

Presentation on the Irish Youth Justice Service

ESF Operational Programme for
Employability, Inclusion and Learning
2014-2020.

Programme Monitoring Committee
meeting
Friday, 11th November, 2016



Ireland's European Structural and
Investment Funds Programmes
2014-2020

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Irish Youth Justice Service
Seirbhís na hÉireann um Cheartas I leith an Aosa Óig





Overview IYJS



- The remit of the IYJS is to improve the delivery of youth justice services and reduce youth offending.
- This challenge is met by focusing on diversion and rehabilitation involving greater use of community-based interventions and the promotion of initiatives to deal with young people who offend.
- Providing a safe and secure environment for detained children and supporting their early re-integration back into the community is also a key function.
- The key stakeholders supporting IYJS in its work include An Garda Síochána, Probation Service, Courts Service, TUSLA, HSE, the management and staff of community based organisations delivering Garda Youth Diversion Projects and Young Person Probation Community Projects and the Children Detention Schools.

Overview (contd.)

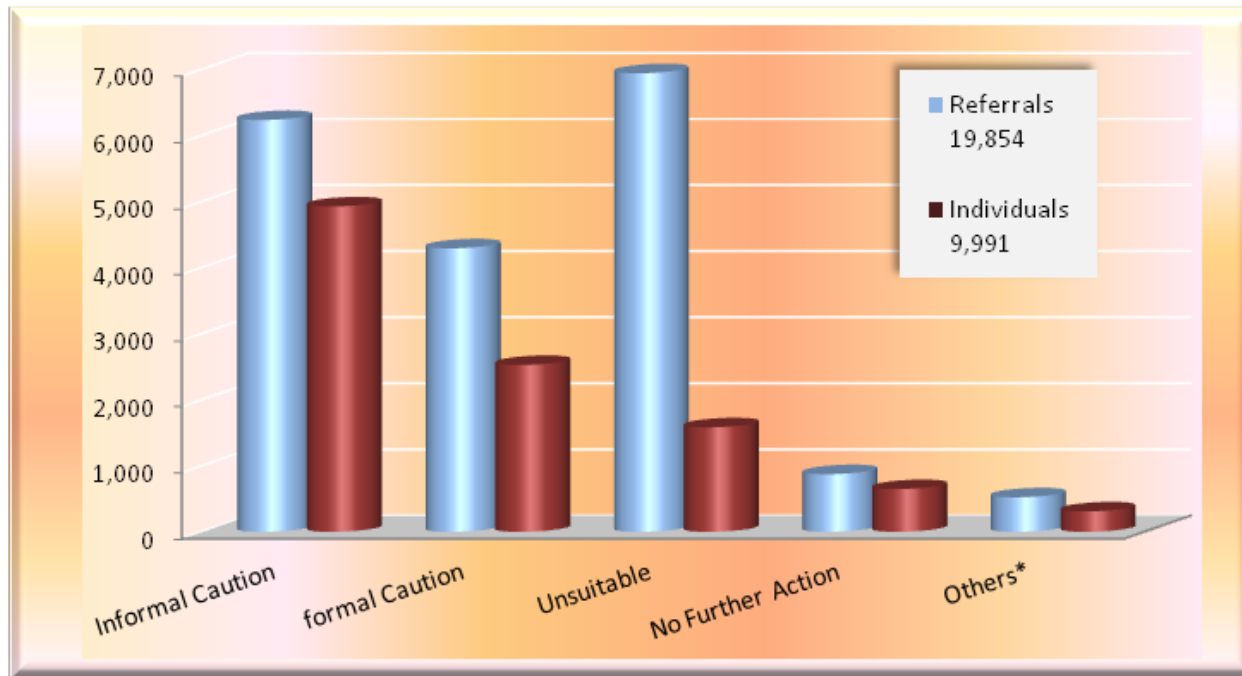
- Funding support for the youth justice community interventions is based on evidence that diversion programmes in the form of high quality preventative intervention can do more to reduce crime than more costly custodial options.
- Just under €17 million has been allocated to IYJS Community Programmes in 2016.
 - €11.550m is allocated to deliver the GYDPs (incorporating Local Drugs Task Force Projects).
 - Nearly €5 million is allocated to Young Persons Probation Community Projects in 2016.
 - From 2015, GYDP and some YPP have been be co-funded under the PEIL of the European Social Fund 2014-2020.
 - It is expected that 50% of an €84 million spend over the course of PEIL will be recouped to the Department from the ESF.

