

Scottish Government Youth Justice Vision and Strategy

Consultation Summary Report

June 2021



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Introduction

The Scottish Government's Youth Justice Strategy: *Preventing offending: getting it right for children and young people* ran from 2015 to 2020. In order to inform a new strategy and vision for youth justice, the Scottish Government had planned a series of engagement events with key stakeholders who worked or had an interest in the youth justice system. In light of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and challenges, the decision was made to cancel these events and move to an online approach to consultation instead. The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) was asked to provide a short analysis of the responses received in the online survey. In addition, a series of events and conversations were held with children and young people who have had experience of the justice system. The summary reports from both surveys are presented in this report, and full details of the methods undertaken are outlined in each separate report.

Consultation with the adult workforce or adults with an interest in the justice system

Method

Survey

The Scottish Government Youth Justice Team designed four questions for key stakeholders in the youth justice and related sectors to respond to. The full survey is attached in Appendix 1. This survey was then created in Qualtrics online survey software and hosted by CYCJ. The survey was live between June 22 and August 31, 2020.

Survey responses were downloaded by CYCJ and analysed using NVivo software (version 11).

Participants

A completed response was defined as a response in which the participant completed the consent section, and answered at least one of the four questions posed. There were 124 completed responses, of which 123 were completed online and one was emailed in word format.

As the survey was completely anonymous there is no demographic or organisational information available for analysis.

Findings

1) Top three priorities over the next two years

Many respondents commented that they found it **hard to only select three priorities**, and some felt that all of the areas mentioned should be a priority for government. While the exercise still does help to highlight the most pressing priorities, this difficulty may mean that other priorities are underestimated by the findings presented here.

Table 1 highlights the most frequently occurring priorities. At least one priority was selected by 124 participants. One participant selected only one priority, three selected two, 119 selected three, and one did not select three but ranked all of the priorities in order (in this instance only the top three priorities have been counted in order to ensure equity with other participants). See Appendix 1 for the full description of the priorities as provided in the survey.

Table 1: Top 3 priorities (n=124)

Priority	No. of responses	% of participants
Mental Health	74	60%
Whole Systems Approach	58	47%
Speech, Language & Communication Needs	41	33%
16 and 17 year olds	40	32%
Data and Evidence	25	20%
Other	11	9%

In the 'other' category the most common responses (five) related to priorities already mentioned, or were statements qualifying their responses. Of previously unmentioned suggestions, the most frequent responses (two each) were: gender; trauma-informed approaches; early intervention; Restorative Justice; and child criminal exploitation (CCE).

2) The main barriers to high quality youth justice provision in Scotland; and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on these.

A total of 75 participants provided a written response to this question. The main barrier identified was the need for **more investment and resources** (24 responses) in youth justice and related provision. This was often mentioned in relation to services that might help prevent offending behaviours, or respond at an early stage. Mental health provision was also often referenced:

“Negative impact of austerity on local authority youth justice budgets. Negative impact of austerity on other services, CAMHS in particular, meaning referrals cannot be acted on in a reasonable timeframe.”

“Continued cuts to the real term funding experienced by local authorities has up-stream and frontline implications for youth justice services. These cuts have implications on the scale, breadth and intensity of the services available when children come into conflict with the law.”

“In particular the third sector is disadvantaged by poor commissioning and procurement - high quality, effective, youth justice provision has been discontinued or reduced due to funding constraints/cuts despite having been established and impacting on youth justice outcomes and positive futures for young people.”

Related to issues of funding and resources was a lack of standard or consistent provision across the country, mentioned by eight respondents, and resulting in what was termed a **postcode lottery**:

“Differences in provision due to funding/resource issues. For example, if local CJA (and other) partnerships prioritise youth justice then resources may be available - if not, they aren't. This causes disparity of provision 'post code lottery'.”

“Lack of a consistent approach nationally. Resources available vary, young people should receive a consistent service no matter where they are in Scotland.”

The importance of multi-agency working in youth justice approach was evident, but the **challenges and complexities** in creating and sustaining **successful and effective multi-agency partnerships** were mentioned by 16 respondents, with 'siloed' working a frequent barrier, or a lack of alignment in understanding, values and approaches. Information-sharing, and GDPR, were also perceived to be barriers:

"There are some really good examples of cooperation and information sharing across and within organisations that ensure that there is a holistic approach to young people at risk or involved in offending. However, there are still barriers and 'protectionism' in some instances exacerbated by GDPR."

