It's complicated...

Claire Lightowler
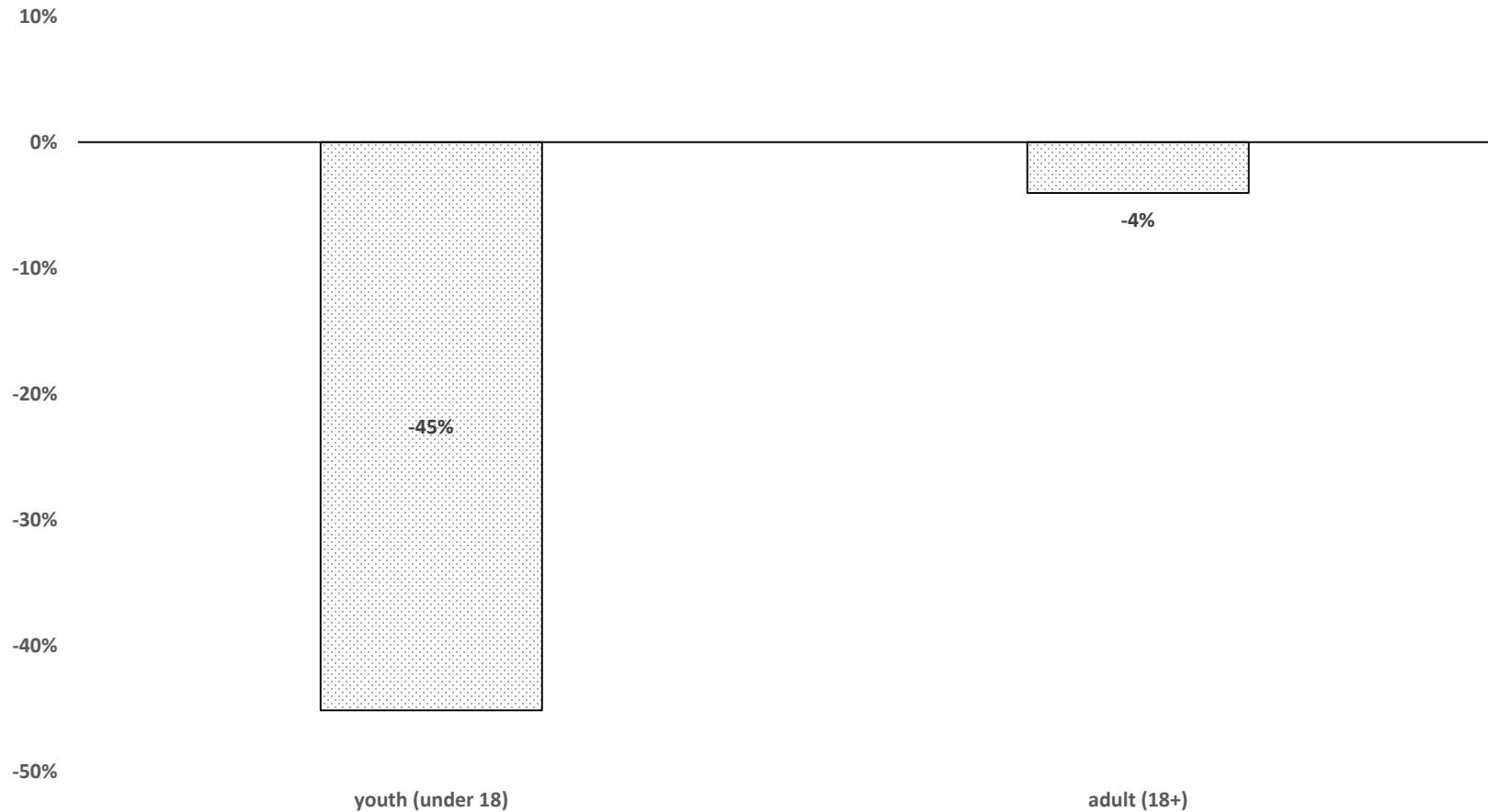
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Scotland 2012-13

- 4.7% of children involved in offending (23,726 kids)

