

Irish Youth Justice Service Annual Report 2008



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



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM
AN ROINN DLI AGUS CIRT, COMHIONANNAIS AGUS ATHCHÓIRITHE DLI

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Irish Youth Justice Service
Seirbhís n-áireacair, um Chosntas i leith an Aosa Óig

Irish Youth Justice Service Annual Report 2008

Foreword



I am pleased to present the first Annual Report of the Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS). This Report sets out progress achieved on the goals and objectives outlined in the National Youth Justice Strategy 2008-2010 which was launched in March 2008, as well as other important developments in youth justice during the year.

I believe the National Youth Justice Strategy is key to the future success of the youth justice system in this country. In order to ensure the effective implementation of the Strategy, a National Youth Justice Oversight Group was established by my predecessor. This Group will help drive the Strategy forward and facilitate the cross-agency collaboration needed over the period of the Strategy. The Group will report progress to me and to the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, Children and Integration.

As Minister with delegated responsibility for Youth Justice, I was pleased to announce the commencement of the Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008 in July which will permit the Government to appoint three new judges to the District Court to deal with cases involving children. The provision for these crucial appointments will help reduce waiting times for cases to come to court, which is a vital component of any strategy to improve the delivery of youth justice.

I was also heartened by the Government decision to develop new national children detention facilities on the Oberstown campus in Lusk, Co. Dublin. The planning for the development got underway in 2008. The new accommodation when completed will enable the transfer of 16-17 year old boys from St. Patrick's Institution to the new facilities. It is envisaged that the project will be undertaken on a phased basis with the Office of Public Works progressing the design work for the new centre.

I am pleased to note that the IYJS has worked extensively with other agencies and Departments to ensure an integrated approach to delivering services for young people in trouble with the law during 2008. The various objectives of the National Youth Justice Strategy are being met and will undoubtedly assist us going forward.

The progress achieved throughout the year would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of the staff in the IYJS and associated Departments and bodies and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone concerned.

Mr Barry Andrews, TD
Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

Preface

This is the first Annual Report of the Irish Youth Justice Service.

The National Youth Justice Strategy, which was published in March 2008, sets challenging goals and objectives across the range of responsibilities and operations of the IYJS. This report details the progress made during 2008 in delivering on these goals and objectives.

The significant challenge for me is to bring about a modern and integrated system. In order to achieve this we must facilitate the implementation of the Children Act 2001, as amended, ensure that the programmes provided are effective and achieve the best possible outcomes for children who come in contact with the youth justice system. The implementation of the Strategy is key to achieving this challenge. The establishment of the National Youth Justice Oversight Group in April 2008 to facilitate the effective implementation of the Strategy will ensure its continued relevance to young people, service providers and society as a whole.

During 2008 we saw further investment in the development of the 100 existing Garda Youth Diversion Projects, further expansion in the implementation of community sanctions countrywide and the investment in the provision of safe and secure detention facilities for young offenders with the Government decision to develop new detention facilities in Oberstown.

2008 saw the launch of the IYJS website as well as the publication of the IYJS newsletter and the production of information leaflets, all of which provide a means to inform the general public of the services we provide. The first biennial IYJS Conference was successfully staged in the Slieve Russell Hotel in Cavan in March 2008 and attended by both key policymakers and practitioners in the youth justice system. Together, these measures ensure that the message of the IYJS is disseminated and more notably, that inter-agency co-operation and partnership in the area of youth justice service provision is encouraged.

Of course, all Government services are facing a very tough economic environment at the present time. The successful operation of the IYJS and our ability to carry out our remit is directly influenced by the resources available to the Service and the effective participation by all key stakeholders involved in the process. With this in mind, I would like to acknowledge the ongoing commitment and contribution being made by all our partners to achieve our shared goals.

Michelle Shannon
National Director – Irish Youth Justice Service

Mission Statement

“To create a safer society by working in partnership to reduce youth offending through appropriate interventions and linkages into services.”

Irish Youth Justice Service

The Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS) is an executive office of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform working with the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA). We are responsible for leading and driving reform in the youth justice area. We fund organisations and projects providing services, including Garda and Probation Projects, to young people aged under 18 years who find themselves in conflict with the law. We are also responsible for the management and development of children detention facilities. At the end of 2008 there were 34 staff working in the IYJS.

We work in close co-operation with other Departments and Agencies including Education and Science; Environment, Heritage and Local Government; Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs; An Garda Síochána; the Courts Service; the Probation Service; the Children Acts Advisory Board; and the Health Service Executive. This is reflected in the development of the National Youth Justice Strategy 2008-2010.

The current Programme for Government contains three commitments with regard to youth justice. The Programme states that we will:

- 1) Fund the implementation of a range of new community sanctions which came into force in March 2007 as an alternative to detention and which will be operated by the Probation Service. These community sanctions will include sanctions against the parents of offending youths.
- 2) Double the number of Garda Youth Diversion Projects and fund the development of other programmes for children who offend.
- 3) Invest in the provision of appropriate detention facilities for youth offenders.

(Page 50, An Agreed Programme for Government, June 2007)

Budget 2008 provided up to €50m for the IYJS and an additional €10m for Young Persons' Probation, a total of €60m.