"Consistent approach within agencies and lack of understanding around whole system approach/how best to support young people in conflict with the law, acknowledging them as children and supporting their unmet needs."

"All agencies currently act as single agencies - fulfilling their single organisational demands - which often conflict with the idea and practice of high quality youth justice provision."

Other responses described **gaps or inadequacies in provision**, such as in **mental health and trauma support** (mentioned by 14 responses) or **prevention and early intervention** (nine responses):

"Poor, late, or no access to appropriate therapeutic services. It has been known for many years that psychological trauma is a significant factor in relation to many cases of youth offending. Trauma has become a well talked about topic in the last few years, as has trauma-informed services. Very, very few services really work in a trauma-informed way."

"Impact of trauma: young people involved in offending have a high incidence of experience of trauma. It is likely the experience of living through the pandemic is itself traumatic, while also contributing to other environmental factors which may exacerbate trauma, such as isolation, access to family and friends, bereavement, stress, etc."

"Lack of dedicated, holistic services focusing not only on youth and restorative justice, but also prevention centred around formal and informal statutory education, positive mental and physical health and wellbeing, access to meaningful and stimulating post school employability and training opportunities, which fully recognise the importance of young people as distinct individuals, as well as a unique social grouping."

"There is a focus on short-term fixes when problems arise rather than the vision for early intervention with long-term view to prevent major problems arising."

Structural inequalities such as poverty, racism and discrimination were also noted as barriers to effective youth justice provision (eight responses):

"Availability of child and risk appropriate care, support and services; and disproportionate barriers to access for certain groups (those in poverty, gender

specific, BAME, from different geographical areas of Scotland, with additional support needs e.g. SLCN, learning disabilities and mental health needs)."

"Inadequate action against structural issues that ensure a significant number of Scotland's children are destined for the justice system."

Cultural and attitudinal barriers (both public and organisational) were believed to pose particular problems for youth justice (six responses):

"Negative labelling/targeting/stigmatising of young people."

"Some workers having a punitive and uninformed attitude towards young people in conflict with the law."

"Barriers are that all partners do not have the same view of how young people should be dealt with especially when it comes to a high profile or serious offence. I cannot foresee any changes to individuals' attitudes towards young people and offending."

Often related to the attitudinal barriers, and the way that young people were viewed, was a **lack of meaningful and genuine participation for children and young people** in the decisions that affect them (six responses):

"Cultural barriers - adults retain control and prescribe solutions."

"Failure to truly listen to children and young people, and to enable their participation in developing the care, support and services intended to be for their benefit (at an individual, community and societal level)."

Partly related to funding and resources was a need for more **long-term and community youth work provision** (six responses):

"Not having enough youth/community based/involved projects which run on a long-term basis and engage with young people going through the youth justice system on a long-term basis."

"Premature termination of involvement (quicker turnover times), especially in cases of voluntary engagement."

A lack of available **alternatives to custody** was mentioned by six respondents:

"Social change will be required in order to explore and use community based alternatives to incarceration."

"Having real alternatives to 'locking people up'."

Other barriers mentioned included: youth justice being afforded a lower 'status' than other areas and not treating all under 18s as children (both five responses) and: a cluttered policy and legislative landscape; reduced skills and expertise in youth justice as a result of lower prioritisation; and a need for more diversion (four responses each).

The **COVID-19 pandemic** was mainly perceived to **exacerbate existing barriers**, rather

than necessarily being a barrier in its own right. Funding and resources, inequalities, mental health issues, participation and delays in the justice process were all felt to be negatively affected by the pandemic:

“Access to Mental Health support for young people caught up in the justice system. COVID-19 may exacerbate many mental health issues and anxieties.”

“Barriers are exacerbated during COVID-19: as children have been refused access to justice at their own decision-making forums and decisions being taken on their lives without them participating at all.”

“COVID-19 is destined to embed social inequalities and disadvantage. Only through a determined focus on universal service provision and mitigating the consequences upon the most vulnerable groups will progress towards a fairer youth justice system be realised.”

“COVID-19 has also highlighted that many families are digitally excluded, and it can result in issues for delivering services and continuity of support. While face-to-face services are limited, partners have relied on digital solutions to continue to provide support, and while this is possible for most organisations, many families are unable to engage in this way. COVID-19 has highlighted issues for many families around poverty and digital inclusion.”

