

Women offenders: from custody to community

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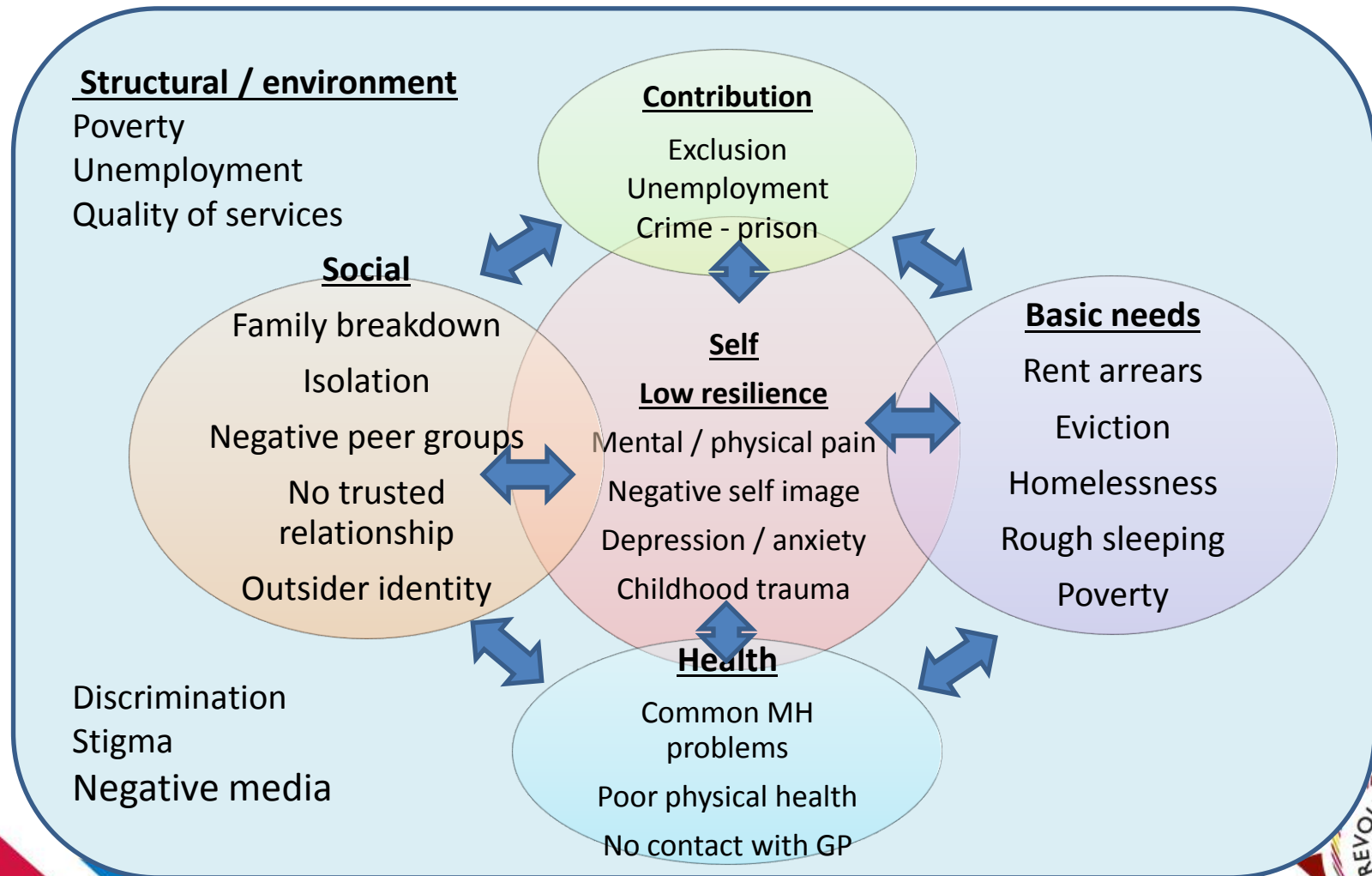
Revolving Doors Agency



