



# Youth Justice Services in Glasgow Annual Report 2015/16

# FOREWORD

The Youth Justice Strategy Group in Glasgow has responsibility for planning and strategic development of services for under - 18 young people involved in offending. The Group is part of a wider Children's Services Planning structure, ensuring that there is a clear vision and strategic framework for services to all children, young people and families in the city.

The Youth Justice Strategy Group strives for **effective, efficient and evidence-based service** provision in local communities – that is ensuring that our services have been subjected to research and scrutiny, that they have been shown to work and that they deliver the best outcomes at the lowest possible cost to the public purse.

Our multi-partner approach has paid massive dividends for Glasgow's citizens; the evidence based interventions we provide have consistently delivered falling offending rates and we can report that there have been further falls in youth offending throughout 2015/2016.

The downward trend in youth offending is a remarkable achievement for the city. We have continued to advance our evidence based services over the past year and this has enabled us to ensure young people receive the right help at the right time.

Despite these achievements we know we can build on our success and further improve the life chances of Glasgow's vulnerable young people while making the city safer for all. The Council and its partners remain committed to supporting innovation and development in our approach to working with young people and their families.

Please read on to find out about the good work our services have been doing throughout the year. We hope you will enjoy reading about our efforts as we continue to develop and improve our services in the year ahead.



Sean McKendrick,  
Head of Children's Services and Criminal Justice (South)  
Glasgow City HSCP

# The year in numbers

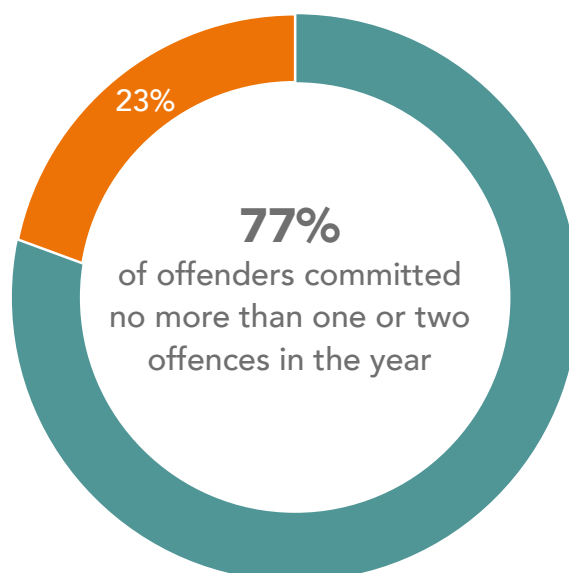
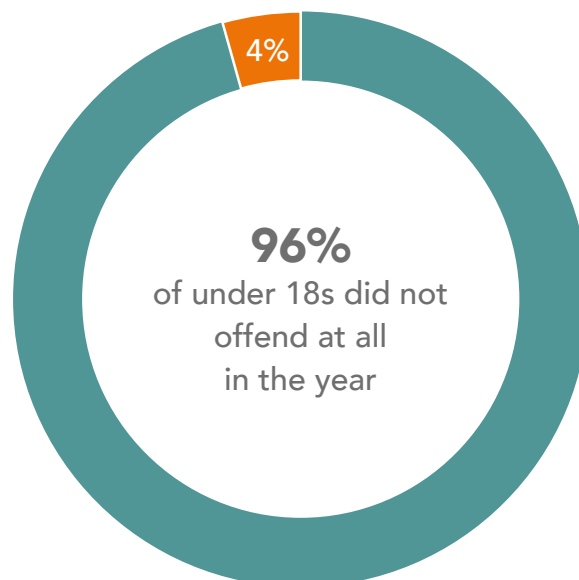
## 2015/16 at a glance



Offence referrals to SCRA have dropped by **30%** since 2014/15



The number of offences committed by under 18s has dropped by **12%** since 2014/15



# About Youth Justice



Youth Justice in Glasgow recognises that the vast majority of young people do not become involved in offending, and those that do rarely reoffend, even without statutory intervention. However a small number of young people do become involved in more persistent and entrenched patterns of offending behaviour.

