



This analysis looked at the re-offending behaviour of 39 men and youths after receiving peer mentoring support from the London Probation Trust (LPT). The overall results show that more people would need to have completed the programme and be available for analysis in order to determine the way in which the programme affects a person's re-offending behaviour, but this should not be taken to mean that the programme fails to affect it.

The London Probation Trust (LPT, since subsumed by the National Probation Service and the London Community Rehabilitation Company under the Transforming Rehabilitation programme) provided peer mentoring to offenders in Hackney, Croydon, Lewisham and Greenwich, offering practical support that would allow them to reintegrate with the community. This analysis looks at offenders who started the programme between February and September 2013, and had received community, suspended, or custodial sentences.

This analysis of LPT's peer mentoring programme measured proven re-offences in a one year period for a 'treatment group' of 39 offenders who received peer mentoring, and a much larger 'comparison group' of similar offenders from across England and Wales who did not. These measurements were used to estimate the impact that LPT's programme would be expected to have on the re-offending behaviour of any people who are similar to those in the analysis.

The 39 people who were eligible to be included in the main analysis were from a group of 77 records submitted to the Justice Data Lab. The effects of the programme on those who were not analysed may be different to the effects on those who were.

Overall measurements of the treatment and comparison groups

For any **100** typical people in the
Treatment group:

↑ **44** of the 100 people committed a proven re-offence within a one-year period (a rate of 44%), **9 people more** than in the comparison group.

↑ **95** proven re-offences were committed by these 100 people during the year (a frequency of 0.9 offences per person), **8 offences more than** the comparison group

Time to first re-offence has not been included as a headline result due to low numbers of re-offenders, which could potentially provide misleading results.


For any **100** typical people in the
comparison group:

35 of the 100 people committed a proven re-offence within a one-year period (a rate of 35%).

87 proven re-offences were committed by these 100 people during the year (a frequency of 0.9 offences per person)

Overall estimates of the impact of the intervention

For any **100** typical people who took part in the London Probation Trust peer mentoring programme, compared with any **100** similar people who do not receive it:

 The number of people who commit a proven re-offence during one year after release could be **lower by as many as 7 people, or higher by as many as 25 people**.

 The number of proven re-offences committed during the year could be **lower by as many as 49 offences, or higher by as many as 64 offences**.

More people would need to be analysed in order to determine the directions of these differences. It is estimated that a treatment group of 428 people would be needed to determine the effect on the one year proven re-offending rate.

What you can say about the one-year re-offending rate:

✓ "This analysis provides evidence that, for every 100 offenders, the London Probation Trust peer mentoring programme may decrease the number of proven re-offenders during a one-year period by as many as 7 people, or may increase it by as many as 25 people."

What you cannot say about the one-year re-offending rate:

✗ "This analysis shows that the London Probation Trust peer mentoring programme increases/ decreases/ has no effect on the one-year proven re-offending rate of its participants."

What you can say about the one-year re-offending frequency:

✓ "This analysis provides evidence that, for every 100 offenders, the London Probation Trust peer mentoring programme may decrease the number of proven re-offences during a one-year period by as many as 49 offences, or may increase it by as many as 64 offences."