Children Act 2001

- The statutory framework for the youth justice area is set out in the Children Act 2001.
- The Act focuses on preventing criminal behaviour, diversion from the criminal justice system and rehabilitation.
- The use of detention for a child is to be a last resort; the Act requires that all avenues be explored before it is used.

YOUTH CRIME STATISTICS IN IRELAND

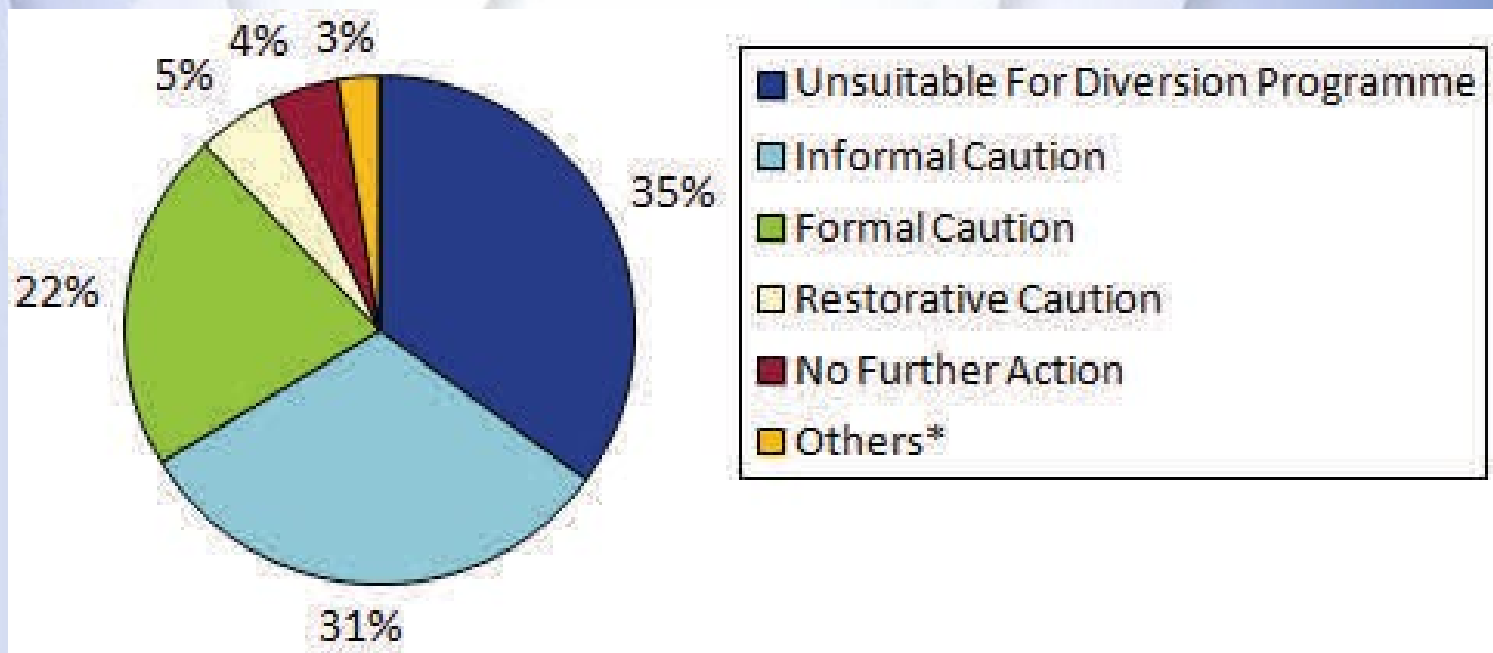
2014 Diversion Programme – Case Decisions (Referrals & Individuals)



