

Leeds YOS working with girls



8.27 x 11.69 in

The national response

- 2000 Strategy for women offenders
- 2004 Women`s offending reduction programme
- 2005 Together women programme
- 2006 Gender Equality Act
- 2007 The Corston report
- 2008 Government's response to Corston; Her Majesty`s Prison Service PSO; NOMs framework for women offenders and offender management guidance.
- 2009 YJB research “Girls and offending”
- 2010/11 Female voice in violence reports
- 2011 updated 2013 VAWG action plan
- 2012 Howard League APPG Inquiry
- 2012 Children's Commissioner report CSEGG

Why are girls different?

- Girls offend far less than boys
- On the whole, girls commit less serious offences
- Girls pathways into offending are different
- Girls are less likely to be reconvicted and stop offending at an earlier age
- Risk factors of particular relevance for girls: poverty, abuse, truancy, drug and alcohol use, parental conflict, victimisation, low self esteem; personal relationships and the influence of boys in risky situations

Promising practice in working with girls

- **Relationships based**

- ❖ Understanding girls need relationships
- ❖ Taking time for relationships
- ❖ Acknowledging victimisation and trauma
- ❖ Teaching healthy relationships

- **Strengths based**

- ❖ Teaching new skills based on strengths
- ❖ Teaching personal respect
- ❖ Giving girls control

Promising practice (continued)

- **Holistic**

- ❖ Relationships, systems, society

- **Health based**

- ❖ Physical and sexual
- ❖ Emotional and mental
- ❖ Substances
- ❖ Spiritual

- **Environment**

- ❖ Physical safety
- ❖ Emotional safety
- ❖ Values females

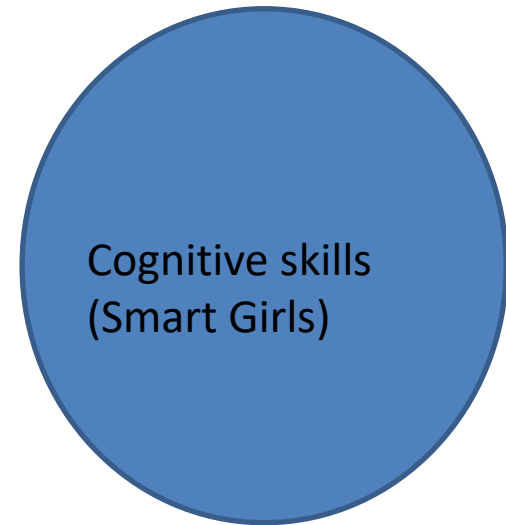
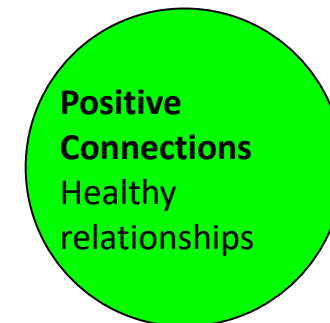
Key principles underpinning our work with girls

- Willingness to be innovative
- Senior manager buy in and direction
- Embedding practice within a strong policy framework
- Confident and competent staff
- Development of girl specific interventions
- Strong partnership work
- Research based and clear theoretical framework
- Commitment to monitoring and evaluation

Interventions for girls

- **Unique** (self esteem)
- **Positive Connections** (healthy relationships)
- **Girl Matters** (sexual health)
- **Express Yourself** (emotional management)
- **Smart Girls** (cognitive skills and 2 modules from above)
- **Us girls can** (positive activities)
- **Reparation**

Smart girls.....



The AYM said.....

“ The girls programme implemented by Leeds YOS was a worthy first winner of the John Hawkins award for good practice in youth justice by AYM members or the YOTs they represent. John would have thoroughly approved”.

Life since the (double!) awards.....

- Contributed to the APPG Inquiry
- Presented at YJB conferences which have increased YOTs awareness
- Attended the YJB`s working group to support other YOTs formulate their response
- Provided significant support for other YOTs to develop their services for girls eg Sheffield, Liverpool, Manchester, Lincolnshire
- Linked with Dr Elaine Arnull for evaluation