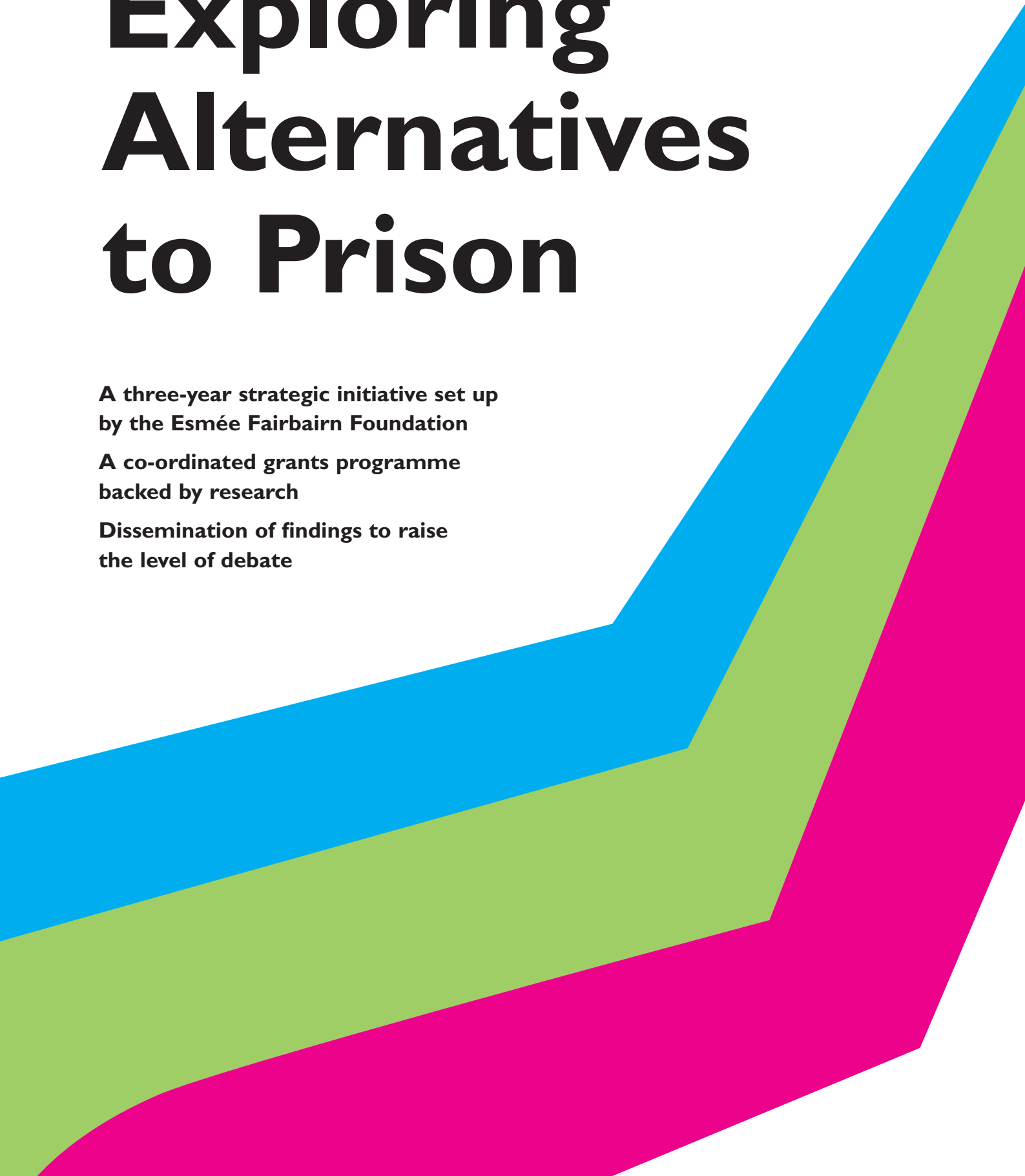


Exploring Alternatives to Prison

**A three-year strategic initiative set up
by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation**

**A co-ordinated grants programme
backed by research**

**Dissemination of findings to raise
the level of debate**



Publications

A range of publications is available from Rethinking Crime and Punishment, reflecting our wide programme of work. Our publications include:

- The Rethinking Pack
- What Can I Do?
- Rethink Briefings:
 1. What the public think about prison
 2. Attitudes to Crime and Punishment: the Results of a Deliberative Poll
 3. What the public really feel about non-custodial penalties
 4. Media and the shaping of public knowledge and attitudes towards crime and punishment
- Rethinking Child Imprisonment
- The Decision to Imprison
- Changing Attitudes to Punishment

The Independent Inquiry into Alternatives to Prison

For further details on this Inquiry contact RCP.