Number of Referrals per Young person 2014

Number of Referrals	Total	2014	
		Male	Female
1only	7,020	71%	29%
2-3 referrals	1,917	82%	18%
4-5 referrals	481	84%	16%
6 or more	573	92%	8%
Total	9,991	75%	25%

YOUTH CRIME STATISTICS IN IRELAND

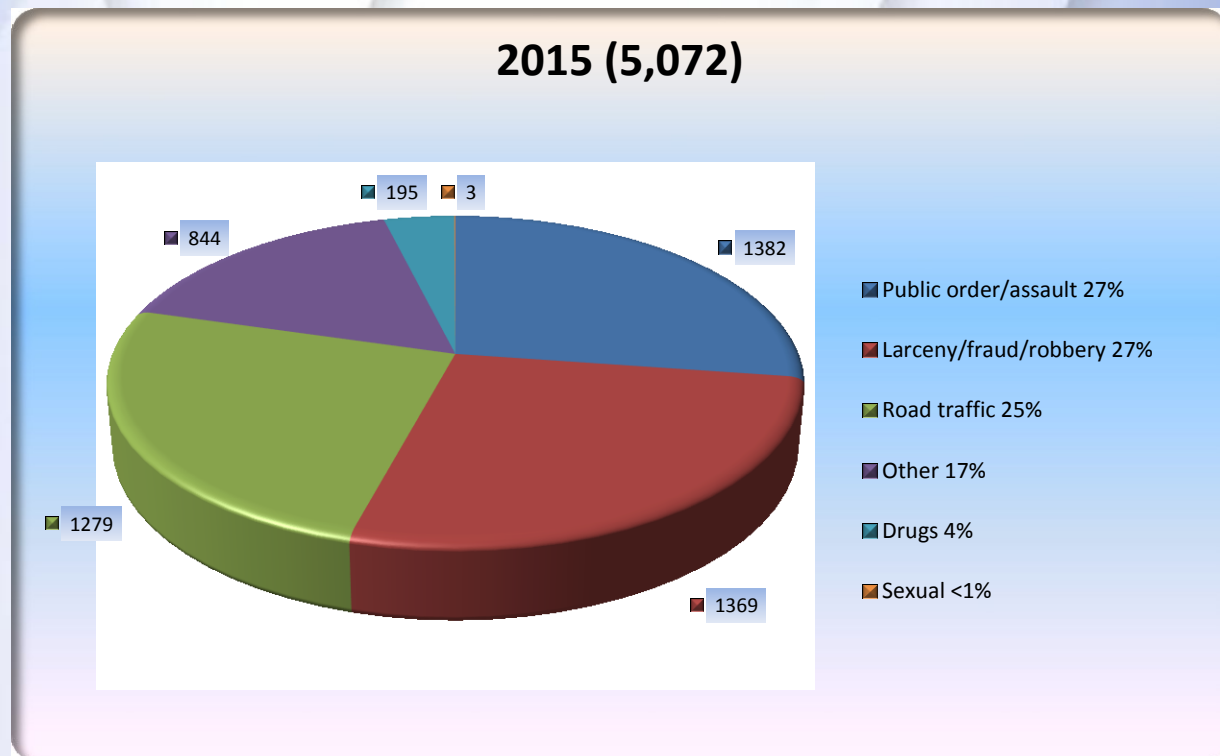


YOUTH CRIME STATISTICS IN IRELAND 2014

- Theft and Related Offences 5,654 = 28.5%
- Public Order Social Code Offences 4,669 = 23.5%
- Road Traffic Offences 25%

YOUTH CRIME STATISTICS IN IRELAND 2014

Type of Offences before the Children's' Court 2015



IYJS – Children and Youth Affairs

- The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs is responsible for the Children Detention School Campus at Oberstown, Lusk, Co. Dublin which provide detention places to the Courts for girls up to the age of 18 years and boys up to the age of 17 years ordered to be remanded or committed on criminal charges.

IYJS – Justice and Equality key responsibilities

- The Minister for Justice and Equality is responsible for youth crime policy and legislation, including crime prevention/reduction/detection, criminal proceedings, diversion and diversion projects, community sanctions and Probation community projects.
- The Minister is also responsible for dealings with An Garda Síochána and the Probation Service on youth crime issues as well as responsibility via the Irish Prison Service for children in adult prison facilities.

