NOT AVAILABLE ON LINE

ANNOTATION:

DESIGN: The authors report on a series of studies on the Leeds Victim Offender Unit begun in 1985. Braithwaite's concept of reintegrative shaming provided a theoretical framework for mediation. Mediation is conducted by a neutral go-between and may involve various victim offender contacts ranging from exchanges of letters and information, or audio and video tapes, to face-to-face contact. It takes a minimum of a year to train as a mediator.

Selection criteria changed in 1988 from "genuine offender remorse and desire to put things right" with "willingness to take part in mediation." Cases are accepted at any stage of criminal justice process from caution to post-sentence. Majority of offenders are under twenty five years old. During the 1991-1993 period 92% of offenders were male. Forty-two percent of victims were male, 29% female and 29% corporate victims.

RECIDIVISM:
Ninety offenders who met in direct face-to-face mediation from 1985-87 were followed for two years. 87% had previous convictions before mediation; 68% of this group had no convictions post-mediation.

Of sixty-nine offenders during 1989 participating in either indirect or direct mediation 68% had prior convictions. 58% had no convictions during a two year follow-up period.

The Home Office devised a prediction scale, Offender Group Reconviction Scale, which allowed for predicted reconviction rates where control groups were absent. Seventy-three referrals in 1993-94 had OGRS scores. The predicted rate of reconviction for this group was 54.2%; the actual reconviction rate was 49.3%. Of those who were convicted, 54% committed less serious offenses.

KEYWORDS
VOM
ALL AGES
MIXED CRIME TYPES
RECIDIVISM
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RECORD DATA
UK