



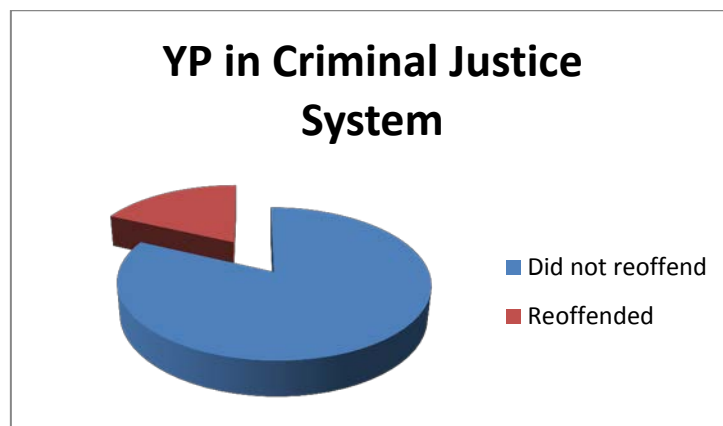
Lives Not Knives (LNK) Benefit of Activities

LNK Work Ready Programme

During the first year of LNK's activities as a registered charity (2013-2014), a number of young people have been supported and guided to set and achieve goals for Education, Employment or Training.

A combined total of 141 young people were supported. The majority of these young people were referred to LNK by the Jobcentre Plus, the Youth Offending Team and the Looked After Children Team, while a small number of young people were supported after walking into the LNK unit seeking advice and support.

Of the 141 young people, 61 were known to the criminal justice system. 50 of these (82%) have not reoffended since the completion of the programme.



A MOPAC grant of £1,358 is allocated annually for the rehabilitation of a young offender. This grant totals at £67,900 for the 50 young offenders who did not reoffend over the course of the year. This is a considerable saving when compared with the annual costs of imprisonment in an adult prison (£65,000) or a YOI (£56,000) per individual. This figure does not take account of court costs.

34 young people were leaving care, 25 of which have secured either full-time education or employment.

109 of the 141 young people were able to secure full-time education or employment.

Macmillan (2012) states the annual costs of an 18-24 year old to be:

- JSA = £2746.56
- ESA= £3496.20
- Carers allowance = £2815.80
- Housing benefit = £3120 (additional)
- Housing benefit with child = £4680 (additional)

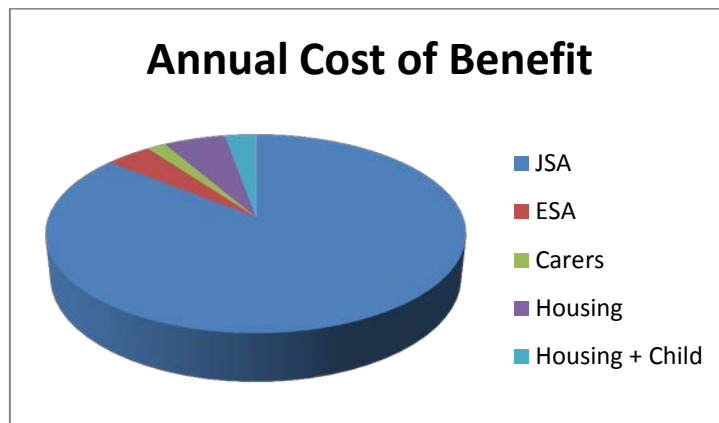
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Of the 55 young people referred to LNK from Jobcentre Plus, 52 young people in receipt of JSA, 3 of these received housing benefits and one further received housing benefits with child. Two further young people received ESA and one was in receipt of a Carers allowance.

