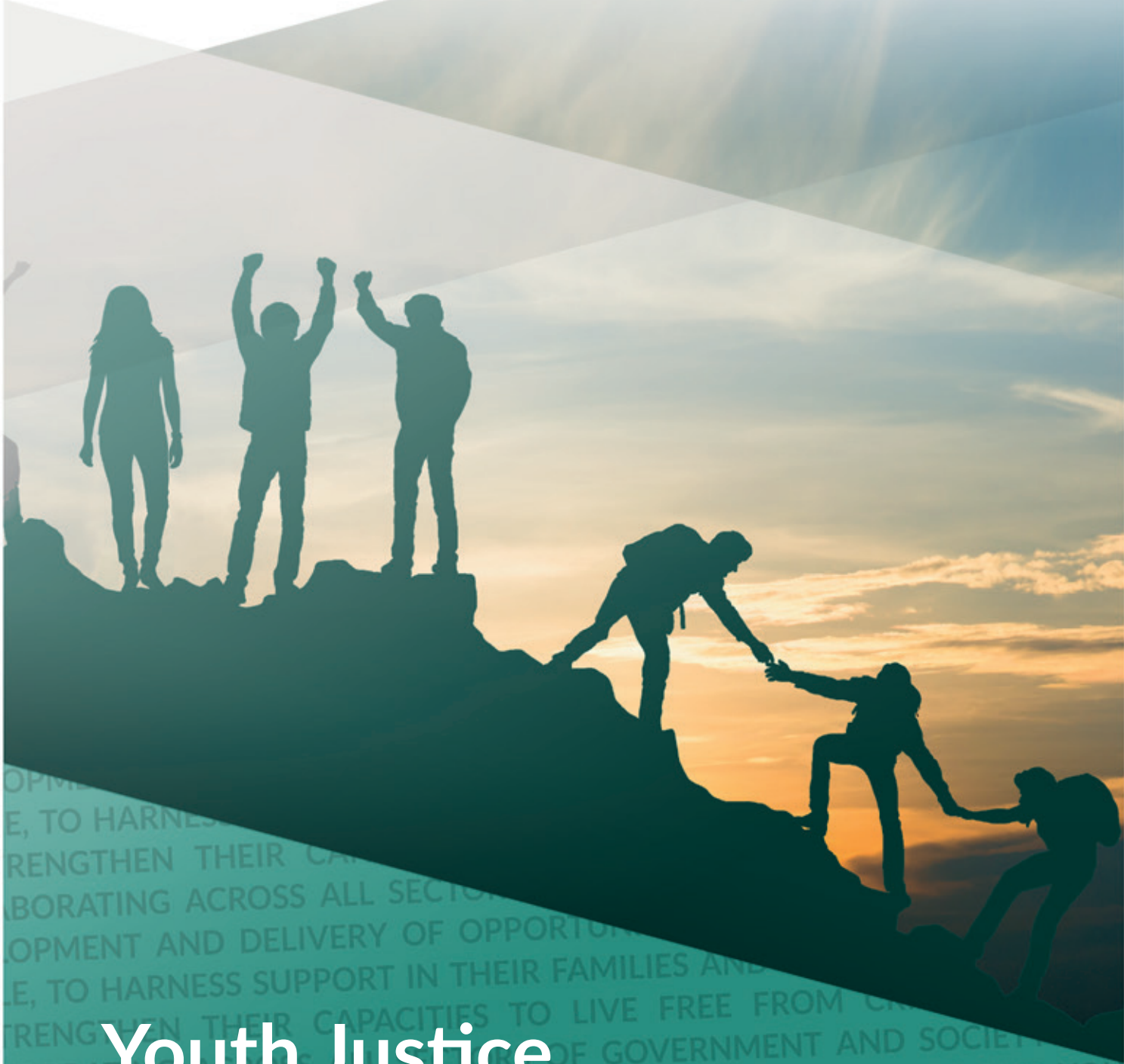




An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice



Youth Justice Strategy

2021 – 2027

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Youth Justice Strategy

2021 – 2027



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Department of Justice



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An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice

Foreword

I am delighted to present a new Youth Justice Strategy for 2021-2027. This Strategy follows on from, the 2008 Youth Justice Strategy and the subsequent “*Tackling Youth Crime: Youth Justice Action Plan 2014-2018.*” As part of the suite of publications accompanying the launch of the Strategy, UCC have provided us with an important study which looks back at the progress achieved under the Youth Justice Action Plan, and the ongoing challenges which remain. This Strategy is designed to provide a developmental framework to address those key challenges and including new and emerging issues.

An expert Steering Group was convened in February 2019, The group was tasked with advising and guiding the development of the new Strategy, and considered the full range of issues connected to children and young people at risk of coming into contact with the criminal justice system, from early intervention and preventative work, including family support, diversion from crime, through to court processes and facilities, supervision of offenders, detention and reintegration and support post release.

Key principles underlining the Strategy are linked to the standards endorsed by the international community as required to uphold children’s rights. In this context, we are also publishing to accompany the Strategy a summary of the International Context for the development and implementation of those essential principles.

The first National Youth Justice Strategy 2008-2010 focused on children who already had some contact with the criminal justice system and aimed to provide a coordinated approach among agencies working in the youth justice system. Going forward, we still need to focus attention on children in contact with the Justice system, to examine more closely, why a proportion of young

offenders go on to become adult offenders, and how this can be better addressed.

Research shows strong links between youth offending and socio-economic circumstances, as well as child and family welfare issues. Offending behaviour can’t be considered in isolation. A key focus this Strategy is considering how youth justice policy might be more closely aligned to other child and youth polices and to promotion of community and local development.

For me, a key priority is prevention and early intervention. I can’t stress enough the importance of bringing all the relevant agencies and programmes together, including schools, to ensure that we provide a holistic, ‘wrap around’ response to the needs of children and young people at risk in the specific family and community context. And, ideally, we should be engaging young people at risk before they enter the justice system.

Young people should have the benefit of a ‘no wrong door’ experience – if a family or a young person engages any service, there should also be accessible pathways to other services and supports that they might need.

As the saying goes, ‘it takes a village to raise a child’. I think it’s safe to say the same can be said

for effective crime diversion. One of the key challenges we face at the moment is the fragmented delivery of services.

The Commission on the Future of Policing Report has recommended that a multi-agency approach is required to deliver an effective policing service that can best protect vulnerable people. I believe the same principle applies to youth justice. To finish the jigsaw, all the pieces in the puzzle must fit together.

I would like to thank the Steering Group for their expert knowledge and insight while guiding the development of this strategy. I would like to thank the many individuals and organisations that gave their time to participate in meetings and forums to help develop the strategy. I would like to acknowledge the work done by the officials of my Department in collaboration with UCC in writing and developing the strategy. I am delighted also to pay tribute to my predecessor, David Stanton TD, under whose initiative and leadership the drafting of this Strategy commenced.

James Browne T.D.

*Minister of State
at the Department of Justice
with special responsibility for Law Reform*

Glossary of Abbreviations

ACTS	Assessment Consultation Therapy Service
AGS	An Garda Síochána
Bar Council	The Bar Council and Law Library of Ireland
BOBF	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CoFPI	Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland
CYPSC	Children and Young People's Services Committees
DCEDIY	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
DE	Department of Education
DFHERIS	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Science
DHPLG	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
DoH	Department of Health
DoJ (NI)	Department of Justice (Northern Ireland)
DoJ	Department of Justice
DRCD	Department of Rural and Community Development
ETB	Education and Training Board
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
Greentown	The Greentown Project
GSG	Governance and Strategy Group
GYDP	Garda Youth Diversion Project
HSE	Health Service Executive
IHREC	The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014
IPS	Irish Prison Service
Law Society	The Law Society of Ireland
LCDC	Local Community Development Committees
LDTF	Local Drugs Task Force
LSRA	Legal Services Regulatory Authority
NEIC	Dublin North East Inner City
Oberstown	Oberstown Children Detention Campus
ODPP	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
Probation	The Probation Service
PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
REPPP	Research Evidence into Policy Programmes and Practice
UCC	University College Cork
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
YJARC	Youth Joint Agency Response to Crime
YPP	Young Persons Probation

Vision statement

Collaborating across all sectors of government and society in the development and delivery of opportunities for children and young people, to harness support in their families and communities in order to strengthen their capacities to live free from crime and harm.



Guiding Principles

These guiding principles are intended to inform the new Irish Youth Justice Strategy as a whole. They aim to provide a lens through which youth justice policy is to be understood, delivered, assessed and monitored. These fundamental principles are grounded in a commitment to uphold the rights of children and young people, while acknowledging the impact of offending on society and victims of crime in particular. They reflect Ireland's international obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and other international instruments, as described in "International Context Overview" in Appendix 3 of the Strategy.

These principles are consistent the Equality and Human Rights

duties of public bodies provided in section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 and they are also aligned with the imperatives to protect human rights and prevent harm, highlighted in the Report of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland (CoFPI). These imperatives apply both in relation to communities affected by crime, and to young people who are vulnerable to criminal influence. Equally the principles support the vision contained in "Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures – the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020" (BOBF), in particular that the rights of children and young people are respected, protected and fulfilled, their voices are heard and they are supported to realise their potential.

Children and Young People

- ▶ respect for their rights, in a way that strengthens their capacity for positive participation in community life, and that reinforces respect for the human rights and freedoms of others.
- ▶ The development of policies, programmes and systems will be informed by the voices of children and young people, (including those who have and who have not had contact with the criminal justice system).
- ▶ The right of children and young people to be heard will be upheld and they will be supported to participate effectively at all stages of any contact they may have with the youth justice system.
- ▶ Young people should be diverted from the formal youth justice





system to the greatest extent possible, with due regard for the welfare of communities and society in general.

Measures

- ▶ Measures, programmes and interventions included in this Strategy, (including mainstream services) will aim to uphold the best interests of children and young people, take a collaborative approach to service delivery and involve parents, guardians and families as far as possible and as appropriate to the situation in each case.
- ▶ Measures will aim to provide support at the earliest opportunity (ideally before offending behaviour occurs), address the underlying causes of offending behaviours, and maximise opportunities to avoid or divert from interaction with the criminal justice system.
- ▶ Procedures, decisions and measures should be

proportionate and appropriate for young people, and carried out and implemented without undue delay and with regard to a young person's sense of time.

- ▶ Measures and interventions should cause as little interference as possible with the child's legitimate activities and pursuits, should take the form most likely to maintain and promote the development of the child and should take the least restrictive form that is appropriate in the circumstances.
- ▶ Detention is a measure of last resort.

Victims of Crime

- ▶ Victims of crime, including child victims of crime, and those who have themselves become criminalised, should have an opportunity to have their voices heard, and, where appropriate, to take part in restorative processes.

