



Listening to Young People: A Contribution to Pathways Research

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Pathways Research - Growing problems

- Long history and growing body of research
- Understanding process and context
- Reliance on measurement at the expense of understanding
- Farrington's East End boy's



The Importance of diversity of method

- Dominance of quasi experimental design
- The need for methodological pluralism in pathways research
- The value of qualitative and multiple methods
- Case study examples



Young People's voice

- Historically pathways research has ignored young people's perspective - Farrington study
- Why?
 - Developmentalism
 - Determined and passive
 - Lack of skills
 - Not to be trusted



The value of listening to young people

An alternative perspective argues:

- Childhood as a social construct
 - Immaturity
 - Irrationality
- Childhood and culture
- Methodological developments



ESRC Pathways into and out of Crime Research Network

- Network Aims: explore young people's perspectives on risk and crime
- 5 projects, different aspects of risk, different methodologies with young people
 - Newcastle
 - DeMontfort
 - Nottingham
 - Essex/Glasgow Caledonian
 - Sheffield/De Montfort



Insights from Young People's Perspective

- Context determines risk, eg drug use, relationships, parent in prison
- Strategies for avoiding crime:
 - immediate – not being part of particular episode
 - short term – moving between parents
 - long term – working for qualifications to join army



Insights from Young People's Perspectives

- Reasoning for crime and their involvement:
 - identity amongst peers and friends
 - they way to do things (violence)
 - fun
 - immaturity
 - financial gain

- Difficult choices



Methodological, practical and ethical issues

- Lots of them



The question

- How can we present young people's voices in a way that influences policy?