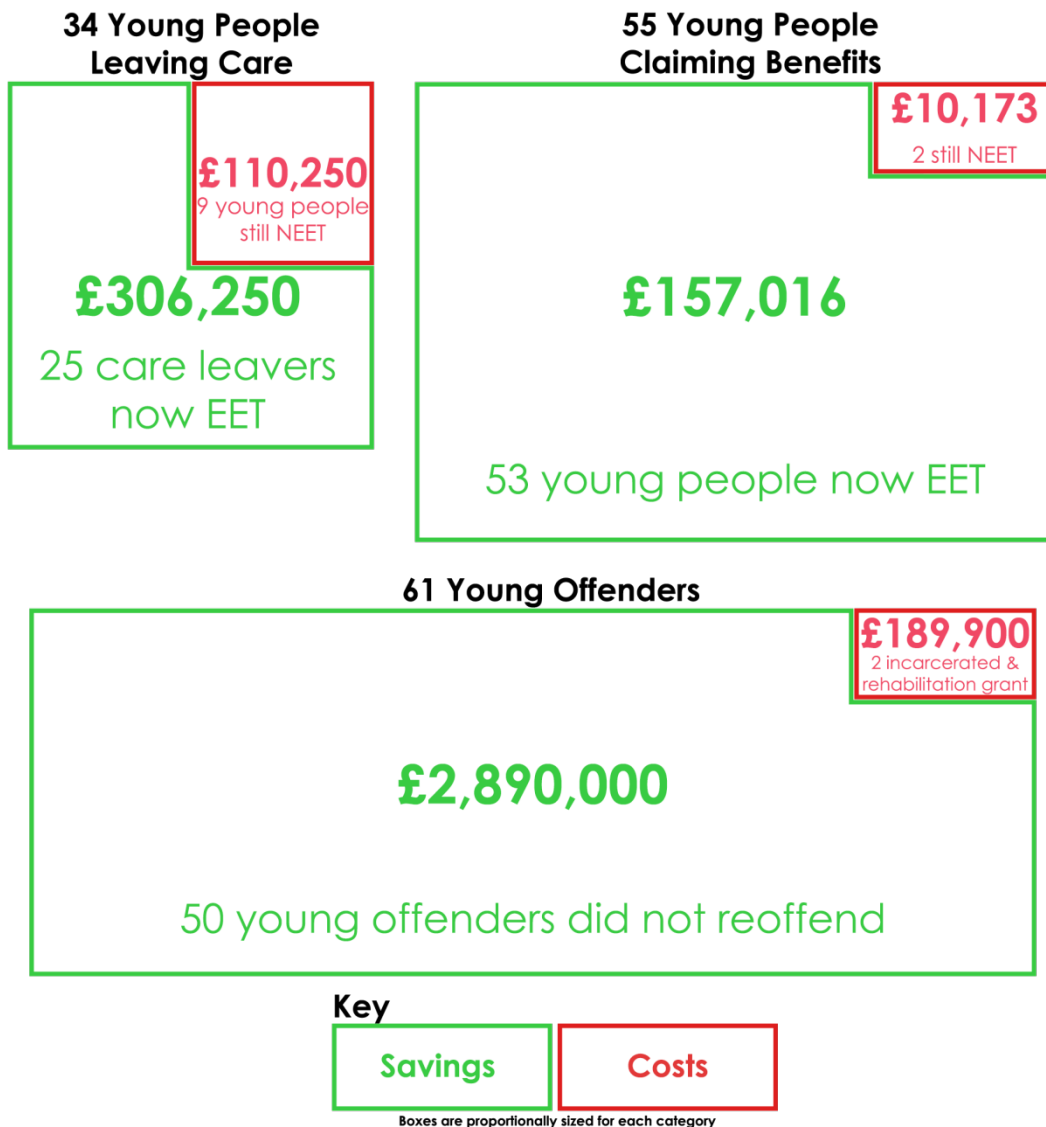
This provides us with annual costs of £143,341.12 (JSA), £6992.40 (ESA), £2815.80 (Carers), £9360 (housing) and £4680 (housing + child). The total cost over a year is £167,189.32.



Of the 55 young people in this breakdown, 53 are now in full-time education, providing an annual saving of £157,016.20.



ESTIMATED MAXIMUM POTENTIAL ANNUAL SAVINGS AND CONTINUED ANNUAL COSTS



The above diagram illustrates the estimated potential maximum costs and savings of the young people on the programme over the course of one year.



LNK Case Studies

Aside from the financial benefit from LNK's work, the effect on the lives of the participants is incredibly positive.

Kirsty

One case study involves Kirsty, a girl of 19. Kirsty was referred to LNK by the Jobcentre Plus after a poor experience with the Work Programme. She was a care leaver and had low confidence and self-esteem.