System

- ▶ A system-wide collaborative approach involving all relevant agencies and community partners and led by the Department of Justice will underpin the implementation of this Strategy.
- ▶ The capacities of professionals working with young people in youth justice and early intervention will be developed through promoting and encouraging specialisation and training.
- ▶ The implementation of all aspects of this Strategy will be delivered in a transparent and accountable manner aligned with other existing and forthcoming policy statements to maximise synergies and effectiveness.
- ▶ Research, data collection and the best collective use of research capabilities will be strongly supported to ensure an evidence base for the continuing development of Irish youth justice policy and practice.

Purpose, Context and Scope

This Strategy is intended to provide a developmental framework, with which all stakeholders can engage in a meaningful collaborative partnership. The framework is intended to allow for flexibility to respond to emerging issues and developments, as well the broader utilisation and development of appropriate structures and systems. It will be a living document and will be kept under review. Annual progress reports will be prepared and published.

The Strategy is intended to support alignment and coordination between youth justice systems and programmes. This requires alignment and complementarity with other strategic instruments across many sectors of Government and Society. There are links to many strategies which aim to address disadvantage or the situation of particular groups in society. Rather than try to list the possible links to other Strategies, it is emphasised that the Objectives and Actions described in this Strategy will be approached as part of the State's efforts to supporting the welfare of Children and Young Adults and local communities. Therefore, alignment and complementarity with the next iteration of the Better Outcomes Brighter Futures (BOBF) Policy Framework and the Community Safety Strategy which is being developed to support implementation of the CoFPI recommendations, are identified as key reference points.

In keeping with the parameters for the BOBF Framework, this Strategy seeks to address the situation of children and young people in relation to offending from early childhood to early adulthood (up to 24 years of age.)

The availability of resources will, of course, guide what can be achieved, and it is also recognised that agencies and funded bodies have existing priorities and limitations on what they can do, usually based on legislation or funding agreements. The intention of this Strategy is to help maximise what we can achieve collectively, working with those limitations, and to highlight ways that we can fill gaps or overcome barriers which hinder progress.

Disadvantage and Diversity

Multiple disadvantage often underlies involvement of children and young people with the Criminal Justice System. Diversity issues are also significant and therefore the strategy emphasises the need for State and State-funded services to engage effectively with the range of community, family and personal circumstances applying to each child or young person. These may include but are not limited to Poverty, Children and Young People in State Care, Travellers and other Ethnic Communities, Mental Health, Neuro-Diversity, Homelessness, Children of Prisoners, Childhood Trauma, Coercive Control, Addiction, Gender Differences, Disability, Differences in Maturity and

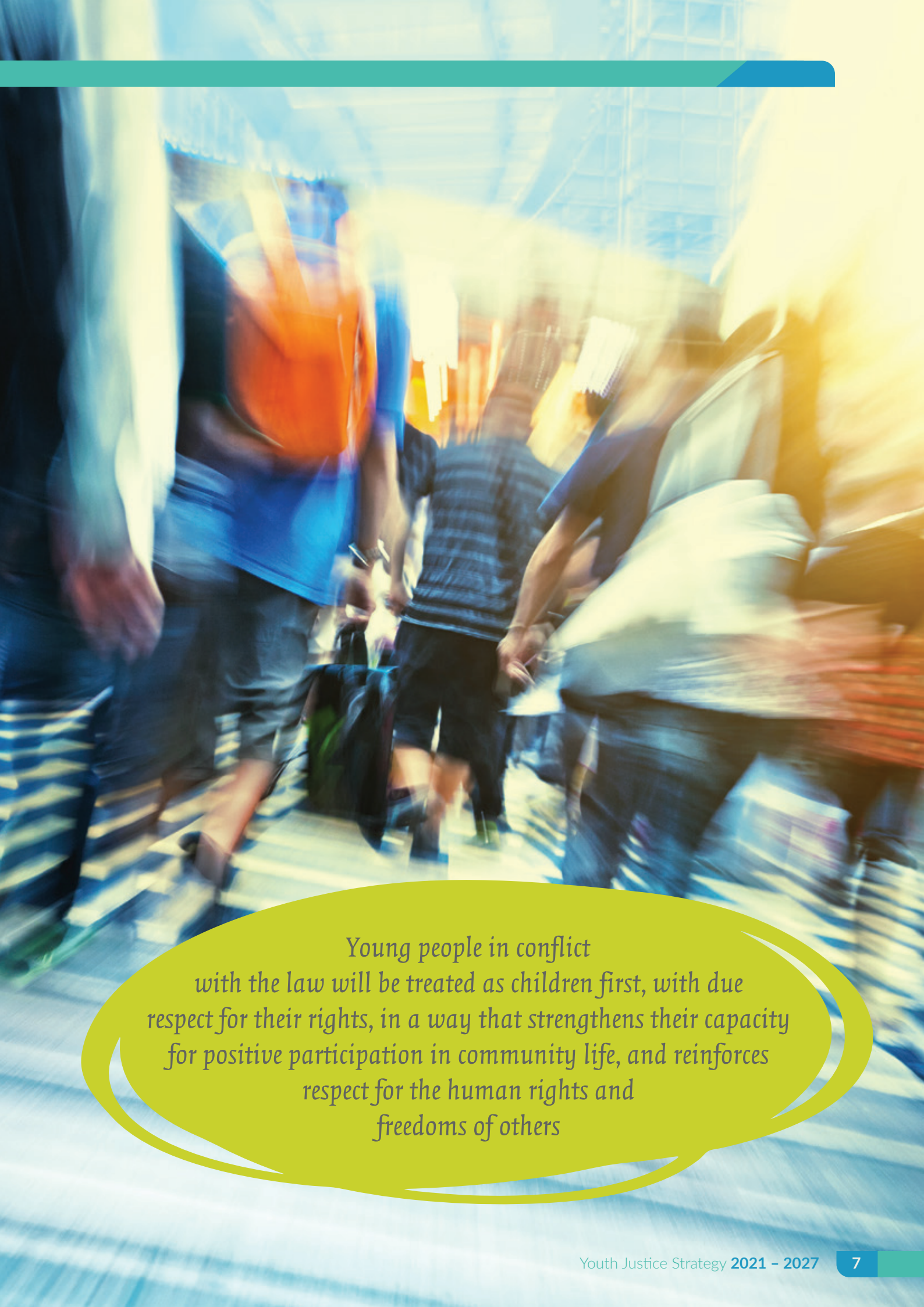
Individual Learning abilities.

References in this document to "disadvantage" should be understood in this context. Furthermore, it is intended that monitoring and assessment of the implementation of this Strategy will look further at particular areas or categories of disadvantage, (Strategic Objective 1.2) aligned with learning from implementation structures for related strategies and policies, (Strategic Objective 1.3).

Multiple disadvantage often underlies involvement of children and young people with the Criminal Justice System.

Expert and Community Partners

Community-based organisations (CBOs) play a vital role in delivering important public services to children and young people. In particular, the CBOs and their youth justice workers who operate Garda Youth Diversion Projects, are essential partners in the delivery of this Strategy. They can also provide crucial links to other community services based on their local knowledge and contact networks.



*Young people in conflict
with the law will be treated as children first, with due
respect for their rights, in a way that strengthens their capacity
for positive participation in community life, and reinforces
respect for the human rights and
freedoms of others*



Equally, expert professionals have a crucial role to support children and young people who are vulnerable to involvement in offending behaviour. These include professionals working in education, child and family services, community development, youth services, restorative practice and many therapeutic professionals, to name but a few. Their work is crucial to preventative and early intervention measures and to support, where appropriate, youth diversion measures and the work of, lawyers, Gardaí, Probation Officers, the Courts and others directly involved in the operation of the Criminal Justice system.

Professional Bodies (and Networks) and CBOs have an essential role in the ongoing development of services and they need to be included in many aspects of service design and delivery. It is

intended that the oversight and monitoring arrangements which are outlined in Objectives 1.1 and 1.2 of the implementation of this Strategy will engage with specialist professional opinion and CBO networks on an ongoing basis.

Implementing the Youth Justice Strategy

Objective 1.1 and Appendix 2 outline governance and oversight structures for the implementation of the Youth Justice Strategy. An important aspect of the oversight function will be to ensure coherence between actions pursued under this Strategy and other national strategies, and coherence within broader policy frameworks, particularly the next iteration of the BOBF national policy framework and the Community Safety Strategy which will form a

key focus for implementation of the recommendations of CoFPI. In this context, it is not possible to describe the full detail of the Governance and Oversight arrangements, as these will continue to develop in parallel with related strategic policy initiatives.

Mindful of such cross-sectoral developments, the Strategy does not prescribe particular mechanisms or procedures to govern interagency cooperation in service planning and delivery. Rather, it tries to provide a framework to support cooperative solutions which are practical and appropriate to local areas. This could involve diverse approaches depending on local circumstances and the nature of existing coordination arrangements.

An initial Implementation Statement is included at Appendix

3 of the Strategy. This includes immediate priorities to kick-start implementation, but more detailed implementation plans will be developed and updated under the guidance of the Governance and Strategy Group. It is also intended that

- ▶ an annual update of the Implementation Statement will be published.
- ▶ a mid-term review of progress (after three years) will be carried out.

Continuing stakeholder engagement will be a feature of the implementation of the Strategy, and will be integrated into the governance and oversight arrangements, see Appendix 2.

Contribution to Outcomes

The Strategy document does not provide detailed consideration of intended outcomes under each action. The overall outcome intended is to reduce harm in communities (including harm to children and young people) by

- ▶ reducing the numbers of children and young people who engage in or are vulnerable to engagement in crime
- ▶ minimising their involvement with the Criminal Justice System
- ▶ supporting their personal development

For the children and young people concerned, this Strategy will support the intended outcomes which are identified in the current BOBF Framework -

- ▶ Active and healthy with physical and mental well being
- ▶ Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development
- ▶ Safe and protected from harm
- ▶ Have economic security and opportunity
- ▶ Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Many of the strategic objectives are developmental in character and will require considerable collaborative efforts between Departments, State Agencies and the Community Sector. There

are also significant overlaps and alignments with other strategies and policies relating to children and young people. In this context the Strategy emphasises ongoing evidence based monitoring of youth justice systems, (and related initiatives) to better assess their contribution and effectiveness, linked as appropriate to learning from other related strategies and policies.

Emerging Needs and Changing Circumstances

This Strategy attempts to distil the major priorities identified from engagement with a wide range of stakeholders and a public consultation process. However, it is recognised that circumstances may change and new issues and priorities may emerge over time. Therefore the oversight, monitoring and implementation arrangements will accommodate any relevant changes in emphasis or priority that may be required (Strategic Objective 1.11).



Youth Justice Strategy

Thematic Objectives

The objectives and actions to be pursued under the strategy are presented under three broad thematic areas.



1 Governance Monitoring and Support

We will provide effective Governance, Monitoring and Support for policy implementation and the continuing evidence-informed development of practice and programmes.

2 Services and Communication with Children and Young People

We will provide services for children and young people who come in contact with the Criminal Justice System, or who are in situations more likely to give rise to offending behaviour, to support positive life choices and desistance from offending behaviour. We will also ensure ongoing assessment of effective practices as part of dedicated youth justice monitoring systems.

