

YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGY
PREVENTION AND
EARLY INTERVENTION

PRINCIPLES FOR EARLY INTERVENTION

- Child focussed; Evidence for effectiveness
- Consultation - effective collaborative mechanisms
 - voice of the child
 - front-line staff
- Integrated services addressing situation of each child / family
 - holistic
 - non-stigmatizing responses
- Effective oversight / governance of whole system

Better Services for High Risk cases

Our Public Service 2020

- evidence and data-driven - linking expenditure and reform by optimising the use of data;
- delivering for public by improving services
 - more accessible, child-centred to provide a wrap-around holistic response

Key question – how to provide...

- Effective targeted response to high needs and high risk factors
- Without stigmatizing or premature involvement criminal justice system

Child / Family Centred

Early intervention and prevention initiatives

Specialised “Justice” initiatives or mainstream services?

UN Principles (Riyadh Guidelines)

CoFPI - Policing = Human Rights and the Prevention of Harm

Consultation – sharing insights across sectors

Voice of the Child and Front Line Staff

Key Support

Stable adult relationship

Child / Family Focus Objectives

- **A1** Ensure that our existing approaches to hearing the voice of the child allow us to learn from and share the outcomes of such consultations in a systematic way across agencies and programmes to
 - support effective prevention and early intervention measures.
 -
- **A2** Develop mechanisms to harness the *practice wisdom* of front-line staff and other practitioners and to share the learning across agencies and programmes.
- **A3** Within a collaborative approach to service provision, we will put systems in place to prioritise the development and maintenance of a key adult relationship for children and young people who are most vulnerable and most at risk.

Collaboration on Data and Research

- Significant data and research resources already in place
- Collaboration to enhance all sectors

Possible topics for collaboration -

- Children in both the Care and Justice systems,
- Effects of early school leaving
- Early warning signals of later criminal involvement
- Traveller and migrant children
- Transition - primary to secondary school or other education/training

Data and Research Objectives

- **B1** 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 prevention and early intervention measures,
- **B2** Develop a collaboration approach to development of empirical evidence for identification of risk factors, key 'warning signals' of later involvement with the criminal justice system and consequently key points for optimum early interventions.

System design

- Embedding collaborative practice – e.g. Meitheal (case working)
- System overlaps – coordination “burden” e.g. NEIC (integrated area plan)

- Lack of system view of effective child centred practice
 - Smaller communities
 - Champions required

Could we ...

- Collaboratively develop coordination models (NEIC etc)
- Streamline financial reporting
- Use preferred providers in particular areas (CoFPI approach)
- Redesign schemes

System Design Objectives

- **C1** We will provide integrated and mainstream prevention and early intervention services to address the circumstances of children and families experiencing multiple disadvantage and risk of involvement in the s associated with criminal activity.
- **C2** Support the development of collaborative mechanisms and partnerships to ensure that effective practices are disseminated and supported in all areas of the State.

Oversight and Governance

- Collaboration - statutory Positive Duty for State and funded bodies ?
- Central authority - DCYA
 - Guidelines or codes of practice
 - Designation of mechanisms for integrated area plan (NEIC model)
 - designate preferred providers (CoFPI model)

Independent review mechanisms

- Ombudsman for Children
- Local Authorities
- CYPSCs

Oversight and Governance Objectives

- **D1** We will review service coordination and funding arrangements for prevention and early intervention to ensure the alignment and coordination of services in order to address more effectively the situation of all children and families, but with a specific focus on those who may be at risk in relation to criminal activity.
- **D2** We will put mechanisms in place to drive a culture of cross-programme and cross-agency cooperation and collaboration in delivery of an integrated service to children and families at risk.
- **D3** We will ensure that relevant agencies and funding programmes coordinate the design of youth, family and child services and coordinate at the point of service delivery, with a strong oversight and governance role vested in the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.