Youth Justice in Glasgow is about ensuring that young people who display difficult and challenging behaviours are given the supports and opportunities required to remain safely in the community, to change their behaviour, to reduce their vulnerability and to make positive choices for the future.

Glasgow's innovative approach to Youth Justice demonstrates the city's commitment to Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), the national approach in Scotland to improving outcomes and supporting the wellbeing of our children and young people. The GIRFEC approach means that every relevant agency has a responsibility to share information and work together for the benefit of children and young people.

The multi-agency Youth Justice Strategy Group ensures that our service provision embeds the principles of GIRFEC. The group incorporates attendees from all agencies who have an interest in improving lives for children and young people. All of these agencies share joint responsibility for implementing the Youth Justice Strategy and ensuring that Glasgow's young people achieve the best outcomes in life.

## Youth Justice Strategy Group Members

- Social Work
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
- Community Safety Glasgow
- Glasgow Life
- Health
- Jobs and Business Glasgow
- Education Services
- Children's Panel
- Third Sector Agencies
- Procurator Fiscal
- Community Justice Authority
- Glasgow Addictions Services

# Statistics - Offending

There were 5,016 offences committed by under 18s in Glasgow last year, which is a fall of **12%** on the previous year and a drop of **50%** over a 9 year period.

**96%** of all under 18s in Glasgow did not offend at all in 2015/16. Of those that did offend, well over half committed only one offence with less than a quarter committing more than two offences in the year.

These figures illustrate why Glasgow's youth justice services are often seen as a model of good practice. In keeping with the research our services are developed from an evidence-base and are proportionate to the young person's levels of risk and need.

Using programmes which have been tried, tested and found to be effective has resulted in a clear reduction in overall offending.

This approach has not only benefited the lives of young people working with these services but Glasgow as a whole.

The YJSG will now ensure that lessons are learned from this success and used to inform continuing efforts to reduce offending even further.