3 Criminal Justice System and Processes

We will conduct Criminal Justice Processes to, as far as possible, support children and young people to refrain from offending and make positive life choices.



1

Governance Monitoring and Support

*We will provide effective Governance,
Monitoring and Support for policy implementation
and the continuing evidence-informed development
of practice and programmes.*

Oversight Structures

Strategic Objective 1.1

We will provide enhanced oversight of youth justice policy and its implementation to ensure that a strong ongoing focus on addressing the factors underlying crime and antisocial behaviour, diversion away from crime and criminal justice processes which, as far as possible, promote desistance for further offending.

WHAT - Key Actions

1.1.1 - We will establish a national Governance and Strategy Group (GSG), chaired by DoJ, for youth justice, comprising of senior officials from Departments, Agencies with relevant expert participation as appropriate. This Group will guide the implementation of the Youth Justice Strategy, driving cooperation between key agencies.

1.1.2 - The GSG will develop a more detailed Governance Framework, using the model in Appendix 2 as a starting point, to ensure ongoing alignment with the BOBF Framework and encompass broader stakeholder engagement (including with children and young people), as well as specific oversight arrangements for:

- a) monitoring / review of legislative measures to address grooming to children for criminal purposes
- b) Greentown programme including pilot implementation (2.8.1)
- c) Bail Supervision Scheme (2.8.1. and 3.1)
- d) development of Y-JARC approach (2.8.1)
- e) development of specialised community based projects for hard-to-reach children and young people (2.8.1)
- f) other approaches to support those who are most vulnerable to becoming involved in serious offending, or at risk of radicalisation.

1.1.3 - Further Governance proposals to support the implementation of the Strategy will be developed, including consideration of a dedicated youth justice service which would interact with national and local structures and the possibilities of co-location or co-delivery of services by relevant agencies, professionals, and community partners, as well as the interaction of youth justice services with local service coordination structures.

1.1.4 - The work of the GSG and the related Governance Framework will be supported by a dedicated research-based facility, based on the existing strategic partnership model with the University of Limerick (REPPP project) and the work of the existing Diversion Monitoring Committee (established under section 44 of the Children Act), will be subsumed into these arrangements. See also 1.2 and Appendix 1, (paragraph 3.3).

1.1.5 - A mid-term review of implementation of the Strategy will be carried out after three years.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

DoJ (Chair), DCEDIY, DoH, DES, DRCD, AGS, Tusla, Oberstown, Probation Service, IPS, HSE, other State bodies, as required, with expert and community partners.

Oversight Support

Strategic Objective 1.2

We will continue the UL REPPP as a research partnership for youth justice, to support implementation of this Strategy and carry out an agreed work programme, including action research and cooperative engagement with service delivery and coordination mechanisms to monitor progress, identify difficulties and help assess the contribution of youth justice policies and programmes in pursuit of the Vision and overall Outcomes described in this Strategy.

WHAT - Key Actions

- 1.2.1** – Support and develop the REPPP as a strategic partnership with the Department of Justice for youth justice issues.
- 1.2.2** – Agree initial work-programme to inform the work of GSG and Governance Framework, through research on complex problems and assessment of the effectiveness of policy implementation, including:
- a) develop options for better national and local coordination, of youth justice services including co-location
 - b) highlight effective interagency collaboration as it relates to youth justice
 - c) design of pilot/trial initiatives
 - d) development of appropriate area-based (City or County) assessments of policy implementation as it relates to youth justice
 - e) studies of particular thematic issues (e.g. Crossover between care and youth justice systems) including a focus on the effects of multiple disadvantage
 - f) support the ongoing development of effective practices in Diversion Projects, including through action research and the dedicated Best Practice Development Team working together
 - g) facilitate sharing of best practices and development of collaborative communities of practice, including innovative programmes (e.g. Planet Youth) and informed by the What Works initiative in relation to thematic areas such as hard-to-reach groups, mentoring, mental health, access to training and employment, including social enterprise
 - h) enhance communication and collaboration (via CYPSCs and other structures) between Diversion Projects and schools, Youthreach, Youth Encounter Projects or other alternative education services, Drugs Task Force Projects and other community based programmes
 - i) align Diversion Project activities, as appropriate, with community development, employment and training strategies and supports (including apprenticeships, traineeships and social enterprises.)
 - j) effective engagement with under 12s and appropriate family supports (aligned with and not duplicating other services)
 - k) support improved practices for schools, to retain children in the education system who's behaviour may bring them in contact with the youth justice system
 - l) Approaches to effective engagement and diversion for the 18-24 years age group.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

DoJ – working with other relevant Departments, and expert and community partners

National Policies

Strategic Objective 1.3

We will ensure that oversight of policy development and implementation take full account of the situation of children and young people in situations more likely to give rise to offending behaviour, and their families, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of policies programmes and practices, and with regard to duties arising from section 42 of the IHREC Act 2014, and aligned with the reform agenda contained in "Our Public Service 2020".

WHAT - Key Actions

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

1.3.1 - We will work collaboratively to ensure that the prevention of harm relating to offending behaviour is mainstreamed into Government policies affecting children, young people and their families, including through:

1.3.1 DoJ working with other Departments as appropriate.

- a) the development of a successor framework to "Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures – the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020" (BOBF),
- b) the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland
- c) the implementation of other national policies and strategies including, but not limited to drug and substance misuse, mental health, community development, employment and training.

1.3.2 - We will engage with Departments and Agencies in Northern Ireland to enhance cooperation and share evidence of effective approaches, including in relation to early intervention and diversion as well as policing, probation and criminal justice systems.

1.3.2 DoJ, with DCEDIY, Oberstown, AGS, Probation Service, and counterpart agencies in Northern Ireland.

1.3.3 - Develop information and communications material and projects to illustrate key issues connected with youth justice to help inform public debate and opinion (e.g. misuse of vehicles, substance misuse, effects of trauma, understanding neurodiversity).

1.3.3 DoJ, DCEDIY, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

Coordinated Services

Strategic Objective 1.4

We will develop effective systems, aligned with the reform agenda contained in "Our Public Service 2020", for collaboration by agencies and funding programmes in the design of youth justice services, coordinated at the point of delivery, designed around the needs of children and young people rather than agency responsibilities and funding lines, with a strong oversight and governance structure to promote coherence and effectiveness.

WHAT - Key Actions


WHO- State Bodies /Partners

1.4.1 - We will enhance the coordination, design and delivery of services to increase accessibility of Prevention and Early Intervention services to children and young people in situations that are more likely to give rise to offending, particularly in situations where it is more difficult for services to engage. This will include examining the contribution which the following elements can make:

DoJ working with other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

- a) existing coordination structures such as LCDCs, CYPSCs, Local Drugs Task Forces (LDTFs)
- b) guidelines or codes of practice for relevant programmes and agencies;
- c) development of integrated area plans to which funders and service providers are required to adhere (NEIC model)
- d) designating a preferred community and voluntary sector partner to help respond to local needs ('CoFPI' model)

with the support of action research evidence through REPPP.



We will involve children and young people as active partners in the development of systems and programmes

Voices of Children and Young People

Strategic Objective 1.5

We will ensure that programme and service planning and design and operation takes proper account of the views of children and young people, in accordance with best available practice.

WHAT - Key Actions

- 1.5.1** – We will involve children and young people as active partners in the development of systems and programmes and document how this is done in reports from Departments and agencies.
- 1.5.2** – We will involve service users as active partners in the monitoring and development of the operation of youth justice projects and programmes.
- 1.5.3** – We will involve children and young people as active partners in the monitoring and development of the operation of detention facilities, including in Garda Stations and Oberstown Children Detention Campus, and in relation to transitions to adult facilities.
- 1.5.4** – We will incorporate monitoring of consultation with children and young people into the monitoring systems for this Strategy as per the processes involved in BOBF (see also 1.1.2 and 1.3.1).

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

DoJ working with DCEDIY and other GSG bodies, expert and community partners.

Legislation

Strategic Objective 1.6

We will provide statutory backing for collaboration between agencies based on principles of the best interest of children and young people.

WHAT - Key Actions

- 1.6.1** – We will explore how best to establish a positive duty for agencies to cooperate in relation to all children at risk, including those in situations more likely to give rise to offending behaviour and for necessary data sharing arrangements. We will ensure that any relevant proposals for amendments to the Children Act and the Child Care Act and the provisions of the new Community Safety legislation, are appropriately aligned to achieve this aim.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

DoJ, in partnership with consultation DCEDIY, GSG bodies and other Departments and agencies as required.

Strategic Objective 1.7

We will amend the update the Children Act 2001 as required (and other legislation as necessary) to give effect to the objectives in this Strategy, aligned with reforms to the Child Care Acts and forthcoming community safety legislation.

WHAT - Key Actions

- 1.7.1** – We will finalise provisions (already in preparation) to replace suspended sentences for those under 18.
- 1.7.2** – We will incorporate the indicative schedule of amendments in Appendix 1 into draft legislative proposals and work collaboratively to refine the full detail of amendments, as well as any necessary supporting regulations or guidelines.
- 1.7.3** – We will carry out a detailed stakeholder consultation process to help refine the legislative reforms for the Children Act.
- 1.7.4** – We will finalise a full package of amendments to the Children Act, to give effect to this Strategy detailing alignment with Child Care Acts and Community Safety legislation.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

DoJ in consultation other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

Training and Front-line Support

Strategic Objective 1.8

We will work to enhance the capacity of all those working directly with young people (and their families) to provide appropriate support and guidance, particularly in relation vulnerability to offending behaviour – including child and family and health services, education, Garda and other Justice sector services, and building on learning from initiatives such as “What Works” (DCEDIY) .

WHAT - Key Actions

1.8.1 - We will work collectively to provide arrangements for enhanced collaboration between agencies to disseminate and implement effective practices, including:

- a) pursue effective supports and training for front-line staff, including in relation to important thematic issues such as disability and special needs, substance misuse, neurodiversity, trauma, and mental health
- b) strengthen the capacity of front line staff to interact effectively with young people, (including from migrant and other diverse backgrounds) facilitating appropriate response, and referrals to other services, for each individual
- c) enhance systems and practice to strengthen the capacity of teachers and other school staff to support children who may be vulnerable to offending behaviour, including at key transition points, based on principles of inclusivity, particularly through collaboration with agencies and community partners (see also 2.2.2 (b))
- d) design and implement relevant pilot or programme initiatives as required.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

DoJ working with DCEDIY and other GSG bodies, local authority, community and local development and other expert and community partners

Strategic Objective 1.9

We will provide specific training for professionals involved in the criminal justice system to underpin the provision of effective services, including development, as appropriate, of multi-disciplinary training modules.

WHAT - Key Actions

1.9.1 - An Garda Síochána

AGS will provide specific training for all Gardaí on interaction with young people, including in relation to use of “stop and search” and other police powers, and the implementation of the Garda Diversion Programme, guided by the central national office responsible for the Garda Diversion Programme and related oversight (see 2.4.1).