- Charged with 43,117 crimes

- Young people responsible for 16% of all crimes & offences

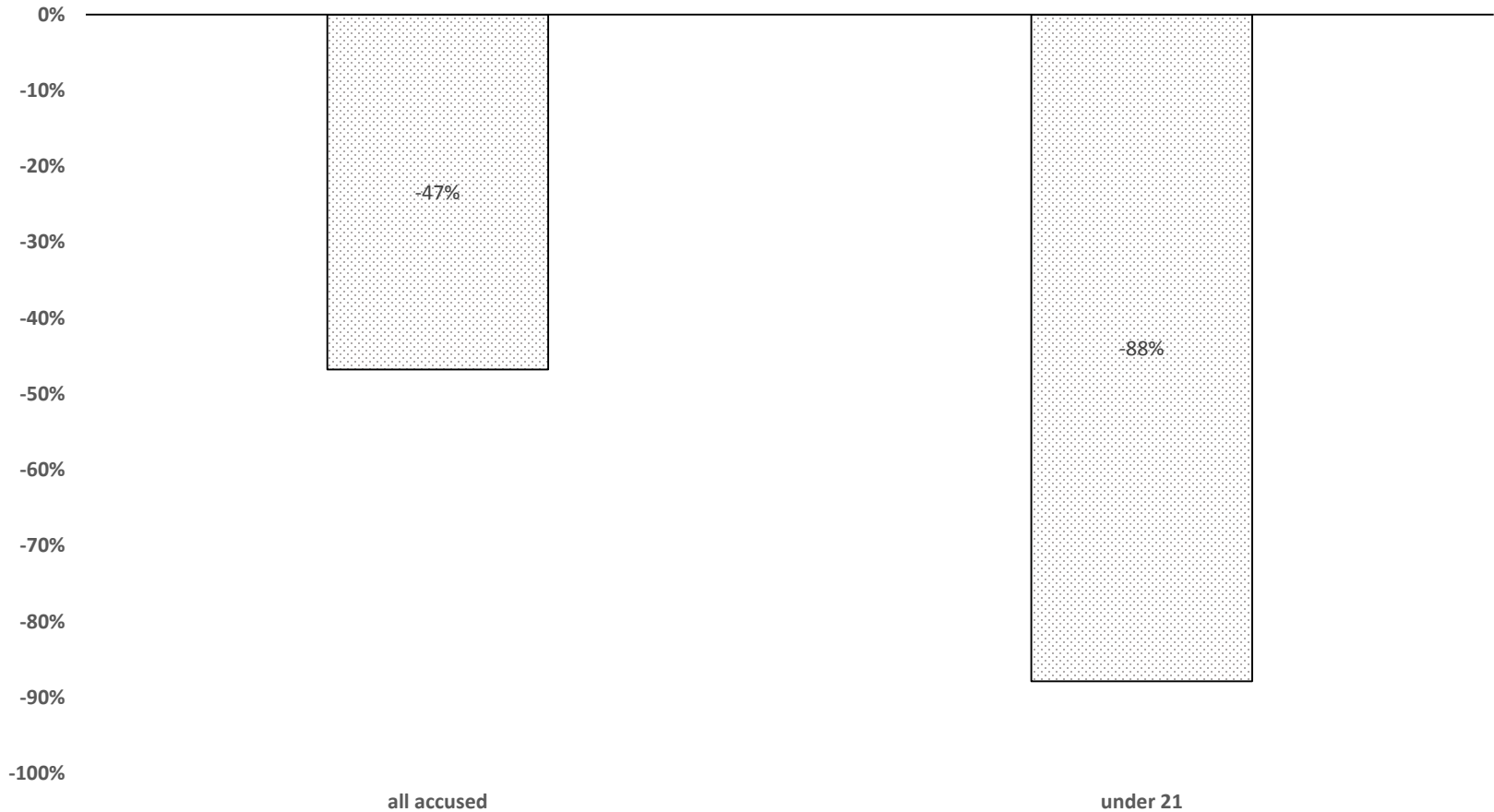Scottish Government (2013) Scottish Policing Performance Framework, 2012-13.

Fall in detected offences between 2008/9 and 2012/13

youth (under 18): -45%
adult (18+): -4%

10%
0%
-10%
-20%
-30%
-40%
-50%

Youth offending 2012/13

Fall in murder rate 2003/4 to 2012/13

What do we know about complexity in Scotland…?

1. Vulnerability and victimisation

- Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions & Crime

- Cohort of 4,300 young people who started secondary school in Edinburgh in 1998

- At age 15, 23% reported involvement in one or more episodes of violence

- Those involved in violent offending were the most vulnerable and victimised
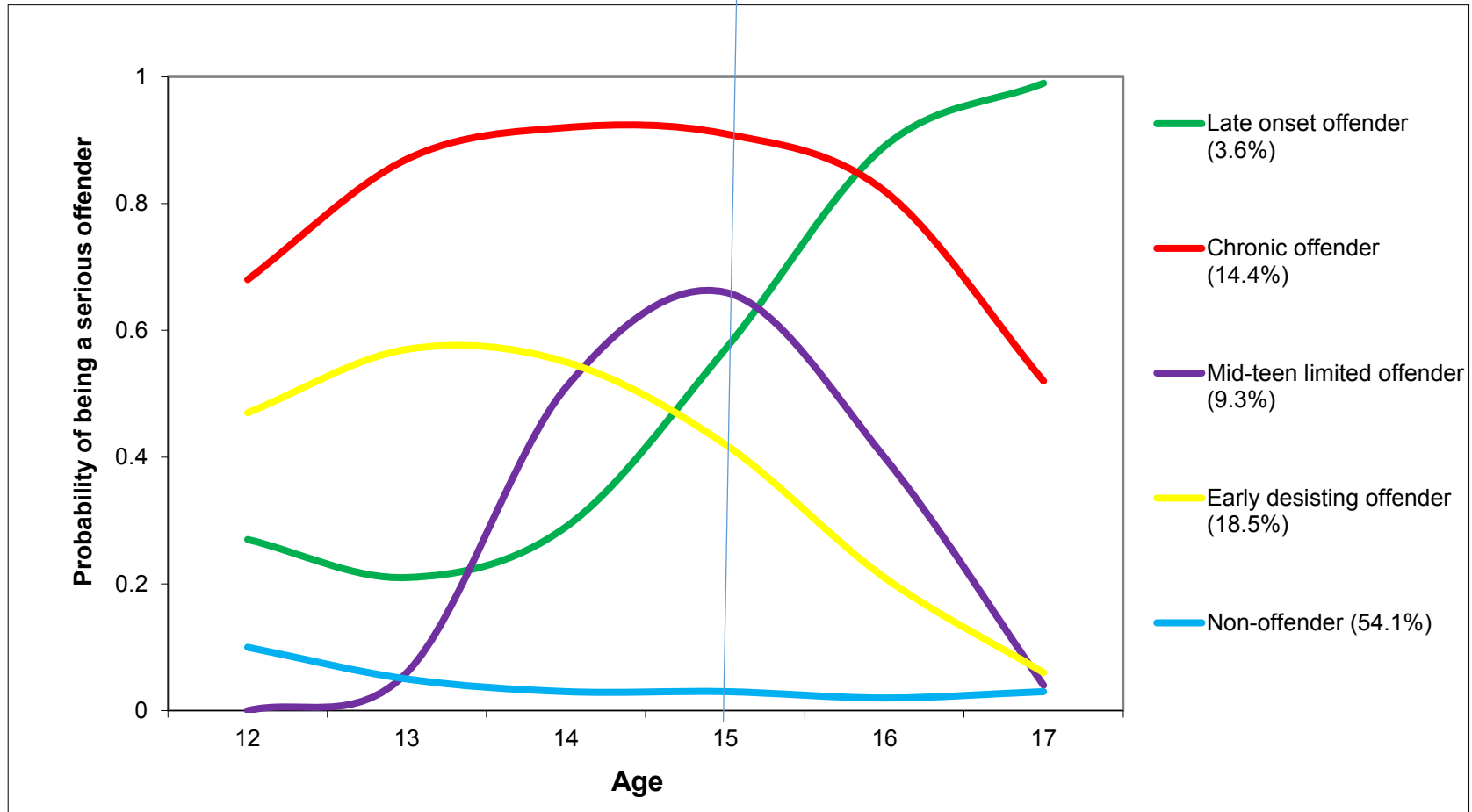
Violent offenders were significantly more likely than non-violent youths to be …