## Under 18s - Total Offences

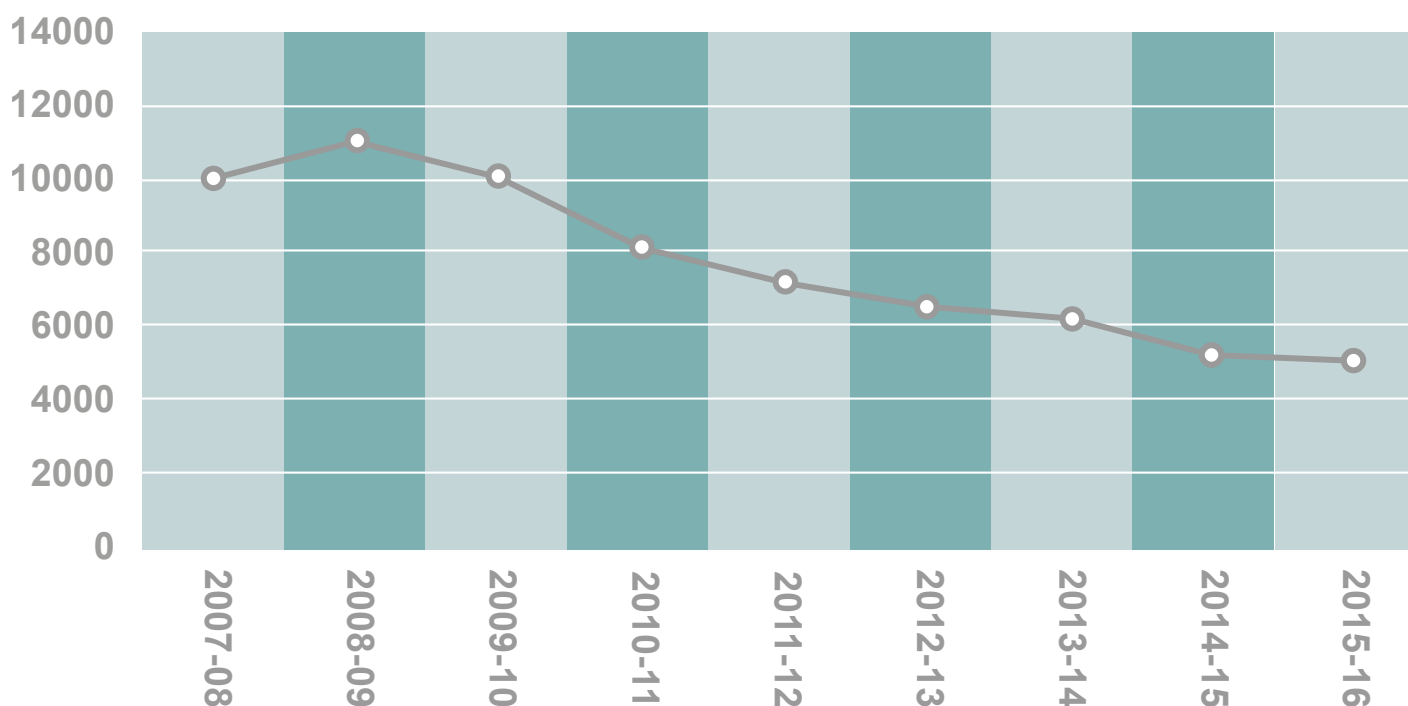


Figure 1: Information Source: Police Scotland

\* To account for changes in Police operational processes and counting methodologies all offending data has been recalculated as of 31/03/2016. Overall trends are broadly comparable with previous annual reports\*

# Statistics - SCRA

In Scotland, young people who become involved in offending behaviour are referred to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA).

This has been achieved through support for timely and effective interventions which prevent offending by addressing underlying causes.

The Reporter's primary function is to receive referrals for children and young people who are believed to require compulsory measures of supervision. The Reporter then decides whether they should be referred to a Children's Hearing.

Throughout 2015/16 there were **994** referrals to SCRA on offence based grounds, a fall of 30% on last year. This reduction shows Glasgow is managing to divert young people from formal processes and keep them out of the justice system for as long as possible.