1.9.2 - The Legal Profession

We will pursue the development of specialised training for legal professionals to ensure that children and young people have access to lawyers with appropriate specialised training.

1.9.3 - Probation Service

We will continue to support and resource the deployment of suitably qualified Probation Officers to engage effectively with children and young people.

1.9.4 - Youth Justice Workers

We will continue to support the provision of training for Youth Justice Workers to support them to engage effectively with the children and young people they work with, and address the range of issues they encounter, as an integral part of the development of GYDPs and related specialised projects.

1.9.5 - Other Services

We will review the need for specialised training and support (relating to young people) in other areas of the Justice System, including Courts, working with children and young people and prepare a programme of action.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

1.9.1 - AGS supported by DoJ and expert and community partners

1.9.2 - DoJ to coordinate with Law Society, Bar Council, Courts Service, in consultation as necessary with the LSRA

1.9.3 - Probation Service supported by DoJ.

1.9.4 - DoJ working DRCD expert and community partners, and Community and Local Development Organisations

1.9.5 - DoJ working with other GSG bodies, relevant agencies, expert and community partners

Research and Evidence

Strategic Objective 1.10

We will support enhanced communication and cooperation between agencies and research bodies to maximise the use of data and research to inform youth justice policy and the broader development of preventative and early intervention and approaches to support desistance from offending behaviour.

WHAT - Key Actions

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

1.10.1 - We will identify or establish standing arrangements for coordination across Departments and Agencies, working collaboratively with research bodies, to align research programmes to maximize collective efforts to better understand the factors underlying offending behaviour and enhance programme and project design.

DoJ, with other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

1.10.2 - We will support the ongoing development of the Outcomes for Children Data Hub to ensure that data collected by various agencies can be used across all agencies to enhance collaborative policy development.

1.10.3 - We will develop accurate and effective data collection systems, in line with legislative requirements (including GDPR), and human rights standards to provide enhanced data on groups disproportionately represented within the youth justice system to support better policies and programmes.

1.10.4 - We will consider the development of longitudinal data relating to youth justice systems, aligned with other relevant data enhancement work.

1.10.5 - We will design and implement pilot and trial initiatives to refine practice and policy implementation, as required, to be informed by the learning from existing prevention and early intervention initiatives.

1.10.6 - We will prioritise research, discussion papers and pilot initiatives on:

- a) harder-to-reach groups, including those subject to grooming and coercive control by criminals
- b) those who may be disproportionately represented in the in the youth justice system (e.g. in State Care, Disability, Ethnic Minorities)
- c) improving insights into pathways into crime / detention, recidivism and desistance
- d) the prevalence and impact of significant trends (e.g. mental health issues, knife crime, drug use, sexual offences, serious violent crime)
- e) improving the effectiveness of governance, coordination, programmes and practice
- f) alignment of legislation, structures and systems to support holistic responses to the factors which underlie offending behaviour.

Emerging Issues

Strategic Objective 1.11

We will develop policy responses and key actions, based on Evidence, to address emerging issues which affect youth justice policy.

WHAT - Key Actions

1.11.1 - We will monitor future developments and emerging issues, including crime trends, and initiate new or updated policies and actions as required. Initial areas for examination include:

- a) the impact of the use of digital technology, including in relation to harassment and sexual offences
- b) issues arising from the covid-19 pandemic and the implications for youth justice and related systems and programmes, including policing practices and disengagement with education and youth services.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

GSG established under 1.1.1 and subsidiary cross-agency groups



2

Services for Children and Young People

We will provide services for children and young people who come in contact with the Criminal Justice System, or who are in situations more likely to give rise to offending behaviour, to support their development and desistance from offending behaviour. We will also ensure ongoing assessment of effective practices as part of dedicated youth justice monitoring systems.

Prevention/Early Intervention

Strategic Objective 2.1

We will support effective practice in collaborative service delivery centred on the needs of children and young people in situations that are more likely to give rise to offending behaviour, with close involvement of parents, guardians and families.

WHAT - Key Actions

2.1.1 – We will work collectively to identify best practices for collaborative service delivery, based on the “no wrong door” principle, emphasising child-centred wrap-around services, including but not limited to:

- a) using child and family centred approaches (e.g. Meitheal or restorative practices)
- b) using local networks such as Child and Family Support Networks
- c) consolidation of prevention and early intervention supports and integration on the continuum of need as per the work being advanced by DCEDIY and Tusla
- d) addressing the situation of those at particular or multiple disadvantage
- e) developing new pilot approaches

with the support of action research evidence through REPPP.

2.1.2 – We will promote collaboration with the Youth Work Sector and other organisations working with young people to enhance access for all young people to services, use resources more effectively and, where possible, reduce administrative burdens on service providers, including:

- a) aligning funding for Youth Services and for GYDPs on an area basis to respond appropriately and effectively to local needs
- b) examining if LTDF projects, GYDPs and other Youth Services can be better aligned to respond to local area needs.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

2.1.1 – DoJ working with DCEDIY, other GSG bodies and agencies as appropriate, expert and community partners, and including ETBs and Child and Family Support Networks

2.1.2 – DoJ, working with DCEDIY, DoH, HSE, other GSG bodies, ETBs, LTDFs, expert and community partners

Education

Strategic Objective 2.2

We will address the effects of disengagement from education and early school leaving, and support those who may be vulnerable to disengagement, including with reference to relevant reviews and reports.

WHAT - Key Actions

2.2.1 – Garda Youth Diversion Projects will provide assistance to schools to help retain children within the education system who’s behaviour may bring them in contact with the youth justices system.

2.2.2 – We will take action to support inclusive educational environments including:

- a) Publish guidelines on the use of reduced timetables so that they are used appropriately and only in limited circumstances
- b) Continue the implementation of the actions in the Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice in schools.

2.2.3 – Publish report on Out of School provision and explore alternative options where mainstream school options have been exhausted.

2.2.4 – We will align the development of Youth Justice initiatives, in particular GYDPs, and the further development of access to work based learning opportunities e.g. traineeship and/or apprenticeship.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

2.2.1 – DoJ, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

2.2.2 – DE supported by GSG and other relevant bodies, expert and community partners

2.2.3 – DE, DFHERIS, GSG and other relevant bodies, expert and community partners

2.2.4 – DoJ, with DFHERIS, GSG and other relevant bodies, expert and community partners

Strategic Objective 2.3

We will examine ways to enhance the range of positive leisure time and developmental activities available to young people at risk.

WHAT - Key Actions

2.3.1 – Within wider youth service provision, we will enhance the range of positive leisure time and developmental activities available to young people and ensure these are accessible to those in vulnerable and “at risk” situations.

2.3.2 – We will assess the contribution which increased access to activities such as sports, outdoor skills, arts and cultural activities can make to enhance the work of youth justice services and, as appropriate, within wider youth service provision.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

2.3.1 – DCEDIY working with DoJ and other GSG Bodies, with expert and community partners

2.3.2 – DoJ working with DCEDIY and other GSG Bodies, with expert and community partners

Diversion

Strategic Objective 2.4

We will strengthen Garda policies and practices for Diversion, and policing generally, upholding the principle of best interests of children and young people, and taking account of difference in age and maturity, the impact of disadvantage and awareness of diversity.

WHAT - Key Actions

2.4.1 – An Garda Síochána will mandate a strong central resource within An Garda Síochána, to:

- a) Oversee the operation of the Garda Diversion Programme
- b) design Garda policies and procedures for Diversion of children and young people from offending
- c) inform Garda practice and procedures to incentivise, as far as possible, positive interaction between Gardaí and young people
- d) drive the design of Garda training and best practices, on age appropriate interaction with children and young people, including the use of general policing powers, and with regard to disadvantage and diversity issues people, including in relation to Schools Programmes and Community Policing generally
- e) guide the ongoing development of community initiatives such as the Garda Schools Programmes and Community Policing generally.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

2.4.1 – AGS, supported by DoJ, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

Strategic Objective 2.5

We will strengthen the operation of the existing procedures for Diversion to minimise delays and ensure fully informed and transparent decision making processes.

WHAT - Key Actions

2.5.1 – An Garda Síochána will implement the recommendations arising from the 2019 Garda Youth Referral Examination Report, and equip the Garda National Bureau of Youth Diversion to ensure:

- a) efficient decision making on cases referred to it
- b) ready access to specialist legal or other professional resources
- c) access to appropriate IT or other technical supports
- d) consistent application of decision making policies

transparent decision making and communication with those who are the subject of referral for Diversion.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

2.5.1 – AGS supported by DoJ, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

Diversion

Strategic Objective 2.6

We will allow for the flexible development of the existing Garda Diversion Programme, aligned to strategic developments in policing and community-based services, including the implementation of new Garda organisational and operational models development of co-located services.

WHAT - Key Actions

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

2.6.1 – We will ensure that Diversion systems, (and legislation) are sufficiently adaptable to address individual circumstances, ranging from “light-touch” intervention to more concentrated Garda supervision, as well as supporting interagency case-management and child/family centred approaches (e.g. Meitheal or restorative practices) and effective approaches to specific issues such as sexual offences and knife crime.

2.6.1 – DoJ, AGS, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

2.6.2 – We will assess the implications of changes to Garda organisational and operational models for the operation of the Diversion Programme, the potential contribution of co-location or other dedicated co-operation arrangements with other agencies, and the implications (if any) for reform of the Children Act 2001.

2.6.2 – DoJ, AGS in consultation with Garda oversight bodies

2.6.3 – We will examine that necessary steps to establish a diversion process for those aged 18-24, aligned with the development of the Health Diversion approach and relevant community supports (see 2.9.5) and with due regard to issues concerning categories of offences, any legal constraints and with a view to developing initial pilot approaches.

2.6.3 – DoJ AGS, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

Strategic Objective 2.7

We will ensure that all criminal cases involving Children and Young People are fully dealt with, whether admitted to the Diversion Programme, or not.

WHAT - Key Actions

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

2.7.1 – Ensure centralised Garda oversight of cases and that all appropriate actions are taken to a conclusion, in line with procedures, including implementation of the recommendations from the 2019 Garda Youth Referral Examination Report.

2.7.1 – AGS supported as required by DoJ

2.7.2 – Establish clear interagency procedures, working with community partners and appropriate assistance from the Probation Service, to address the situation of children and young people involved in offending behaviour, especially those unsuitable for Diversion, incorporating pilot project and programme initiatives and including (as appropriate in each case):

2.7.2 – DoJ with Probation Service, AGS, DCEDIY, Tusla, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

- a) a case-management approach to coordinate the input of each agency
- b) use of restorative processes
- c) use of community-based Care Orders
- d) development and adaptation of Community Supervision approaches including Probation Supervision, Y-JARC and Bail Supervision, working to address individual circumstances, including appropriate measures for those aged 18 – 24 years, aligned with development of the Adult Caution Scheme and other relevant systems and provisions.