Contacting RCP

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Website: www.rethinking.org.uk
Email: info@rethinking.org.uk.

Contacting individual projects

More information on the projects including contact details of the organisations involved can be found at: <http://www.rethinking.org.uk/projects/>

RCP staff

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Project Officer: Frances Thompson

Chair and Supervisory Board

Baroness Linklater (Chair)
Sir Antony Acland
Sir Edward Cazalet
Jeremy Hardie
Professor Michael Hough
Marion Janner
Professor Rod Morgan
Sir David Ramsbotham
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William Sieghart
Anthony Simonds-Gooding
Baroness Stern
Charles Wilson

It is widely agreed that the penal system is not working as it should.

We have a record prison population but do not feel protected from crime. Prison has an apparently uncritical support from some sections of the media and public, yet large numbers of prisoners re-offend. Politicians view it as a popular policy response, despite its enormous financial and social cost.

Whatever your view of prison, we think there is a need for fresh thinking, new ideas and a much wider public debate.

Rethinking Crime and Punishment (RCP) has been set up by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to help facilitate this debate – to raise the level of discussion about prison and its alternatives in the UK.

We have funded over 50 projects that increase public understanding of and involvement in the criminal justice system and inject fresh thinking into the public debate. RCP's grant making has been underpinned by research on public attitudes. The learning from the funded projects will be disseminated widely over the coming year.

RCP works in three areas:

Improving public understanding

We enable organisations to inform the public of the basic facts and debate with them about the nature of crime and punishment. Information has been targeted at a wide range of groups, including politicians, journalists, churchgoers, trade union members, broadcasters, magistrates and many other lay and professional groups. The information is conveyed through websites, publications, information packs, conferences and even through a film season.

Fresh thinking about alternatives

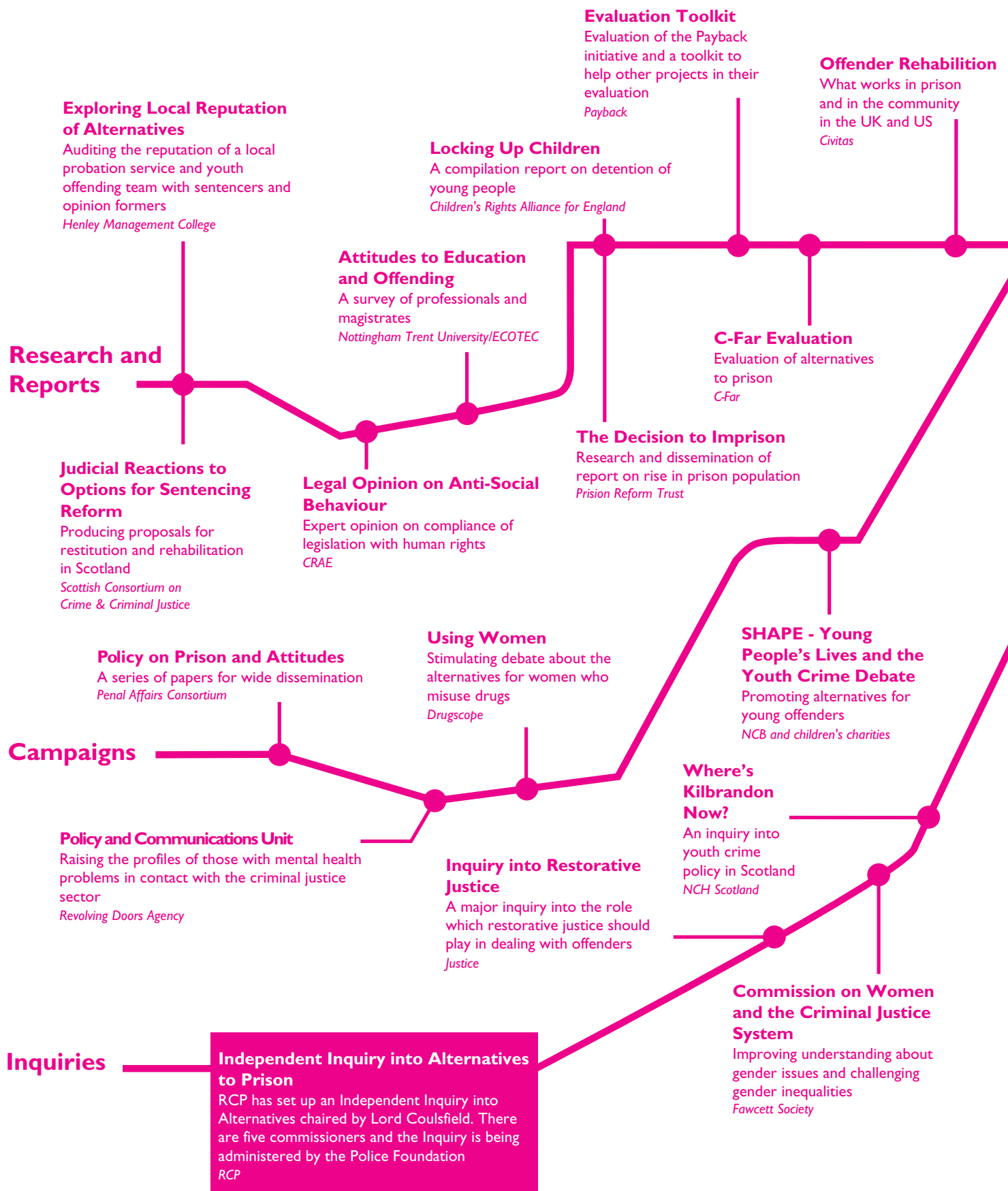
One of our aims is to increase awareness of the alternatives to prison, and examine the most effective use of prison. We have supported projects which investigate and promote alternatives to prison such as restorative justice and other community penalties through campaigns, conferences and seminars, as well as through detailed research and reports. In particular, we are funding a major Independent Inquiry into Alternatives to Prison chaired by Lord Coulsfield, which started work in Summer 2003 and will report by Summer 2004.

