Alternatives to Custody
Developing specialist fostering for children in conflict with the law

The Alternatives to Custody Project – Europe

The Alternatives to Custody Project – Europe

The majority of European countries provide informal ways of dealing with youth offending through diversionary measures, and by giving priority to alternative sanctions over deprivation of liberty. But the practice is variable, and in many countries custodial sentences are far too common. What role could foster care play in response to juvenile offending? At present, it has a limited role and in the majority of countries there are no legal provisions for foster care as a response to offending, or the provisions exist but are not applied in practice. However, fostering can play a critically important role in delivering child-friendly justice, offering a direct alternative to custody by providing safe care, nurturing relationships, boundaries and structured care giving.

With contributions from experts from across the European Union, this book explores these issues in depth. It is one of the main outcomes of a two-year pan-European project, funded by the European Commission’s Daphne III programme, on developing intensive and remand fostering programmes for young people in conflict with the law, who might otherwise be in custody.

The first part sets out a context and examines the limited role that foster care currently plays in youth justice, and the potential for its greatly expanded use. An overview sets out the key international and European juvenile justice and children’s rights standards, the EU policy context, and the components found in effective youth justice systems, including prevention, diversion and community-level services.

The second part contains policy overviews from Italy, Bulgaria, England and Hungary, containing each country’s achievements, needs and shortcomings in youth justice, and an assessment of the prospects for implementing an extended role for foster care in youth justice in the future. Chapters on setting up and operating a fostering service for children in conflict with the law and setting out a quality standards framework offer practical tools. A training programme to prepare and train prospective foster carers for the task of fostering children in conflict with the law comprises the third section. Presented in a clear and practical way, it offers a preparation course that is informative and equips prospective foster carers with knowledge and skills.

Alternatives to Custody makes a powerful case for the role that intensive and remand fostering can play to bring about significant positive effects for young people in conflict with the law, and is essential reading for policy makers and practitioners involved in fostering and youth justice services.

With financial support from the Daphne III Funding Programme of the European Union.

ORDER FORM Alternatives to Custody

Please send me __________ copies of Alternatives to Custody at £30.00

Please add p&p as follows: £13.01 – £30.00 add £4.00  £30.01 – £60.00 add £7.50  £60.01 – £100.00 add £10.00  £101 – £300 add £16.00

Total cost including p&p __________

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £ __________ payable to BAAF Registered Charity

OR Please send me a proforma invoice (goods will be sent only after payment is received) __________

OR Please charge my Mastercard/Solo/Maestro/Visa/credit/debit card no. __________

Security code __________ Expiry date __________/

Issue no. __________ or valid from date __________/

Signature __________ Date __________

Name/Agency __________

Address __________

Postcode __________

Please return this order form to BAAF Publications,
Saffron House, 6–10 Kirby Street, London EC1N 8TS

Tel 020 7421 2604 (Publications Sales)
Fax 020 7421 2601
Email pubs.sales@baaf.org.uk
View our catalogue at www.baaf.org.uk

BAAF 2015 240pp A4
ISBN 978 1 910039 32 8 £30.00

BAAF may occasionally mail you with information about new books. Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive these mailings.

Registered charity 275689 (England and Wales) and SC039337 (Scotland)
May 2015

Printed on recycled paper

Registered charity 275689 (England and Wales) and SC039337 (Scotland)