## SCRA Offence Referrals

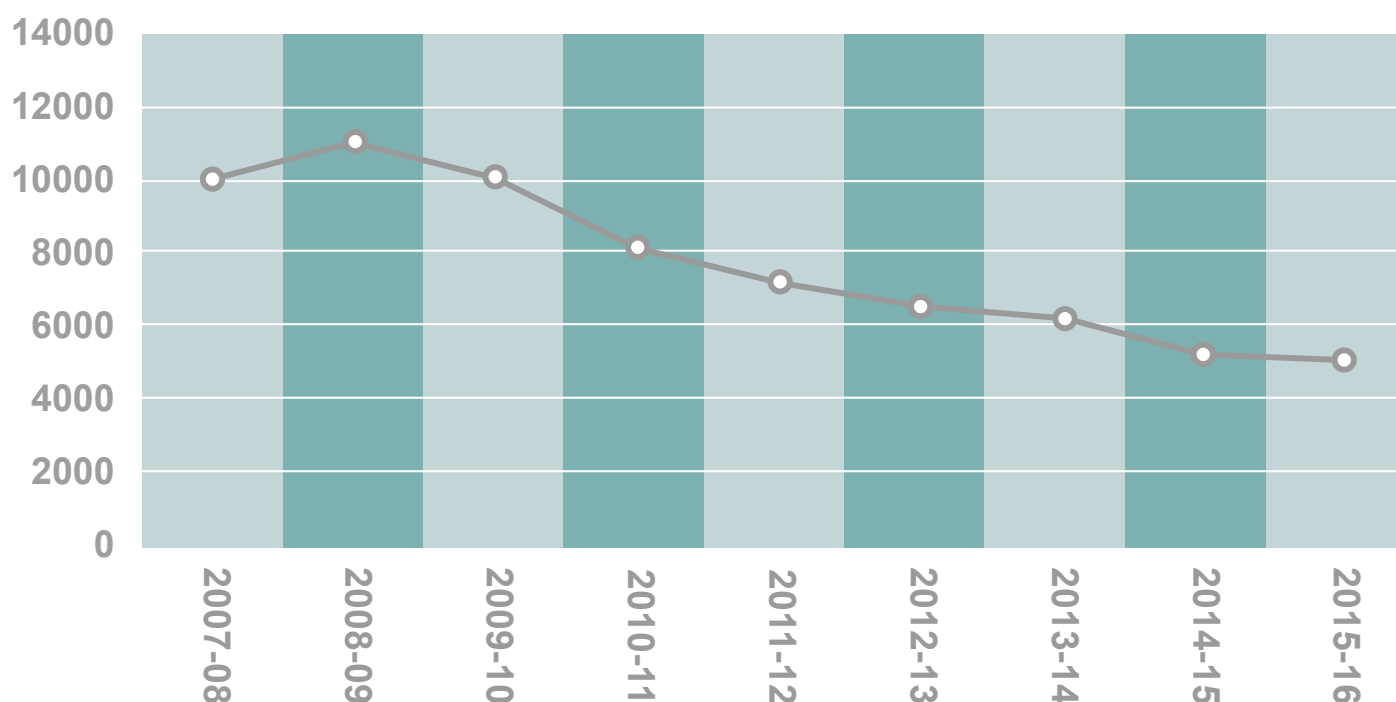


Figure 3: Information source: SCRA Statistical Dashboard

# Statistics - Secure Care

Secure accommodation is a form of residential care for young people whose needs and risks can only be managed in controlled settings.

These young people can be placed through the Children's Hearings system or the Courts and have been deemed to be a significant risk to themselves or others in the community. Secure care restricts the movement of young people placed in their care.

As a result of Glasgow's commitment to providing community based alternatives the amount of money spent on secure care has dropped by a significant amount over the past six years.

Indeed, as the chart below shows admissions to secure care, although remaining stable this year, have fallen significantly in recent years and this has enabled services to better meet the needs of high-risk young people safely and cost-effectively in their communities.