- victims of crime and adult harassment
- self-harming and para-suicidal behaviour
- problematic health risk behaviours
- Weak bonds (parent / school)
- Personality measures (impulsivity and risk taking)
- Bullying others
- Family turbulence
- socially deprivation
- Friends involved in offending

Self-reported serious offending trajectories
(McAra and McVie forthcoming 2014)

Trajectories estimated using semi-parametric group-based modelling (see Nagin 2005).
Serious offending = Housebreaking, vehicle theft, joyriding, fire-raising, robbery, weapon carrying and 6+ incidents of assault.

2. Mental Health

- IVY project – young people presenting a significant risk to others

- September 2014

- All had input from social work services and looked after status

- 76% exposed to domestic violence

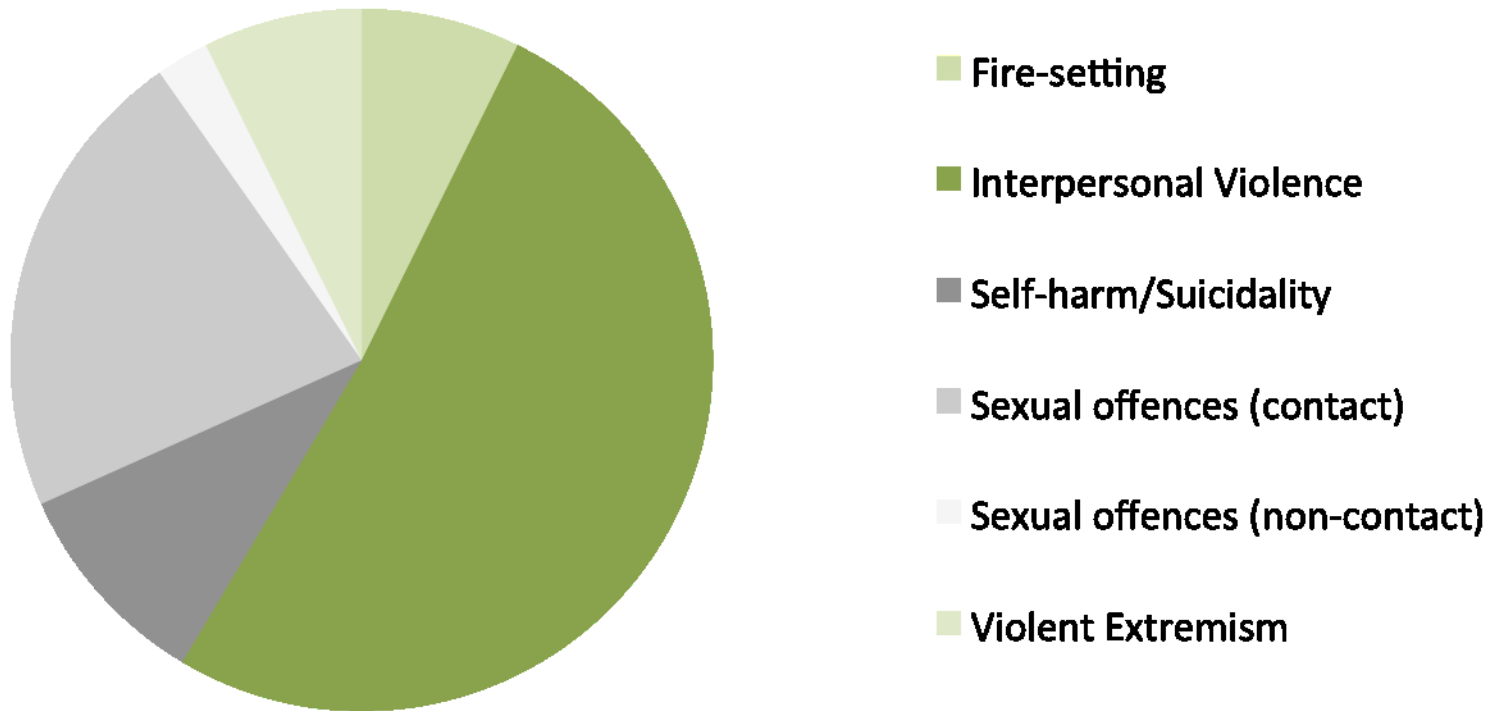- 88% experienced some other form of maltreatment