Part 2

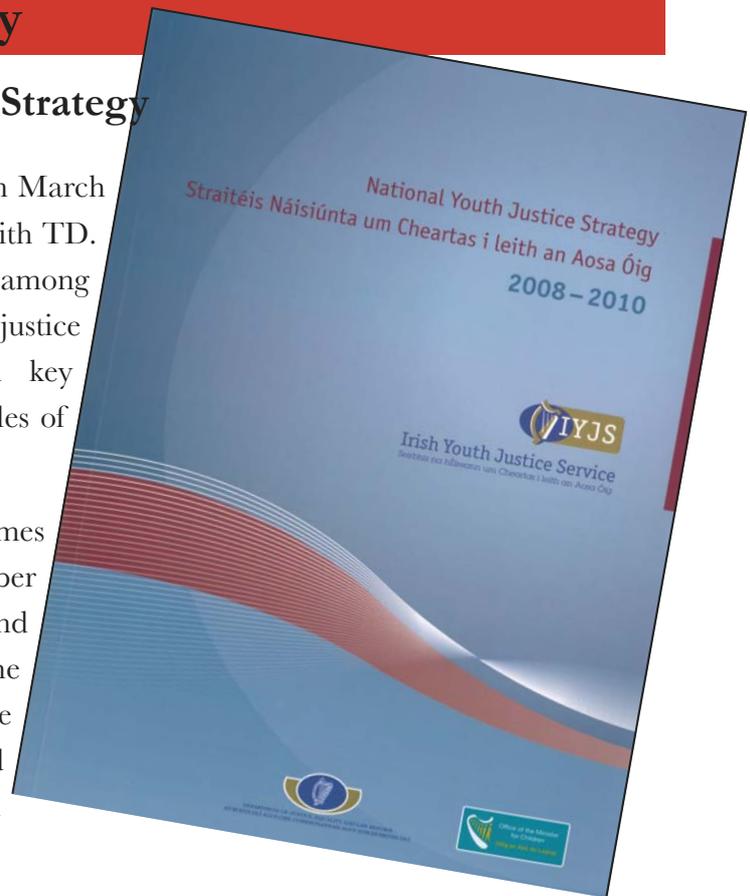
National Youth Justice Strategy

Launch of the National Youth Justice Strategy

The National Youth Justice Strategy was launched in March 2008 by the then Minister for Children, Brendan Smith TD. The Strategy provides a co-ordinated approach among Departments and agencies working in the youth justice system. It was developed in consultation with key stakeholders in the area and is based on the principles of the Children Act 2001, as amended.

The Strategy sets out plans for co-ordinated programmes and services which will be delivered through a number of agencies including the Department of Education and Science, the Department of Health and Children, the HSE, An Garda Síochána, the Courts Service, the Probation Service, the Children Acts Advisory Board (CAAB) and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

The net effect of the Strategy is to ensure a more co-ordinated strategic approach to service delivery, make better use of existing resources and deliver better outcomes for children in trouble with the law and for the community in general. The Strategy is being progressed at a national level by the National Youth Justice Oversight Group, which has been established in order to facilitate the cross-agency collaboration needed. The Oversight Group is scheduled to report to the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, Children and Integration mid-2009.



Based on the principles of the Children Act 2001, as amended, and the Government's decision to reform the youth justice area, the Strategy contains five high level goals:

1. To provide leadership and build public confidence in the youth justice system;
2. To work to reduce offending by diverting young people from offending behaviour;
3. To promote the greater use of community sanctions and initiatives to deal with young people who offend;
4. To provide a safe and secure environment for detained children which will assist their early re-integration into the community;
5. To strengthen and develop information and data sources in the youth justice system to support more effective policies and services.

Key Developments in 2008

IYJS Conference 2008

First Biennial Conference

Our first biennial conference took place on 6-7 March 2008 in the Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co Cavan.

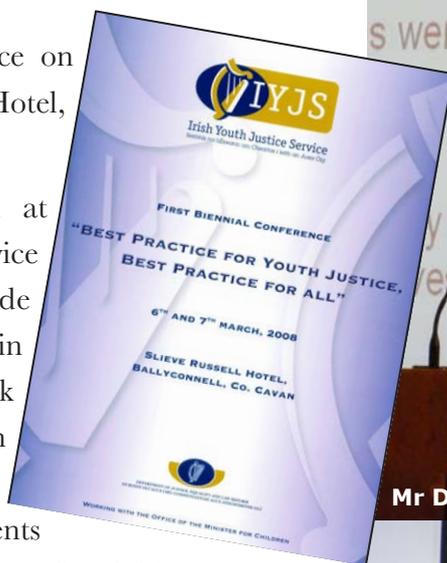
The two day conference was aimed at policymakers, decisionmakers and service providers who plan and provide interventions for children who are in trouble with the law, or who are at risk of being so. The conference, which featured a mixture of presentations and workshops, focused on recent developments in theory and best practice in interventions for children and at reducing youth offending. *Copies of all workshops and presentations from the conference are available on our website, www.iyjs.ie.*

Under the theme “Best Practice for Youth Justice, Best Practice for All”, the conference featured a range of Irish and international speakers including Ms Michelle Shannon, National Director of IYJS, the then Minister for Children, Mr Brendan Smith TD, Professor Paul Ekblom, Associate Director of the Design Against Crime Research Centre in the University of Arts London and Mr Bob Ashford, Head of Youth Justice Strategy at the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.

