



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

# Innovative Early Prevention Practice, Scotland

Mary Mitchell

University of Edinburgh, Scotland

3 December, 2014. Brussels

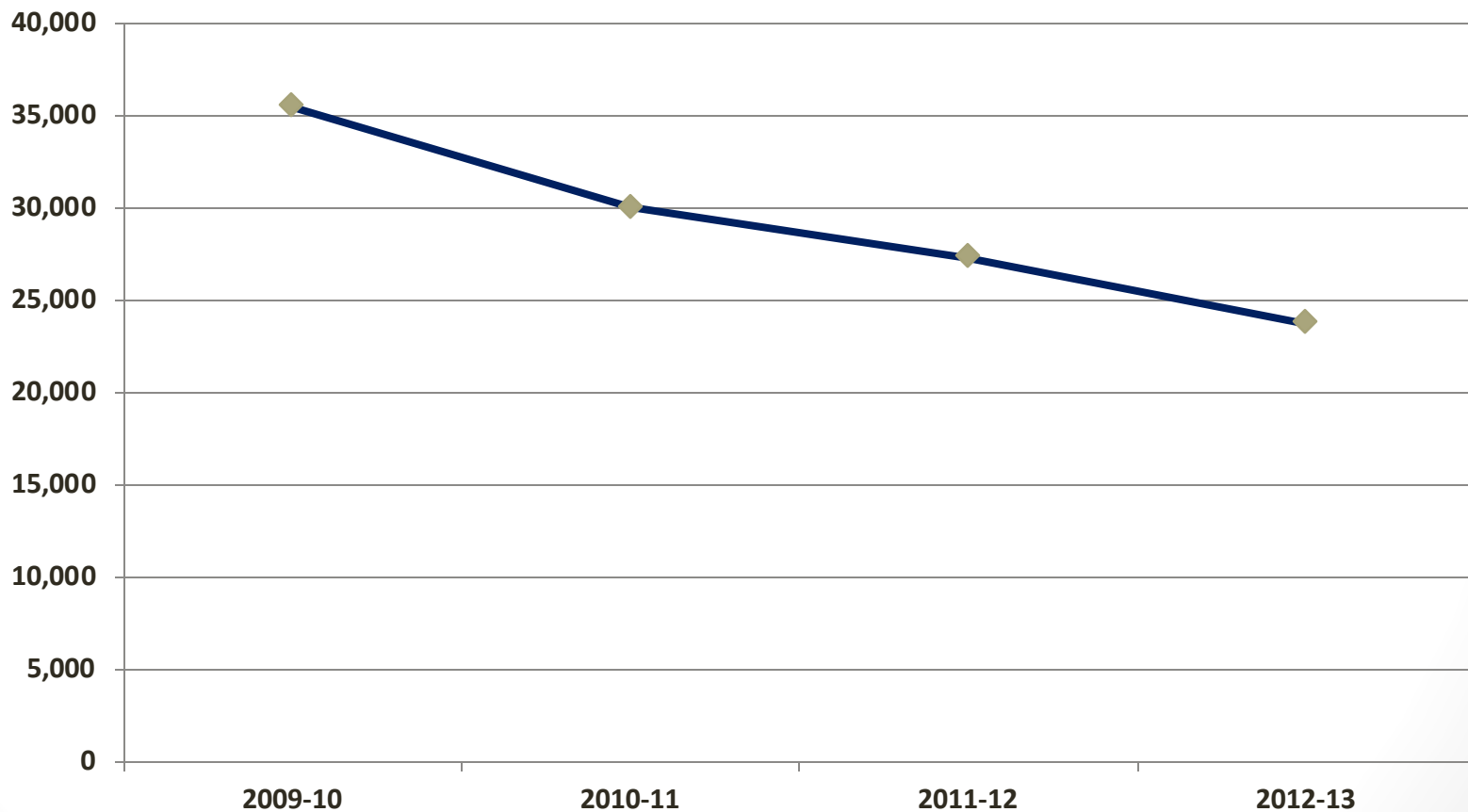


Centre for Research in  
Education Inclusion  
and Diversity



centre for research on  
families and relationships

# Figure 1: Number of 8-17 year olds who have committed detected crimes or offences, 2000 to 2013, Scotland\*



Source: Scottish Government, 2013

# Two case studies

- Restorative Practices in Education
- Pre Referral Screening (PRS) – part of the Whole Systems Approach in Edinburgh