Strategic Objective 2.8

We will identify and support at an early stage those young people, at risk of becoming serious offenders, (currently estimated as in the region of 1,000 children), including provision of appropriate family supports, where necessary, to address the needs of these children.

WHAT - Key Actions

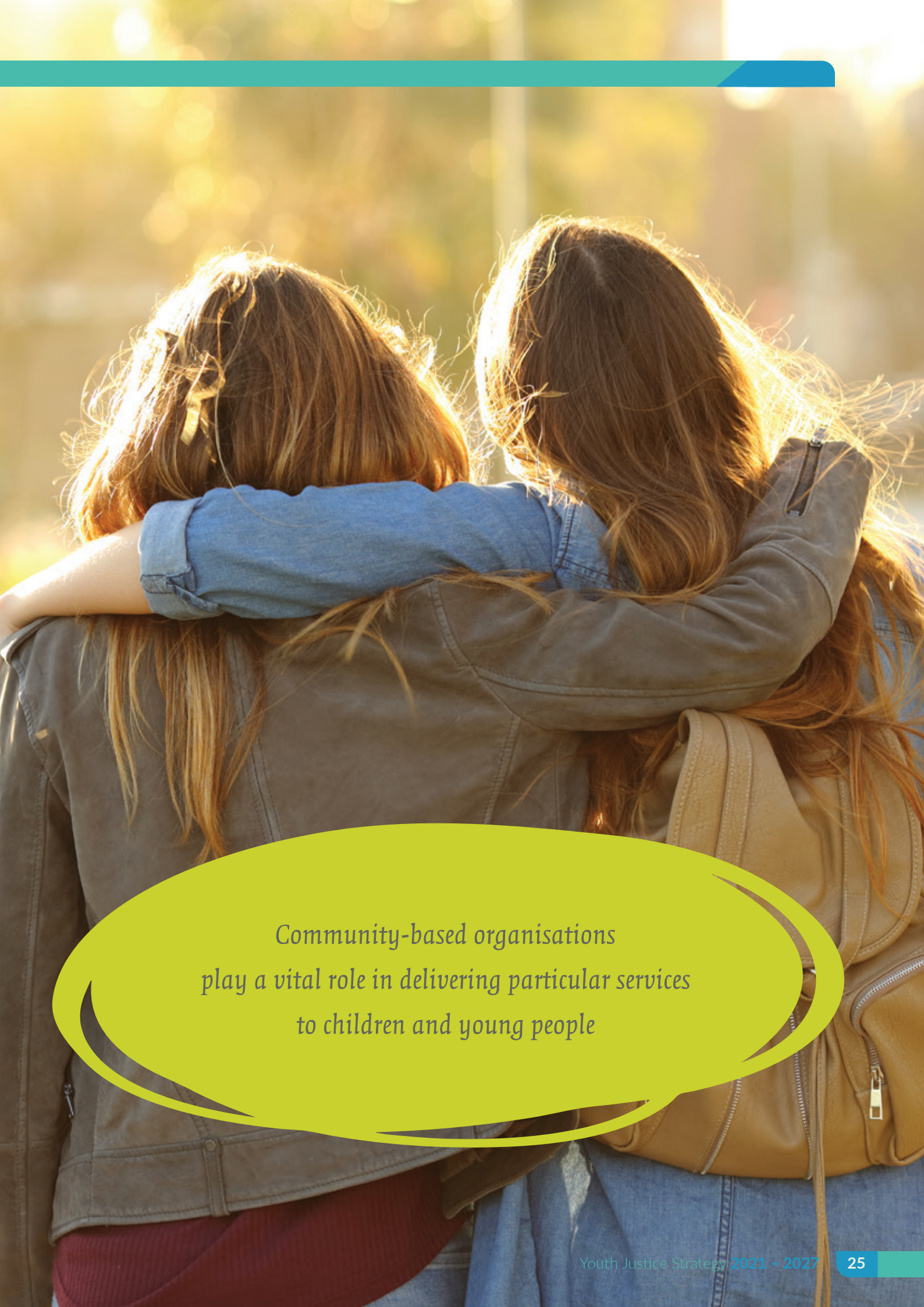
2.8.1 – The Department of Justice will develop and fund sustained community-based interventions for the most serious and prolific young offenders and their families, and for those who are at significant risk of becoming serious and prolific offenders, designed around the needs of the children, and with appropriate interagency cooperation:

- a) The Garda Youth Diversion Projects will be strengthened and rebranded (as youth support projects for those most at risk) and will be the first line of targeted support for children in this category and their families; this will include early intervention, family and parenting support, working with harder-to-engage young people, mentoring for young people and promotion of restorative practices.
- b) This initiative will include elements already under way including
 - Specialised project approaches for “hard-to-reach” cases
 - Bail Supervision Scheme to be expanded nationally
 - Integration with the Y-JARC pilot approach to managing offending in the community
 - Implementation of the Greentown pilot programme to support children under coercive control of criminal groups
 - On-going development of community projects under the auspices of the Probation Service
- c) Further development of approaches to encompass the effects of disadvantage and diversity issues.

These actions will be supported, as appropriate, by all relevant agencies based on the actions at 2.7.2 of this Strategy.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

2.8.1 – Lead by DoJ, with AGS, Probation Service, other GSG bodies, local authority, community and local development and other expert and community partners.

A photograph of two young women with long, wavy brown hair hugging each other from behind. They are wearing grey leather jackets. The woman on the right has a tan leather bag slung over her shoulder. The background is a bright, hazy outdoor setting, likely a park, with sunlight creating a warm, golden glow and lens flare effects. A teal decorative bar is at the top right of the page.

*Community-based organisations
play a vital role in delivering particular services
to children and young people*

Strategic Objective 2.9

We will continue the development of the existing network of Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDPs), aligning their activities and operational areas according to local needs, working collaboratively with local services and other community partners.

WHAT - Key Actions

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

2.9.1 – Develop the existing GYDPs as youth support projects, (without altering the involvement of An Garda Síochána in their oversight and management), working collaboratively with CBOs and with appropriate assistance from the Probation Service to support their operation.

2.9.1 – DoJ working with AGS, Probation Service, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners.

2.9.2 – Expand the existing network to achieve full availability of youth diversion projects throughout the State within 2 years.

2.9.3 – Pursue the expansion according to local needs, of existing projects, including alignment with similar services such as School Completion or Drugs Task Force projects, based on area needs.

2.9.4 – Align the development of Young Persons Probation Projects (YPP) with the ongoing development of GYDPs to maximise learning and effective use of resources.

2.9.5 – Assess the potential of youth diversion projects (or similar) to provide suitable diversionary programmes for the 18-24 years age group, with a view to developing pilot initiatives with community partners, including social enterprises and aligned with community development and employment and training strategies, and aligned with the development of a Health Diversion approach for drugs offences.

2.9.6 – Ensure that GYDPs reach all relevant young people in the community, including those from minority and hard-to-reach groups (such as young people of migrant background, Traveller and Roma communities).

Strategic Objective 2.10

We will support the development and dissemination of effective practices in youth diversion projects.

WHAT - Key Actions

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

2.10.1 – Continue to enhance support for Youth Justice Workers and the development of effective service approaches, including mentoring and engagement with younger children and young adults, through the work programme set out at 1.2.2.

DoJ with DCEDIY DE, DoH, DRCD, Tusla, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners.

Detention

Strategic Objective 2.11

We will assess service needs, accommodation and operational requirements at Oberstown to address likely future demands

WHAT - Key Actions

2.11.1 -

- a) We will Implement a research based assessment of likely demands for Detention places and services and the consequent resource requirements over a 5 year period to inform future strategic options as well as ongoing planning, budgeting and service development.
- b) The outcome of this assessment should inform the approach to the long term use of the Oberstown Campus.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

2.11.1 - Oberstown and DCEDIY, with other GSG bodies, expert and community partners as appropriate.

2.11.2 - We will continue to build on the existing Oberstown Children's Rights Framework to describe for each individual case, intended outcomes, the services/ support required to help achieve those outcomes and the methodology for measuring what is achieved, from a period in Detention and from Post-Detention support.

2.11.2 - DCEDIY and Oberstown, with other GSG bodies, expert and community partners as appropriate.

Strategic Objective 2.12

We will align, as far as possible, national policies on Children in Detention and in State Care, within "Better Outcomes Brighter Futures -The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 -2020," and successor frameworks.

WHAT - Key Actions

2.12.1 - We will continue to build on existing interagency procedures to address the needs of children and young people subject to detention through effective interagency case management and through care (including those transitioning to adulthood), informed by robust assessment of the risk and need in each case. Gaps in procedures and/or practice will be identified and appropriate measures put in place to address these.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

DCEDIY, Oberstown, Tusla, DoJ, Probation Service other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

Strategic Objective 2.13

We will develop specific protocols for management and care of young adult offenders aged 18-24 in the prison system.

WHAT - Key Actions

2.13.1 - In relation to transitions from Oberstown to the prison system, we will build on existing procedures and practices and assess any gaps, including with regard to appropriate continuity of work done in Oberstown, and develop appropriate recommendations and measures to address these.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

2.13.1 - IPS and DoJ, with DCEDIY, Oberstown, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

2.13.2 - We will develop and implement appropriate policies and actions, taking account of best available practices, to respond as far as possible to the needs for young adults (18-24 years) in the prison system, to protect against further criminal involvement and support rehabilitation and personal development.

2.13.2 - IPS and DoJ, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

Post-Detention

Strategic Objective 2.14

We will pursue enhanced, timely and effective services in preparing children (under 18) for their safe return to the community.

WHAT - Key Actions

2.14.1 - We will build on existing measures to ensure that, as part of pre-release planning, cross-agency protocols and mechanisms provide a continuum of interagency support post-detention, with an emphasis on early assessment and collaborative service planning involving Oberstown, Tusla, HSE, Probation Service and community partners.

2.14.2 - We will design a multiagency service framework, linked to 2.14.1, designed around the needs of children and young people rather than Departmental responsibilities and funding lines, incorporating:

- a) Post release supervision and support
- b) The young person's input and preference for services
- c) "Never Give Up" principle for engagement with a young person
- d) Appropriate engagement with family to help support the young person
- e) Development of the Y-JARC approach as an option for supervision and support
- f) Development of alternative options for residential placements, for post-detention and (potentially) as part of community sanctions available to the Courts or other circumstances.

Ongoing collaborative development of community based projects, funded by DJ (including Garda Diversion Projects and those under the auspices of the Probation Service) to maximise efficiencies, learning and outcomes for young persons.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

2.14.1 - Oberstown, with DCEDIY, Tusla, ACTS, HSE, DoJ, Probation, DHPLG, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

2.14.2 - DoJ with Probation Service DCEDIY, Oberstown, Tusla, HSE, ACTS, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

Strategic Objective 2.15

We will pursue enhanced effective services for young adults (18-24 years) on release from prison.

WHAT - Key Actions

2.15.1 - We will ensure that, as part of pre-release planning, cross-agency protocols and mechanisms provide a continuum of interagency support, with an emphasis on early assessment of post-release needs and collaborative service planning.