Responsibility for Youth Justice Policy

“Tackling Youth Crime, a Youth Justice Action Plan 2014-2018”

- In 2014, the “Tackling Youth Crime, a Youth Justice Action Plan 2014-2018” was launched.
- This Plan was developed in consultation with stakeholders involving representatives from the Department of Justice and Equality, An Garda Síochána; Courts Service; Probation Service; Tusla; the National Education Welfare Board; and Board of Management of the Children Detention Schools, Youth Justice workers and Managers attached to the Garda Youth Diversion Projects.
- The views of young people have also informed the development of the Plan.

WHO DECIDES IF A YOUNG PERSON IS SUITABLE OR NOT?

The decision to include a person in the Diversion Programme is made by a Garda Superintendent at the Garda Youth Diversion Office who is known as the Director of the Programme.

In making the decision the Director may consider the :

- nature of the offence
- views of the victim
- interests of society
- views of the arresting Garda
- views of the JLO
- attitude and views of the young person who offended
- views of the young person's parents or guardian, and
- whether an apology has been made
- whether or not something can be done to repair any harm caused
- the child's previous involvement in the programme.

INCLUSION IN THE GARDA DIVERSION PROGRAMME

- Before a young person can be considered suitable for being cautioned and included in the Diversion Programme, there are a number of criteria that must be fulfilled.
- The young person must:
 - take responsibility for the offending behaviour,
 - agree to be cautioned,
 - where appropriate agree to terms of supervision.

INCLUSION IN THE GARDA DIVERSION PROGRAMME

- 648 (6%) children required no further Garda action to be taken
- 1,582 (16%) children were considered not suitable for inclusion in the Programme
- 25% of children who were referred to the Programme were female while 75% were male
- The Garda Programme of Restorative Justice continued to develop.

Garda Youth Diversion Projects

**Youth Crime Policy and Programmes
Irish Youth Justice Service
Department of Justice and Equality
43 – 49 Mespil Road
Dublin 4**

**Garda Youth Diversion Office
Harcourt Sq.
Dublin 2**



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Overview of YCPP Division and the work of a Garda Youth Diversion project

- The GYDPs operate as a support to the Garda Diversion Programme and the network of Juvenile Liaison Officers across the country.
- The projects are particularly targeted at 12-17 year old "at risk" youths.

Overview youth crime intervention work

- The purpose of youth crime intervention work is to engage young people in a process of learning and development that enables them to make positive lifestyle choices.
- The youth justice system through its community based projects targets early interventions to address those at risk of offending behaviour through the Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDPs) and the Garda Diversion Programme and links with other service providers in supporting pro-social messages to young people.