I've been referred by my GP regarding my depression I am desperate to speak with a therapist as this has been an ongoing issue for me. I suffer from drastic mood changes throughout the day, poor sleep, worry, anxiety and I feel that I affects my relationships with others and my self-esteem as I feel trapped in my own thoughts and I'm unable to maintain a positive look on life – Kirsty

Kirsty was placed on the LNK programme enhanced her skills and improved her CV through one-to-one work with LNK team members. She became involved in the planning of a Foster Care event due to her personal experience and insight of the Care system, gaining further experience and confidence as a result. She received work experience and went on to be supported by LNK with an application to KPMG for a Business Administration Apprenticeship.

She continued to receive moral and practical support from LNK throughout the rigorous application process and received confirmation of an offer for the apprenticeship from KPMG. She is currently working tirelessly on her 15 month apprenticeship where she feels both challenged and supported in her work.

Over the last few months of I feel my life has changed and I have found the confidence to strive for success in all aspects of my life. It was great working with the LNK team. You work closely with each other to offer great support and advice on both personal and professional levels. I never thought I would be in work so soon and I have every confidence in completing the level 3 qualification – Kirsty



Vigithan

One further case study from LNK's programme is Vigithan, a 23 year old man and graduate. Vigithan was struggling to secure employment which he found increasingly frustrating.

I felt under pressure to get a job in retail rather than looking at potential career building. I was handicapped with this pressure and the rigidity of Universal Job Match and the types of jobs available - Vigithan

He worked intensively with the LNK team on improving his inter-personal skills and learning new techniques for interviews which would highlight his impressive eye for detail as well as his methodical way of working.

Vigithan was then introduced by LNK to the National Physics Laboratory, a job broker for several scientific research companies. He immediately became more engaged and excited at the prospect of finding a job which would make good use of his skills and continued to improve the quality of his applications on feedback received from NPL.

He was able to secure work as a Phlebotomy assistant with the Royal Cornwall Trust and has related to Cornwall where he feels himself to be established on a career path.

LNK Roadshows

LNK's roadshows are delivered in over 150 schools annually to over 10,000 students. They are designed to highlight the dangers of youth crime and inform young people of their rights and responsibilities while promoting positive alternatives.

The results of an evaluation performed in 2012 of the roadshows shows a strong and favourable response to the sessions.



Primary Roadshows

- 92% knew more about gangs after the session
- 92% knew more about the law after the session
- 96% found the real life stories of our mentors interesting
- 85% knew more about the dangers of carrying a knife
- 92% wouldn't want to be friends with anyone who carries a knife
- 90% are aware of what a real friend is after the session
- 96% enjoyed the session.

Secondary Roadshows

- 89% felt the session met their expectations
- 78% felt their understanding of gangs and related violence had been changed by the session
- 87% felt more informed about the dangers of carrying a knife
- 78% said they were less likely to carry a knife after our visit
- 70% said they were more confident about their personal safety after the session
- 80% felt that it was a positive activity
- 95% enjoyed the session.

Teacher feedback highlighted the honesty and integrity of our youth mentors as well as their personal commitment and insight.

Looking at these results, we can clearly see that a vast majority of the students attending the session felt that they were more informed about the laws regarding gang activity and the carrying of weapons. Furthermore, most of the students felt less likely to want to carry a knife as a result of the information they had been given during the session.


The social impact of these results cannot be understated. More young people being aware of the dangers involved in carrying a knife leading to fewer young people wanting to carry a knife results in a lower risk of injuries or fatalities in regards to knife crime.

Furthermore, the primary school students felt strongly about their ideas of friendship and what it meant to be a real friend – their preference to not befriend anyone who carries a knife can suggest a lower risk of dangerous gangs forming or increasing in size.

Financially, one could argue that a significant sum of money has been saved by making young people less likely to carry a knife. The average cost per incident of homicide (2011 update to HORS 217) is approximately £1,774,681 over the cost of a year. This price includes emotional/physical care for families, victim services, criminal justice costs (including police costs) and more. From 2005, there were 10 fatal stabbings of teens in the Croydon area. This would have amounted to an approximate cost of £17,746,810.

The estimated average cost of a serious wounding is £25,747, and the cost of other wounding is estimated at £9,790.

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Macmillan, L., 2012. The cost of youth unemployment. In: Youth Unemployment: the crisis we cannot afford. ACEVO: London. Annex A.

Home Office, 2011. IOM Efficiency Toolkit Phase 2: revised unit costs of crime and multipliers. Home Office: London.

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