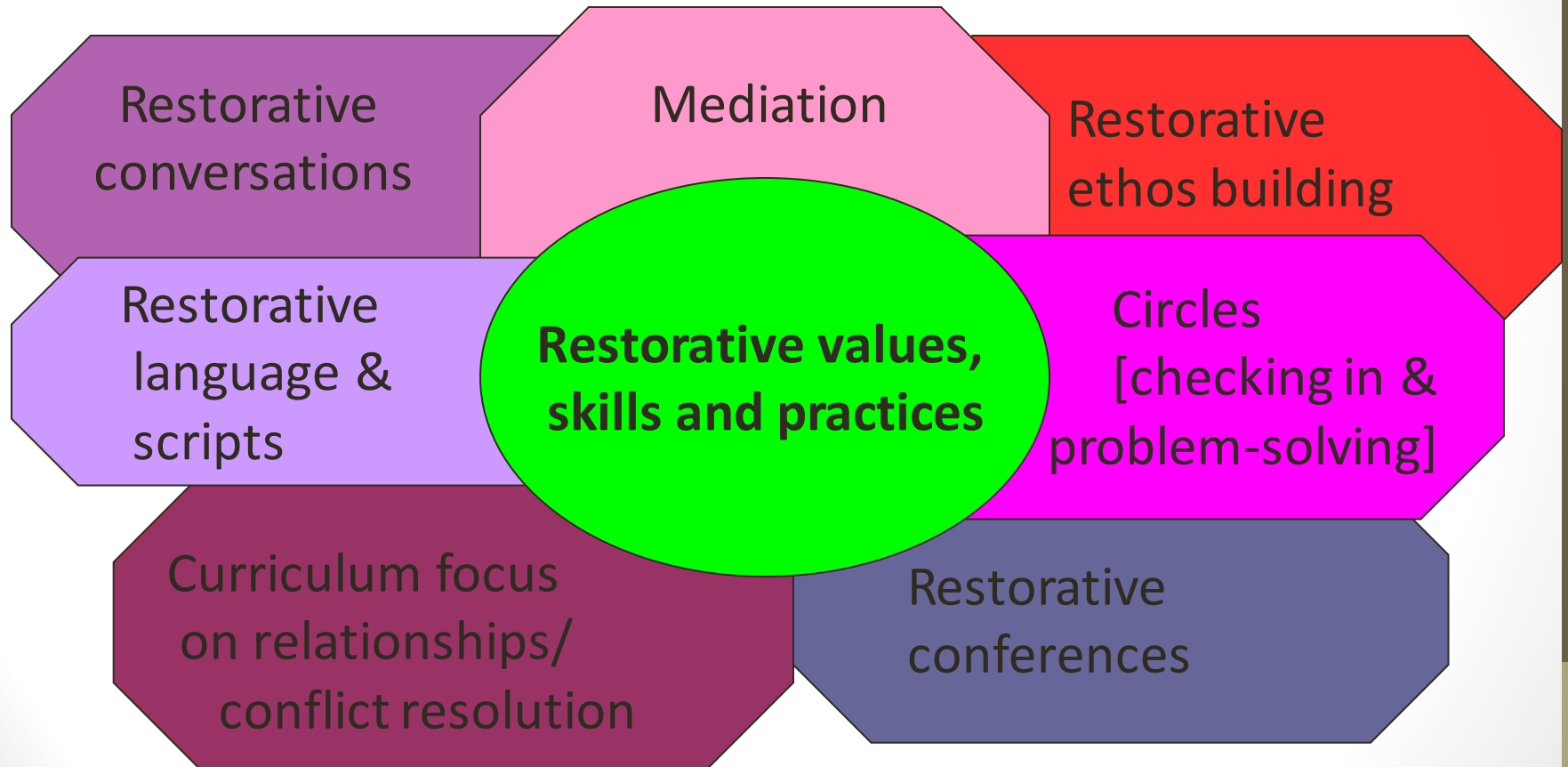
# Earliest possible intervention

Restorative Practice

# Defining a Restorative Approach?

Restoring good relationships when there has been conflict or harm, and developing an ethos, policies and procedures to reduce the possibility of such conflict and harm arising;

