Book descriptions

Clinical Approaches to Working with Young Offenders

Clive R. Hollin & Kevin Howells (Eds.)

1996, John Wiley & Sons Ltd., Chichester
ISBN 0-471-95348-2 (hard cover)

The volume is the fourth in a Wiley Series about clinical approaches to criminal behaviour. The book places the discussion of good practice with young offenders within both a rigorous scientific context and its institutional and social environment.

The first part of the book examines the conceptual basis of a clinical approach to working with young offenders, together with research on the developmental aspects of delinquency. The topics addressed here are: evidence-based assessment and intervention (Andrews), the role of individual, family and peer factors in the development of delinquency (Farrington), and the lessons to learn from meta-analysis concerning working with juvenile offenders (Lösel). The second part deals with the institutional context and includes a chapter about institutional care (Milan) and one about diversion programmes (Leger *et al.*).

The third and fourth parts, to be seen as the core of the book, present reviews of different approaches to treating young offenders, alongside accounts of work with specific types of juvenile offense. Treatment approaches are described in papers about socio-moral group treatment (Gibbs), aggression replacement training (Goldstein & Glick), and behavioural treatment programmes with families of adolescents at risk (Serna *et al.*). Special attention is devoted to the treatment of adolescent sex offenders (Becker *et al.*), arsonists (Hollin & Epps), and substance users (McMurran). The editors conclude with a hopeful message, saying that 'there is empirical evidence that when practitioners get it right, they can be effective in lowering rates of offending and, in the process, prevent victimization'.

The volume is of interest to researchers, students and professionals working with young offenders in treatment and prevention programmes.

International Perspectives on Family Support

Walter Hellinckx, Matthew Colton & Margaret Williams (Eds.)

1997, Arena, Aldershot (UK)
ISBN 1 85742 347 X (hardback)

Family-centred programmes are among the fastest growing programme areas in child welfare. They are designed to improve family functioning and include 'family support services', 'home-based services' and 'family preservation services'. The book focuses particularly on the third type of intervention, aimed at prevention of placement or reunification of children in care with their families, although aspects of family support and home-based services are also discussed.

The first part of the volume provides a general framework where authors discuss theoretical aspects of child-rearing, causes and characteristics of problems in child-rearing, and the kind of service best suited. It contains chapters on antecedents and consequences of parenting (Belsky), parental mismanagement (Rink), identification of families in need of support in cases of (suspected) child maltreatment (Agathonos, Brown & Sarafidou), involvement of parents in residential treatment (Smit & Knorth), and intervening in families with recurrent crises related to child abuse and neglect (Kagan).

The second part contains more practice-oriented material. Family-centred programmes are presented in reviews and (or in combination with) case descriptions. The five papers explore home-training programmes (Van den Bogaart; Baartman), family preservation work with high risk families (Whittaker; Palaccio-Quintin) and legislative changes supporting family support and preservation (Colton & Williams).

In part three the focus is on evaluation of family programmes. Two authors, Van der Meulen and Sipma, discuss the evaluation of the so-called Portage programme on supporting parents of young children; a process evaluation of home-based treatment programmes is presented by Vogelvang, and finally Jacobs, Williams & Kapuscik give a historical overview of evaluating family preservation services, including some pertinent questions and considerations for the future.

The book is of particular interest to all those (practitioners, policy makers, students, academic teachers, researchers) working in the field of child and youth care and family support.

Child Welfare Services
Developments in Law, Policy, Practice and Research
Malcolm Hill & Jane Aldgate (Eds.)
London, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 1996
ISBN 1-85302-316-7

The book comments on recent changes in law, policy and practice in the UK and Ireland which have affected the social responses to the upbringing of children, especially those living away from home. The volume is divided into four parts corresponding with four major themes. Part 1 reviews developments in law, policy and related research and includes - next to chapters on England/ Wales (Hill & Aldgate), Scotland (Tisdall), Northern Ireland (Kelly & Pinkerton) and Ireland (Gilligan) - contributions related to the social impact of some explanations of juvenile crime (Asquith), and young client's participation in decision-making in social services and education (Sinclair). Part 2 looks at recent developments in the practice area of child protection and covers chapters on 'significant harm' as a concept (Hardiker), the considering of participants' differing perspectives on the assessment process in child protection (Waterhouse & McGhee), and the partnership approach in protective services (Thoburn et al.). Part 3 - the most voluminous - discusses out of home care and examines services like respite care (Aldgate et al.), short-term foster care (Sellick), long-term foster care (McAuley), residential child care (Berridge & Brodie), adoption (Ryburn), and care provisions re leaving care or leaving home (O'Sullivan). Finally, part 4 of the volume considers evaluation and outcomes of child welfare practices. Freeman and colleagues discuss the consulting of young people as service users; Ward writes about measures on outcome assessment; and Hill and colleagues argue that both services and measurements of success are multi-faceted.