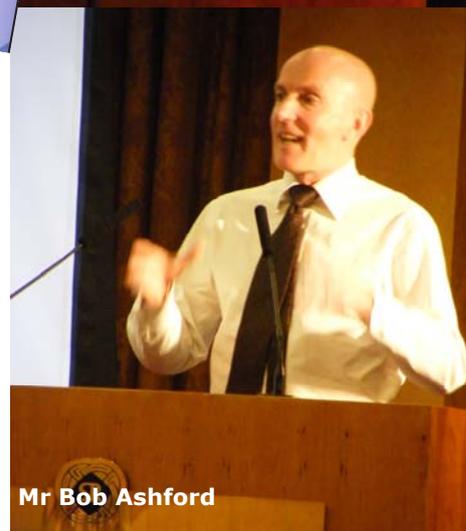
Other speakers over the course of the conference included:

- Mr Seán Aylward, Secretary General, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
- Mr John Fitzgerald, Chairperson, Limerick Regeneration Agencies
- Ms Sylva Langford, Director General of the Office of the Minister for Children
- Professor Dermot Walsh, Professor of Law, University of Limerick
- Ms Mary Geaney, National Manager of Detention School Services, IYJS
- Mr David O’Mahony, Durham University.

In addition to the keynote speakers, a number of workshops were held over the two days offering attendees a chance to discuss and debate key issues in the sector.



Mr David O'Mahony



Mr Bob Ashford



Professor Paul Ekblom

General Administration and Communications

Building our team

Various appointments were made to the IYJS during 2008.

- A Head of Young Offender Programmes was appointed and is responsible for auditing, managing and developing programmes for young offenders. This involves monitoring and evaluating both community-based programmes and those running in the children detention schools.
- A Head of Mental Health was appointed with the remit of fostering the continuity of delivery of services to children through the development of linkages to community-based mental health services.
- A Researcher and an Accountant were appointed in 2008 to develop effective, value-for-money programmes aimed at reducing offending and enhancing existing programmes.

Communications Strategy

The need for a clear communications policy is contained in high level goal 5 of the National Youth Justice Strategy 2008-2010. Objective 5.1.1 states the need to ‘promote the work of the IYJS and provide information on youth justice issues through the various media’.

Through using communications tools, including a website, newsletter and information leaflets, we succeeded in building a corporate identity, communicating our message, sharing knowledge and learning and building a keener sense of partnership between all agencies working in this area.

Launch of the Irish Youth Justice Website (www.iyjs.ie)

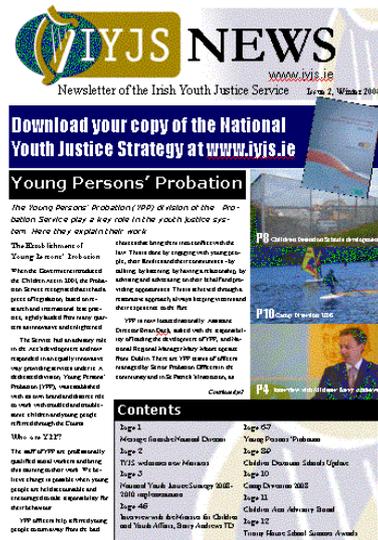
The website was launched on 27 February 2008 and can be found at www.iyjs.ie. The website features information on our work and the youth justice system in Ireland, news and events, press releases and key publications. The website will continue to be regularly updated.



Key Developments in 2008

General Administration and Communications

IYJS Newsletter



Our first Newsletter was published in May 2008. It included articles on Garda Youth Diversion Projects focusing on the Junction Project which is based in Ballinasloe, Co Galway; Juvenile Diversion Programmes in Dublin 8; the launch of the National Youth Justice Strategy; the IYJS Conference and an update on refurbishment works in the detention schools.

The main target audience of the newsletter is policymakers and practitioners in the youth justice system. The newsletter is also available to the general public and PDF copies of each edition are placed on iyjs.ie.

Copies of IYJS News can be downloaded from the IYJS website at www.iyjs.ie.

Research and Information Collection

- A policy document 'Developing a Research Programme for the Irish Youth Justice Service' was drafted by our Researcher in July 2008. Progressing this agenda will ensure that our future services will be tailored to respond to evidence-based needs. Such research is possible by using in-house resources, liaising with third level institutions and attending conferences and seminars on a regular basis.
- Meetings between the IYJS, Courts Service and Probation Service took place during 2008 to examine the best methods of collecting statistical data on children in the youth justice system. Further work will continue on this in 2009.
- IYJS in conjunction with other bodies sought to facilitate the sharing an exchange of information in the best interests of the children coming into contact with the youth justice system. The aim of this process is to enhance protection of the interests of children coming into contact with the youth justice system. The work is ongoing and the sharing will be facilitated within the safeguards of data protection legislation and other legal constraints.

Community Programmes

Two key principles of the Children Act are that:

1. Any child who accepts responsibility for his/ her offending behaviour should be diverted from criminal proceedings, where appropriate, and
2. Detention should be imposed as a last resort and may only be imposed if it is the only suitable way of dealing with the child.

The principle community-based measures available to underpin these principles are the Garda Diversion Programme, the Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDPs) and, in the event that criminal proceedings are pursued, Community Sanctions, which operate mainly under the supervision of the Young Persons Probation (YPP) division of the Probation Service.