- Introduction to Revolving Doors
- Progress on women offenders: England and Wales
- Women's community centres: development opportunities
- Counting the Cost
- Maintaining the focus



Multiple needs: negative dynamic



Revolving Doors Agency: what we do



Partnership and
development



Policy and
research

Service user
involvement



What we do

Criminal
justice liaison
and diversion
services

Anawim
women's
centre –
mental health
nurse

HMP Styal –
sentence
planning

Clinks-
Lankelly
alliance

Partnership and
development

HMP
Holloway –
DV
disclosure

Street Talk
evaluation

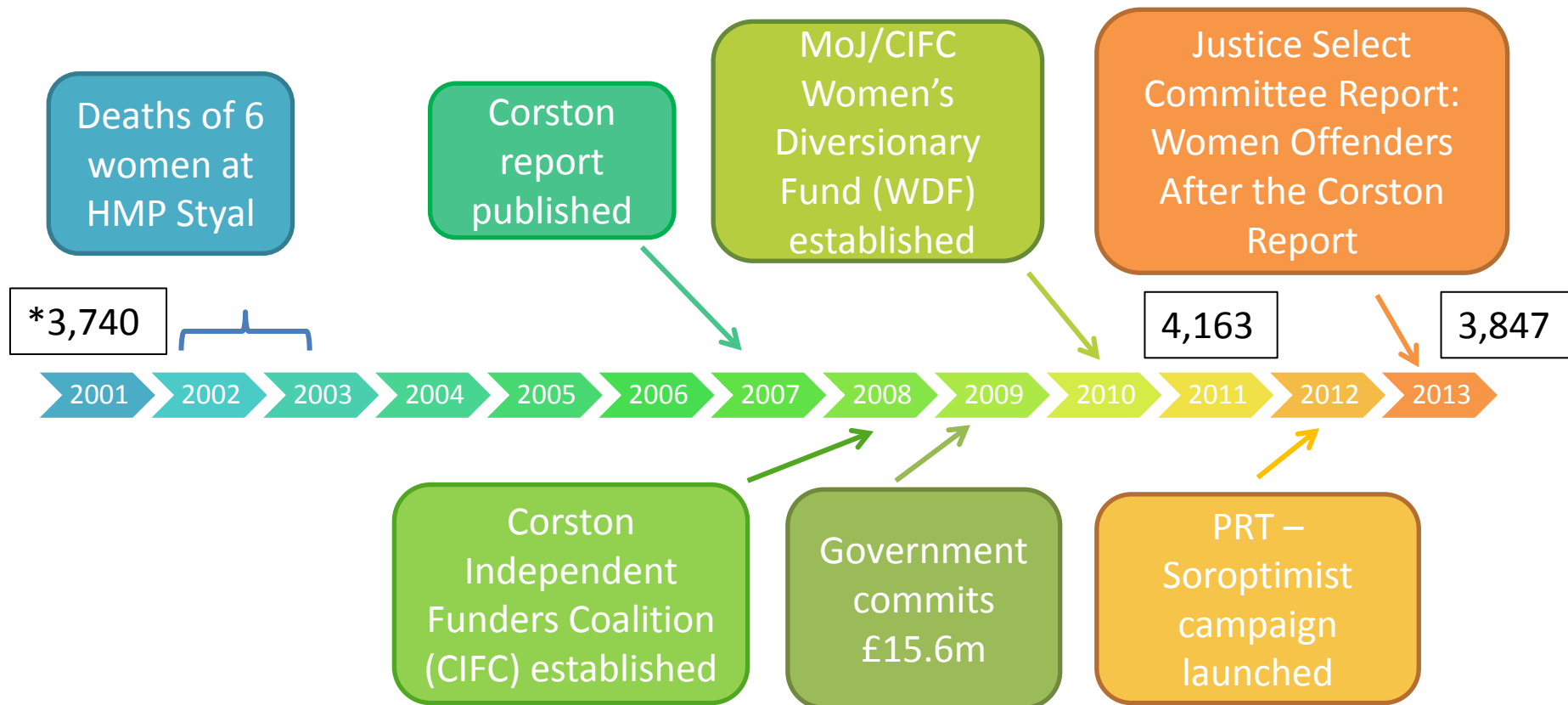
Policy and
research

Service user
involvement

Women's
forum



Progress on women offenders: England & Wales



Progress...