While there were a few **COVID-specific issues** raised, such as not being able to meet children face-to-face, and services that had been forced to close, there were also **opportunities** that had arisen from the pandemic, such as: digital engagement and participation; exploring more creative ways of working; and providing the catalyst to reflect and rethink how services are delivered:

“COVID-19 gives us an opportunity to re-think - it has already acted to enable the redesign of services and provision such as remote medical consultation. The technology has existed for decades but without the 'burning platform' that COVID-19 provided, was resisted as a serious service design option. This principle stands for all systems and services.”

“All of this will be affected negatively by COVID-19, however, there have been some positives e.g. the increased use of VC for meetings which has meant they are more easily arranged and attended with many benefits.”

“More creative ways of working have been developed (through necessity) which may compliment more creative ways of delivering YJ intervention.”

3) Overcoming barriers and how organisations can support this

A total of 70 participants provided a written response to this question, although there was considerable variation in responses. The most common response (12 responses) was that **specific interventions** were needed, but these were wide-ranging and included: trauma-informed approaches; family support services; supported accommodation; support in prison; gender-based and inclusive approaches; communication support models; and restorative approaches etc.

Solutions were also perceived as lying within **strong partnerships and multi-disciplinary approaches** (11 responses):

“I think the main benefits overall would come from better joined up working/cooperation/contact, between local services.”

“Continued/enhanced engagement in relevant partnerships.”

“Partnership working and developing resources and services that fit the needs of the individual.”

Funding and investment generally was also seen as crucial for overcoming the barriers identified (ten responses), and investing specifically in **prevention and early intervention** was mentioned by nine respondents:

“More money to be accessible for services to be able to cope with the demands on social services.”

“Consistent funding/resourcing - better monitoring of how money is spent (value/impact).”

“Engage & invest in young people & take a Scotland wide prevention approach - in youth work, transformative leadership & re connection opportunities where young people find their purpose/ value. Mentoring and long term supports are essential to help young people.”

“Re-routing funds to more early intervention work.”

Many of these comments about funding and investment related to a more radical realignment of funds, and seven participants felt that more **radical or wholesale system change** was needed to overcome the barriers:

“Radical change is needed to the taxation and economic infrastructure of the country. This needs to come from national government.”

“Adequate funding and support, at both local and national level, as well as the genuine motivation to create a long overdue radical, visionary youth services sector for Scotland - building on examples of previous good practice nationally and internationally.”

“Re-design to prevent children entering the justice system or if they enter, partners wrap around the child and the family to provide sustainable support to help them build resilience and capacity to change their trajectory. Also to design a justice system that understands brain development, the impact of trauma on brain development and the prevalence of speech, language and communication difficulties in this population.”

Creating a system that **protected children’s rights** was mentioned by seven respondents and five separately mentioned **treating all under 18s as children**:

“Our organisation is keen to be involved in direct talks and outreach sessions with schools and youth groups to provide information to young people directly about children’s rights and child law including providing information on child protection law, procedures and policies and where to seek help.”

“To be driven by the rights of the child and to be designed to respond quickly, intervene early and divert from prosecution.”

“Promoting children’s rights and supporting them to understand these.”

“We need legislative change to place all under 18s as children which will reduce complexity, ensure everyone attributes all rights to all children (hopefully) and be clearer for legal process while still in current system.”

Exploring **commissioning and funding mechanisms for the third sector** was also seen as essential for ensuring the breadth of services necessary for an effective youth justice system:

“Effective and successful programmes have come and gone due to the lack of support which mainly comes from grants or trust. If Gov were to look at third sector organisations to invest in to support the council staff it might be more effective. Look at other countries with successful models.”

“Direct funding to Scottish based community organisations so services available to support young people in conflict with the law are not based on individual commissioning and procurement practices but best practice.”

Other ways to overcome the barriers were suggested as: maximising participation; improving data and evidence; and developing alternatives to custody (all six responses each).

4) Other Considerations

Fifty eight participants provided a written response to this question although there was little new offered here that had not been covered already in the survey. The most common response (nine responses) was about maximising **participation** by hearing and understanding young people’s views and involving them in the development of the strategy and in decision-making:

“Ensure that all stakeholders are equally valued. Co-production is essential with service users.”