The Garda Diversion Programme

The Garda Diversion Programme operates in accordance with Part 4 of the Children Act 2001, as amended, and under the general superintendence and control of the Garda Commissioner. The aim of the Diversion Programme is to deal with young people who offend by way of administering a formal or informal caution instead of formal charges/prosecution, thus diverting the offender away from the Courts and minimising the likelihood of further offending. A child given a formal caution is placed under the supervision of a Juvenile Liaison Officer (JLO) for a period of up to 12 months. A child who receives an informal caution is not normally placed under Garda supervision.

The programme embraces, whenever possible, the principles of restorative justice and, at all times, pays the highest regard to the needs of the victims. The programme has proven to be highly successful in diverting young persons away from crime by offering guidance and support to the young people and their families.

In order to be admitted to the programme a child must -

- Be over the age of criminal responsibility
- Accept responsibility for the offence(s) committed, and
- Consent to being cautioned and supervised.

When a child is deemed unsuitable for the programme the file is returned to the local Garda Superintendent for possible prosecution.

The IYJS funds a restorative justice project for the Garda Diversion Programme. This is used to pay for restorative justice training for JLOs, the publication of the Annual Report of the Committee appointed to monitor the effectiveness of the Programme and ancillary costs associated with restorative justice events. €108,000 in funding for this project was provided by IYJS in 2008.

The Diversion Programme is managed centrally by the Director, a Garda Superintendent in the Garda

Key Developments in 2008

Community Programmes

Office for Children and Youth Affairs. It operates nationwide through the JLOs. As of 31 December, 2008, there were 109 Gardaí operating as JLOs. In addition to these, many other Gardaí are engaged in liaising with young people on a day-to-day basis.

21,412 young people were referred to the Diversion Programme in 2008. Full details will be available on the publication of the 2008 Annual Report of the Committee appointed to Monitor the Effectiveness of the Diversion Programme. Reports for 2004 to 2007 are available on the IYJS website (www.iyjs.ie).

Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDPs)

Garda Youth Diversion Projects are funded by the IYJS and work in parallel with the Diversion Programme. They are a crime prevention initiative designed to engage with young people aged 12-17 years of age who have been identified as being at risk of involvement in criminal or anti-social behaviour. Each project is managed by a multi-agency and community-based committee which is responsible for the strategic direction of the project. Garda Youth Diversion Projects were first introduced in 1991 and there are currently 100 GYDPs operating in various locations throughout the country.

The projects undertake a series of programmes and activities which are aimed at changing behaviours, attitudes and lifestyles of project participants to bring about positive change and learning outcomes. The programmes offer opportunities for education, employment training, sport and other activities while providing a structured environment to add stability and support to a young person's life. This work is primarily carried out by a project co-ordinator/youth worker, who operates under the guidance of a project/management committee. These projects are managed by committees comprising representatives of An Garda Síochána, the management company or youth organisation and representatives from the Probation Service and other local agencies, community groups, schools, etc. The Garda Office for Children and Youth Affairs co-ordinates the administration of these projects.

The projects provide a resource to JLOs to assist in the supervision of children under formal caution. However it is important to note that a some of the children on GYDPs may be referred from other



Community Programmes

sources, including Community Gardaí, probation officers, youth organisations, schools, parents and even by children themselves.

At the end of 2007, there were 100 GYDPs in operation. The planned expansion in the number of projects in 2008 was re-assessed in the light of the changed economic climate and the primary focus during 2008 was on ensuring the quality and effectiveness of the services provided. No new projects were announced in 2008. In 2008 the IYJS allocated funding of €9.323m to GYDPs. The actual transfers were adjusted to take account of the carry-over of projects funds from 2007 and payments under the ESF-supported employability programme. The net transfers to projects in 2008 was €9.043m, which includes €1.047m under the ESF programme. Just over 3,800 children participated in GYDPs in 2008.

European Social Fund 2007 - 2013 for Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDPs)

One of the key supports in the development of the GYDPs is the European Social Fund (ESF) which provides the European Union with the financial means to invest in people. The current round of funding will run from 2007 to 2013.

The IYJS secured co-funding for Garda Youth Diversion Projects through the European Social Fund 2007-2013 Programme for the specific purpose of improving the education and employability prospects of young people engaged in the projects.

Funding under the programme was made available for two purposes - IT Skills/Personal Development and an additional worker for each project.

Information Technology Skills / Personal Development

The IYJS was allocated ESF funding for the purposes of enhancing the education and employability of participants of GYDPs by providing them with key skills in the areas of personal development and information technology. Grants of €5,400 for IT and €4,580 for personal development were made available for each course delivered.

Additional Worker

The objective under this measure is to provide support for participants in accessing further education and training through the recruitment of additional Youth Justice Workers who would work with participants, relevant agencies and employers. By 31 December 2008, 59 projects had recruited an additional youth justice worker.



EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

Key Developments in 2008

Community Programmes

Improving the effectiveness of projects - a baseline analysis on GYDPs

The National Youth Justice Strategy recognises the importance of the effective use of data to inform policy and to provide a benchmark against which trends in the area of youth justice can be assessed and the effectiveness of new measures in this area determined. The Strategy details plans for the development of complementary programmes to the existing GYDPs. The first step is an audit of existing programmes and the identification of any gaps.