# Restorative approaches in action

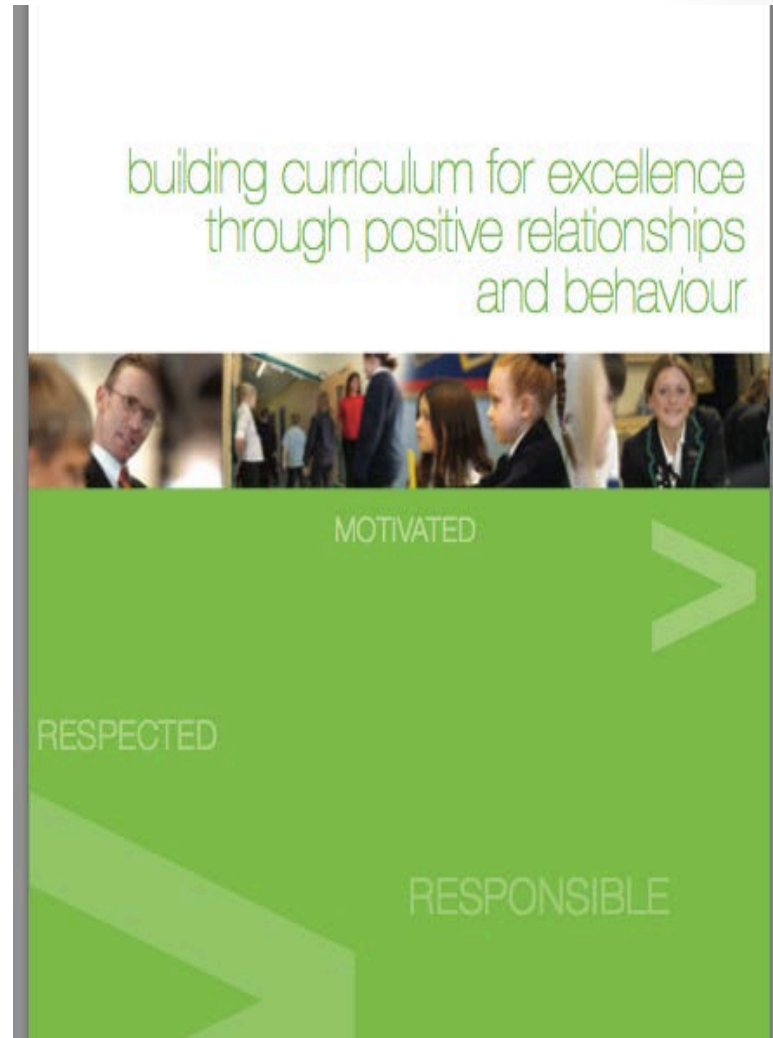


# Restorative Values



# Current practice

- Education Scotland:  
Behaviour, Rights and  
Wellbeing Team  
funding at national  
level to support  
development
- embedded in  
national policy:





Working in partnership to achieve positive outcomes for some of our most vulnerable young people, helping them to fulfil their potential and become valuable contributors to their communities.

[www.scotland.gov.uk/wsa](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/wsa)

# Young Offenders

Pre referral Screening

# Pre Referral Screening

- ✓ Operating in Edinburgh since 2008
- ✓ Weekly multi-agency meeting of Police, Education, Community Safety, CAMHS and Social Work
- ✓ Discuss children and young people from across the city who have been charged with an offence
- ✓ Information shared and a decision made regarding the best course of action – warning, diversion to one of the services, diversion to allocated worker, referral to the Reporter or Procurator Fiscal

# PRS Agency Representation



# PRS – Key Points

- ✓ Cases diverted via PRS are reviewed – accurate recording essential
- ✓ Child/Young Person and parent/carer must be notified of decision of PRS
- ✓ Accurate information sharing is key to assist with decision making
- ✓ Scottish Children's *Policy Getting it right for every child* underpins PRS

# Outcomes

- ✓ **57%** reduction in the number of juveniles charged in Edinburgh since 2009/10
- ✓ **60%** reduction in the number of young people referred to SCRA on offence grounds since 2009/10
- ✓ **73%** reduction in the number of juvenile offence reports tabled for discussion at PRS since 2009/10

Source: City of Edinburgh Council (2014),  
Edinburgh's pre referral Screening Annual Summary 2013 -2014

# Key contacts in Scotland

## Restorative Practice

Gillian McCluskey

Head of Institute for  
Education Community and  
Society

Moray House School of  
Education

[Gillean.mccluskey@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Gillean.mccluskey@ed.ac.uk)

## Pre Referral Screening Edinburgh

Janine McGowan

Team Leader

Youth Offending Service

City of Edinburgh Council

[janine.mcgowan  
@edinburgh.gsx.gov.uk](mailto:janine.mcgowan@edinburgh.gsx.gov.uk)