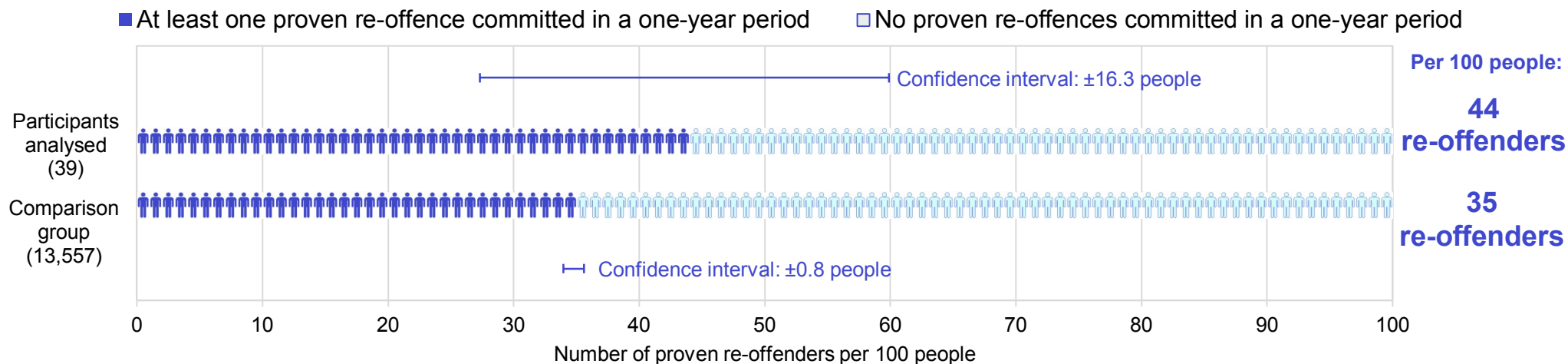
What you cannot say about the one-year re-offending frequency:

✗ "This analysis shows that the London Probation Trust peer mentoring programme increases/ decreases/ has no effect on the frequency of re-offending."

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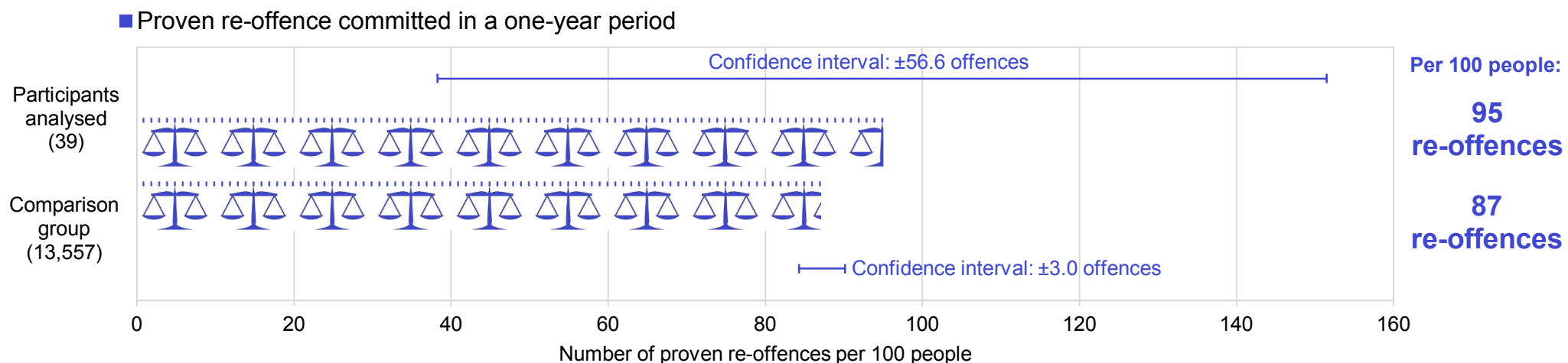
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One-year proven re-offending rate after participation in London Probation Trust's peer mentoring programme



Non-significant difference between groups

One-year proven re-offending frequency after participation in London Probation Trust's peer mentoring programme



Non-significant difference between groups

London Probation Trust's peer mentoring programme: in their own words

“ The peer mentoring project was implemented by London Probation Trust (LPT, since subsumed by the National Probation Service and the London Community Rehabilitation Company under the Transforming Rehabilitation programme) at the beginning of 2013. The project was available in four of LPT's local delivery units: Hackney; Croydon; Lewisham; and Greenwich. The aim of the mentoring pilot was to provide a number of potential mentoring packages, with the intention of contracting them out to third party voluntary organisations. It was envisaged that through providing a mentoring scheme, offenders would receive practical support allowing them to reintegrate with their communities.

Linking with communities and providing an individualised service from peer mentors was intended to influence change. The strong need to recognise that the process of giving up crime is different for each individual was felt to be important in supporting an individual. LPT defined peer mentoring as individuals in 'similar positions providing knowledge, experience, or emotional, social or practical help to each other'. In employing peer mentors, LPT aimed to use ex-offenders (who may still have been on a community order or licence) who had evidenced that they were effectively rehabilitated.

