individuals take part in criminal behaviour because they have being labelled, that should we should instead begin to understand how groups may interpret themselves in conventional society and investigate how this could lead them to be deviant. Young and Lea identified the influences of the labelling theory but adapted it to inner city crime (Chapman, 2004).

Another weakness of the labelling theory is that people in power and of a higher status use crime labels to control the poor, minority and also women, which comes the idea that labelling creates the criminal, not that a criminal is made through labelling. It can be criticized for focusing too heavily on the underachievers in society. To try and avoid this, diversion programmes are put into place to attempt to avoid labelling people wrongly and to prevent dimming there future (Briggs, 2011). Not only this, but the labelling theory is criticized for encouraging stereotypical images of deviant groups. Backing up this argument that labelling creates the criminal is David Farrington (1977) who examined the effects of public labelling. He measured deviant behaviour through self-report data and in the findings found that public labelling did lead to increased deviance and that repeated labelling of an individual led to greater deviance.

Foster, Dinitz and Reckless (1972) argued a weakness of the labelling theory is that it focuses heavily on the idea that labelling is the reason for one committing a crime, it ignores primary deviance. However they believe negative labelling can in fact influence people to respond in a more positive way, forcing them to integrate back into society. In their longitudinal study on delinquents instead of finding the labelling hypothesis that labelling increases the likelihood of offending, they in fact found that the delinquents acted in the opposite way to this. The delinquents perceived no negative effects from their friends and parents and believed it wouldn’t effect their social relationships or opportunity’s in the future. Alvin Gouldner (1968) backs this up with his statement that if people can choose delinquent behaviour, they can also choose to ignore a label after he criticized the theory for charactering the deviant as a helpless victim (Tierney, 2009).

Focusing on the control theory, Robert Agnew (1985), a profound thinker of the Strain Theory, argues against the idea that delinquency occurs due to weak bonds. Instead, he stated that these weak bonds are a consequence of the behaviour. He made these points after his longitudinal study of high school boys.

As Hirschi’s model is one of the most well-known control theories, it has also come under a lot of criticism. In Hirschi’s model there is empathises on how the bonds are connected to