“I think that young people need to understand the process better. The strategy should be flexible and meaningful to the people it impacts, this would also ensure greater use and understanding of the strategy and its implementation for local authorities and front line workers who should use it as a guidance tool.”

“Speak to the young people and ask where they feel they have been let down by the system.”

Eight respondents referred to the need for **radical, or at least more rapid change**, with a focus on action and implementation:

“Implementation - start with making it happen, take action. Learn from other reviews and take action and at pace.”

“We need to be radical for change and create a swifter change in practice that results in a real knock on effect in terms of future custody rates in prisons.”

“We believe that to improve Scottish Youth Justice System it is not enough to tackle only one area of concern. Reducing detention of children and young people, extending the referral age to the SCRA to 18 years of age, early intervention approach, support to victims of crime and multi-agency affective collaboration are all necessary elements for achieving improvements in the Scottish Youth Justice System.”

A need to focus on prevention and early intervention was mentioned again by six respondents and trauma-informed and mental health provision; addressing public attitudes and organisational culture; and greater investment were each mentioned by five respondents.

Youth Justice Vision: Young People's Views (Summary Report)

Introduction

The Scottish Government is working on an up-to-date plan for youth justice in Scotland. This has involved speaking to adults who work in youth justice or with an interest in this area to see what they think the Government and others should do to make things better for young people, and this has been written up into a report. The Scottish Government also asked children and young people with experience of care and justice to share what they think about the system. What children and young people have told us is shared in this short report by the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ). What children and young people and also adults have said will be used by the Scottish Government to agree new priorities for youth justice in Scotland over the next few years.

How did children and young people share their views?

The Youth Justice Visionaries, a group of four young people with lived experience of the justice system, helped the Scottish Government to hear what young people think about justice. A conversation topic guide with questions for workers was created to use with children and young people, so that the Government could hear their views but also so that children would be able to understand what was being asked of them.

The topic guide was used in lots of different ways. For example, the Youth Justice Visionaries created and held three online workshops with 18 young people in secure care. Workers from support organisations also held conversations with groups of young people they were working with. This included children in custody at HMP&YOI Polmont, and children and young people who were supported in the community by different organisations.

Around 80 children and young people shared their views. The adults supporting them wrote a summary of the conversations that were had and shared this with CYCJ, who pulled together all of the information and looked for important messages that children and young people were telling us.

What did young people say?

1) How can the government improve the justice system for children and young people? What should they focus on?

- **The Scottish Government should do more to support children and young people's mental health**
 - It would help to educate all children and young people about mental health so that people are comfortable talking about mental health and can begin to identify problems. This also might help to stop other people judging those who have poor mental health.
 - Mental health services can be difficult to access and people often have to wait a long time to get support
 - It can be difficult when children turn 18 and can't access a service any longer, or find that the services that they have to move to are not very suitable for young adults

- **The government should help teach children about rights and make sure children's rights are supported**
 - Children should be taught about rights so they know and understand the rights that they have
 - The government should also make sure children get the rights that they are entitled to

- **The government should make sure that the justice system is child friendly**
 - Children find it difficult to understand what happens in the justice system, including at court
 - Children find it difficult to take part in justice
 - When children don't understand justice it often feels very unfair to them
 - This is true for all children, but especially children who have additional needs such as speech, language or communication needs
 - Children should be taught what justice and the justice system is

- **The system needs to be built around relationships and respect**
 - More could be done to build good relationships with the Police
 - Children feel that the Police do not respect them and don't understand when children have different needs or circumstances (such as being care experienced)
 - Children do not feel that the Police are best placed to respond to certain issues like mental health

- **The system should be extended**
 - 16 and 17 year olds should remain in the Children's Hearings System
 - The youth justice system should be for young adults too (up to 21 or 25)

2) How do we prevent offending in the first place?