Psychological/Mental Disorders

Diagnosed or Suspected Difficulty	n
Anger	9
Anxiety	3
Autism Spectrum Disorder	12
Attachment Disorder	7
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	10
Communication Disorder	2
Complex Post Traumatic Stress	12
Deliberate Self-Harm	12
Dissociation	3
Eating Difficulties	3
Emotional Dysregulation	7
Learning Disability	3
Low Mood	2
Oppositional Defiant/Conduct Disorder	2
Psychosis	2
Sleep Difficulties	2
Substance Misuse Difficulties (Alcohol/Drugs)	15
Suicidal Ideation/Action	8
Thought Disorder	1
Toileting Difficulties	3
Tourette's Syndrome	1
Unusual perceptual experiences	4

N=30

MEAN = 4

RISK PRESENTATION

Legend:
- Fire-setting
- Interpersonal Violence
- Self-harm/Suicidality
- Sexual offences (contact)
- Sexual offences (non-contact)
- Violent Extremism

*63% co-morbid risk to other presentations
*approx 30% suicide/self-harm
*approx 25 % concerns about victimisation

3. Bereavement and Loss

"How many more people do I have to see die? I'm only 19 and that's five people died already and I keep thinking to myself 'are the rest of them gonna die?' And then I'll grow up alone"
(Vaswani, 2014)

Bereavement and loss

- 33 young men in Polmont YOI
- 91% had experienced at least one bereavement
- Over three-quarters experienced traumatic bereavements (murder, suicide etc)
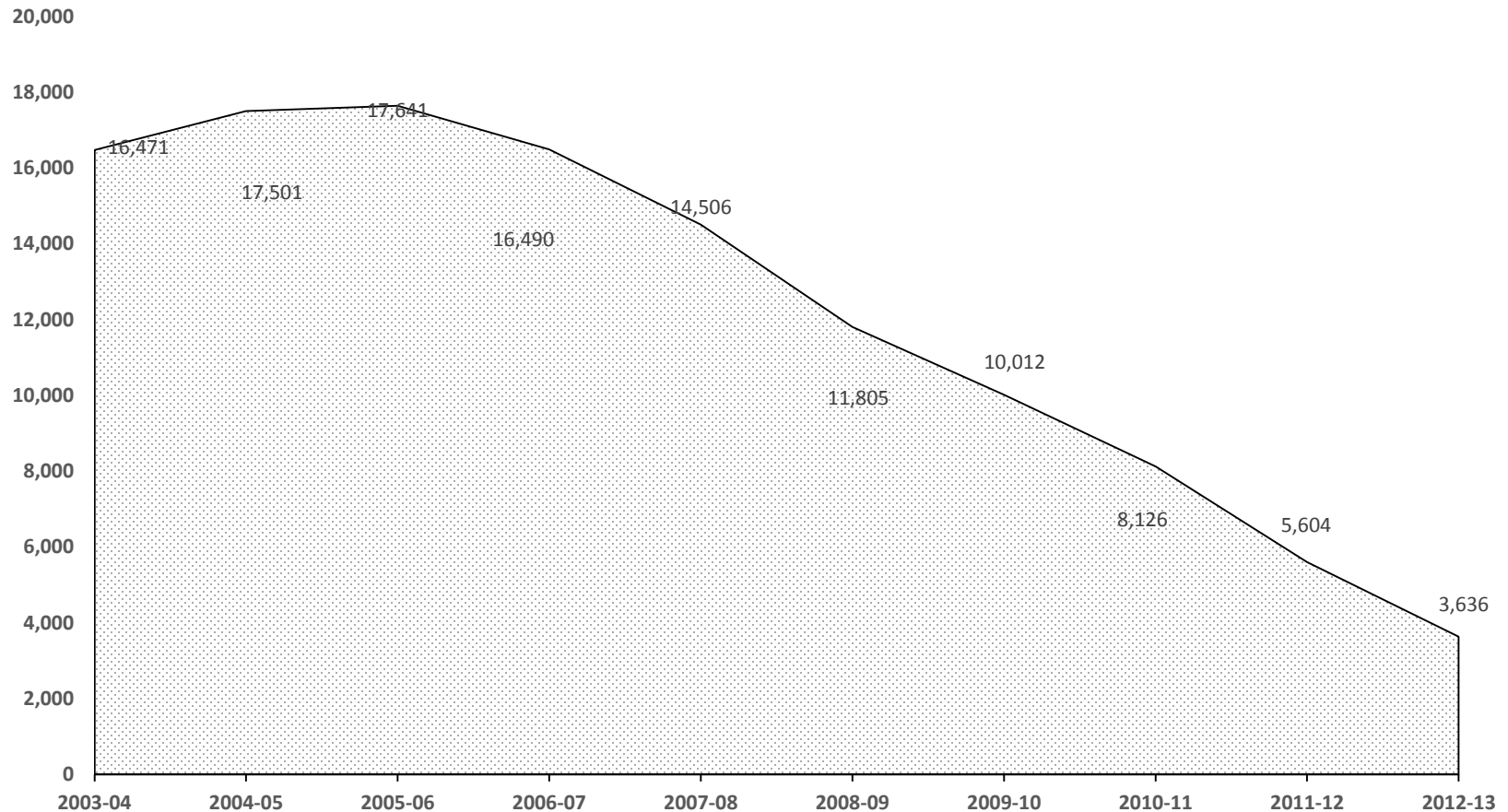- Two-thirds suffering from substantial bereavements (four or more)

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Responding to complexity...