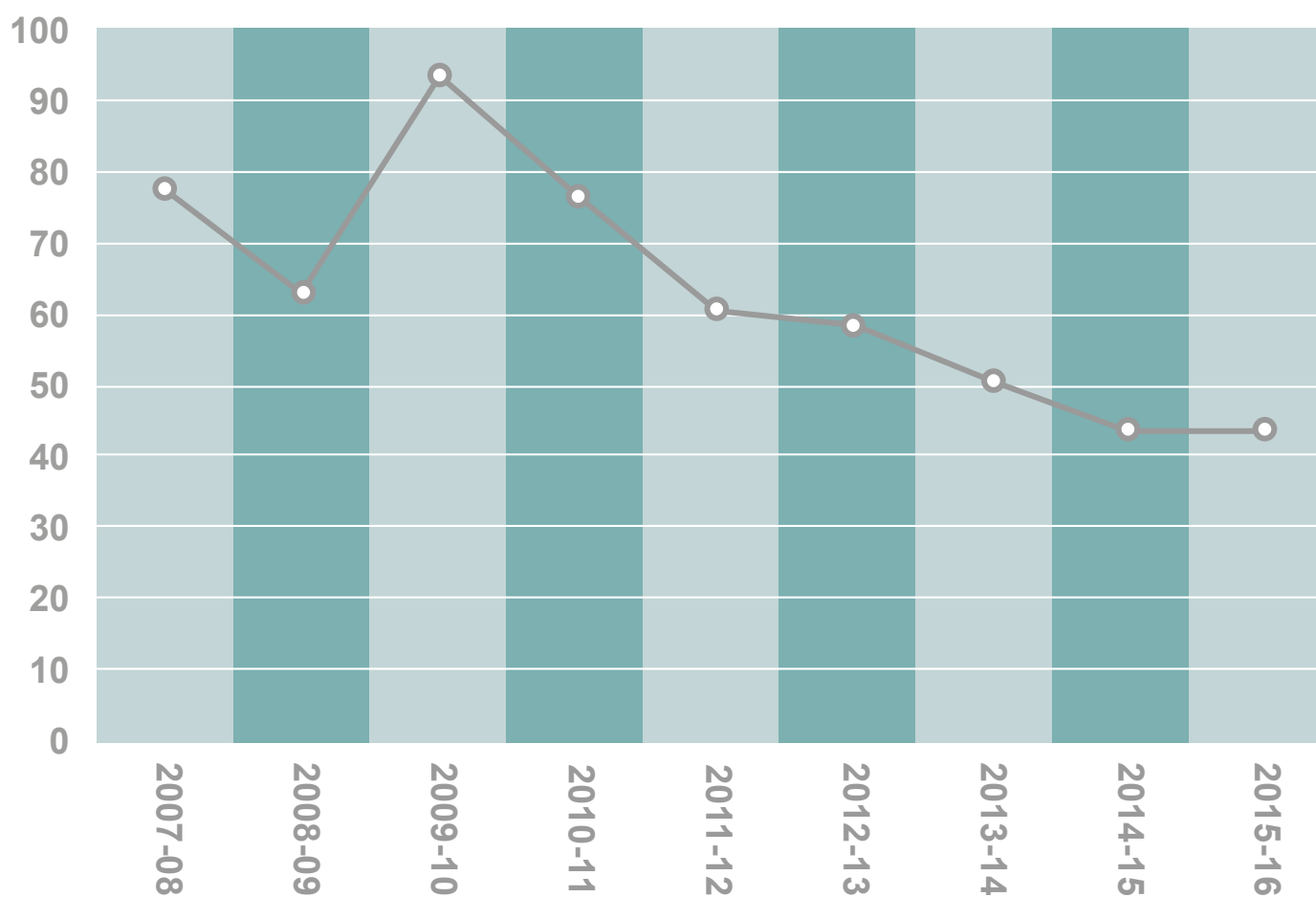
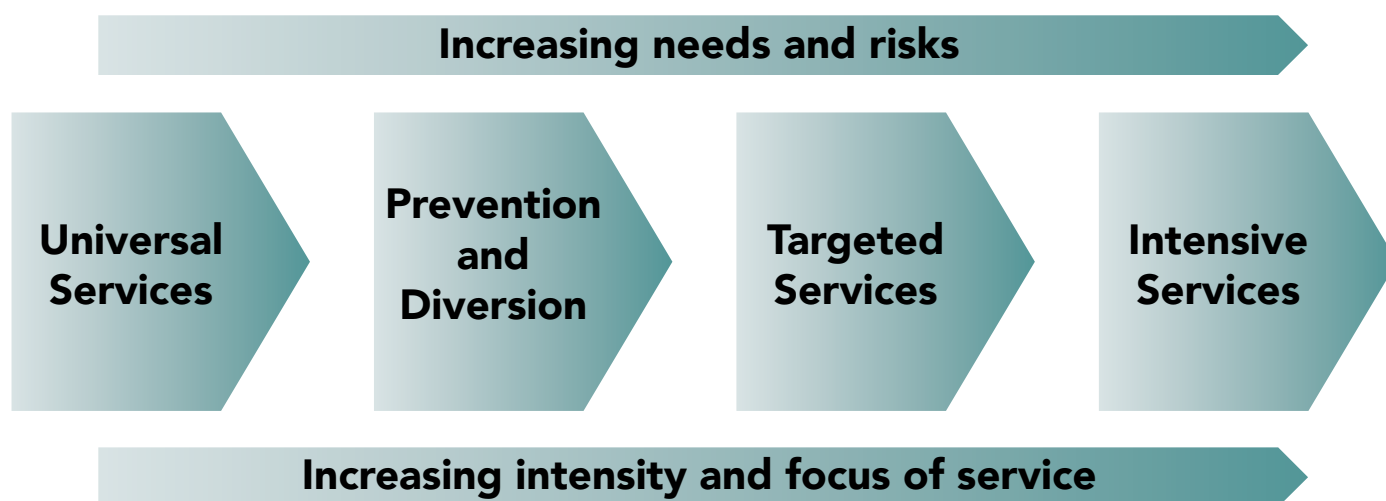


Figure 3: Information Source: Glasgow City Council

# The Staged Model of Service Provision



Youth Justice uses a staged-model of service provision, pictured above, to ensure that all young people receive the service they require at the right time.