2.15.2 - We will support a multiagency service framework, linked to 2.15.1, designed around the needs of young adults rather than Departmental responsibilities and funding lines, incorporating (where appropriate) similar elements to 2.14.2, but responding to the particular needs and situation of the young adults involved.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

2.15.1 - IPS and DoJ with Probation Service, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

2.15.2 - DoJ with Probation Service and IPS, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

3

Criminal Justice System and Processes

We will conduct Criminal Justice Processes to, as far as possible, support children and young people to refrain from offending and make positive life choices, while also upholding the rights of victims.

Strategic Objective 3.1

We will extend Bail Supervision so that it is accessible to all young people who can benefit from it, particularly vulnerable and hard to reach groups.

WHAT - Key Actions

3.1.1 - We will coordinate the development and mainstreaming of the Bail Supervision Scheme, including:

- a) initial expansion based on available resources
- b) ensuring those in Care can avail of the service
- c) ensuring full awareness of the scheme among Courts, legal profession, AGS.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

DoJ with Oberstown, Courts Service, Probation Service, AGS, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

Strategic Objective 3.2

We will review the facilities and procedures in Garda Stations and Courts with reference to obligations under Part 6 and Part 7 of the Children Act.

WHAT - Key Actions

3.2.1 - We will review of how Courts buildings, facilities support the effective operation of the Children Act, including with regard to minimising interaction with adult offenders.

3.2.2 - We will examine how Court procedures and practice can support the best interests of children involved in criminal proceedings, including with regard to procedures for giving evidence and the desirability of family and child friendly processes.

3.2.3 - We will review Garda Station facilities and procedures with a view to ensuring practices which comply fully with Part 6, and fundamental human rights standards, including in relation to access to parents and legal representatives and the provision of information. This work will be informed by any relevant recommendations from the Garda Síochána Inspectorate or other authoritative sources.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

3.2.1 - Courts Service, with DoJ other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

3.2.2 - Courts Service, with DoJ other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

3.2.3 - AGS, supported by DoJ other GSG bodies, expert and community partners, in consultation with Garda Oversight bodies.

Strategic Objective 3.3

Ensure provision of effective specialised representation and appropriate information services to assist young persons throughout the Courts process.

WHAT - Key Actions

3.3.1 - We will coordinate work to provide for requirements, (including any relevant legislative provisions) for legal representation and provision of information, and in relation to Criminal Legal Aid, in child and young adult cases, to ensure high quality representation focussed on the best interest of the child or young person and timely completion of Court processes.

3.3.2 - We will review the requirement for information and guidelines for professionals and others involved in Court processes on the provision of information and engagement with children and young people, including in relation to therapeutic needs and appropriate approaches to interviewing and giving evidence.

WHO- State Bodies /Partners

DoJ with Law Society, Bar Council, Courts Service, AGS, Probation Service, ODPP, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

Strategic Objective 3.4	
Prioritise processing of children and young adult cases to minimise delays including with regard to the role of Garda Case managers.	
WHAT - Key Actions	WHO- State Bodies /Partners
<p>3.4.1 – We will develop enhanced practices and procedures and as a first step produce a Scoping Paper, followed by agreed actions, including specific actions on how the Case Manager role and/or other mechanisms can be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) reduce delays bringing cases to Court b) minimise the number of Court appearances for each child or young person c) ensure effective practice so that young persons are fully informed and aware of what is involved in the Court process d) provide appropriate review mechanisms. 	DoJ, with AGS, ODPP, Courts Service, Probation Service other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

Strategic Objective 3.5	
Maximise opportunities to support children and young people through supervision in the community.	
WHAT - Key Actions	WHO- State Bodies /Partners
<p>3.5.1 – Review systems, processes and resource allocation to ensure appropriate, timely and effective delivery of community-based interventions, including those supervised by the Probation Service to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive engagement with the young person/families • Garda functions and decisions • Court functions and decisions, <p>thereby encouraging and holding to account children and young persons engaged with the criminal justice system.</p>	DoJ, with Probation Service, with AGS, Courts Service, IPS, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners

Strategic Objective 3.6	
We will provide a range of options for the Courts for sentencing, and prior to sentencing and as already specified in the Children Act 2001), detention will only be considered as the final option.	
WHAT - Key Actions	WHO- State Bodies /Partners
<p>3.6.1 – We will ensure that options set out in a revised Children Act are actually available to the Courts as part of an overall and integrated set of services to address the situation of young people at various points of the continuum of risk, properly resourced and designed around the needs of the child or young person rather than existing Departmental responsibilities and funding lines. Actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) developing ways to extend the use of restorative and personal development approaches prior to a substantive Court hearing to give the Court the option of a strike out, b) extending the Bail Supervision Scheme (see 3.1) to all suitable young people before the courts and mainstreaming it c) developing other alternative sentencing options, (e.g. Day Centres as already provided in the existing legislation, specialised community programmes, Y-JARC), informed by a scoping assessment of relevant services, to give the courts a broader range of options. 	DoJ, with Probation Service, AGS Court Service, Oberstown, IPS, other GSG bodies, expert and community partners



Appendix 1

Indicative schedule of areas for amendment in the Children Act 2001

Context

The age of criminal responsibility in Ireland is as set out in section 52 of the Children Act. The Act provides that a child aged 10 to 11 could be charged with the most serious crimes only: murder, or serious sexual assaults. This provision has never been used. The Act also provides that a child aged 12 to 13 can be charged with a crime, but only with the express consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and unfortunately this provision has had to be used, including for some of the most heinous crimes. However, for most crime and most purposes the effective age of criminal responsibility in Ireland is 14. While these provisions will continue to be kept under review, Ireland's rights-based and child-centred youth justice system ensures that children are prosecuted only as a last resort and when diversion is not appropriate – i.e. only for serious offences or for repeat offending where earlier interventions have not been successful. The various child welfare measures proposed in this Strategy are designed in that overall context.

Furthermore, the provisions on family conferencing in Part 4 and Part 9 provide a mechanism whereby contact with the criminal justice system could become a catalyst for addressing the personal welfare and circumstances of the child in question. However, as noted at section 2, below, these are much underused, at least formally, although An Garda

Síochána and other agencies do engage with families in a variety of circumstances to support child welfare.

Many of the Objectives in this Strategy, especially in relation to Diversion and Early Intervention seek to provide mechanisms for holistic support for children and young people who may commit and offence. Legislatively, the proposal in Objective 1.6 to consider a positive duty for agencies to cooperate in relation to children and young people would underpin this approach. The outline proposals to reform the Family Conferencing provisions (see section 2 below) could further strengthen a child centred approach for those who come before the courts.

In addition, there may be need for further research to assess how we can ensure that statutory provisions fully support positive measures to address the reasons why children come into conflict with the law, and ensure appropriate State responses, including in relation to very serious offences - see also Key Action 1.10.6.

The following is not an exhaustive listing of areas for legislative reform. It will be refined through further engagement with stakeholders and aligned with broader legislative developments, particularly in relation to the Child Care Act 1991 and new legislation to support Community Safety.

1. Principles

While the Act does encompass principles such as detention as a last resort, and best interests of the child within particular provisions, it would be preferable to have such principles inform the operation of all its provisions, and monitoring of its implementation. Therefore, it is proposed to introduce a statement of principles to apply to the Act as a whole, including -

- A. Upholding the best interest of the child or young person and that this is generally best served by supporting him or her, including through relevant services, so that he or she can participate fully in society and live with respect for the rights of others
- B. that detention is used only as a last resort
- C. that upholding the best interest of the child (as defined above) is consistent with upholding the interests of society and vindicating the rights of victims
- D. that criminal proceedings shall not be used solely to provide any assistance or service needed to care for or protect a child.

2. Family conferencing provisions – Part 4 and Part 9.

There is a clear need to improve on the provisions on family conferencing, which are little used in practice. The intention is to provide for an individualised consideration of the situation and needs of each child (whether at Diversion or Court stage) involving the relevant agencies and family members, as appropriate to the situation of each case. In some cases this may more or less replicate the existing family conferencing provisions, but in others a different configuration of players will be needed.

For cases heard in Court legislation might require that reasons be given for not using restorative or collaborative approaches and that Probation Officer recommendation

should also say whether a collaborative plan/conference is appropriate.

More detail might be provided (and amended flexibly) by way of Regulations or guidelines, including in relation to the use of restorative approaches. Draft Regulations / guidelines should be published at the same time as an amending Bill.

3. Diversion Programme Systems – Part 4

3.1 Development of Garda Organisational and Operational Models

Part 4 establishes a centralised system for assessing if cases can be admitted to the Diversion Programme, and the Commissioner is empowered to appoint a Director (Superintendent) of the Diversion Programme. Arising from the recommendations of the Commission on the Future

of Policing in Ireland (CoFPI) a substantial process of reform is underway within An Garda Síochána, including revised organisational and operational models. Clearly there is a need to ensure ongoing consistency in the application of diversion-related legislation and policies. Equally, there is a need to ensure that procedures required by legislation support the most effective and efficient consideration of each case, including with regard to minimising delays and any appropriate referral or cooperation with other agencies or services.

Therefore, the implications of Garda organisational change for achieving consistency and timeliness should be assessed, including in relation to any legislative issues. This can be addressed as part of the scoping exercise described at 2.6.2 of the Strategy.





3.2 Appeals and Transparency

Introduce clear procedures to

- ▶ appeal of decisions on admission to the Diversion Programme
- ▶ communicate clear reasons for decisions

3.3 Monitoring Effectiveness

Section 44, provides for the Monitoring Committee for the Garda Diversion Programme. This arrangement pre-dates the establishment of the Policing Authority and, as such, is an outdated concept. Moreover, the Diversion Programme is just one element in the overall youth justice system. What is really required to measure effectiveness and progress is monitoring and technical support for all areas coming within the scope of the Youth Justice Strategy. Therefore it is proposed to replace the existing Committee with a general requirement to monitor the effectiveness of the whole

youth justice system using (and developing) relevant research and data in the process. This more rigorous and far reaching monitoring would help to better advise Ministers and assist the work of oversight bodies such as the Policing Authority, the BOBF Policy Consortium, or Oireachtas Committees. Operational oversight of An Garda Síochána in relation to Diversion will be subsumed into the role of the Policing Authority, or its replacement.

However, a new and wider provision could simply require the Minister to provide for monitoring, using evidence and appropriate research, of the effectiveness of the entire youth justice system and specify the annual (or other) reporting requirements to the Houses of the Oireachtas and/or Oireachtas Committees. The research-based facility proposed in Objective 1.2 of the Strategy would be an important mechanism to enable the necessary reporting.

3.5 Evidence and Protection of Identity

Provisions in section 48 (Inadmissible Evidence) and 51 (Protection of Identity) should be reviewed with a view to ensuring consistency with the aims of the Diversion Programme and the principles underlying the Act, and consistency with section 258 (Spent Convictions)

Alignment may also be necessary in relation to section 93 and section 252 concerning the protection of identity of children in court proceedings.