The overall aim of LPT was to develop a peer mentoring service for offenders aged 18-25. Mentoring by ex-offenders in both paid and unpaid roles was offered alongside offender management to encourage motivation and support compliance. Catch22 and St Giles Trust were commissioned to provide mentoring services.

The intervention included the following:

- A 3-way meeting with offender, mentor and offender manager.
- Mentoring tailored to meet individual needs and risks.
- Completion of an action plan.
- Provide help, advice and guidance to promote social and emotional wellbeing.
- Challenge attitudes and assumptions.
- Promote positive self-identity.
- Support with housing, employment, training, finance, mental health & substance misuse.

The data refers to a specific period that the Policy research and Evaluation Unit at Manchester Metropolitan University used for their evaluation (Feb 2013-Sept 2013) and includes referrals who were mentored. Referrals continued after this point. ”

London Probation Trust's response to the Justice Data Lab analysis

“ London Probation Trust (LPT) commissioned this research in 2013 and were pleased to contribute and work closely with Manchester Metropolitan University who conducted a thorough evaluation of the mentoring programme.

With the aftermath of the Ministry of Justice's Transforming Rehabilitation reform programme, LPT's Rehabilitation Services directorate now operates as RISE, a new Public Service Mutual, a separate organisation from the National Probation Service and London Community Rehabilitation Company. LPT saw mentoring by former service users as a positive way of supporting persistent offenders and getting them to engage with services and overcome barriers to resettlement in the community. While the results of the initiative are disappointing, based on our experience the mentoring programme, delivered by Catch 22 and St.Giles Trust, proved to be a successful and innovative intervention.

We would like to thank Kuljit Sandhu, Catch 22, St Giles Trust and Manchester Metropolitan University for their contribution to the Peer Mentoring project, and to this research ”

The results in detail

Two analyses were conducted in total. Each analysis controlled for offender demographics and criminal history and the following risks and needs: accommodation, employment history, financial management and income, relationships, drug and alcohol use, mental health and attitudes.

Analyses
1. National analysis: treatment group matched to offenders across England and Wales using demographics, criminal history and individual risks and needs.
2. Regional analysis: treatment group matched to offenders in London using demographics, criminal history and individual risks and needs.

The headline results in this report refer to the **national analysis**

The size of treatment and comparison groups for re-offending rate and frequency analyses provided below. The 'time to first re-offence' analyses focus on those who re-offend only:

Analysis	Controlled for Region	Treatment Group Size	Comparison Group Size	Re-offenders in treatment group	Re-offenders in comparison group
National		39	13,557	17	4,548
Regional	X	38	3,045	17	1,057

In each analysis, the **three headline measures** of one-year re-offending were analysed (see results in Tables 1-3):

1. Rate of re-offending
2. Frequency of re-offending
3. Time to first re-offence

There were no statistically significant results across any of the measures.

Further measures regarding the severity of re-offending and of re-offences resulting in custody have not been included in this report. This is because the numbers within each category were too small to make reliable estimates for these measures.

Tables 1-3 show the overall measures of re-offending. Rates are expressed as percentages and frequencies are expressed per person. The average time to first re-offence includes reoffenders only.

Table 1: Proportion of people who committed a proven re-offence in a one year period after participation in London Probation Trust's peer mentoring programme, compared with matched comparison groups

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven re-offending rate				
			Treatment group rate (%)	Comparison group rate (%)	Estimated difference (% points)	Significant difference?	p-value
National	39	13,557	43.6	34.8	-7 to +25	No	0.28
Regional	38	3,045	44.7	34.8	-7 to +27	No	0.23

Table 2: Number of proven re-offences committed in a one year period by people after participation in London Probation Trust's peer mentoring programme, compared with matched comparison groups

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven re-offending frequency (offences per person)				
			Treatment group frequency	Comparison group frequency	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
National	39	13,557	0.95	0.87	-0.5 to +0.6	No	0.79
Regional	38	3,045	0.97	1.00	-0.6 to +0.6	No	0.93

The time to first re-offence analysis of participants and the comparison group is based on a group of only 17 participants. A larger group of re-offenders (usually a minimum of 30) would be required to calculate a meaningful estimate of the time to first re-offence for the treatment group, and to more confidently determine any effect of the programme on this measure.