Inspector Lorraine Stack, Community Relations Section, An Garda Síochána; Mr Seán Redmond, Head of Young Offender Programmes, IYJS; Assistant Commissioner Louis Harkin, An Garda Síochána; and Mr Ruairí Gogan, Principal Officer of Community Programmes Unit, IYJS at the feedback seminar in the Dublin Writers Museum, 6 December 2008

In this context, the Head of Young Offender Programmes commenced a project in March 2008 to establish baseline data in relation to children who offend. The purpose of this analysis is to review the activities of the projects in the context of local youth crime patterns and the available evidence regarding best practice.

The first phase of the Baseline Analysis project involved meetings with 96 GYDPs around Ireland and also with Management Companies including Foróige, Catholic Youth Care and Youth Work Ireland.

The interviews were designed to gather information on:

- Crime in the local area
- Typical offences committed by young people in the area
- Profiles of young people who offend
- Improvements sought by the projects

Information seminars were held in December 2008 to disseminate the key findings of the report. The report is expected to be published in early 2009. The baseline analysis project will continue over the life of the Strategy.

Community Programmes

Under the community heading, the Irish Youth Justice Service also funded six mainstreamed local drugs task forces.

Local Drugs Task Force

- There are 6 mainstreamed Local Drugs Task Force (LDTF) projects operating in tandem with the GYDPs. The projects are funded by the IYJS and administered by the Garda Office for Children and Youth Affairs. In 2008, we provided €367,732 to the LDTFs.
- The work of the LDTFs varies depending on the level of funding. The principal emphasis is on drug prevention but projects' work can include all of the following:
 - raising awareness levels of young people, parents and other interested groups with regard to the issue of drugs;
 - developing initiatives and programmes that are educational and preventative in nature for young people who are at risk from drug use and misuse;
 - working with agencies and voluntary groups to develop a co-ordinated approach to this work involving young people between 8 & 18 in developmental activities and programmes of interest to them;
 - providing one to one support for young people who experience difficulties at various times in their lives;
 - carrying out street work to reach young people;
 - running night programmes jointly with community organisations;
 - providing family support for parents and young people experiencing problematic drug/alcohol use on challenging behaviour, attitudes and drug use/misuse by young people.

Children's Services Committees

Towards 2016 and the *National Children's Strategy* provide for the establishment of multi-agency Children's Services Committees within each of the city/county development boards. During 2008, four Children's Services Committees (CSCs) were established on a pilot basis. In partnership with the IYJS, HSE, National Educational Welfare Board and An Garda Síochána, the OMCYA is working to promote the development of early intervention schemes on a pilot basis for young people through the CSCs. The four pilot CSCs are currently developing Action Plans.

Key Developments in 2008

Community Programmes

Rolling out the implementation of Community Sanctions countrywide

The provisions of the Children Act 2001, as amended, provide for a range of new community sanctions to the Courts as an alternative to detention. These sanctions are aimed at reducing the number of children sentenced to detention by the Courts and improving the outcomes for children in a range of areas including the rate of re-offending, educational attainment, family supports and substance abuse. In March 2007, the legislative provisions for the use of these new sanctions were introduced. A dedicated division of the Probation Service - Young Persons Probation (YPP) - oversees the implementation of the majority of the community sanctions.

10 Community Sanctions are available to the Courts:

- **Community Service Order:** A child of 16 or 17 years of age agrees to complete unpaid work for a set total number of hours.
- **Day Centre Order:** A child is to go to a centre at set times and, as part of the order, to take part in a programme of activities.
- **Probation Order:** This places a child under the supervision of the Probation Service for a period during which time the child must meet certain conditions which are set by the court.
- **Training or Activities Programme Order:** A child has to take part in and complete a programme of training or similar activity. The programme should help the child learn positive social values.
- **Intensive Supervision Order:** A child is placed under the supervision of a named probation officer and has to attend a programme of education, training or treatment as part of their time under supervision.
- **Residential Supervision Order:** This is where a child is to live in a suitable hostel. The hostel should be close to where they normally live, attend school or go to work.
- **A Suitable Person (Care and Supervision) Order:** With the agreement of the child's parents or guardian, the child is placed in the care of a suitable adult.
- **A Mentor (Family Support) Order:** A person is assigned to help, advise and support the child and his/her family in trying to stop the child from committing further offences.
- **A Restriction of Movement Order:** This is basically a curfew order supervised by the Gardaí. A child is required to stay away from certain places and to be at a specific address between 7pm and 6am each day.
- **A Dual Order:** This combines a Restriction of Movement Order with either supervision by a probation officer or attendance at a day centre.

In addition the Courts can also avail of the provisions of the Children Act 2001, as amended, to order a family conference and to make a parental supervision order.

The Courts are beginning to make use of these new sanctions. The IYJS has worked extensively with the Probation Service during 2008 to continue the roll-out of community sanctions nationwide. Funding of €443,404 was allocated to YPP projects in 2008.

