of larger populations; the re-offending rate is therefore an estimate for each population based on a sample, rather than the actual rate.

However, because this difference crosses 0, we cannot be sure either way that receiving mentoring through The Prince's Trust led to a reduction or an increase in re-offending and thus cannot draw a firm conclusion about its impact.

Figure 1: The best estimates for the one year proven re-offending rate for offenders who received The Prince's Trust mentoring service and a matched control group.



The precision of this estimate could be improved if additional information of those who received the mentoring service on the pilot scheme were provided to the Ministry of Justice. As this scheme was a pilot, which was further developed between 2011 and 2012, it would be recommended to repeat this exercise when further years of re-offending data are available through this service. This would mean a more accurate and recent reflection of the impact of mentoring through The Prince's Trust would be available.

Caveats and Limitations

The statistical methods used in this analysis are based on data collected for administrative purposes. While these include details of each offenders' previous criminal, benefit and employment history alongside more basic offender

characteristics such as age, gender and ethnicity, it is possible that other important contextual information that may help explain the results has not been accounted for. It is possible that underlying characteristics about the individuals included in the analysis which were not captured by the data (e.g. attendance at other interventions or services targeted at offenders) may have impacted re-offending behaviour. It is also possible that there are additional underlying characteristics about the individuals included in the analysis which were not captured by the data, for example attendance on other interventions targeted at offenders, that may have impacted re-offending behaviour.

Many organisations that work with offenders will look to target specific needs of individuals; for example improving housing, or employability. However, how the organisations select those individuals to work with could lead to selection bias, which can impact on the direction of the results. For example; individuals may self select into a service, because they are highly motivated to address one or more of their needs. This would result in a positive selection bias, meaning that for these persons we would generally expect a better re-offending outcome as they are more motivated. Alternatively, some organisations might specifically target persons who are known to have more complex needs and whose attitudes to addressing their needs are more challenging. This would result in a negative selection bias, meaning that for these persons we would generally expect a poorer re-offending outcome as they are not motivated. However, factors which would lead to selection bias in either direction are not represented in our underlying data, and cannot be reflected in our modelling. This means that all results should be interpreted with care, as selection bias cannot be accounted for in analyses.

Furthermore, only 35 of the 98 offenders on The Prince's Trust mentoring support scheme were in the final treatment group. The section "Processing the Data" outlines key steps taken to obtain the final group used in the analysis. In many analyses, the creation of matched control group will mean that some individuals, who will usually have particular characteristics – for example a particular ethnicity, or have committed a certain type of offence, will need to be removed to ensure that the modelling will work. Steps will always be taken at this stage to preserve as many individuals as possible, but due to the intricacies of statistical modelling some attrition at this stage will often result. As such, the final treatment group may not be representative of all offenders who have received The Prince's Trust "through-the-gate" support. In all analyses from the Justice Data Lab, persons who have ever been convicted of sex offences will be removed, as these individuals are known to have very different patterns of re-offending.

The re-offending rates included in this analysis **should not** be compared to the national average, nor any other reports or publications which include re-offending rates – including those assessing the impact of other interventions. The re-offending rates included in this report are specific to the characteristics of those Prince's Trust "through-the-gate" support participants who could be matched. Any other comparison would not be comparing like for like.

For a full description of the methodology, including the matching process, see www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/justice-data-lab/justice-data-lab-methodology.pdf.

Assessing Statistical Significance

This analysis uses statistical testing to assess whether any differences in the observed re-offending rates are due to chance, or if the intervention is likely to have led to a real change in behaviour. The outcome of the statistical testing is a value between 0 and 1, called a 'p-value', indicating the certainty that a real difference in re-offending between the two groups has been observed. A value closer to 0 indicates that the difference in the observed re-offending rates is not merely due to chance. For example, a p-value of 0.01 suggests there is only a 1 per cent likelihood that any observed difference in re-offending has been caused by chance.

For the purposes of the analysis presented in this report, we have taken a p-value of up to 0.05 as indicative of a real difference in re-offending rates between the treatment and control groups.

The confidence intervals in the figure are helpful in judging whether something is significant at the 0.05 level. If the confidence intervals for the two groups do not overlap, this indicates that there is a real difference between the re-offending rates.

Annex

Table 1: Characteristics of offenders in the treatment and control groups

	Treatment Group	Matched Control Group	Standardised Difference
Number in group	35	50,238	
Ethnicity			
White	80%	80%	0
Black and Asian	20%	20%	0
Nationality			
UK Citizen ¹	97%	100%	0
Gender			
Proportion that were male	89%	89%	-2
Age			
Mean age at Index Offence	22	22	-2
Mean age at first contact with CJS	14	14	-5
Index Offence ²			
Violent offences including robbery	40%	40%	0
Burglary	20%	20%	1
Theft and handling	14%	14%	-1
Drugs	14%	14%	0
Other including motoring offences ³ and criminal damage	11%	12%	-1
Length of Custodial Sentence			
6 months or less	20%	22%	-6
12 months to 4 years	69%	67%	4
4 years to 10 years	11%	11%	1
Criminal History ³			
Mean Copas Rate	-0.47	-0.49	4
Mean total previous offences	28	27	4
Mean previous criminal convictions	11	10	3
Mean previous custodial sentences	3	3	3
Mean previous court orders	4	4	3
Employment and Benefit History			
In P45 employment (year prior to conviction)	20%	21%	-1
In P45 employment (month prior to conviction)	3%	3%	-3
Claiming Out of Work Benefits (year prior to conviction) ⁴	57%	58%	-2
Claiming Job Seekers Allowance (year prior to conviction)	37%	39%	-3
Claiming Incapacity Benefit (year prior to conviction)	26%	21%	12
Claiming Income Support (year prior to conviction)	11%	12%	-2
Notes:			
1 There was only one foreign national in our final treatment group; it was therefore not suitable to include the "Nationality" variable in the model. Although there were no foreign nationals in the control group we still feel this is a valid analysis.			
2 Index Offence is based on OGRS categories. Further details on make-up of categories available upon request.			
3 Motoring offences, including theft of and from Vehicles			
4 All excluding Penalty Notices for Disorder. All prior to Index Offence.			
5 Out of Work Benefits include people on Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Incapacity Benefits (IB) and Income Support (IS) but it does not count people whose primary benefit is Carer's Allowance (CA).			
All figures (except mean copas rate) are rounded to the nearest whole number, this may mean that percentages do not sum to 100%.			
Standardised Difference Key			
Green - the two groups were well matched on this variable (-5% to 5%)			
Amber - the two groups were reasonably matched on this variable (6% to 10% or -6% to -10%)			
Red - the two groups were poorly matched on this variable (greater than 10% or less than -10%)			

Table 1 on the previous page shows that the two groups were well matched on all, but two of the variables found to have associations with receiving treatment and/or re-offending. This suggests that the control group could have been slightly better matched in these cases, but on the whole it is still indicative of a control group who exhibit similar characteristics.

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General information about the official statistics system of the United Kingdom is available from www.statistics.gov.uk

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