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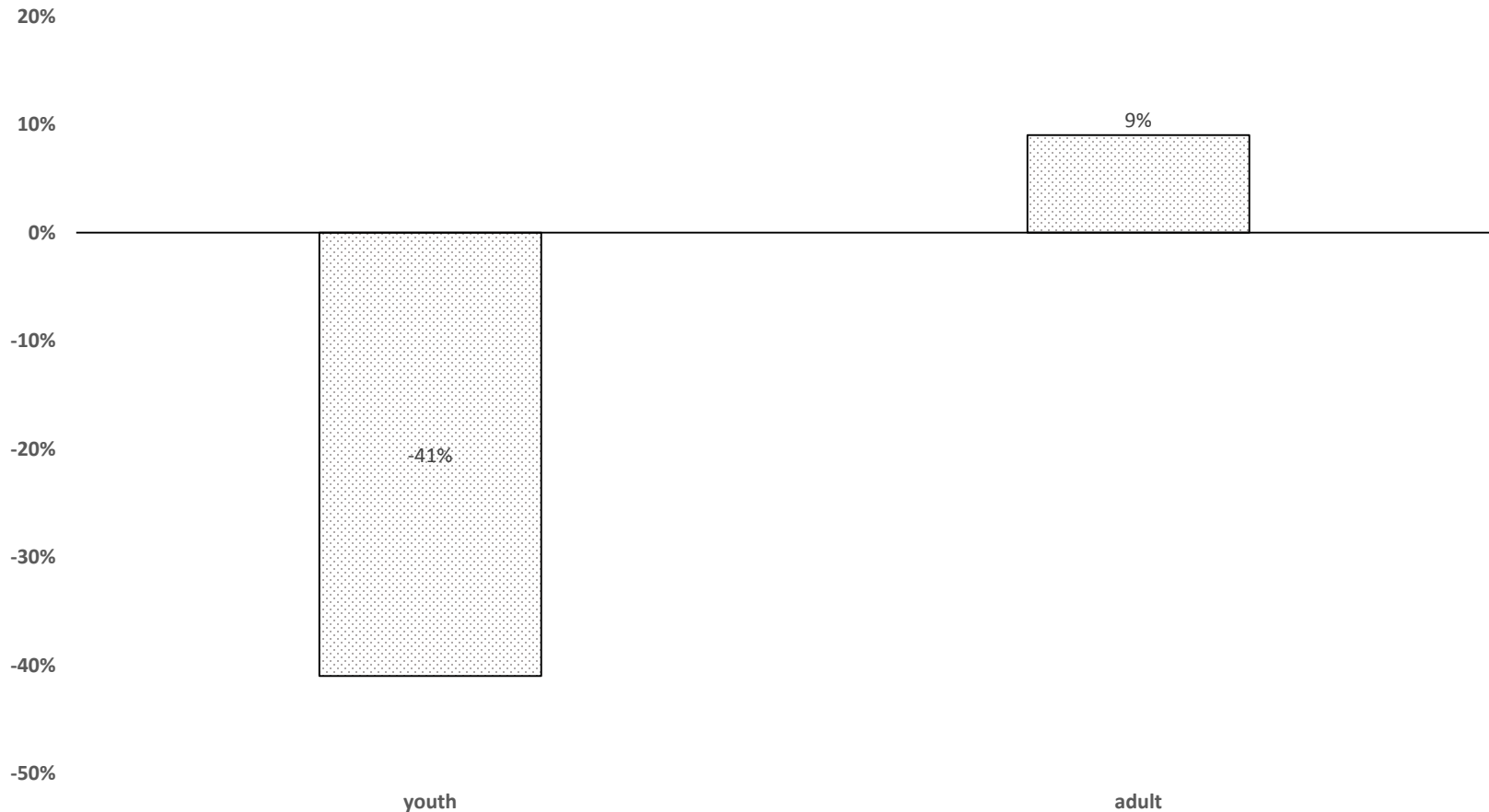
Whole System Approach (WSA)

- ## The core focus of the WSA is to promote:
  - EEI for low-level offences
  - Opportunities to divert young people from prosecution
  - Court support
  - Community alternatives to secure care and custody
  - Changing behaviours of those in secure care and custody
  - Improving reintegration back into the community.

No. of young people referred to SCRA on offence grounds 2012/13

% change in prison receptions 2002-03 to 2010-11

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Includem's impact project

- Intensive support in the community
- young people identified as posing high risk to themselves and their communities
- Police referral
- Age 14-21
- Glasgow
- More than one violent crime/weapon crime

WHAT does Includem support look like?

- **1-to-1 intensive support** from a dedicated team of Includem workers

- **Focused learning** using 'A Better Life', with modules you choose to fit your situation – on subjects including Offending, Violence, Beating Boredom, Drugs and Alcohol, and Anger Management

- **A worker** will come to see you usually 3 times a week, and at times of risk, including evenings and weekends

- **We will be alerted by the Police** if you are in custody so we can offer you support