- **There should be more activities for children and young people, children should have something to do to keep them busy**
 - Youth centres in communities
 - Free to use activities (sports, gyms etc)
 - Community resources such as play parks and green spaces
 - Summer programmes

- **There should be more opportunities for children and young people to help them get on in life and tackle issues such as poverty**
 - Better education/training opportunities
 - Better employment opportunities
 - Better housing for young people

- **Education should be more inclusive**
 - Do not expel pupils
 - Teachers need to be positive and understanding of different needs and circumstances
 - Provide alternatives to school for children who want to leave

- **Listen to young people**
 - Young people need to be heard
 - Talk to young people and do more research to understand why people offend
 - Provide supports when young people need talk
- **Adults should build relationships with children and young people**
 - Provide positive role models
 - Treat young people with respect and decency
 - Build trust between police and young people (stop and search does not help)
 - Provide supports when needed (especially mental health and addiction support)

3) How should we help and support children and young people who get into trouble with the law?

- **Provide children with opportunities that will help them get on in life**
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Housing
 - Things to do
- **Help children understand and take part in the justice system**
 - Help teach children about what happens when you get in trouble with the law
 - Make the justice system child friendly for those in it - it can feel overwhelming and difficult for children to comply if they don't understand it
- **Provide children with the supports they need**
 - Mental health support
 - Addictions support
 - Early intervention and youth work services
 - Increase access to services and reduce waiting lists
 - Understand why children are offending
- **Build relationships with children and treat them with respect**
 - Less police contact, less stop and search
 - Treat children with dignity if they do come into contact with the police
 - Professionals need to genuinely care about children
 - There needs to be more consistency of workers and panel members - they change too often

4) Should sentenced under 18s go to a Youth Offenders Institute (YOI) or secure care? What other options should be available?

- **As a rule children under 18 should not go to a YOI**
 - Custody should be a last resort
 - Some children may need to be in a YOI
 - A YOI is not suitable for people with mental health difficulties
 - Short-term sentences should be stopped
 - Need alternatives to adult prison for young adults (aged 22, 23 etc)

- **Secure care is better than YOI but community alternatives are needed**
 - Children who are offending should not be kept with children who are in secure on welfare grounds
 - It is not fair that children are locked up and cannot go to the toilet or get food when they want, especially if they are in on welfare grounds
- **Children need support in YOI/secure care**
 - Support to get training or employment
 - Support to transition from prison
 - Housing support
 - There is hardly any throughcare support
- **Community alternatives are important**
 - Curfew
 - Tag
 - Support services

5) How do we get better experiences and outcomes for children, young people and victims?

- **There needs to be more support for victims**
 - It is unfair to lock up children who have been victims
 - Group support for victims
 - Peer mentoring
 - Help people who have been victims make safety plans
- **There needs to be more information for victims**
 - Help them understand the justice process
 - Help them understand the decisions and what the outcome has been for the perpetrator
 - Give victims closure
- **Restorative Justice might help some victims**
 - Restorative justice might help victims understand and move on
 - Some children felt that restorative justice would only work when offences were not serious and did not have a personal element