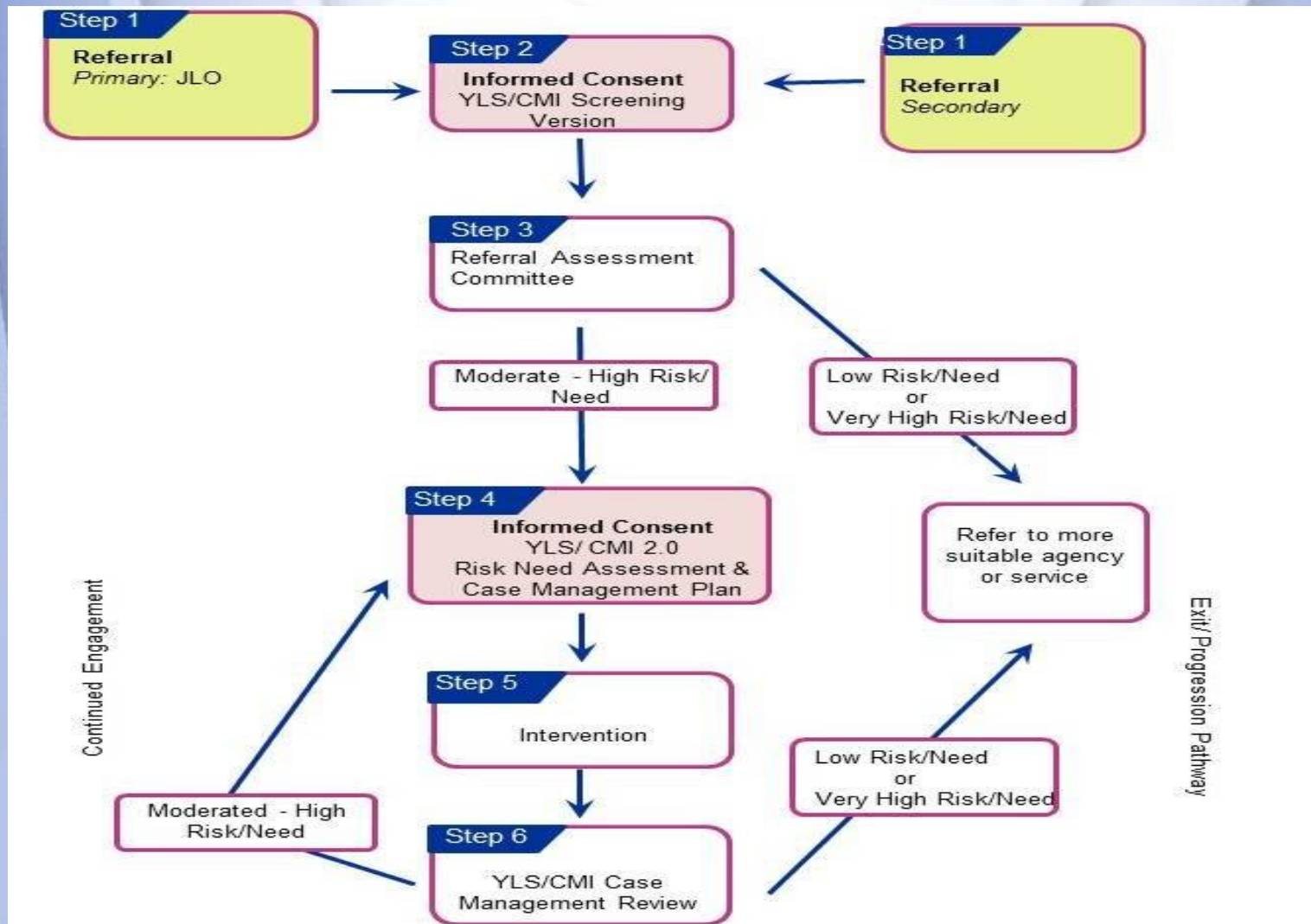
Department of Justice and Equality Youth Crime Policy and Programmes Division and the work of the Garda Youth Diversion Projects

The Department manages 106 Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDPs) nationwide. GYDPs are community-based, multi-agency crime prevention initiatives, which seek to provide focussed and effective interventions to young people coming to the attention of An Garda Síochána who are at risk of or who have become involved in offending behaviour.

Department of Justice and Equality Youth Crime Policy and Programmes Division and the work of the Garda Youth Diversion Projects

- The main aim of the GYDPs is to engage with young people (aged 12-17) at risk of/or involved in anti-social and/or criminal behaviour and provide them with targeted supports designed to enable these young people to stop their offending and become positive contributors to society.
- The GYDPs offer their young participants opportunities for education, employment training, sport, art, music and other activities.

Assessment & Case Planning



The risks/needs identified are based around assessing a young persons risk/needs in eight areas of their lives.

- 1. Prior and current offences and dispositions
- 2. Family circumstances and parenting
- 3. Education and employment
- 4. Peer relations
- 5. Substance use
- 6. Leisure and recreation
- 7. Personality and behaviour
- 8. Attitudes and orientation



Youth Justice Workers

- There are over 300 GYDP Youth Justice Workers nationally
- The gender breakdown is approximately females (69%) and males (31%)

DATA COLLECTION

- On Referral
- Disengagement
- Voluntary Nature of engagement
- Difficulties encountered
- Administrative Burden
- Perception by participants
- Sensitive Data

Pat Murray Irish Youth Justice Service

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