4. Transition to adulthood (Part 4 and Parts 7-9)

4.1 Diversion over 18. The provisions in Part 4 relating to Diversion could be amended and adapted to allow their application (and other similar measures) in an appropriate way to those over 18. This is in line with recommendations of the Review Group on Penal Policy. It could

simply be an enabling provision so that approaches for over 18s could be trialled and developed, with more detailed parameters to be developed subsequently, which might allow for incremental application, based on the experience of pilot initiatives.

4.2 Age at time of offence. It is accepted in principle that the actions of a young person should be judged with reference to the level of maturity and capacity to comprehend the impact of offending behaviour at the time an offence is committed. Therefore the provisions of the Children Act should apply to the processing of an offence with reference to age at the time it is committed, irrespective of the age of the young person when the case actually comes to Court. An amendment to this effect would allow the Children Court to hear cases of over-18s in relation to offences occurring when under 18.

Such a provision would align with the existing provisions in section 23(5) which allows admission to the Diversion programme by reference to the age at the time of the offence.

5. Probation Service Support (Part 9)

It is proposed to align the provisions in Part 9 with the objectives in key action 2.7.2 of the Strategy, such that the Probation Service can support the processing of child and youth cases at the earliest possible opportunity. Currently, section 99 obliges the production of a Probation Report where it is intended to impose a community sanction or detention.

6. Community Sanctions (Part 9)

Amend Section 115 such that the Court may impose a community sanction in relation to any of the matters currently covered in the other sections referenced in section 115 (118, 124, 125, 126, 129, 131, 133, 137) prescribe any other conditions, with particular reference to recommendations in reports from the Probation Service or Other Reports made to the Court. Provision in relation to assessment of maturity should be considered. This would have knock-on effects on several other sections in the Part 9. More detail on the practical operation of this approach to be included in Regulations, to be drafted to accompany an amending Bill.

7. Post-Detention Support (Part 10)

Consider a provision for a right to appropriate aftercare support after release from Detention, similar to the principles applying under the Child Care Act for support after leaving State care.

8. Alignment of Diversion with Spent Convictions in section 258 (Part 13)

Section 258 of the Act allows for certain convictions under 18 to become spent after three years. However, records in relation to Diversion do not expire in the same way.

This is anomalous, so it is proposed to amend the Act to provide the same regime in relation to Diversion records.

In preparing this amendment, it will be important to ensure alignment

with any more general revision in relation to the Vetting, Spent Convictions and other relevant proposed Legislation in this area.

9. Sentencing

There is a clear need to update provisions in the Children Act to allow for options which replicate, in a manner consistent with the principles underlying the Act, provisions for suspended sentencing and work on this issues is already underway. The Report of the Law Reform Commission (August 2020) provides an important reference in this regard. Reforms in this area will have to ensure that sentencing options available to the Court are clearly aligned with the Guiding Principles contained in this Strategy.

10. Court of Appeal Jurisdiction

It may be necessary to clarify the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal in relation to cases heard in the Children Court, including with reference to general provisions in this regard.

11. Alignment with other provisions

There is a need to review alignment of the Children Act with provisions in relation to remission of sentences and sexual offences.

12. Remand

Examine the current legislative regime for remand on detention, to ensure that detention periods for children and young adults are as short as possible.

The background is a teal color with a faint, artistic illustration of hands and leaves. A large white circle is centered on the page, containing the text 'Appendix 2'.

Appendix 2

Outline Structure for Youth Justice Oversight

A structure is needed to provide continuing strategic direction and leadership for implementation of the Youth Justice Strategy, as well as ongoing engagement with the broader stakeholder community. The following is an outline of initial oversight arrangements and takes account of recent Departmental realignment in relation to youth justice.

A high level Governance and Strategy Group, chaired by DoJ, comprising officials from key Departments/Agencies could oversee implementation of the

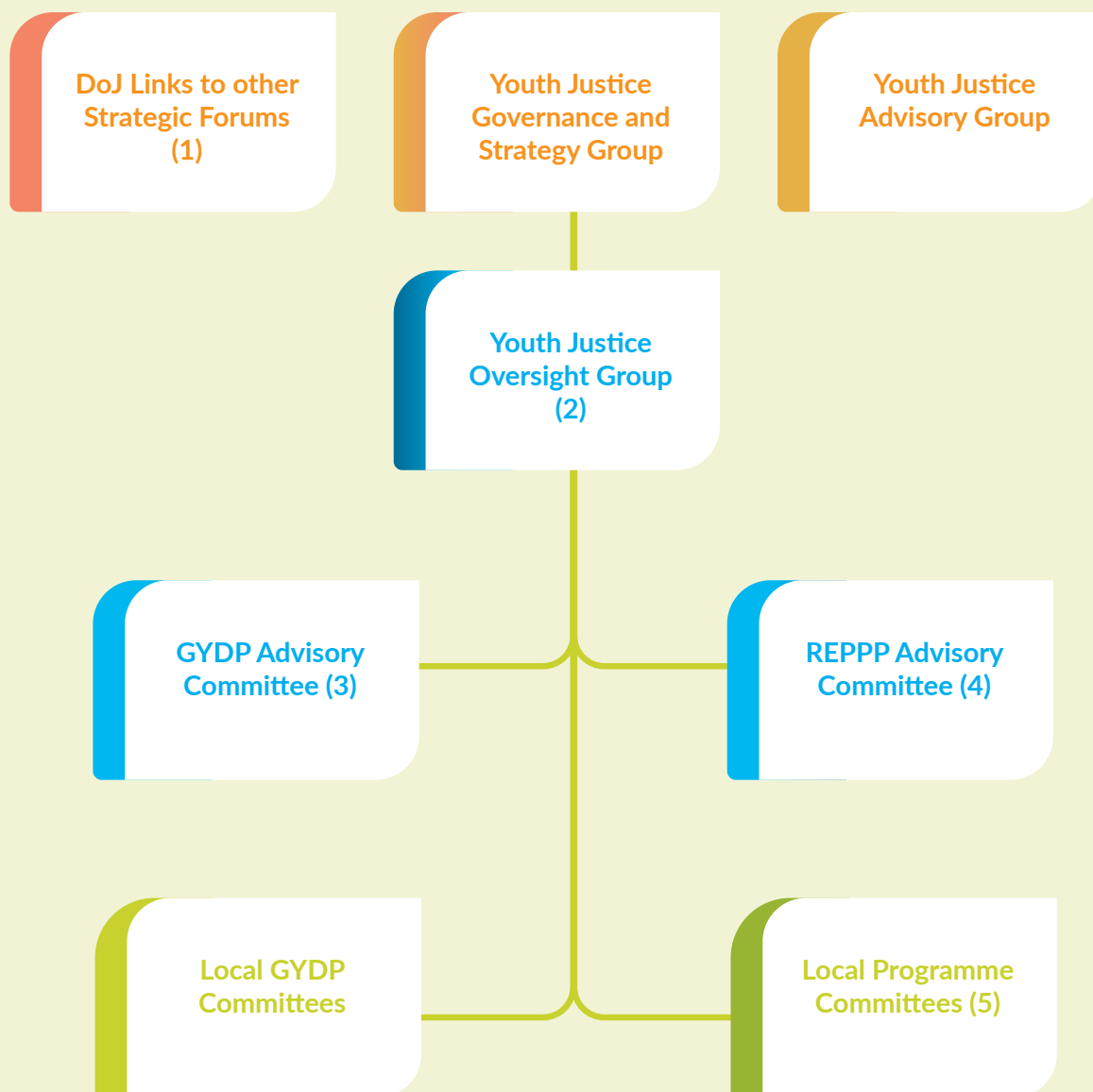
Strategy. Its work will be informed by a Youth Justice Oversight Group drawn from key agencies and by a Youth Justice Advisory Group including community and expert stakeholders.

The Youth Justice Oversight Group will be a multi- agency oversight group with a more operational focus and responsibility for the national coordination and development of the initiatives as set out in the Youth Justice Strategy. It will be responsible for co-ordinating the work of a number of sub-groups (which

would be tasked with specific strands of work), and reporting back regularly to the Governance and Strategy Group. The sub-groups shown in the diagram are indicative of key thematic areas to be addressed, but there may well be others.

It is envisaged the Youth Justice Advisory Group would include a range of state, community and expert stakeholders similar to the Steering Group which has informed the development of the Youth Justice Strategy.





Notes

- (1) (1) DoJ to provide a link between the work of the Governance and Strategy Group and other relevant policies and frameworks, including the successor framework to “*Better Outcomes Brighter Futures – the National Policy Framework for Children and Young Adults 2014 - 2020*” and “*Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery - A health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025*”
- (2) Coordinating the detailed implementation of Youth Justice Strategy, including integration and oversight of specific programmes and pilot initiatives.
- (3) Existing advisory committee.
- (4) Advisory group for research partnership with UL (Research Evidence into Policy Programmes and Practice)
- (5) Relevant local committees to support operation of individual initiatives such as Greentown Pilot Projects, Bail Supervision Scheme, Y-JARC, Young Person’s Probation (YPP), overseen by Youth Justice Advisory Group.



Appendix 3

Implementation Statement

Categories of Objectives

Implementation of the Youth Justice Strategy will be overseen by the Governance and Strategy Group (GSG) described in Objective 1.1.1, assisted by a Youth Justice Advisory Group including a range of key stakeholders, and a Youth Justice Oversight Group (with key officials) as set out in Objective 1.1.2 and Appendix 2.

This Implementation Statement takes account of the differing

nature of the categories of Objectives contained in the Strategy. These are divided into

- ▶ Immediate Priorities
- ▶ Ongoing Service Development
- ▶ Legislative Reforms
- ▶ Developmental Objectives, including Sectoral and Cross-Sectoral actions.

Annual Implementation Update

Updates on progress in relation to each of these categories will

be published as part of an Annual Implementation Update, based on the work of the GSG and its supporting committees and groups. Each year this will provide a cumulative picture of progress in implementing the Strategy.

Immediate Priorities

These are essential Objectives which require immediate attention and sustained commitment over the lifetime of the Strategy. Updates on progress will be published annually.