Berman & Dar (2013):

- Approximately 3,853 females were in prison at the end of June 2013, 7% below the number in prison a year earlier.
- In December 2012 the number of women in prison fell below 4,000 for the first time since December 2001
- The average number of female prisoners decreased by around 3% between 2002 and 2012, while the male prison population increased by 24% over the same period
- Female prisoners accounted for 4.6% of the prison population in June 2013. This is the lowest monthly female prisoner rate since January 1998.



Women's community centres: an alternative to custody

“...their broad approach which is to **treat each woman as an individual** with her own set of needs and problems...These centres seek to provide constructive and humane responses to many women who need **a whole range of support from community-based services** including both psychological therapy to aid personal development and practical assistance to help them develop economic prospects. They are **primarily “women” not “offenders”**....[staff] were often unable to differentiate between those women referred by criminal justice agencies and those referred from elsewhere because all of these women share the same complex life problems.”

(Corston, 2007)



27 different

external agencies

+ in-house resources:

- Drugs, housing, benefits agencies come in

- Counselling service

- Creative therapies e.g. embroidery

- Educational courses

- Social activities

- Creche for children under 5

- Prison and street outreach

- Women specific unpaid work / specified activity

- Dual diagnosis nurse (our pilot) – led to Mental Health Treatment Requirement



Counting the cost



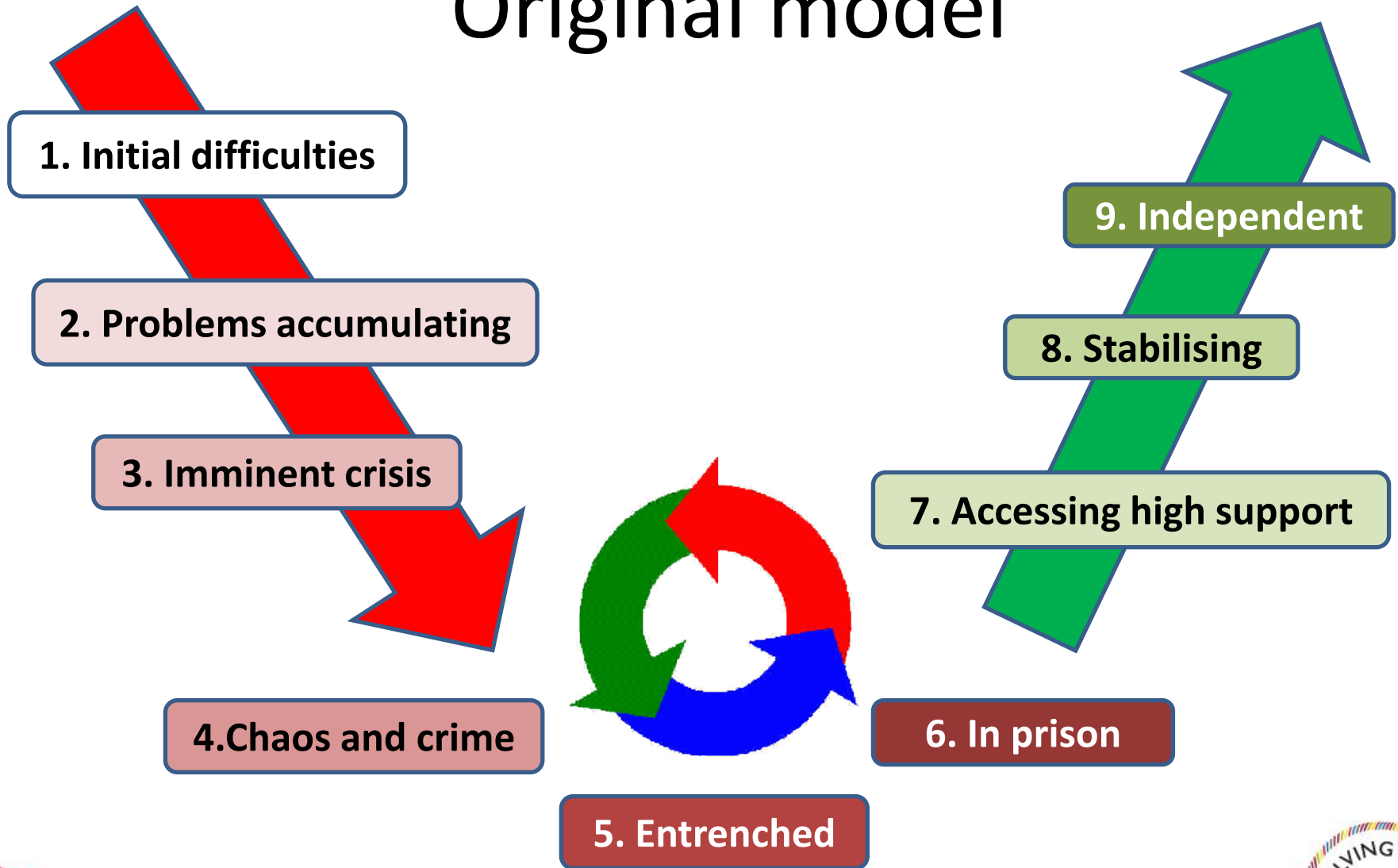
The financial impact of supporting women with multiple needs in the criminal justice system

