

## Scottish Government contribution to UK Government response to UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty

### Sources of data for Scotland:

#### Scottish prison population

- <http://www.sps.gov.uk/Corporate/Information/SPSPopulation.aspx>
- detailed data for earlier years (prior to 2014-15)  
<https://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubPrisons>
- Reconvictions data <https://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubReconvictions>
- Recent inspection of Polmont <https://www.prisoninspectoratescotland.gov.uk/publications/longitudinal-inspection-hmyoi-polmont-19-21-april-2016?page=12>

#### Children and young people

- Children's Social Work Statistics, which provide the numbers of children in secure care for the period 2013 – 2017 broken down annually  
<https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/03/6242/downloads>
- The Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice publishes figures for 16 and 17 year olds in custody <https://mailchi.mp/7b6e593f2ed0/cycj-june-e-bulletin>

#### Looked after children

- Statistics on children and young people looked after, on the child protection register and in secure care  
<https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/03/6242/downloads>

[NOTE – the Scottish Government would not describe care setting for our looked after children as 'institutions', nor would we associate being in the formal care system (residential or foster care) with being detained]

#### Mental health

- Mental health bed census <https://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00524621.pdf>

### Additional information

#### Youth justice

- Scotland's secure accommodation provision consists of 84 beds. Young people under the age of 18 can be placed in secure accommodation through the children's hearing system on welfare grounds or by the court on remand or sentence.
- Secure accommodation is a form of residential care that restricts the liberty of children under the age of 18 and aims to provide intensive support and safe boundaries to help these highly vulnerable children re-engage and move forward positively in their communities.

- Scotland's Youth Justice Strategy 2015-2020, *Preventing Offending: Getting it right for children and young people*, builds on the impact of a decisive shift towards prevention since 2008 and the whole system approach (WSA) to offending by young people, which was rolled out in 2011. This focus on prevention was also prominent in Justice for Scotland, Visions and Priorities.
- The numbers of children and young people in the Scottish justice system has reduced substantially. The average number of under 18s in custody has decreased by 77% from 223 in 2006 to 51 in 2016. Diversion from prosecution cases commenced for 16-17 year olds have also increased from 142 in 2010-11 to 536 in 2015-16. Consideration is now being given to all 16 and 17 year olds going through the Children's Hearings System (both on welfare grounds and offence) as part of the recommendations of the Child Protection Improvement Programme. A Diversion from Prosecution Group was convened in October 2017 to consider how to further increase the availability of diversion for 16 and 17 year olds.