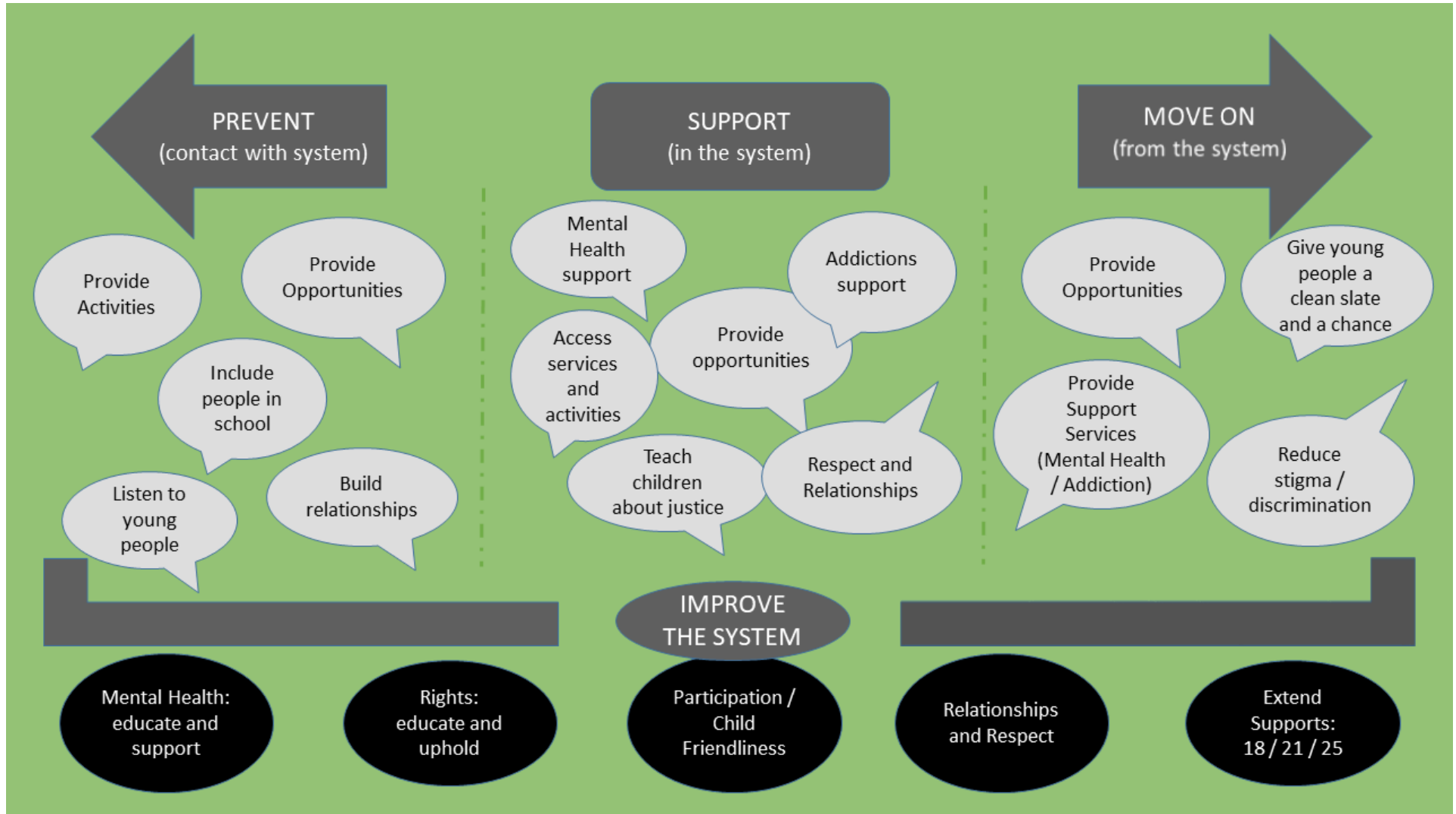
6) How do we get young people out of the justice system and on to living a better lifestyle?

- **Give children and young people education and employment opportunities**
 - Help get young people into college
 - Give young people apprenticeships and teach them a trade
 - Give targeted support for children and young people with convictions

- Give young people who have made mistakes a chance
- **Help young people to 'escape' the system**
 - Give young people a clean slate
 - Long term monitoring can feel like an extended punishment even though the person has 'done their time' and makes it difficult to move on
 - Help people move beyond their criminal records
 - Help to stop the stigma and discrimination that people with convictions face
- **Give children and young people housing and leisure opportunities**
 - Housing support for children leaving secure care or YOI
 - Children should not have to declare themselves homeless to get support
 - Children need access to gyms, sports and leisure (including driving lessons)
- **Provide children with the supports they need**
 - Mental health
 - Addictions
 - Teach children and young people life skills
 - Support young people beyond age 18 (up to 25)

Appendix 1

Summary Image of young people's views



Appendix 2

Youth Justice Strategy: Stakeholder Engagement [online survey for adults]

Background

The Youth Justice Strategy *Preventing Offending: Getting it right for children and young people* was published on June 15, 2015 and launched by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice at the annual National Youth Justice Conference later that month. The Strategy was developed with partners including the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ), Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), Local Authorities and Police Scotland.

The Strategy promotes a child-centred, preventative approach and focused on three priority themes to be taken forward jointly with key partners over the five year period from 2015-2020:

- Advancing the Whole System Approach;
- Improving Life Chances; and
- Developing Capacity and Improvement.

The Strategy reiterated the importance of responding to deeds in the context of needs and the criticality of supporting young people in line with Getting it Right for Every Child.