Findings from Revolving Doors Agency's women-specific Financial Analysis Model

By Anna Page | Research by Bedy Rice | Funded by Corston Independent Funders' Coalition



Original model



Services



**Housing support (Supporting People)
Housing Benefit
(different rates for hostel/non hostel rent)**

**Courts
Probation
Prison
Police**



**GP consultation
Ambulance
A&E**



**Methadone
prescribing**

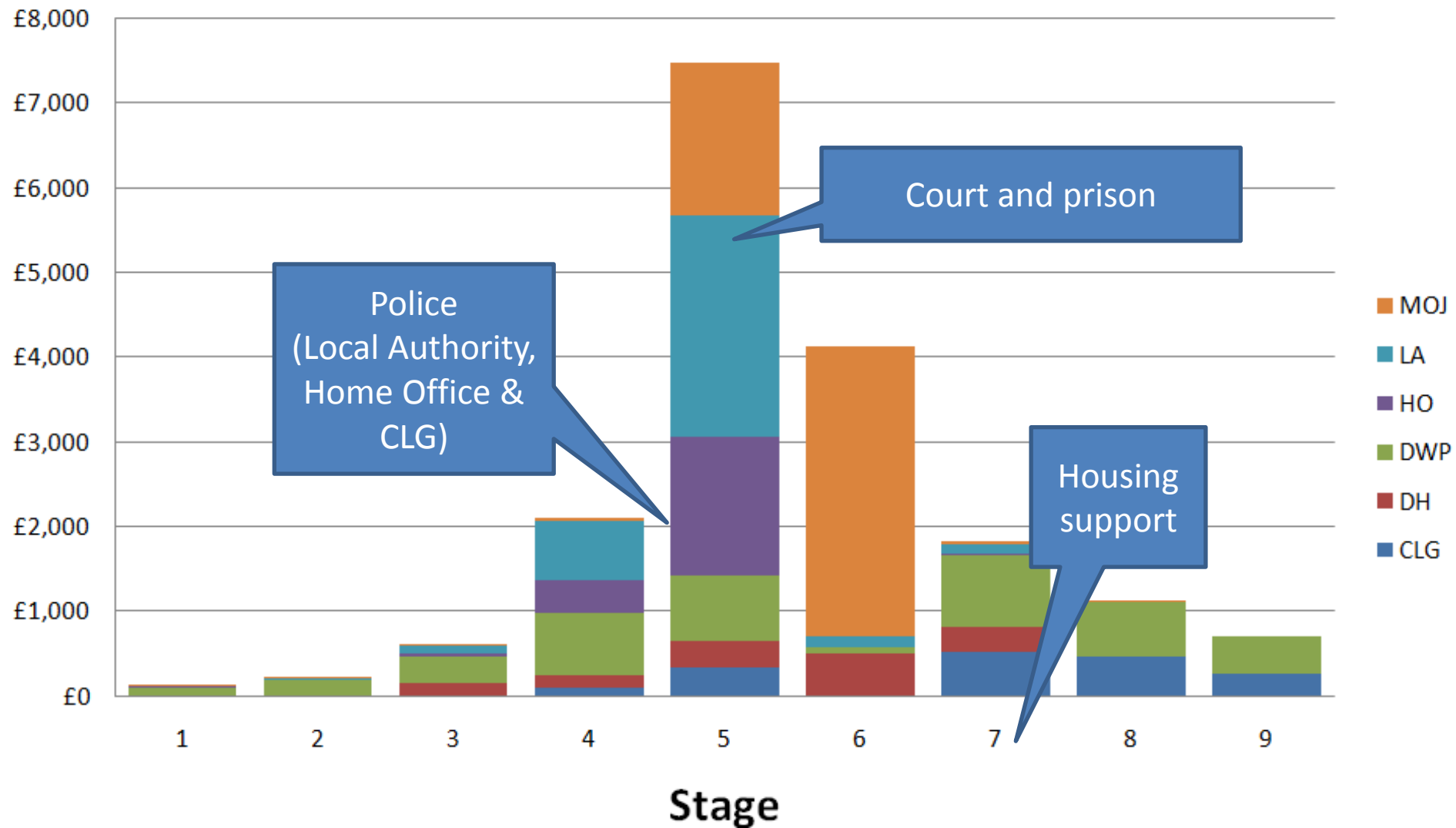


**Job Seeker's Allowance
Income Support**

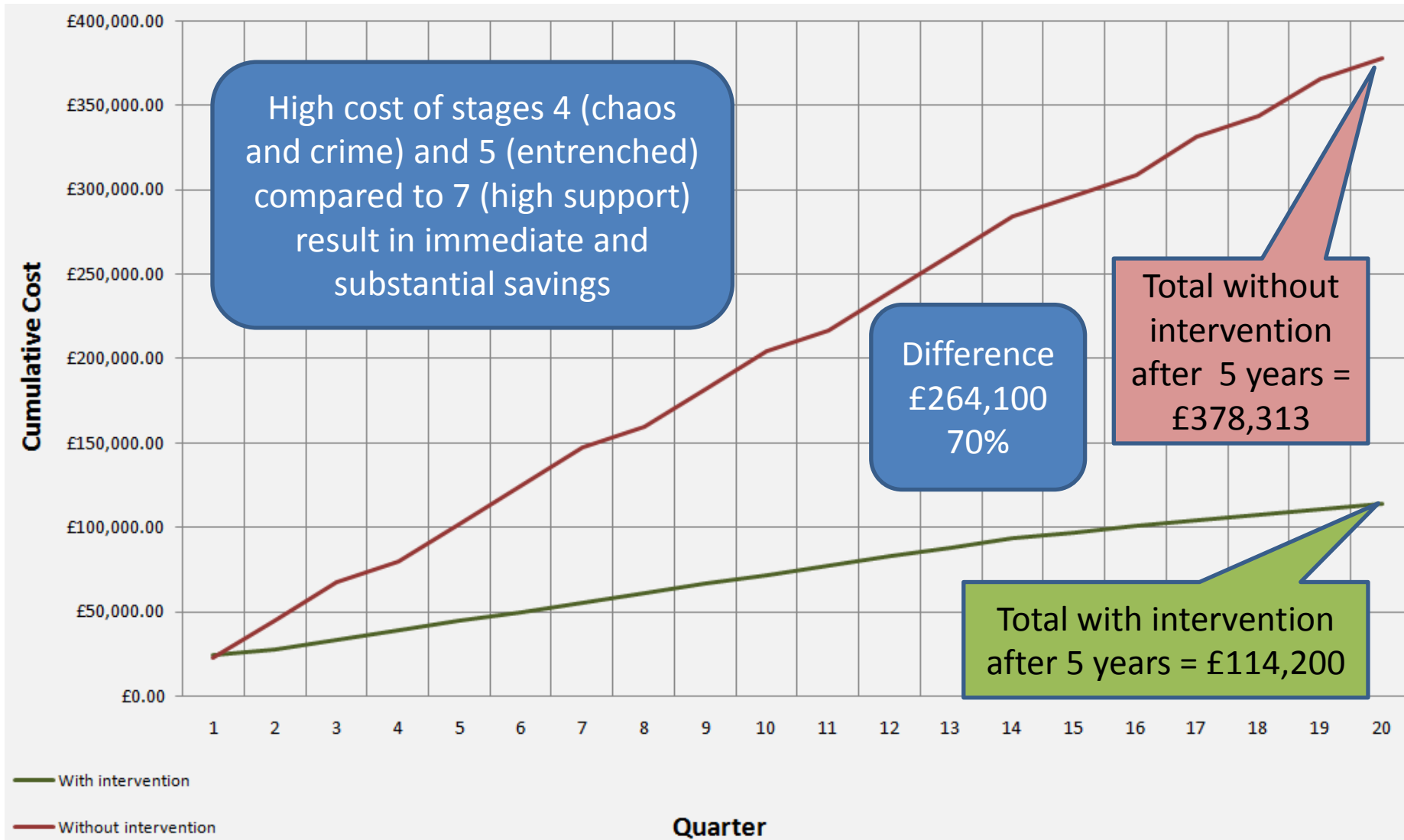
Children in care



Monthly cost of each stage



Cumulative cost over 5 years: Type C



Where are the savings made?

5 year total cost by department

Department	Intervention	Non intervention	Difference	% Saving
CLG	£29,405	£13,207	-£16,198	-123%