Ref.	Objective / Key Action	Lead Agency	Timescale
1.1.1	Governance and Strategy Group (GSG)	DoJ.	Q1 2021
We will establish a national Governance and Strategy Group (GSG), chaired by DoJ, for youth justice, comprising of senior officials from Departments, Agencies with relevant expert participation as appropriate. This Group will guide the implementation of the Youth Justice Strategy, driving cooperation between key agencies.			
1.1.2	Supporting Committees and Groups	DoJ	Q2 2021
The GSG will develop a more detailed Governance Framework, using the model in Appendix 2 as a starting point, to ensure ongoing alignment with the BOBF Framework and encompass broader stakeholder engagement (including with children and young people), as well as specific oversight arrangements for:			
a) consideration of legislative measures to address grooming to children for criminal purposes			
b) Greentown programme including pilot implementation (2.8.1)			
c) Bail Supervision Scheme (2.8.1. and 3.1)			
d) development of Y-JARC approach (2.8.1)			
e) development of specialised community based project for hard-to-reach children and young people (2.8.1)			
f) other approaches to support those who are most vulnerable to becoming involved in serious offending, or at risk of radicalisation.			
1.1.3	Longer term structures and governance	DoJ	Q1 2022
Further Governance proposals to support the implementation of the Strategy will be developed, including consideration of a dedicated youth justice service which would interact with national and local structures and the possibilities of co-location or co-delivery of services by relevant agencies, professionals, and community partners, as well as the interaction of youth justice services with local service coordination structures.			
1.1.5	Mid-term review	DoJ	In 2025
A mid-term review of implementation of the Strategy will be carried out after three years.			
1.7.3	Detailed Consultation on Children Act	DoJ	Q1 2022
We will carry out a detailed stakeholder consultation process to help refine the legislative reforms for the Children Act.			
1.2.1	Consolidate REPPP research partnership	DoJ	Q2 2021
Support and develop the REPPP as a strategic partnership with the Department of Justice for youth justice issues.			

Ref.	Objective / Key Action	Lead Agency	Timescale
1.2.2	Develop initial work plan with REPPP	DoJ	Q2 2021
<p>Agree initial work-programme to inform the work of GSG and Governance Framework, through research on complex problems and assessment of the effectiveness of policy implementation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) develop options for better national and local coordination, of youth justice Services including co-location b) highlight effective interagency collaboration as it relates to youth justice c) design of pilot/trial initiatives d) development of appropriate area-based (City or County) assessments of policy implementation as it relates to youth justice e) studies of particular thematic issues (e.g. Crossover between care and youth justice systems) including a focus on the effects of multiple disadvantage f) support the ongoing development of effective practices in Diversion projects, including through action research and a dedicated Best Practice Development Team g) facilitate sharing of best practices and development of collaborative communities of practice, including innovative programmes (e.g. Planet Youth) and informed by the What Works initiative in relation to thematic areas such as hard-to-reach groups, mentoring, mental health, access to training and employment, including social enterprise h) enhance communication and collaboration (via CYPSCs and other structures) between Diversion Projects and schools, Youthreach, Youth Encounter Projects or other alternative education services, Drugs Task Force Projects and other community based programmes i) align Diversion Project activities, as appropriate, with community development, employment and training strategies and supports (including apprenticeships, traineeships and social enterprises.) j) effective engagement with under 12s and appropriate family supports (aligned with and not duplicating other services) k) support improved practices for schools, to retain children in the education system who's behaviour may bring them in contact with the youth justice system l) Approaches to effective engagement and diversion for the 18-24 years age group. 			
2.8.1	Plan for "hard-to-reach" initiative with resource requirements	DoJ	Q3 2021
<p>The Department of Justice will develop and fund sustained community-based interventions for the most serious and prolific young offenders and their families, and for those who are at significant risk of becoming serious and prolific offenders, designed around the needs of the children, and with appropriate interagency cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Garda Youth Diversion Projects will be strengthened and rebranded (as youth support projects for those most at risk) and will be the first line of targeted support for children in this category and their families; this will include early intervention, family and parenting support, working with harder-to-engage young people, mentoring for young people and promotion of restorative practices. b) This initiative will include elements already under way including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specialised project approaches for "hard-to-reach" cases - Bail Supervision Scheme to be expanded nationally - Integration with the Y-JARC pilot approach to managing offending in the community - Implementation of the Greentown pilot programme to support children under coercive control of criminal groups - On-going development of community projects under the auspices of the Probation Service c) Further development of approaches to encompass the effects of disadvantage and diversity issues <p>These actions will be supported, as appropriate, by all relevant agencies based on the actions at 2.7.2 of this Strategy.</p>			
2.9.1 and 2.9.2	Plan for Diversion Service Development with resource requirements	DoJ	Q3 2021
<p>2.9.1 - Develop the existing GYDPs as youth support projects, (without altering the involvement of An Garda Síochána in their oversight and management), working collaboratively with CBOs and with appropriate assistance from the Probation Service to support their operation.</p> <p>2.9.2 - Expand the existing network to achieve full availability of youth diversion projects throughout the State within 2 years.</p>			

Ongoing Service Development

This is work already in progress and is being developed further under the Strategy. Updates will be published annually based on information provided by agencies to the GSG.

Ref.	Objective / Key Action	Lead Agency
1.9.3	We will continue to support and resource the deployment of suitably qualified Probation Officers to engage effectively with children and young people	Probation Service
1.9.4	We will continue to support the provision of training for Youth Justice Workers to support them to engage effectively with the children and young people they work with, and address the range of issues they encounter, as an integral part of the development of GYDPs and related specialised projects.	DoJ
2.4.1	An Garda Síochána will mandate a strong central resource within An Garda Síochána, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Oversee the operation of the Garda Diversion Programme b) design Garda policies and procedures for Diversion of children and young people from offending c) inform Garda practice and procedures to incentivise, as far as possible, positive interaction between Gardaí and young people d) drive the design of Garda training and best practices, on age appropriate interaction with children and young people, including the use of general policing powers, and with regard to disadvantage and diversity issues people, including in relation to Schools Programmes and Community Policing generally. e) guide the ongoing development of community initiatives such as the Garda Schools Programmes and Community Policing generally. 	An Garda Síochána
2.5.1	An Garda Síochána will implement the recommendations arising from the 2019 Garda Youth Referral Examination Report, and equip the Garda National Bureau of Youth Diversion to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) efficient decision making on cases referred to it b) ready access to specialist legal or other professional resources c) access to appropriate IT or other technical supports d) consistent application of decision making policies e) transparent decision making and communication with those who are the subject of referral for Diversion. 	An Garda Síochána
2.7.1	Ensure centralised Garda oversight of cases and that all appropriate actions are taken to a conclusion, in line with procedures, including implementation of the recommendations from the 2019 Garda Youth Referral Examination Report.	An Garda Síochána
2.11.2	We will continue to build on the existing Oberstown Children's Rights Framework to describe for each individual case, intended outcomes, the services/support required to help achieve those outcomes and the methodology for measuring what is achieved, from a period in Detention and from Post-Detention support.	DCEDIY with Oberstown

Legislative Reforms

These Objectives are intended to support the development of specific proposals for legislative reform. Updates on progress will be published annually.

Ref.	Objective / Key Action	Lead Agency
1.6.1	We will explore how best to establish a positive duty for agencies to cooperate in relation to all children at risk, including those in situations more likely to give rise to offending behaviour and for necessary data sharing arrangements. We will ensure that any relevant proposals for amendments to the Children Act and the Child Care Act and the provisions of the new Community Safety legislation, are appropriately aligned to achieve this aim.	DoJ with DCEDIY
1.7.1	We will finalise provisions (already in preparation) to replace suspended sentences for those under 18.	DoJ
1.7.2	We will incorporate the indicative schedule of amendments in Appendix 1 into draft legislative proposals and work collaboratively to refine the full detail of amendments, as well as any necessary supporting Regulations or Guidelines.	DoJ
1.7.4	We will finalise a full package of amendments to the Children Act, to give effect to this Strategy detailing alignment with Child Care Acts and Community Safety legislation.	DoJ

Developmental Objectives

These account for the rest of the Objectives in the Strategy and include sectoral and cross-sectoral actions. Each of them will require some scoping work to inform the development of more detailed implementation plans. The scheduling and sequencing of this work will be addressed as part of the work programme for the GSG and its supporting committees and groups.



Appendix 4

Members of the Expert Steering Group for the Development of a New Youth Strategy

Chair: Minister of State James Browne T.D.

(Previously David Stanton T.D.)

Name	Position	Organisation
Name	Position	Organisation
Deaglán Ó Briain	Principal	Criminal Policy, Community Safety, DoJ
Brendan Sheehy	Assistant Principal	Criminal Policy, Community Safety, DoJ
Sinéad Murphy	Administrative Officer (Secretariat)	Criminal Policy, Community Safety, DoJ
Kevin Stewart	Administrative Officer (Secretariat)	Criminal Policy, Community Safety, DoJ
Yvonne Furey	Principal	Criminal Policy, Strategic Policy, DoJ
Tony O'Donovan	Child Welfare Officer	DCEDIY
Adam Gunning	Assistant Principal	DCEDIY
Brian Dack	Assistant Director	Probation Service
Sheila Loughrey	Regional Manager	Probation Service
Olivia Keaveney	Regional Manager	Probation Service
Collette Quinn	Chief Superintendent	An Garda Síochána
Pat Bergin	Director	Oberstown Children Detention Campus
Damien Hernon	Acting Director	Oberstown Children Detention Campus
Mary Cregg	Principal	Department of Education and Skills
Martin Sheil	Assistant Principal	Department of Education and Skills
Michael Murchan	Assistant Principal	Department of Health
Donal McCormack	National Service Director	Tusla
Berni O'Donovan	National Manager	Tusla
William O'Rourke	Acting National Director	Tusla
Professor Ursula Kilkelly	Dean of School of Law	University College Cork
Professor Sean Redmond	Adjunct Professor of Youth Justice	University of Limerick
Eddie D'Arcy	CEO	Solas
Tanya Ward	CEO	Children's Rights Alliance
Bernie Meally	GYDP Representative	Foróige
Dr Katharina Swirak	Expert assisting Steering Group	University College Cork
Dr Louise Forde	Expert assisting Steering Group	University College Cork



Appendix 5

Organisations that contributed to consultations on the Youth Justice Strategy

A number of submissions from individual people were also received. All of these contributions were very valuable in helping to shape the content of the Strategy, and will provide an important reference for planning its implementation.

Adolescent Addiction Service	Irish Association of Speech and Language Therapists
African Advocacy Network Ireland	Irish Penal Reform Trust
Alcohol Action Ireland	Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice
An Garda Síochána	Jigsaw
Assessment Consultation Therapy Service (ACTS)	Juvenile Liaison Officer
Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development	Kerry Diocesan youth Service
Bail Supervisions Scheme	Le Cheile Mentoring
Bar of Ireland	Michael J. Staines and Co Solicitors
Barnardos	National Disability Authority
Best Practice Development Team	National Inter-Agency Prevention Programme
CAMHS	National Traveller Women's Forum Ireland
Children's Rights Alliance	National Youth Council of Ireland
Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign	New Communities Partnership
Courts service	Oberstown Children's Detention Campus
Crosscare	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
Daughters of Charity Child and Family Service	Ombudsman for Children
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	Ombudsman for Children's Office
Department of Education	Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre
Department of Health	Policing Authority
Dublin Dun Laoghaire ETB	Probation Service
Extern	Rehab Group
Foroige	Solas
Gaisce	Swan Youth Services
Garda Síochána Inspectorate	Treoin GYDP
Garda Youth Diversion Office	Tusla
Henrietta Street Youth Encounter Project School	University College Cork
	University of Limerick
	Youth Work Ireland