In 2017 an update report was published, delivering the 2016-17 Programme for Government commitment: 'We will implement our refreshed youth justice strategy: 'Preventing Offending – Getting it Right for Children and Young People'. Our priorities will be to advance the whole system approach, improving life chances and developing capacity and improvement in the workforce. We will report on progress by June 2017'. The progress report of 2017 focused on the two years' work relating to the three priority themes detailed above. The report noted that, overall, progress had been sustained over those two years and that more broadly, over a ten year period, statistics had shown an 83% reduction in children referred on offence grounds, a 64% reduction in 16 and 17 year olds in custody and a 78% reduction in the number of young people prosecuted in Scotland's courts. Further key areas of progress included engagement with community based planning partners across Scotland to highlight the value of ongoing commitment to a preventative approach to offending by young people, drawing on the voice and experiences of young people and using data and research to drive further improvement.

Next Steps – 2020 -2022

The current Strategy comes to an end in June 2020. The Scottish Government Youth Justice team are now considering the future Youth Justice priorities and a proposed Vision and Action Plan for Youth Justice to be published in Autumn 2020. The new vision is likely to include a two year rolling action plan to allow for greater flexibility and scope for change in response to changes in the context and emerging evidence. The new Vision and Action Plan will take on board the Promises from the Care Review, the findings from Claire Lightowler's Rights Respecting paper, published earlier this year, and the soon to be published Youth Justice Standards, along with views from young people, stakeholders and partners.

Engagement events had been planned in Glasgow, Aberdeen and Polmont in order to capture the views of stakeholders and hear fresh ideas and concerns from stakeholders and practitioners in order to develop the new vision and action plan. Due to recent unprecedented circumstances around COVID-19 we took the decision to cancel these events. However, we still need to use alternative methods to engage with stakeholders in order to shape our priorities for Youth Justice over the next two years.

We therefore invite you to consider and respond to the questions that follow. Please note that the information you provide is completely anonymous and will only be used to inform the development of the next strategy. If you are happy to proceed please click below.

Alternatively if you would like to discuss this over the phone then we would be happy to set up a teleconference. Please contact the Youth Justice team by e-mail at Youth.Justice@gov.scot and we will be in touch.

- I understand how my anonymous information will be used and I am happy to proceed
- I do not wish to proceed

QUESTIONS

Question 1. What do you see as the top 3 priorities for Youth Justice over the next two years? The following list are priorities which have been flagged by the Care Review, Expert Review of Mental Health in Polmont, Right's Respecting paper (detailed above) and previous feedback from partners. We also intend to keep under review the advances that have been made in youth justice in Scotland, and be alert to any new priorities that emerge post COVID-19.

Please tick three boxes only. Please add further priorities if you feel these do not cover your interests:

- Children's Rights** – Ensuring that all children and young people in Scotland have the right to life, survival and development; the right to non-discrimination; the right to express views freely; the right to have a child's best interests taken as a primary consideration in all matters affecting them.
- Data/evidence** – Gathering data and evidence in order to learn more about young people in the justice system and ensure that developments are based on evidence.
- Speech, language and communication needs** – Recognising the high incidence of communication disadvantage amongst young people in the justice system and the impact of this on their life chances.
- WSA to offending behaviour** - The Whole System Approach (WSA) is the Scottish Government's programme for addressing the needs of young people involved in offending. Underpinned by Getting it Right for Every Child, this ensures that anyone providing support puts the child or young person – and their family – at the centre.
- Depriving young people of their liberty** - Exploring alternatives to depriving young people of their liberty within secure care or a young offenders institute (YOI). Where someone under the age of 18 needs to be deprived of their liberty consideration should be given to the development of new models as per recommendations from the Justice Committee and the Expert Review of Mental Health in Polmont.
- Mental health** – Reducing barriers to good mental health for children and young people in the justice system and taking action to promote their mental health and wellbeing. Promoting resilience among young people in and leaving the justice system, making sure young people are prepared for living independently.
- Support for victims** - Ensuring victims of crime across Scotland are supported by key agencies such as Victim Support Scotland, and promoting restorative justice as an aid to rehabilitation through reconciliation with victims and the community
- 16 and 17 year olds in the hearings system** - Examining current legislation with regard to 16 and 17 year olds in the justice system, and possible amendments to

legislation to allow for ALL 16 and 17 year olds to be considered for referral to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration on offence and care and protection grounds

Other (please specify) _____

Question 2. What in your experience and knowledge are the main barriers to high-quality youth justice provision in Scotland? How might these change in the light of COVID-19?

Question 3. How do you think these barriers can be overcome and can your organisation support this work?

Question 4. Are there any other considerations we should be aware of when developing the new Vision and Action Plan?



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