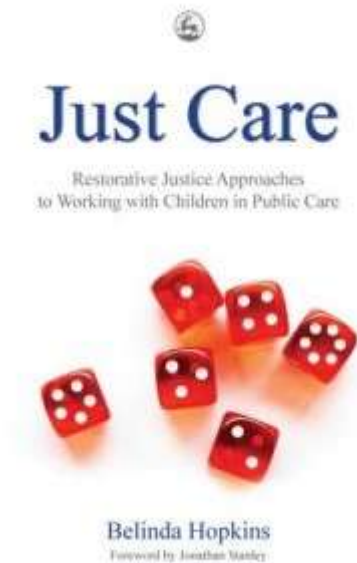


Just Care: Restorative Justice Approach to Working with Children in Public Care



Belinda Hopkins, book, 224 pages, Jessica Kingsley Publishers

Review by: Jenny Chambers, youth justice policy officer with the Howard League for Penal Reform in *Children and Young People Now* (2010)

With more than 2,000 children in custody (UK), stubbornly high reoffending rates and millions of pounds spent on incarcerating children each year, it is often frustrating to observe the constant churn of policies based on knee-jerk responses and political point-scoring rather than evidence-based best practice. Restorative justice is the most effective tool the criminal justice system does not use. Evidence shows that both children and victims benefit, and that every £ invested in restorative justice saved £8 in reduced reoffending rates.

Just Care recognizes the benefits of restorative justice as well as the complex needs and behaviours of the children in these settings.....

By addressing children's behaviours and needs in public care before they come into contact with criminal justice agencies, Belinda Hopkins' model supports addressing complex needs, reinforcing positive behaviours and diverting children away from the youth justice system.

A clear concise background to restorative justice offers an excellent introduction to anyone who wants to learn the basics. *Just Care* is a practical guide full of activities and examples for any practitioners who wants to adopt restorative approaches with children in public care. (Available at [Jessica Kingsley Publishers](#) and at [Amazon in the UK](#) and [Amazon](#) in North America)