

# Emphasising the Need for an Integrated Approach to Intervention Programmes offered to People in Conflict with the Law

Matthew Cronje & Mike Batley



# Introduction

- The broad policy environment that governs the way SA responds to crime
  - ‘bewildering and often contradictory’
  - ‘mess(y) and uneven’
  - An example of a neoliberal and managerial approach to governmentality
- At an implementation level
  - Lack of support and integration
  - Lack of opportunities to contribute to development of policies and procedures
- Aims
  - Identification of societal and familial factors beyond the individual
  - Move beyond simply considering the individual as an isolated entity
  - To provide support for the need for an integrated approach to intervention programmes



# Policy Environment



- Key policies that inform intervention programmes
  - Policy Framework for Accreditation of Diversion services in SA (PFADSSA)
    - 'what works' premise
    - Risk (treatment services should be matched to the risk of the offender)
    - Need (criminogenic needs)
    - Responsiveness (offender as well as the role of the service provider)
  - Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy (ISCPS)
    - 48 factors that need to be addressed at a local community level
    - Human development life cycle and focusing on the family
    - Local government playing a primary role



# Policy Environment



- PFADSSA and ISCPS
  - Main points of reference used by the provincial departments of social development when evaluating programmes for accreditation and funding.
  - Contribute to social crime prevention by:
    - strengthening social cohesion
    - encouraging individuals and families to participate in their own development and decision making
- The perspective put forward in the policy environment has furthermore found support in research highlighting the need for interventions that go beyond the individual and include their social and family environment.



# Research



## **Khulisa Social Solutions (Causes of crime)**

- Education
  - 45.2% did not complete grade 12
  - 4.1% had no schooling at all
- Socio-economic status
  - 26.01% both parents employed
  - 39.74% only the father employed
  - 23.29% both parents unemployed/  
not present
- Family structure
  - 54.79% both parents not present
  - 42.47% extended family
- Victimization
  - 56.16% experienced abuse before  
incarceration

## **Phoenix Zululand (Repeat Offending)**

- Negative peer association
- Substance abuse
- Idle minds
- Lack of positive role models
- Gangsterism
- Home dynamics
- Socio-economic factors
- Lack of Education
- Aggression



# Social Service Experiences



- Apparent discrepancy between policy and practice:
  - Funds not being spent on effective, needs based interventions
  - Departmental and organisational collaboration on a strategic level
  - Referral systems for individuals in need of additional assistance
  - No bottom up channels of communication
  - Lack of strategic alignment on a departmental level
  - Alternate streams of funding required for integrated interventions



# Concluding Remarks



- Policy is not the issue, implementation is
- Further research required around causality
- Sustainable and effective interventions require an integrated approach
- Policies need to come off the paper and into the field