- **Help into education, employment and training**

- **Links into leisure services**

- **Helpline access, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week**

- **Support through court dates**, including reports to your lawyer on your progress
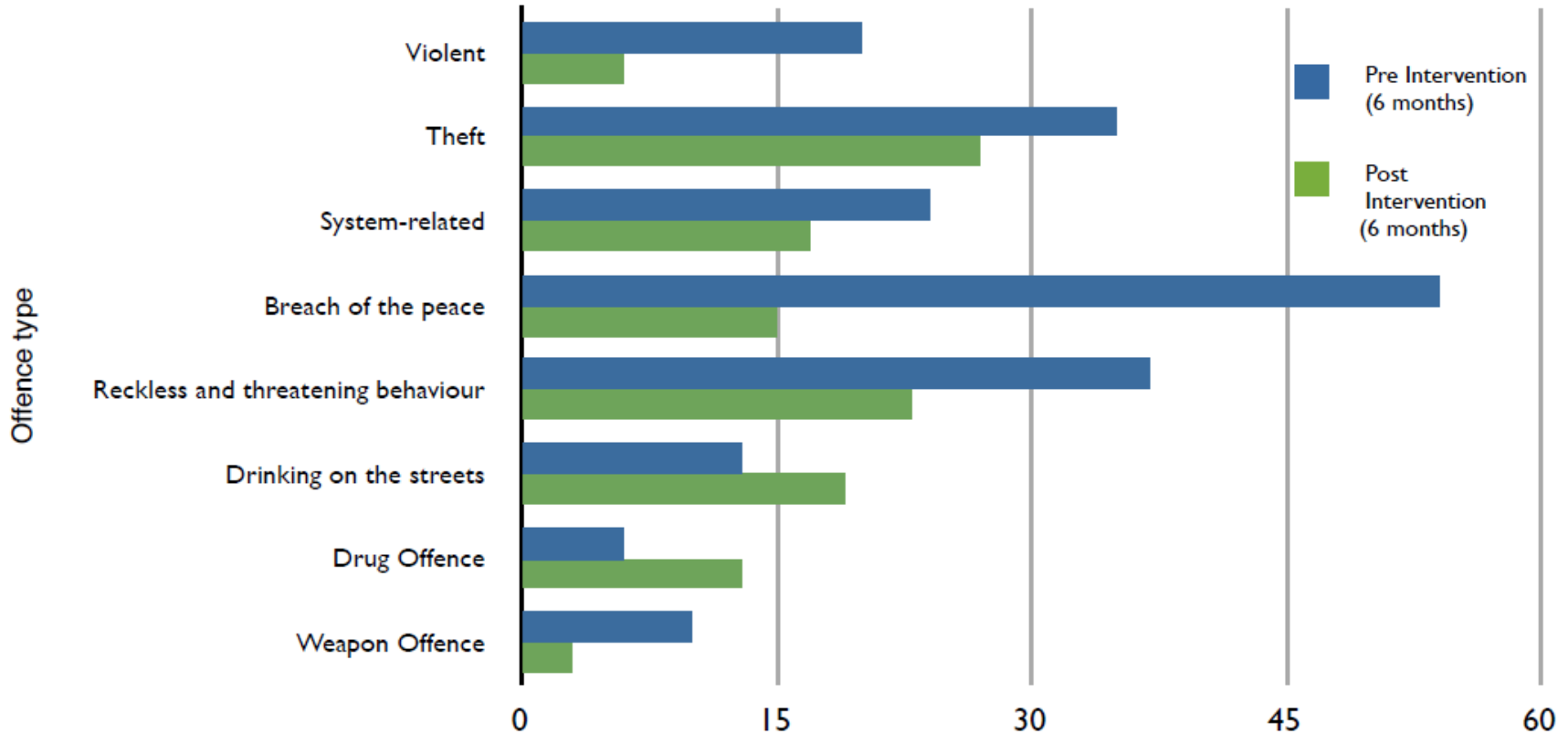
- **Flexibility:** support designed to fit you

- **Advocacy:** we will help you access information, and make sure your views are heard when decisions are made about your life

- **Your work with us can be deducted from Community Payback Order hours.**

CALL THE HELPLINE ON 0808 8004008

"I stopped fighting and kept out of trouble. I wouldn't have done that if Includem hadn't come along and I would've still been fighting. I sometimes thought it would've been easier doing time than working with Includem but there is no way I would have rather went to secure."
(Gary, 14)

6 months post intervention

Summary of offences pre- and post involvement with IMPACT

Dartington Social Research Unit

Interventions for vulnerable youth (IVY)

- Scotland wide service

- No cost for use

- Forensic and clinical psychology, and social work

- Level 1 - consultation clinic

- Level 2 - specialist clinical forensic psychology assessment.
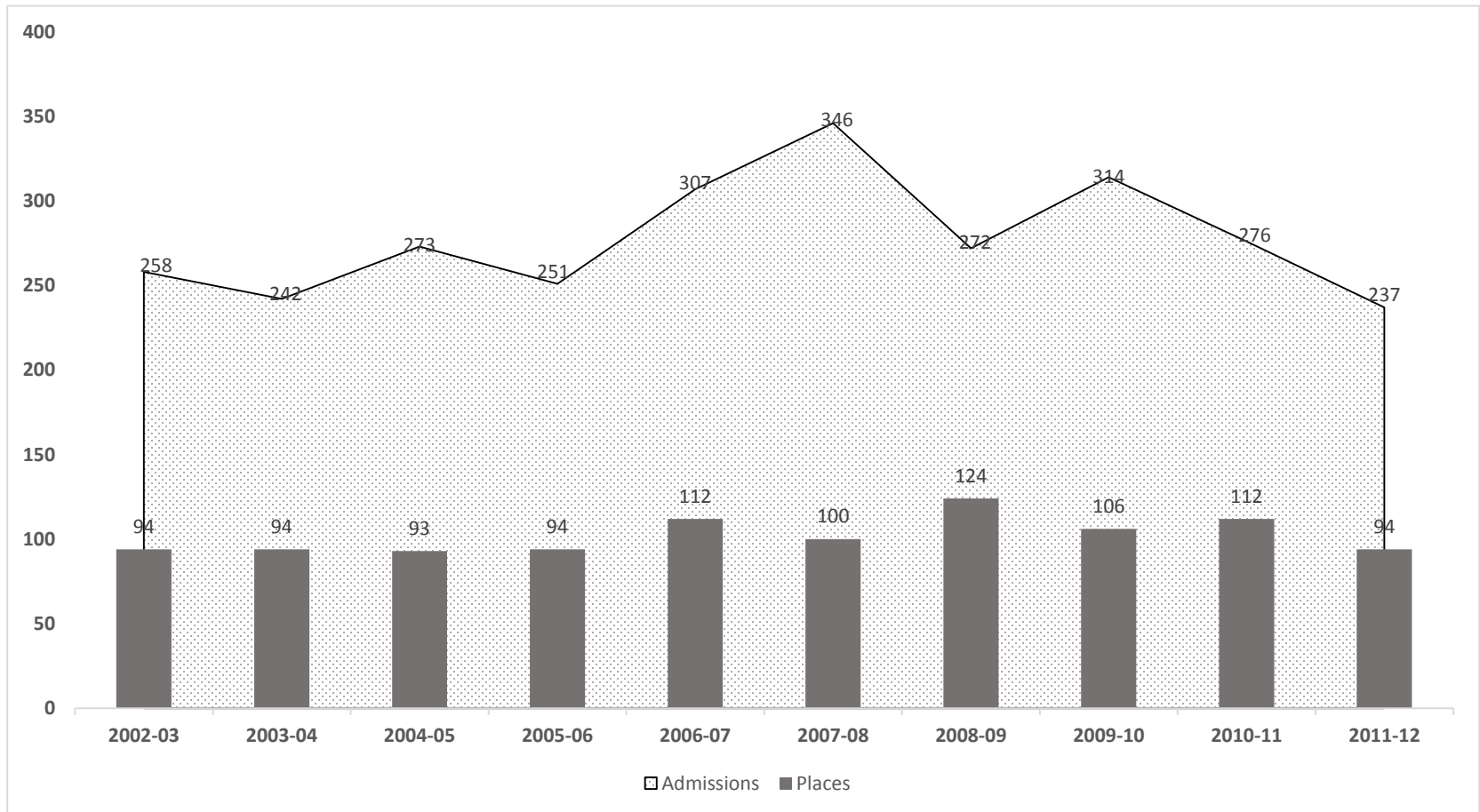
- Level 3 - (specialist treatment)

