

ABSTRACT

AN EVALUATION OF CHANCE (U.K) A COMMUNITY INITIATIVE: INTERVENTION FOR CHILDREN AT RISK

The main focus of this research is the evaluation of CHANCE U.K Solution Focused Mentoring, an intervention delivered via mentors to young children at risk for future youth crime. The associations between the histories of Childhood, Youth Crime and Interventions in the U.K which have had an impact on the formation of CHANCE U.K were examined. Explanations of Youth Crime were examined. Initial Formative and Summative evaluations of CHANCE U.K implementation and intervention are reported. The initial evaluation findings on outcomes are not consistently favourable. Parents and teachers of mentored children reported positive increases in confidence, self-control and relationships following mentoring. In addition, a standardised assessment of a mentored group on behaviour and school related measures demonstrated improvements only equivalent to those of a comparison group of non-mentored children. However, among the group of mentored children, a small number demonstrated significant improvement in conduct and peer problems. Identification of different types of Mentors, their recruitment and participation in CHANCE U.K intervention are described in the thesis. Emphasis is placed on describing the nature of both successful and prematurely terminated relationships between mentors and mentored children. Weaknesses revealed in CHANCE U.K initial evaluation are addressed via case file analysis and a medium term follow up study. Recommendations are made for future research to improve the effectiveness of the Solution Focused Mentoring intervention.

Keywords: CHANCE, Mentor, Mentee, Solution-Focused Mentoring, Intervention, Youth Crime,