



FORMAT FOR PROJECT'S DESCRIPTION

The described project belongs with the topic:

- Domestic violence
- Public private partnership
- Young prolific offenders¹

MEMBERSTATE: Germany

NAME OF THE PROJECT: Fallschirm

IN USE SINCE: 1998

INFO ON THE WEB: www.stiftung-spi.de

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Please answer the questions on the following pages in English and in no more than the given six pages. This way the information will be as comparable as possible.

To process your contribution, we ask you to return the completed form by e-mail no later than October 1st.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact:

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We look forward to receiving your best practice!

¹ Please tick the appropriate topic.



PROBLEM (intelligence)

Give a short description of the problem?

In the last few years Berlin had a small number of young prolific offenders (under the age of criminal responsibility - 14 years of age) who cannot be reached by police and youth social services. Without support those 12 to 14 years old kids are in danger to be marginalised and criminalised .

Since when is it a problem?

The problem rose up during the nineties of last century. Media increased pressure on political authorities in Germany and the demand for new models of crime prevention became more and more urgent.

Is it possible to give any data regarding the problem?

It is considered that in Berlin there are at the moment between 20 and 40 children under the age of criminal responsibility who are each suspected of having committed more than 10 offences during the last 12 months.

Describe the type of offenders?

Profilic young offenders, who are under 14 years of age and have been more than 6 times suspected of committing offences against the law during the last 6 months (with a probable sentence of minimum 3 months for at least 1 offence, if over 14) or more than 10 times suspected during the last 12 months (again with a sentence of minimum 3 months).

What is their modus operandi?

The young offenders have a high crime rates, especially theft and robbery, but also arson, griveous bodily harm, slander and damage of property. More than 60% of the kids refuse to go to school regularly.

Who are the victims?

Children and teenagers, who are younger or weaker, but cold also be adults (griveous bodily harm, car and motorcycle theft).

What are the causes?

The children often live in socialy neglected families where parents don't maintain steady controll over them, where education is inconsistent and positive role models don't exist. The kids are mostly left on themselves and their delinquent peer-group is getting more and more important as a surrogate for a non-existent family life.

Do's

Dont's



WHAT (intervention)

Give a short description of the project.

Fallschirm is a non-residential project, which works continuously and persistent with young offenders under the age of criminal responsibility, Fallschirm wants to offer support and alternatives to delinquent behaviour and follows the criterias of obligation (even in case of aggression support is still offered). Important are ressources and competencies of the children, a regular contact to the family is established and Fallschirm tries to help the kids and their families learning to deal with crisis and setting rules.

What is the short, medium and long term objective of the project?

To maintain regular contact to the child in coordination with social services, school and parents; deconstruction of self-defending strategies and development of responsibility for his or her actions; reintegration into school system and into legal leisure time activities as youth/sport clubs; reducing/giving up criminal behaviour.

What are the activities in the project?

Single or group leisure activities combined with training of social skills; regular sessions with parents to improve their educational skills. 60% of the kids need to be accompanied to school every morning for several weeks, as well to the police when necessary (contact at nighttime is possible over a 24h-hotline).

Is the project to address

- situational
- offender or
- victim

orientated causes? Namely,

Do's

Dont's



HOW (implementation)

Give a short description of the history of the project?

Fallschirm was established in 1998 as an alternative to the residential child care institutions, where young offenders normally would have been taken. Instead of taking them away from their families, Fallschirm wanted to offer help with a solution-focused systematic approach. Until the end of 2000 it was a model financed by the German state lottery, since the beginning of 2001 it has a regular contract with the Berlin youth service system. Since then it has worked with families and children of different origins, as Bosnian Roma (until 2000), Turkish, Yugoslavian, Lebanese and German kids, most of them boys.

Is there a project plan?

The plan is individual orientated to the real needs of every single child, case orientated and flexible. How is the project customised for the local situation and context?

Fallschirm operates in those areas in Berlin where the rates of unemployment and criminality are high. It can be reached easily from most parts of the town. Due to the immigrant background of the families the social workers are able to speak different languages, e.g. Turkish, Arabic and Russian.

Do's

Dont's



WHO (involvement)

Which –both public and private- partners are involved in each fase of the project?

Fallschirm cooperates with the Berlin youth service board, schools (and home teachers), police, with other youth projects, sport clubs.

What role and task does each partner have?

The youth offices (who are giving financial support), schools and the police provide contact to the children. Schools and home teachers are giving support for children who need more attention and care. Police cooperates very closely, so a fast reaction to new offences is possible.

Who gave the input on the know-how?

How is the project financed?

The financial support is established through per diem charges which are settled in a contract with the youth service.

Did the project effect them who it was ment to, or also others?

Presumably it effected not only the young profilic offenders but also their friends, who are invited to join the activities as well.

Do's

Dont's



EFFECT (impact)

Has the project been evaluated?

Self-evaluation over the last 3 years has taken place, since April 2004 the project is evaluated by the IKJ (Institut für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe) Mainz.

What was evaluated?

The data of the children (e.g. social background, school experiences and health conditions), the characteristic of support and whether the target has been reached or not was evaluated.

At what stage did the evaluation take place?

Evaluation has started from the beginning, first as internal and since 2004 as external evaluation.

Who did the evaluation?

see above

What are the results?

Results from the external evaluation are not yet available.

Are the goals of the project achieved?

Self evaluation shows that in about 50 % of the cases targets (reducing or cancelling of criminal behaviour and truancy, changing leisure activities into social adequate, parental responsibility) could be realised.

Do's

Dont's