Seasons for growth

- Polmont YOI trying out new group work programme -Seasons for Growth.

- Designed to help people deal with loss.

- Weekly sessions 8 weeks

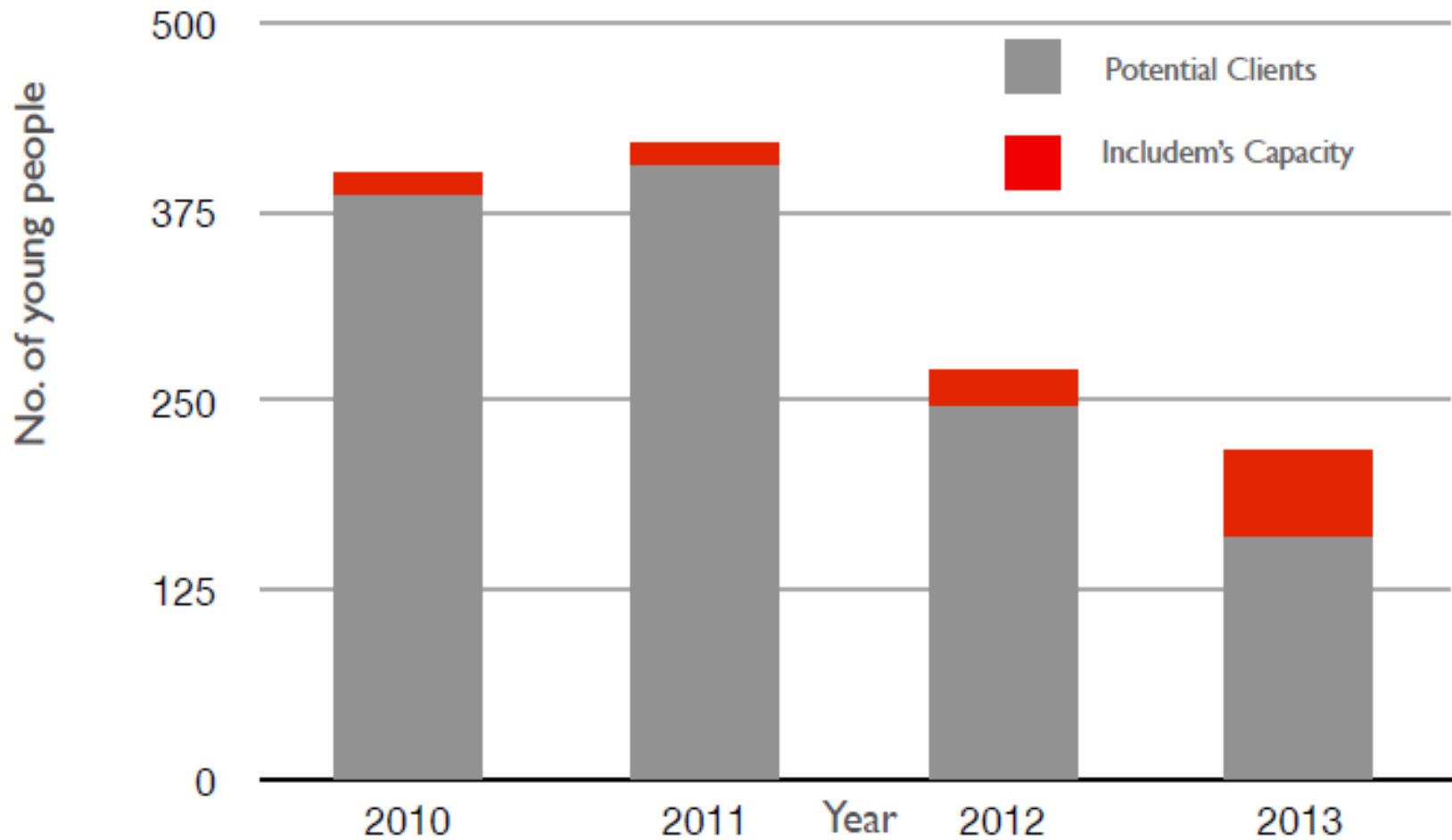- First time anyone has run Seasons for Growth in a Young Offenders Institution.