Detention Schools

Children Detention Schools

2008 was the first full year in which the children detention schools operated under the aegis of the IYJS. The schools provide remand and committal places for young people detained on foot of criminal offences. There are currently four such schools in the State:

- Trinity House School, Oberstown, Lusk, Co Dublin
- Oberstown Boys School, Oberstown, Lusk, Co Dublin
- Oberstown Girls School, Oberstown, Lusk, Co Dublin
- Finglas Child and Adolescent Centre, Dublin 11

The use of detention for a child is a last resort. The Children Act 2001, as amended, requires that all other avenues be explored before a child is sent into custody. Only boys aged under 16 and girls under 18 years at the time of being remanded or committed by the Courts can be held in a children detention school. Boys aged 16 or 17 years of age at the time of being remanded or committed are detained in St Patrick's Institution, which is under the aegis of the Irish Prison Service.

During 2008, there were 123 individual children detained in a detention school. The maximum occupancy at any one time was 53 places with an average of 46 places being used at any one time, ie. 34 for detention orders and 12 places for children being detained on remand. Current maximum designated capacity of the schools is 77 places. For operational reasons, including significant refurbishment works, the capacity of the children detention schools was 61 places at the end of 2008.

Operational capacity and average occupancy of detention schools 2008

Children Detention School	Operational Capacity (Dec 08)	Average Occupancy
Trinity House School	17	16
Oberstown Boys School	20	15
Oberstown Girls School	8	4
Finglas Child and Adolescent Centre	16	11
Total	61	46

Government gives the green light for major development

In March 2008 the Government approved the development of new national children detention facilities for children under the age of 18 years on the existing State-owned Oberstown Campus. This decision is a major step in delivering on the commitment made in the agreed Programme for Government to invest in the provision of appropriate detention facilities for young offenders. The facility will be developed to ensure an integrated and unified service to children remanded and committed by the Courts. The project will provide a total of 167 places on a phased basis with phase one seeing the creation of sufficient places to facilitate the transfer of 16-17 year old boys from St Patrick's Institution.

Key Developments in 2008

Detention Schools

Following the Government decision we consulted widely with stakeholders, including the children being detained, with regard to the design specification for the new children detention school. A major multidisciplinary consultation across all four schools took place over April and May 2008 and a group was set up to ensure the new facilities meet the highest international standards. Reports of the consultations are available on our website, www.iyjs.ie.

A project manager was appointed by the IYJS in May 2008 and, in November, the Office of Public Works (OPW) was appointed to design the new facilities. The OPW in conjunction with the IYJS will progress the design work for the new centre during 2009. Construction of the new facilities is scheduled to take place on a phased basis so as to ensure the continued operation of the existing facilities. It is anticipated that phase 1 should be completed by end 2012 and phase 2 by end 2014. The tendering for the construction of the new facilities will be subject to Government approval and to the necessary funding being made available.

Trinity House School celebrates 25 years

Trinity House School celebrated 25 years in operation during 2008. It is intended that Trinity House will continue to operate as part of the new detention school facilities at Oberstown. To ensure this we have undertaken, in conjunction with the OPW, a major project to introduce integral sanitation to the residential accommodation in the school. With a budget of €3m, the project will bring the residential accommodation available in the school into line with international models and will improve conditions for both children and staff. Work on the project began in December 2008 and is expected to be completed in late 2009/early 2010.



Trinity House School, Oberstown, Lusk, Co Dublin

Detention Schools

Ongoing Capital Projects

In addition to the integral sanitation project in Trinity House, we spent over €1.7m purchasing equipment and improving facilities across the four schools over 2008. This included the installation of ventilation at Finglas Child and Adolescent Centre and a refurbishment of the accommodation units of Oberstown Boys School. All the works carried out are aimed at improving conditions for children and staff and decisions to proceed with projects are taken in the context of the planned development of new facilities on the Oberstown campus.



Policy Co-ordination and Development

The National Youth Justice Strategy sets out targets for the development of standardised policies and procedures across the children detention schools. Policy issues are discussed and developed at management level through, amongst others, the Directors Forum, Bed Managers' Meetings, Capital Projects Group and various policy, service development and finance groups. Some achievements in 2008 included the development of a detention school-wide serious incident policy and behaviour management model.

A review of offending behaviour programmes available in schools was initiated by our Head of Young Offender Programmes in October 2008. It is expected that an overall care/education plan post release protocol will also be developed.

During 2008 the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs appointed the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) to inspect the children detention schools. Oberstown Boys School and Trinity House School were inspected in December 2008 with Finglas Child and Adolescent Centre and Oberstown Girls School to be inspected in January 2009. Reports on the findings are due to be published in mid-2009.

Education Provision - the VEC

Our colleagues in the Vocational Educational Committees (City of Dublin VEC and County Dublin VEC) and, at local level, the respective Principals, Vice-Principals and teachers ensure that education provision in the detention schools is tailored to the needs of the young people being detained. Over a normal school year young people attend classes that lead to awards in State examinations, such as the Junior Certificate, or other educational achievements, including awards certified by FETAC. 25 students sat Junior Certificate exams in the children detention schools in 2008.

Key Developments in 2008

Detention Schools

Children Detention Schools Statistics 2008



Children may be detained by the Courts on remand or, following a finding of guilt, by a detention order (S. 88 and S. 42 respectively, Children Act 2001 as amended). No child can receive a longer sentence than an adult would receive. Children detention schools can accept boys up to the age of 16 and girls up to 18 when the remand/detention order is made. The Courts may request an assessment of a young person's needs to be carried out during a period of remand.

- 123 individual young people were ordered by the Courts to be detained in the children detention schools during 2008. 76% (94) of these were male and 24% (29) were female.