DH	£12,946	£22,605	£9,659	43%
DWP	£46,636	£31,389	-£15,247	-49%
HO	£5,893	£64,590	£58,696	91%
LA	£11,869	£103,971	£92,102	89%
MOJ	£7,457	£142,553	£135,095	95%
Total	£114,205	£378,313	£264,108	70%



National projections



- If services available nationally, they could expect to receive 13,302 referrals per year
- Without an intervention, these women would be likely to use services costing £1 billion in three years and £2 billion in five years.
- If similar women's projects were available nationally, cost of service use would be reduced to £616 million in three years and £1 billion in five years



Potential national savings

An investment of £18 million per year in similar services could produce savings of:

- **£384 million over three years**
- **Almost £1 billion over five years**



Progress...?

However, Justice Select Committee (2013):

“...the women's prison population has not fallen sufficiently fast; over half of women continue to receive ineffective short-custodial sentences; and appropriate community provision which would arrest the use of custody, such as mental health and substance misuse treatment, remains unavailable to the courts in sufficient volume”

“A key lesson still to be learnt is that tackling women's offending is not just a matter for the justice system.”



Maintaining the focus

- New Advisory Board for female offenders chaired by Helen Grant MP
- PRT-Soroptimist Campaign
- Women's Breakout
- Clinks-LankellyChase alliance for women and girls at risk
- WISH Women's Mental Health Network
- Rebuilding Shattered Lives Campaign