Table 3: Average time to first proven re-offence in a one year period for people who committed a proven re-offence after participation in London Probation Trust's peer mentoring programme, compared with matched comparison groups

Area	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	Average time to first proven re-offence within a one-year period, for re-offenders only (days)				
			Treatment group time	Comparison group time	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
National	17	4,548	176	159.6	-39 to +71	No	0.55
Regional	17	1,057	176	159.8	-40 to +71	No	0.56

Profile of the treatment group

The London Probation Trust peer mentoring programme was delivered in Hackney, Croydon, Lewisham and Greenwich, so all those in the treatment group were based in London. Information on those who were included in the treatment group for the analysis is below, compared with the characteristics of those who could not be included in the analysis.

Participants included in analysis (39 offenders – national analysis)

- 100% male
- 28% white, 67% Black, 5% Asian
- 49% UK nationals, 13% Non-UK, 38% unknown nationality
- Aged 17 to 25 at the time of index offence (mean age 21 years)
- 10% released from prison/ started community sentence in 2012, 90% in 2013.
- Sentence type:
 - Non-custodial sentence 76%
 - Custodial sentence
 - 1 - 4 years 21%
 - 4 – 10 years 3%

Participants not included in analysis (30 offenders)

- 100% male
- 13% white, 80% Black, 7% Asian
- 33% UK nationals, 67% unknown

Information on index offences is not available for this group, as they could not be linked to a suitable sentence.

For the **7 people** without any records in the re-offending database, no personal information is available.

Information on individual risks and needs was available for 35 people in the national analysis treatment group (90%) recorded near to the time of their original conviction. Among these people, it is estimated that:

- 74% had previously misused drugs (in custody or community);
- 74% were unemployed, or would be unemployed on release;
- 63% had some or significant issues with pro-criminal attitudes;
- 20% had no fixed abode.

Matching the treatment and comparison groups

Each of the two analyses matched a comparison group to the treatment group. A summary of the matching quality is as follows:

- In the **national** analysis, most variables were well matched. The treatment and comparison groups were reasonably well matched on a number of variables, including custodial sentence length, index offence severity, benefits variables, previous offence variables and some individual risks and needs. The groups were poorly matched on some variables, including cohort year, some benefits variables and some individual risks and needs.
- In the **regional** analysis, most variables were well matched. The groups were reasonably well matched on a number of variables, including index offence severity, some benefits variables and some individual risks and needs. The groups were poorly matched on some variables, including cohort year and some individual risks and needs.

Further details of group characteristics and matching quality, including risks and needs recorded by the Offender Assessment System (OASys), can be found in the Excel annex accompanying this report.

This report is also supplemented by a general annex, which answers frequently asked questions about Justice Data Lab analyses and explains the caveats associated with them.

Numbers of people in the treatment and comparison groups

77 records were submitted for analysis by London Probation Trust, corresponding to 76 individuals.

76

4 people (5%) were excluded because they could not be identified on the Police National Computer (PNC)

72

25 people (33%) were excluded because they did not have a record in the re-offending database that corresponded to their period of participation on the LPT mentoring programme. 3 of these people had no record at all, and 22 had records for offences at other times. This may be because they started the peer-mentoring programme more than halfway through the one-year re-offending period.

47

4 people (5%) were excluded because they had committed a current or previous sexual offence.

43

4 people (5%) were excluded from the national analysis and 5 were excluded from the regional analysis because they could not be matched to any suitable individuals in the comparison groups.

The national treatment group contained 51% of the individuals originally submitted and the regional treatment group contained 50%.

39

**National
treatment group**
(Comparison group:
13,557 records)

38

**Regional
treatment group**
(Comparison group:
3,045 records)

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