Remand Orders

- In 2008, 111 young people were detained on remand, of these 79% (88) were male and 21% (23) were female.
- The average occupancy at any one time for remand places was 12.
- Almost 60% of young persons held on remand orders during 2008 were 15 years of age.
- Of the total number of children who were remanded to a detention school, 44% received a detention order to a Children Detention School during 2008.

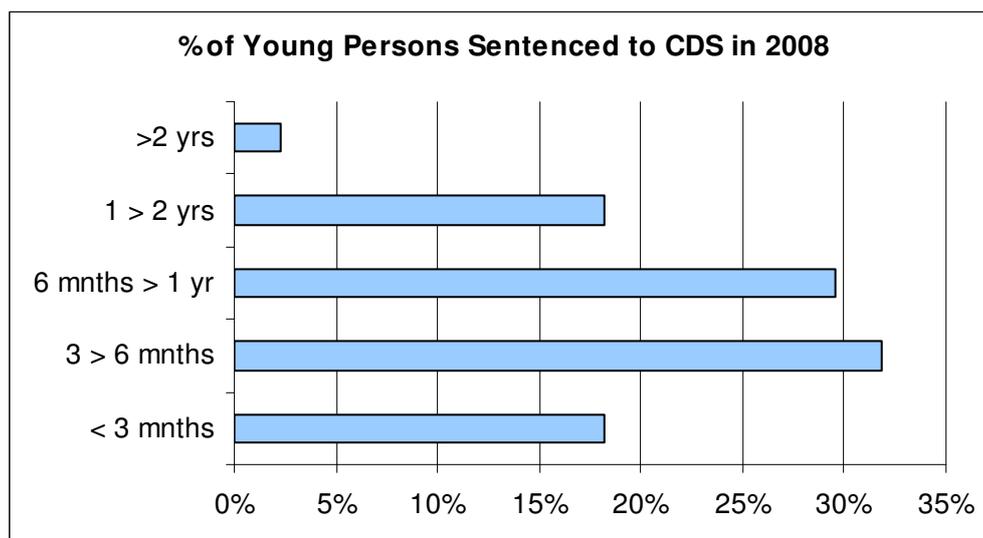
Detention Schools

Assessments

- The Courts requested 56 assessments of young persons' needs while they were remanded to a Children Detention School, which is 50% of all remanded young persons.
- 80% (45) of the assessed young people were male and 20% (11) were female.
- 29% of those who received assessments also subsequently received a detention order to a Children Detention School during 2008.

Detention Orders

- In 2008, 44 young people received detention orders to a Children Detention School, of these 75% (33) were male and 25% (11) were female.
- The average length of these detention orders was 10 months. The shortest was 1 month while the longest was 30 months. The average occupancy at any one time for detention was 34 places.
- 72% of the young persons being held on detention orders during 2008 were 15 or 16 years of age (Note: all young persons on detention orders are under 16 at the time of the detention order being made in the case of boys and under 18 in the case of girls).
- The chart below shows the percentage breakdown of sentences received by young persons in 2008.



Key Developments in 2008

Detention Schools

Number of Young People detained by region 2008

Eastern Region	# Young persons
Carlow	0
Laois	1
Longford	0
Louth	6
Kildare	3
Offaly	3
Westmeath	1
Meath	3
Total	17

Dublin Met Region	# Young persons
Dublin	45
Total	45

Northern Region	# Young persons
Cavan	1
Monaghan	1
Donegal	4
Sligo	1
Leitrim	0
Fermanagh	1
Total	8

South Eastern Region	# Young persons
Tipperary	1
Waterford	0
Kilkenny	1
Wexford	0
Wicklow	0
Total	2

Southern Region	# Young persons
Cork	16
Kerry	1
Limerick	15
Total	32

Western Region	# Young persons
Clare	3
Galway	11
Mayo	1
Roscommon	4
Total	19

Total number of young persons	123
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Part 3

Appendix 1: List of Garda Youth Diversion Projects

Name of Project	Location
ABLE Project	Ballyfermot, Dublin 10
ACORN Project	Edenderry, Co. Offaly
ALF Project	Athlone, Co. Westmeath
An tOileán Project	Castleisland, Co. Kerry
APT Project	Tallaght, Dublin 24
BALL Project	Lisduggan, Co. Waterford
BAN Project	Ballybane, Co. Galway
Bandon Youth Project	Bandon, Co. Cork
BAP Project	Ballincollig, Cork City, Co. Cork
BAPADE Project	Killarney, Co. Kerry
BEST Project	Ballymun, Dublin 11
BLOCK Project	Portlaoise, Co. Laois
Boyne Project	Drogheda, Co. Louth
Bridge Project	Celbridge, Co. Kildare
Brookfield Project	Tallaght, Dublin 24
Cable Project	Drogheda, Co. Louth
Cabra Step-up Project	Cabra, Dublin 7
Castle Project	Ballyogan, Dublin 18
Cavan 365 Project	Cavan Town, Co. Cavan
CCYDG Project	Moyross, Limerick City, Co. Limerick
Clay Project	Crumlin, Dublin 12
CODY Project	Ballyfermot, Dublin 10
Compass Project	Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny
Connect 7 Project	Tralee, Co. Kerry
Curragh Newbridge Project	Co. Kildare
CYAP Project	Castlebar, Co. Mayo
CYD Project	Clonmel, Co. Tipperary
DAN Project	Donore Avenue, Dublin 8
DAY Project	Dungarvan, Co. Waterford
DIME Project	Hardwicke Street, Dublin 1
Douglas West Project	Douglas West, Co. Cork
EDGE Project	Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Waterford
Effort Project	Finglas, Dublin 11
Ennis Youth Project	Ennis, Co. Clare
EYE Project	Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
Falcarragh Project	Falcarragh, Co. Donegal
FAN Project	Finglas, Dublin 11
FAYRE Project	Farranree, Cork City, Co. Cork