Active involvement

We are also supporting a number of projects which actively involve members of the public in the criminal justice and penal system. We have funded projects which work with such groups as business leaders, magistrates, the families of offenders and community groups. We have also publicised the ways in which volunteers can get involved in the criminal justice system.

As well as these grant-funded activities, we have also engaged in widespread dissemination of information. Our activities have included:

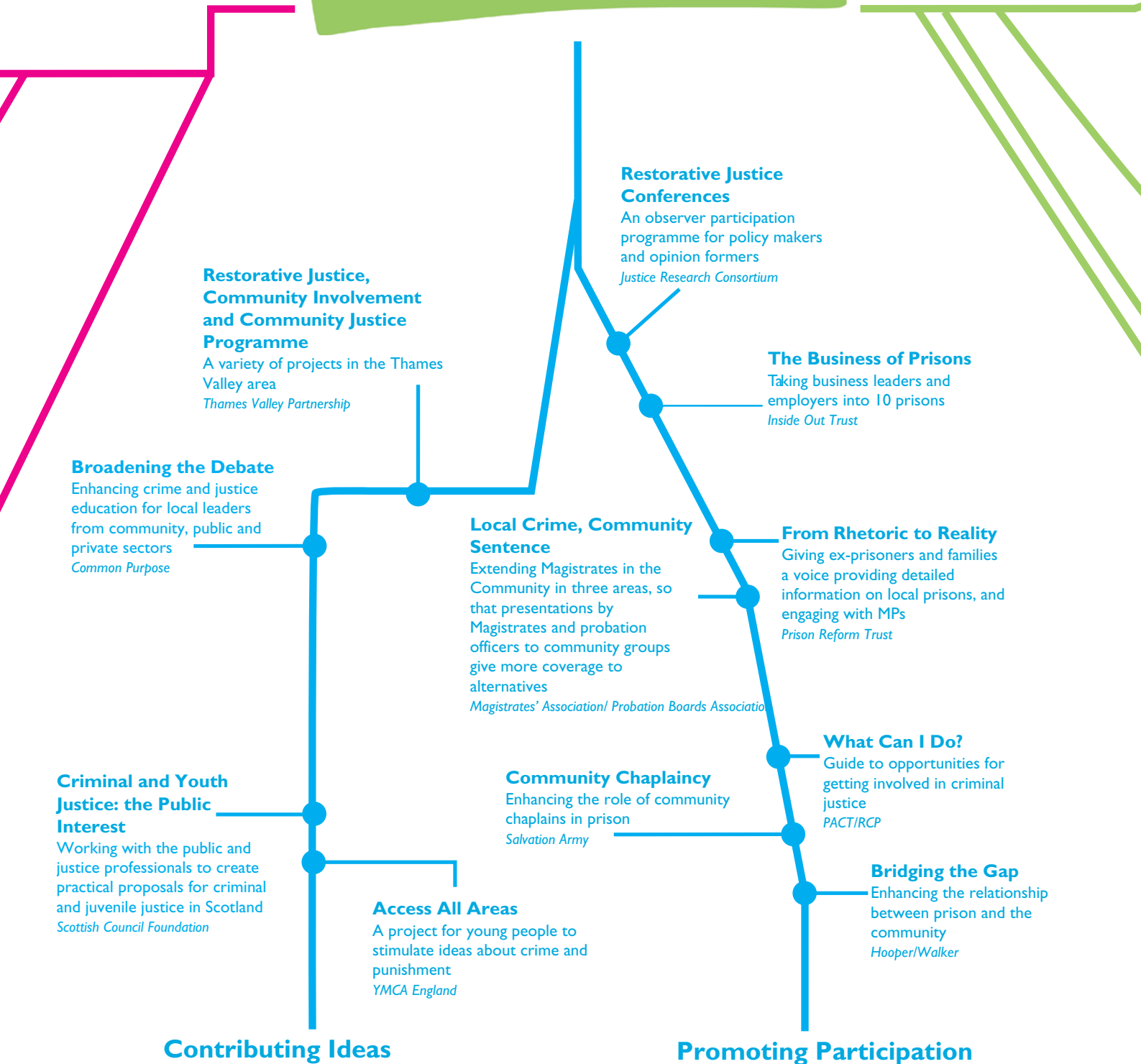
- a major launch at the Tower of London attended by 160 people
- a series of 'Rethink' briefings based on research findings and other outcomes from funded work
- Changing Attitudes to Punishment, a book of papers about public opinion given at an RCP funded seminar
- meetings with political leaders, sentencers and other opinion formers
- contribution to the Government's Review of Correctional Services
- talks and presentations at more than 60 events
- articles and features in the national and local media
- a website – www.rethinking.org.uk
- The Rethinking Pack – an accessible summary of the main issues in criminal justice.