Services provided earlier in the staged model focus on preventing and diverting young people from becoming involved in offending, and in addressing behavioural problems before they become more serious and challenging.

The later stages of service provision are for the small number of high risk, vulnerable young people who have complex needs that require more focussed and intensive intervention.

The ethos of the whole system approach, the Scottish Government's approach to dealing with young people involved in offending, suggests that many young people could and should be diverted from statutory measures, prosecution and custody through early intervention and robust community alternatives.

WSA involves putting in place streamlined and consistent planning, assessment and decision making processes for young people who offend, ensuring they receive the right help at the right time.

One Glasgow is Glasgow's method of implementing WSA. The One Glasgow approach is demonstrating a deeper collaboration between all partners involved in youth justice including statutory and third sector agencies.

Through joint, streamlined working, reduced duplication, and the redirection of resources to deliver improved outcomes, young people are having their needs met at each stage of service provision in the most effective and cost-efficient way possible.



# Prevention and Diversion



**Early and Effective Intervention (EEI)** for young people aged 8 to 18 years old was introduced by the Scottish Government under the **Whole System Approach**.

Glasgow's multi-agency EEI groups meet regularly in local areas to discuss the most recent young people to have come to the attention of the Police and to decide the best course of action.

An important task of the EEI Groups is to identify young people who are low risk and unlikely to re-offend and to let the parents or carers address the young person's behaviour without involvement from agencies.

In doing this the groups can then target resources and services at the minority of young people and families who might need a little more assistance to desist from further offending behaviour.

Young people who do require intervention might be encouraged to get involved in sports, local youth work activities or attend a **Restorative Justice programme**, depending on their needs and circumstances.

In addition to EEI groups the work of **Learning Community Joint Support Teams (LC-JSTs)** further ensures that young people are given the support they need at the prevention stage. LC-JSTs meet regularly to discuss progress, share information and plan any additional support that a child/young person may require.

This allows for a collaborative discussion to be held and a shared responsibility adopted between those professionals involved in supporting a child. Partners are supported to find local solutions to concerns about a child or young person's wellbeing in order to achieve consistently high standards of practice and provision.

LC-JSTs take an approach that does not focus solely on the area of concern, but is solution oriented, forward looking and builds on the child or young person's strengths and resiliencies.

# Targeted Services



Only a small number of young people require statutory measures to address their offending. These young people are likely to have histories characterised by a range of difficulties including family problems, poor educational engagement, substance misuse and mental health problems in addition to offending behaviour.

Interventions for this group require to be individually tailored to specific assessed needs and risks. Robust multi-agency planning and review processes ensure that all agencies work effectively together to achieve positive outcomes for the young person and their community.

If young people continue to be involved in offending they may be referred to the **Local Youth Justice Forums**.

These multi-agency forums meet in each of the three **Social Work Areas** with the aim of reducing offending in the local area. Every month all partners come together to discuss the most problematic and vulnerable young offenders in the community to better coordinate and target services for these young people.

Young people involved in offending behaviour will often be supported by a **Social Work Youth Justice Team**. These teams are responsible for the case management of young people aged 12-21 who are involved in both the Children's and Adult systems. In conjunction with other agencies workers develop individual action plans based on the young person's needs and risks and undertake direct work with the young person.

**Interventions  
require to be  
individually  
tailored to specific  
assessed needs**

# Third Sector



The third sector plays a key role in the delivery of services for young people who are at risk of, or who are involved in, offending behaviour.

Through offering additional support to these young people, third sector organisations can help to improve the effectiveness of the work done by public sector agencies.

Services and support can be provided through a range of methods including group work, one-to-one support and mentoring.

**Includem** is a charity with a record of successfully engaging young people by providing a cost effective, community-based alternative to secure care, remand and prosecution that achieves positive outcomes.