Appendix 1: List of Garda Youth Diversion Projects

Feabhas Project	Cobh, Co. Cork
Fusion Project	Tullamore, Co. Offaly
GAP Project	The Glen, Cork City, Co. Cork
GRAFT Project	Clondalkin, Dublin 22
HAY Project	Dunne Street, Dublin 1
High Voltage Project	Dundalk, Co. Louth
Hub Project	Carlow Town, Co. Carlow
JAY Project	Tallaght, Dublin 24
Jets Project	Swords, Co. Dublin
Junction Project	Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Just Us Project	Tralee, Co. Kerry
KEY Project	Tallaght, Dublin 24
Kilrush Project	Kilrush, Co. Clare
Kings Island Project	St. Mary's Park, Limerick, Co. Limerick
Knocknaheeny/Holyhill Project	Knocknaheeny, Cork, Co. Cork
LAB Project	Loughlinstown, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
LEAF Project	Raphoe, Co. Donegal
LEAP Project	Longford Town, Co. Longford
LSCYI Project	Roxboro, Limerick City, Co. Limerick
Mallow Project	Mallow, Co. Cork
MAY Project	Blackrock, Cork City, Co. Cork
Meas Project	Knocknacarra, Galway, Co. Galway
MNYP Project	Monaghan Town, Co. Monaghan
MOST Project	North Circular Road, Dublin 1
MY Project	Tralee, Co. Kerry
New Directions Project	Bray, Co. Wicklow
NICKOL Project	Buckingham Street, Dublin 1
Nk 10 Project	Listowel, Co. Kerry
Northside Youth Development Project	Ballnanty, Limerick City, Co. Limerick
NYPD Project	Navan, Co. Meath
Orb Project	Blanchardstown, Dublin 15
PACT Project	Waterford (Inner City), Co. Waterford
Poddle Close Project	Crumlin, Dublin 12
Port Project	Portarlinton, Co. Laois
RAD Project	Roscommon, Co. Roscommon
Roscrea Project	Roscrea Town, Co. Tipperary
SAFE Project	Coolcotts, Co. Wexford
SAY Project	Sandyford, Dublin 18
Slaney Project	Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford

Part 3

Appendix 1: List of Garda Youth Diversion Projects

SMART Project	Trim, Co. Meath
SUB Project	Birr, Co. Offaly
Swan Project	Store Street, Dublin 1
SWAY Project	Waterford, Co. Waterford
SWIFT Project	Clondalkin, Dublin 22
TACT Project	Cork, Co. Cork
TAR Project	Tipperary Town, Co. Tipperary
TEAM Project	Dundalk, Co. Louth
Treo Nua Project	Tuam, Co. Galway
Tréoin Project	New Ross, Co. Wexford
Tyre Project	Tramore, Co. Waterford
Valley Project	Clondalkin, Dublin 22
Watergate/Garryowen Project	Limerick, Co. Limerick
WAY Project	Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow
WEB Project	Blanchardstown, Dublin 15
West Limerick Project	Newcastle West, Co. Limerick
Woodale Project	Darndale, Dublin 17
YAB Project	Ballina, Co. Mayo
YAK Project	Coolock, Dublin 5
YAPS Project	Sligo Town, Co. Sligo
YEW Project	Ballyboden, Dublin 16
YIS Project	Meath Street, Dublin 8
Youghal Project	Youghal, Co. Cork

Appendix 2: List of Local Drugs Task Forces (LDTFs)

Local Drugs Task Force	Location
Kerrigan Tyrell LDTF	Mayfield, Cork City
Knocknaheeney / Hollyhill LDTF	Knocknaheeney, Cork City
NPU, JLO Fund	Anglesea Street, Cork City
Togher Link - Up LDTF	Togher, Co. Cork
WEB LDTF	Blanchardstown, Dublin 15
YEW Tree LDTF	Anglesea Street, Cork City

Appendix 3: List of Young Persons' Probation (YPP) Projects

Name of Project	Location
Adventure Sports Project	Rutland St, Dublin 1
Aislinn Addiction Centre	Ballyraggett, Co. Kilkenny
Candle Community Trust	Ballyfermot, Dublin 13
Céim ar Céim	Moyross, Co. Limerick
Second Chance Project	Cox Demense, Dundalk, Co. Louth
Dochas don Óige	Tuam Road, Galway
Le Chéile	Arran Quay, Dublin 7
Kerry Adolescent Counselling Service	Tralee, Co. Kerry
Matt Talbot Adolescent Services Cork	Ahiohill, Co. Cork
Southill Outreach	Limerick City
St Vincent's Trust	Dublin 1
W.H.A.D. (We Have a Dream)	Ballyfermot, Dublin
Wexford Centre Project	Dublin City