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But…

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Secure admissions 2002/03 to 2011/12

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Phase 1: Potential Clients vs. Includem's Capacity

Dartington Social Research Unit

Speech, language & communication needs

- prevalence in the youth justice population between 50% and 60% (UK wide)

- Survey of Scottish local authorities (17 responses received)

- 35% reported that their area used tools to assess children and young people for SLCN

- Only 41% reported that there were services or interventions available in their areas to support young people with SLCN

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How do we support the workforce to better at dealing with complexity...?

We need a workforce that:

- Learns from each other - across sectors, boundaries, geographies

- Captures & shares what we do & learn

- Tries out new ways of doing things (based on best available knowledge)

- Evaluates

- Integrates forms of knowledge

- Reflects, and creates spaces for reflection

- Accesses advice and support

- Develops skills

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CYCJ theory of change

centre for youth & criminal justice
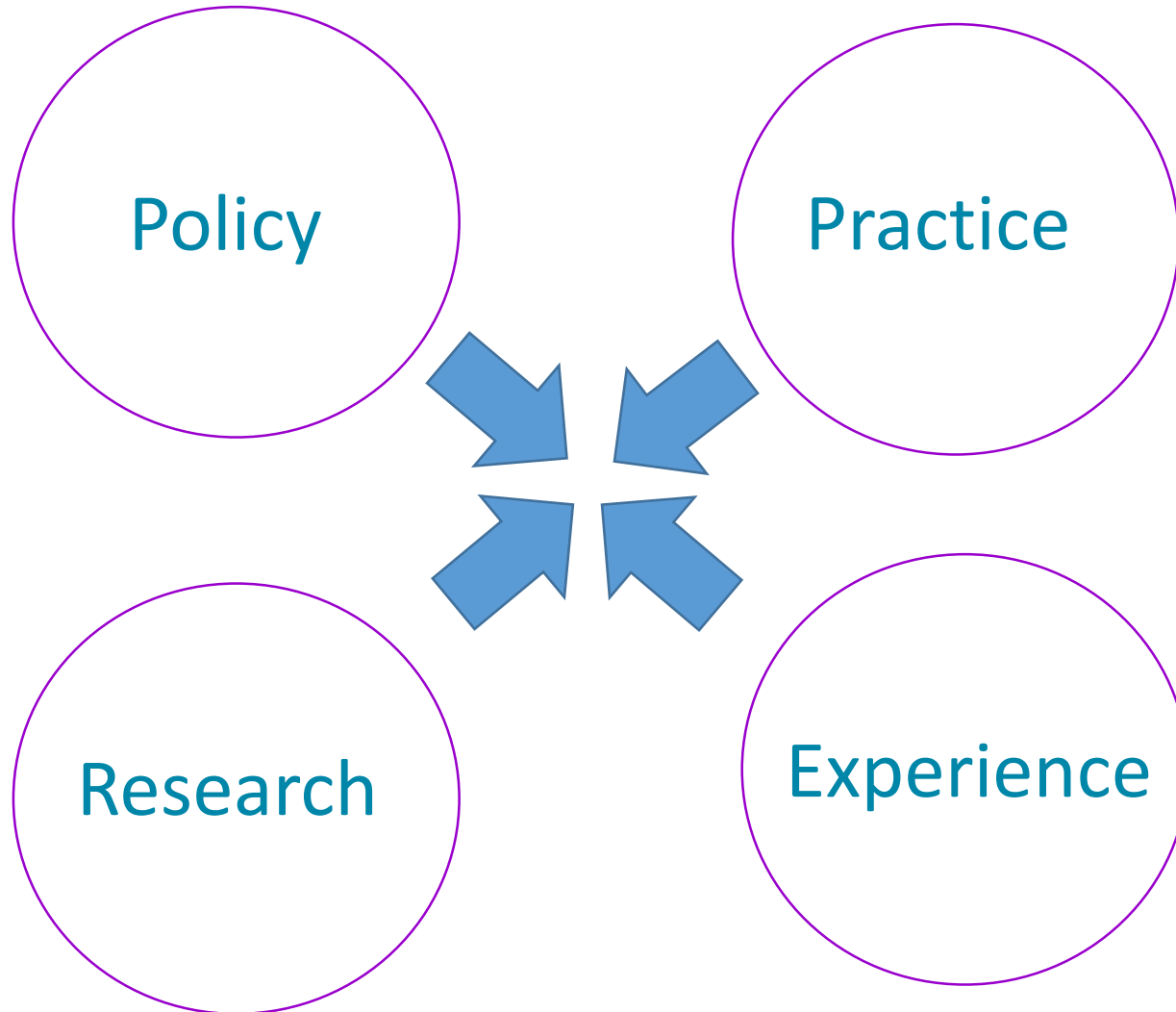
Children & young people flourish

Practice and policy improvements

Practice Development

Advice, peer support, consultancy support, trying out initiatives, guidance, toolkits, training, supporting change projects

Research

New knowledge, synthesising research evidence, evaluating initiatives, supporting evidence use

Knowledge exchange

Capturing knowledge, promoting sharing, disseminating, improving access & accessibility, integrating forms of knowledge

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References

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Mental Health Difficulties in the Youth Justice Population: Learning from the first six months of the IVY project, www.cycj.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Briefing-Paper-5-final.pdf

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Guidance on working with young people with speech, language & communication needs www.cycj.org.uk/resource/speech-language-and-communication-needs-in-youth-justice/

An Independent Evaluation of Includem's IMPACT Project, www.includem.org/files/Report-Framework-May-2014_Independent-Evaluation-of-the-Glasgow-Youth-Violence-Project_05.06.pdf

CYCJ strategy, www.cycj.org.uk/resource/cycj-strategy-2014-2016/