Includem offer 1-to-1 relationship-based support for young people and their parents or carers as well as a free 24/7 helpline, giving them a practical way to get the support they need when they need it most.

The Includem toolkit **A Better Life** is based on best practice and research evidence, and provides a framework for young people to make positive changes to their attitudes and behaviours.

Independent evaluations (available at [includem.org](http://includem.org)) have shown that Includem programmes significantly reduce offending for those involved with the service.

A further third sector service currently diverting young people from a life of offending is **Action for Children Scotland's Serious Organised Crime project**.

The intervention service deploys a two-pronged approach. A peer mentor works directly with the young people to gain their trust and learn about their trigger points, crime patterns, physical and emotional wellbeing, and family constructs, while a service coordinator works with families to gain their support.

Many of the families worked with are pro-criminal, meaning it is crucial that the service coordinator is able to convince them to allow the young person to try another way of life.

A recent study of the service, conducted by Edinburgh University, has shown a **75%** drop in offending amongst the young people receiving support.



# Intensive Services



A number of multi-agency evidence based **Intensive Services** support **Youth Justice Teams** across the city, providing services that are available seven days per week to young people and their families.

Evidence based family interventions for young people, **Stop Now and Plan** and **Functional Family Therapy**, help young people stay in school while giving families new ways of problem solving and communicating.

Glasgow currently provides three services under the **Whole System Approach**. **The Youth Diversion from Prosecution Service** reduces the number of 16 and 17 year-olds being prosecuted. **The Court Support Service**, supports young people to fully understand the Court process. **The Supporting Transitions and Reintegration Service (STARS)** supports young people in their transition from custody to the community.

The highly successful **Intensive Support and Monitoring Service (ISMS)** supports young people who are at serious risk of being placed in secure accommodation, while the city also provides an ISMS service as an **Alternative to Remand for Sheriffs**, providing a direct alternative to custody or secure care when appropriate.

**The Young Woman's Centre**, the only service of its kind in Scotland, ensures that vulnerable young women who would otherwise be in secure care or a high cost residential placement have had their needs met in the community.

**The Outdoor Resource Centre** provides recreational outdoor programmes to young people who are looked after and accommodated. These programmes are designed to generate learning experiences for young people and improve decision making and problem solving skills.

**The Forensic Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (FCAMHS)** also works with some of the highest risk young people in the city, and is a multi-disciplinary team that delivers clinical work and also works in partnership with a range of agencies.

# The year ahead



The city plans to build on its strong track record in delivering services to young people and their families, and in reducing offending across Glasgow.

Guided by the principles of **GIRFEC** and the ethos of the **Whole System Approach**, services will work together to divert young people whenever possible from statutory measures, prosecution and custody through early intervention and robust community alternatives.

In recognition of the need to deliver services in the most effective and cost-efficient way possible we will strengthen existing links with the Third sector to bolster our own services.

Our commitment to seeking innovative new ways to support young people to reach their full potential will be further demonstrated with the introduction of **Dialectical behaviour therapy (DBT)** as part of the programme of support offered at the **Young Women's Centre**. This is a therapy designed to help people change patterns of behaviour that are not helpful, such as self-harm and substance abuse.

The motto of the **Youth Justice Strategy Group** has been to ensure that the city's **Youth Justice Services** are **Effective, Efficient and Evidence-based**. We therefore remain committed to continued monitoring and evaluation across the full range of provision to ensure that services remain effective, that areas for improvement are identified at an early stage and that services are transparent and accountable.

Hopefully this report has given a sense of the commitment that the Youth Justice Strategy Group has to reducing offending in the city. In the meantime thank you to everyone involved in making Glasgow a safer city this year.



To find out more about Youth Justice Services in Glasgow please visit the Youth Justice section of the Glasgow City Council website:

[WWW.GLASGOW.GOV.UK](http://WWW.GLASGOW.GOV.UK)

If you have any comments, questions or concerns about the report please contact us:

Youth Justice Services 136 Stanley Street Kinning Park  
G41 1JH