FRESH THINKING ABOUT ALTERNATIVES

rethinking

CRIME & PUNISHMENT



ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT

Restorative Justice Website

Sharing experiences and ideas about work in Essex

Essex Restorative Justice Group
www.essexrj.org.uk

UK Criminal Justice Weblog

The latest media stories on criminal justice issues with the ability to comment on the news
UKCJWeblog www.ukcjweblog.org.uk

Crimeinfo.org

A state-of-the-art website covering criminal justice issues including fact sheets, information and an interactive sentencing exercise
CCJS www.crimeinfo.org.uk

Internet and Websites

Prisoners' Sunday Church Packs

Raising awareness of needs of prisoners and families
PACT

Community Penalties and Restorative Justice

Increasing knowledge about community penalties and restorative justice in Scotland
SACRO

Making Justice Relevant

Raising awareness among professional bodies, TUC and Parliament
Restorative Justice Consortium

Criminal Justice Education

Raising awareness among Christian churches
CCJF

Public Awareness

Challenge for Change

Developing awareness of crime and punishment issues and encouraging participation
Powys Challenge

Rethinking Pack

Effective information about criminal justice
RCP

Restorative Justice Press and Media Officer

Promoting and publicising restorative justice through the media
Winchester RJ International Conference Committee

Broadcast Development Work

Encouraging broadcasters to give better coverage on crime and justice issues
Payback/Bright

Prison Film Season

A season of films accompanied by information to increase public understanding and inform the current debate
University of Central England

Media

Case Study Programme

Enabling ex-offenders to appear in the media
National Probation Services Staffordshire

International Perspectives on Prison

Open University

The Cost of Crime – Who Pays?

Diocese of Winchester

International Punishment

South Bank University

Reducing Custody

Children Law UK

Restorative Justice

Victim Support London

Justice Through Sentencing

British Society of Criminology

Lecture Series

Howard League for Penal Reform in Scotland

European Youth Justice

Childrens Law UK

Feasibility of Institute of Mediation and Restorative Justice

Centre for Crime and Justice Studies

Reconciling Rights Within the Criminal Justice System

Legal Action group

Out For Good

Nacro/PRT/The Big Issue

Restorative Justice

Catholic Agency for Social Concern

Seminars and Conferences

IMPROVING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING