Irish Youth Justice Service
Annual Report 2009

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

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

Contents

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

Irish Youth Justice Service
Annual Report 2009

Foreword

I am pleased to present the 2009 Annual Report of the Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS). The Annual Report sets out progress achieved on the goals and objectives outlined in the National Youth Justice Strategy 2008-2010 as well as other important developments which occurred over the course of the year.

Despite difficult economic circumstances, significant progress was made in the implementation of the National Youth Justice Strategy over the course of 2009. In particular, I would like to note the progress made in assessing and developing the work of the Garda Youth Diversion Projects and the continuing work to build integrated national children detention facilities on the Oberstown campus in Lusk, Co Dublin.

More broadly, the IYJS worked extensively with the other agencies and Departments working under the National Youth Justice Strategy throughout 2009 to ensure an integrated approach to developing, in a co-ordinated and focused way, existing structures, policies and programmes for young people who are in trouble with the law. The National Youth Justice Oversight Group, which is overseeing the Strategy at a national level in order to facilitate the necessary cross-agency collaboration, reported progress on the implementation of the Strategy to the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, Children and Integration in October 2009.

The net effect of this effort is to create a more co-ordinated strategic approach, make better use of existing resources, create positive working relationships amongst stakeholders and deliver better outcomes for children in trouble with the law and for the community in general.

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

Mr Barry Andrews, TD
Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

Preface

The National Youth Justice Strategy 2008-2010 sets challenging goals and objectives across the range of responsibilities and operations of the IYJS. This report details the progress made during 2009 in delivering on these goals and objectives.

The significant challenge for me is to bring about a modern and integrated system; to facilitate the implementation of the Children Act 2001; to ensure that the programmes provided are effective; and to achieve the best possible outcomes for children who come in contact with the youth justice system. The implementation of the Strategy is of course key to achieving this challenge. During 2009, considerable progress was made in all areas of our work.

Work continued throughout the year on the development of the new national children detention facilities as well as the integration of existing facilities in Oberstown. In addition this, capital work continued on the upgrading of existing accommodation. The introduction of a new behaviour management programme and the implementation of the recommendations of the HIQA inspections ensured that those held in children detention schools continue to receive the best possible care.

The Children Act ensures that detention is only used as a last resort when all other alternatives have been exhausted. Throughout 2009, we work to ensure the best possible community programmes are provided to divert young people away from criminal activity, The report of the baseline analysis of Garda Youth Diversion Projects provided a valuable starting point from which we can ensure the best possible interventions are provided to young people with a specific reference to their local area and local issues. The audit and review of Young Persons' Probation Projects which began in 2009 will also ensure the same results in the work of YPP Projects.

The National Youth Justice Oversight Group, and the associated Liaison Officer Group which was introduced in 2009, have continued to ensure progress in the implementation of the National Youth Justice Strategy. I am confident that this will continue into 2010 as we approach the end of the lifetime of the Strategy and the development of its successor.

Finally, 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

Part 1

Irish Youth Justice Service

The Irish Youth Justice Service is an executive office of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform with responsibility for leading and driving reform in the area of youth justice.

Working with the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, the IYJS is guided by the principles of the Children Act 2001, as amended. The IYJS funds organisations and projects providing services, including Garda and Probation Projects, to young people aged under 18 years who find themselves in trouble with the law. These children may be involved with An Garda Síochána, the Probation Service and the Courts Service. We are also responsible for the management and development of children detention facilities.

Our remit is to improve the delivery of youth justice services and reduce youth offending. This challenge is met by focusing on diversion and rehabilitation, including greater use of community-based interventions, and the promotion of initiatives to deal with young people who offend. Providing a safe and secure environment for detained children and supporting their early re-integration back into the community is also a key function.

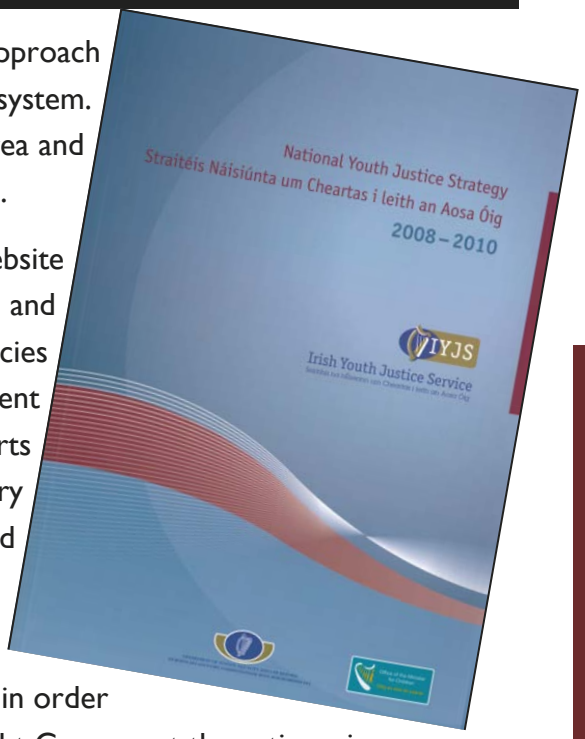
We are currently implementing the National Youth Justice Strategy 2008-2010 which was launched in March 2008.

Mission Statement

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

Introduction

The National Youth Justice Strategy 2008-2010



The National Youth Justice 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 (which is available for download on our website www.iyjs.ie) sets out plans for co-ordinated programmes and services which are delivered through a number of agencies including the Department of Education and Science; Department of Health and Children, the HSE, An Garda Síochána, the Courts Service, the Probation Service, the Children's Act Advisory Board (CAAB) and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

The Strategy is being progressed at a national level by the National Youth Justice Oversight Group, which was established in order to facilitate the cross-agency collaboration needed. The Oversight Group met three times in 2009. In addition to this, there were two meetings of the Liaison Officer Group which was established to provide a forum for stakeholders to discuss operational issues and exchange information and ideas. The Oversight Group reported progress on the implementation of the Strategy to the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, Children and Integration in October 2009.

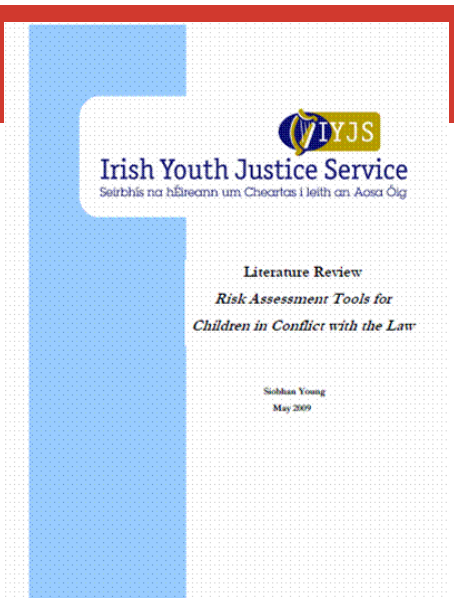
Progress under each of the Strategy's five High Level Goals is listed in Part 3 of this report. Notable features include developing the capacity and operation of Garda Youth Diversion Projects and in the integration of the children detention schools.

National Youth Justice Strategy 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.

Part 2

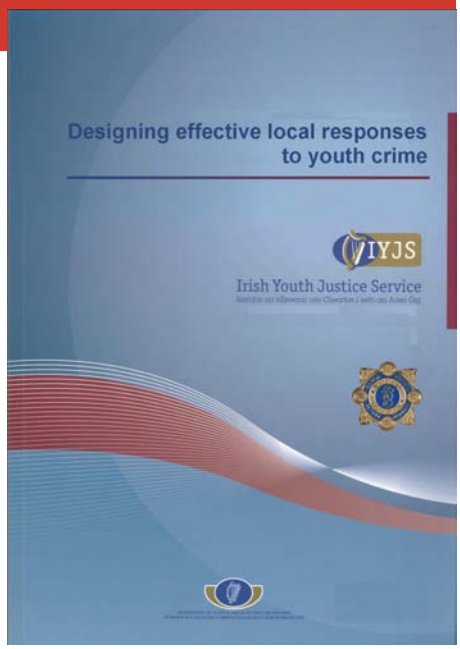
Introduction of Standardised Assessment Tools



The IYJS completed a literature review on assessment tools for children in conflict with the law in May 2009 (available on www.iyjs.ie). The review examined the literature on risk assessment tools and recommended the standardisation of risk assessment practices across the criminal justice system. Staff from the Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDPs) and the Children Detention Schools received training on risk assessment in November 2009 ahead of a roll out of a standardised assessment tool.

Garda Youth Diversion Projects

Improving effectiveness...



In July, the IYJS published 'Designing effective local responses to youth crime'. The report proposed changes to improve effectiveness across 100 Garda Youth Diversion Projects. The subsequent change programme involves IYJS working together with the Garda Office for Children and Youth Affairs and 38 youth and community organisations to

- improve the focus of projects,
- improve staff capacity to deal with the complexities presented by young people who offend and to;
- further develop evidence based practice.

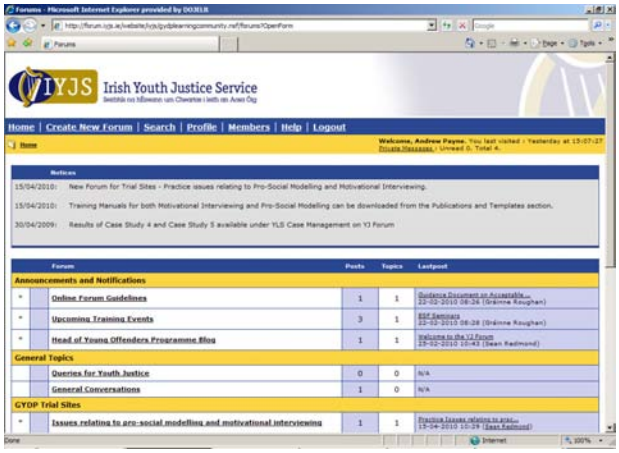
Improved focus for GYDPs will be assured by a new annual planning process. From 2010 each project will design its interventions taking into account local crime data provided by An Garda Síochána. Each plan will show a logical link between its activities and the reduction of youth crime in its locality.

Improved capacity will be achieved by three means. Training inputs will be made available to all staff dealing with motivating young people to become more pro-social and engaging parents to challenge and support young people more effectively. An on-line learning community which can be accessed by all staff in GYDPs and locally based Juvenile Liaison Officers from An Garda Síochána will provide the means to disseminate and develop best practice, encourage problem solving and give direct access to new research on youth crime.

Key Developments in 2009

In July, five GYDPs were selected to participate in an 18 month trial to develop more improved *evidence based services*. This trial involves GYDPs in Birr, Tallaght, Darndale, Togher and Ballinasloe. This project will receive significant support from the Garda Office for Children and Youth Affairs and significantly its analysis service. The trial site project will aim to improve effectiveness in reducing youth crime and act as a reference point for all GYDPs. This project will attract no additional resources.

Improving professional capacity… the online learning network



One of the weaknesses in the network of 100 GYDPs provided by 38 youth and community organisations is a ready ability to transfer knowledge and innovation. The On-line network designed by IYJS in 2009 will be subjected to limited trials early in 2010. Subject to satisfactory performance the network 'YJForum' will be made available to all 200 staff working in GYDPs and to all members of An Garda Síochána, in particular Juvenile Liaison Officers. It is anticipated that the network will provide a forum for staff to share challenges, solve problems, innovate and gain new insights into effective practice by direct access to new research.

Review of Garda Youth Diversion Guidelines

Preliminary work has commenced with An Garda Síochána on reviewing the Garda Youth Diversion Guidelines.

GYDP trial site staff

Part 2

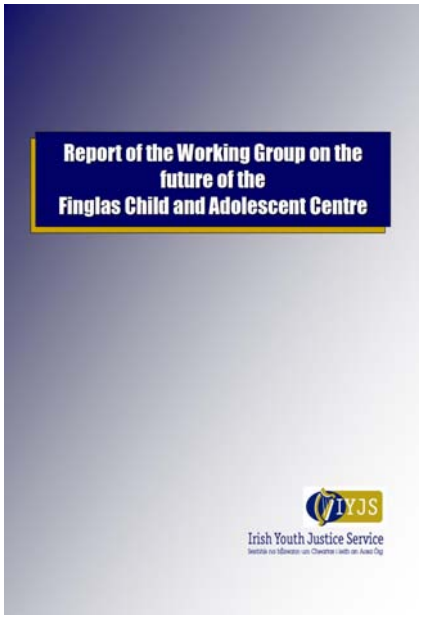
Children Detention Schools

National Children Detention Facilities Development Project

The project to develop new national children detention facilities is well underway and will continue throughout 2010. The Steering Committe, established to oversee progress on the project at a strategic level, have recently approved sketch designs and an order of magnitude cost developed by the Office of Public Works (OPW). Subject to the outcome of consultations with regard to the planning process, the OPW will progress to the development of detailed specifications and drawings for the Request for Tender for the construction phase of the project. Tendering for construction will be subject to Government approval and to the necessary funding being made available.

Closure of Finglas Child and Adolescent Centre

Following the Government decision in March 2008 to develop new national children detention facilities at Oberstown, a working group was established to consider the future role of Finglas Child and Adolescent Centre (FCAC).



This group reported its findings to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs who accepted the recommendations made. These involved the closure of the Centre, with the transfer of children, staff and services to the Oberstown campus on a phased basis, to be completed by the end of March 2010. The Finglas site will then be handed back to the OPW to determine its most appropriate future use.

The report of the working group can be downloaded from the IYJS web-site www.iyjs.ie.

Integration Strategy for Children Detention Schools

In consultation with Directors and senior management in the children detention schools, the IYJS is currently working on implementing a strategy for the future operation of the schools. Plans are being made for the development of the new unified detention school service based in Oberstown. It is envisaged that this will involve taking a shared services approach to

building an integrated service. The intention is to build on work already done, to make best use of available resources and provide for the delivery of a quality service to children in our care.

Key considerations include the recommendations of various reports including the OECD Public Management Review on the Public Service, Transforming Public Services, and the Special Group on Public Service Numbers and Expenditure Programmes (McCarthy report).

The IYJS is striving to ensure that the development of a unified management structure, flexible deployment of staffing resources and a shared services approach will result in greater efficiencies in the delivery of all services for children ordered to be detained by the Courts.

Implementation of HIQA Recommendations

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) carried out inspections of all four children detention schools in late 2008/early 2009 (reports of the inspections can be found on www.hiqa.ie).

These were the first inspections of children detention schools to be carried out by HIQA and were carried out against the "Standards & Criteria for Children Detention Schools" which were adopted by the IYJS following the transfer of responsibility for the schools from the Department of Education and Science.

In the main, the findings of the inspections indicated that many of the care, health and education practices met the required standard throughout the four schools and highlighted the positive relationships which exist between staff and young people.

The IYJS and the schools have drawn up an action plan to identify the measures needed to implement recommendations made in the reports and to facilitate improvements identified as required. The IYJS will also ensure that there is an integrated response to recommendations across all schools.

Behaviour Management Programme

Concerns around the effectiveness of the existing behaviour management programme prompted a review to be conducted. A group consisting of IYJS and detention school staff carried out an evaluation of the current programme and alternatives in similar settings both nationally and internationally. Based on the identified needs, a public tender competition was held and the contract was awarded to the Crisis Prevention Institute.

The Crisis Prevention Institute in conjunction with the IYJS developed a bespoke behaviour management programme for the detention schools. A group of staff have qualified as certified instructors and are now in the process of training of all staff.

This training began in October and will continue into 2010. Policies and procedures are being developed in tandem with this training and once these are complete the behaviour management programme will be implemented across the children detention schools.

Part 3

Implementation of the National Youth Justice Strategy 2008-10

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 1
To provide leadership and build public confidence in the youth justice system

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 2
To work to reduce offending by diverting young people from offending behaviour

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 3
To promote the greater use of community sanctions and initiatives to deal with young people who offend

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 4
To provide a safe and secure environment for detained children which will assist their early re-integration into the community

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 5
To strengthen and develop information and data sources in the youth justice system to support more effective policies and services

The end of Year 2 of the National Youth Justice Strategy is an opportune time to review where we are, re-examine our priorities and plan the future direction of youth justice policy. The Strategy sets out key actions and commitments for each of the stakeholders under 5 High Level Goals - i.e. criminal justice agencies; the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs; the Health Services Executive; the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment; the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs; the Children Acts Advisory Board (CAAB) and the Department of Education and Science.

Overall, it can be said that significant progress has been made by the key stakeholders to fulfil the various objectives under each of the High Level Goals which demonstrates the commitment to the Strategy. The net effect of this effort is to create a more co-ordinated strategic approach, make better use of existing resources, create positive working relationships amongst stakeholders and deliver better outcomes for children in trouble with the law and for the community in general.

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 1

To provide leadership and build public confidence in the youth justice system

Liaison Officers Group

The IYJS established a Liaison Officer Group comprising representastives from each of the Departments and agencies involved in the Strategy to provide a forum to discuss issues at an operational level surrounding implementation of the Strategy. This group met two weeks prior to each meeting of the Oversight Group.

Inter-jurisdiction Work

The Youth Justice Project Advisory Group works under the auspices of the St Andrews Agreement, an agreement between the Irish and British governments along with Northern Ireland's political parties in relation to devolution. The key activities of the Project Advisory Group are: to guide and support co-operative work and the development of co-ordinated youth justice services on both sides of the border; to provide a forum for the active exchange of information, ideas and expertise between participating bodies on matters of youth justice, including restorative justice and tackling re-offending; and the examination and identification of the areas where joint working could take place.

The Project Advisory Group met three times in 2009 - in January, June and October. Meetings alternate between Hillsborough Castle and Dublin. A joint work business plan was agreed for 2009/2010 focussing on: 'Strengthening Families' training, volunteer policy and a challenge function for ideas and programmes in each jurisdiction.

IYJS Conference 2010

The IYJS will host its second conference on 25 February 2010 themed 'Young People and Crime – Where to Now?' which will review progress and consider the follow up to the Strategy when it concludes in 2010. Preparations for the Conference were ongoing throughout 2009.

Dublin will also be hosting the Biennial Conference on Children, Young People and Crime between the 5 Nations in June 2010. Three meetings of the steering group for this conference took place in 2009.

Part 3

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 2

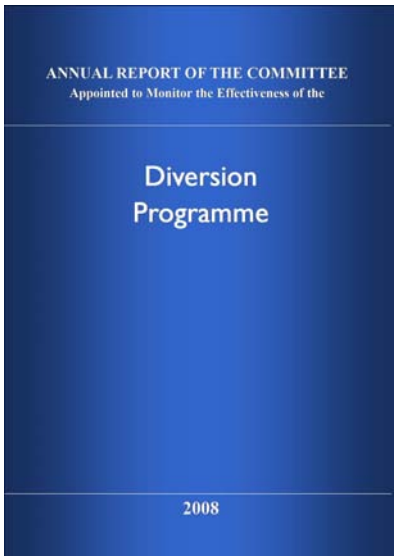
To work to reduce offending by diverting young people from offending behaviour

High level Goal 2 seeks to divert young people from crime. One of the key principles of the Strategy is that prevention is better than cure and it is essentially our mission to deal with children who get in trouble with the law as effectively as possible within the community.

The principle community-based measures available to underpin these principles are

- The Garda Diversion Programme
- Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDPs)

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 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 (a) be over the age of criminal responsibility, (b) accept responsibility for the offence(s) committed, and (c) 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 Diversion Programme; and ancillary costs associated with restorative justice events. €135,000 in funding for this project was provided by IYJS in 2009.

Annual Reports of the Committee Appointed to Monitor the Effectiveness of the Diversion Programme can be downloaded from www.iyjs.ie

Garda Youth Diversion Projects

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

GYDPs across the country

The projects undertake a series of programmes and activities aimed at changing behaviours, attitudes and lifestyles of young people 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.

In 2009 the IYJS allocated funding of €11.678m to Garda projects which included €3.187m under the European Social Fund element. The budget available to Community Programmes was reduced in 2009 by over 10% which has meant that the planned expansion in the number of GYDP's beyond the existing 100 has been put on hold in the light of the changed economic climate. The focus however has been on ensuring the quality and effectiveness of the services provided.

European Social Fund

The Garda Youth Diversion Projects are identified as means of supporting the European Social Fund Human Capital Investment Operational Programme 2007 – 2013 which among other things seeks to support employment, enhance education and skills and improve job prospects for people.

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

Two measures are being undertaken by projects under the guidelines of the ESF programme. These are running I.T./personal development courses for project participants for the purpose of en-

hancing the education and employability of participants and the employment of an additional worker in each project to provide support to participants in accessing further education and accessing pathways to employment.

The measures will cost approx €25m for the duration of the programme and subject to compliance with all the programme requirements, the Exchequer will receive up to 50% of this amount back from the European Social Fund.

Community Programmes has continued to support the projects in the delivery and administration of the two measures in 2009. By end of December 2009 a total of 92 additional workers were in place in the projects.

The initiative considerably enhances the effectiveness of service delivery to projects as it has enabled projects to intensify interventions and increase capacity to deal with extra participants.

Designing Effective Local Responses to Youth Crime Report

Please see pages 5-6 for information.

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 3

To promote the greater use of community sanctions and initiatives to deal with young people who offend

Young Persons' Probation (YPP)

Young Persons Probation (YPP) is a specialised division of the Probation Service with dedicated resources to work with children aged 12 to 18 who come before the courts. YPP is a multi-agency approach to addressing young offenders. It is intended that its remit will be expanded to include diverting young people at risk of offending/ engaging in anti-social behaviour. YPP is located nationally with bases in Dublin, Cork, Waterford, Limerick, Sligo and Drogheda. Dedicated Court Liaison Officers have been appointed to Dublin, Cork and Limerick Courts. YPP Officers are based in the community and in St Patrick's Institution, as well as providing in-reach services to the Children Detention Schools.

Community Sanctions

The IYJS, working with YPP, continued to roll out community sanctions through the YPP network of community-based projects in 2009.

The sanctions provide the Courts with alternatives to custody for young people who offend. They 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. Two further options to the court, the probation family conference and a parental supervision order, are also available.

The Judiciary has been briefed on the non-custodial sanctions available under the Act and dedicated court officers have been appointed to courts in Dublin, Cork and Limerick. The National Director of IYJS and the Director General of OMCYA have met with the President of the District Court to discuss youth justice affairs.

An investment of €104m was originally earmarked under the National Development Plan 2007-2013 for the implementation of the community sanctions. In view of the changed economic circumstances expenditure of this order is unlikely.

Part 3

Young Persons' Probation (YPP) Projects

The IYJS funds the work of a network of YPP projects around the country There are currently 13 Community Based Organisations working with YPP. The projects are all limited companies, run by independent boards of management which deal with staffing matters. Four of the Community Based organisations were sanctioned for expansion in 2008/09. They are, as follows:-

- **Candle Community Trust, Ballyfermot, Dublin 13 to** deliver the Day Centre Order community sanction.
- **Second Chance Project – Cox's Demesne, Dundalk, Co. Louth** to implement the Training or Activities order, as detailed in the Children Act, 2001, as amended.
- **Le Chéile Mentoring Service (nationwide)** to expand its mentoring services to children under the age of 18 who are under the supervision of the Probation Service. It has also received sanction and funding to expand the Strengthening Families Programme in 2009.
- **Southill Outreach, Limerick City to expand its operation of** addressing the needs of marginalised local youths and their families. The target group is 12 – 25 year olds.

The IYJS in partnership with YPP, commenced an audit and review of the YPP projects in June 2009. The field work has now been completed and work is underway on drafting a report on the findings.

This marks an initial step in a change process involving all such funded projects. In addition to presenting a baseline of practice, the exercise will enable each project to reflect on its rationale for the way it uses its time in relation to reducing youth crime. It will be an important step in cultivating the appropriate culture for improvement.

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 4

To provide a safe and secure environment for detained children which will assist their early re-integration into the community

In cases where community sanctions have been deemed unsuccessful by the Courts, or where the nature of the offence requires a custodial sentence, young offenders are dealt with in one of the four children detention schools in the State. High Level Goal 4 requires that detention facilities provide safe and secure accommodation and respond to the social, health and welfare needs of these children.

Capital Work

For information on the new National Children Detention Schools Facilities, please see page 7.

In addition to the new facilities, Trinity House School, one of the children detention schools currently operating on the Oberstown campus, is undergoing refurbishment work to provide inroom sanitation and improve conditions for both children and staff. Work is expected to be complete in 3rd quarter 2010.

The investment required for this substantial project will support operational efficiencies, meet best practice standards and will allow the school to continue to operate as part of the new national children detention facilities to be developed on campus.

Providing care in the schools


Trinity House School, Oberstown, Co Dublin

In line with the principal objective of the children detention schools as laid down in the Children Act 2001, as amended, the programmes within each of the schools are geared to provide the best possible care for the young people, while being cognisant of the need to challenge the offending behaviour. The care provided extends from basic primary care to ensuring that regard is taken for the physical, psychological and emotional wellbeing of the young people.

Care is provided through structured daily routines and the development of strong professional relationships with the staff. The aim of all the care programmes is to promote the integration of the young people into society. The structure of each day mirrors, as close as possible, the normal life of a young person living at home in the community. Young people attend school during the week, partake in sporting and other activities, are involved in life skills development, etc. It is hoped that through the provision of such care while being detained the young people will learn to respect themselves, their families, the larger community and society in general.

Part 3

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 2009.

An Education strategy is being drafted by the Department of Education and Science with VEC input. A high level framework document is being finalised with DES/VECs to support the integration of care and education and operational delivery in the children detention schools.

Further Detention school progress

For information on the following topics, please see the relevant page numbers:

- Closure of Finglas Child and Adolescent Centre: p7
- Integration Strategy: p7
- HIQA Inspections: p8
- Behaviour Management:: p8
- Introduction of Standardised Assessment Tools:: p5

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 5

To strengthen and develop information and data sources in the youth justice system to support more effective policies and services

IYJS Newsletters


IYJS NEWS
www.iyjs.ie
Newsletter of the Irish Youth Justice Service
Download your copy of the National Youth Justice Strategy at www.iyjs.ie
Young Persons' Probation
Contents

IYJS NEWS
www.iyjs.ie
Newsletter of the Irish Youth Justice Service
Download 'Designing Effective Local Responses to Youth Crime' at iyjs.ie
IYJS Biennial Conference to take place in Dublin Castle in February 2010
Contents

The Irish Youth Justice Service newsletter was launched in 2008 with a main target audience of policymakers and practitioners in the youth justice system.

Two editions of IYJS News were published in 2009. The newsletters covered a range of topics including an interview with the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Mr Barry Andrews TD, and articles on: the work of the Young Persons Probation division of the Probation Service; updates on the implementation of the National Youth Justice Strategy; the baseline analysis of Garda Youth Diversion Projects and the publication of the subsequent report 'Designing Effective Local Responses to Youth Crime'; work on the development of the children detention schools; risk assessment across the youth justice system; reports on work in children detention schools and Garda Youth Diversion Projects; and the White Paper on Crime.

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

Data Protection

During the year, discussions took place with key stakeholders to clarify the types of personal data in relation to children that needed to be shared in order to provide the best service to children in the youth justice system. The process involved examining the data that is currently shared and the mechanisms used. This also extended to identifying where data needed to be shared in the future in the best interests of the child and where there were concerns about doing so from a data protection perspective.

We prepared guidance papers including a general guide and specific sectoral documents to clarify the manner in which the sharing of personal information could take place and also to clarify how the stakeholders could be compliant with data protection law in general. We are in touch with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner on certain aspects and hope to progress matters further in 2010.

Research and Information Collection

An internal Statistics Group was created in the IYJS in 2009 which met on three occasions. As a result of this work, monthly statistics are now produced internally on young people in the youth justice system. We have also worked with related Departments and Agencies working in the youth justice system to improve the quality of statistics available in the area. This has included a number of bilateral meetings with relevant agencies and further discussion at the wider forum of the Liaison Officer Group of the National Youth Justice Strategy Oversight Group.

Budget Allocation 2009

Subhead		2009 REV Provision
I. Irish Youth Justice Service		
1. Irish Youth Justice Service	Pay	1,798
	Non-Pay	3,883
	Total I.1.	**5,681**
2. Centres for Young Offenders	Superann.	503
	Pay	19,464
	Capital	3,023
	Non-Pay	8,740
	Total 2.	**31,730**
3. Community Programmes		20,265
Total I.		**57,676**

Part 5

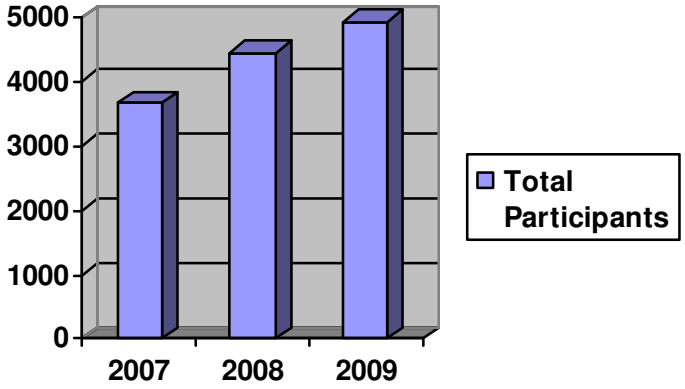
Community Programmes Statistics

Garda Youth Diversion Projects

Number of Young People engaged on Projects

There were approximately 4,922 young people engaged in Garda Youth Diversion Projects in 2009. This is an increase of 35% from 2007, and 10% from 2008. [Table below]

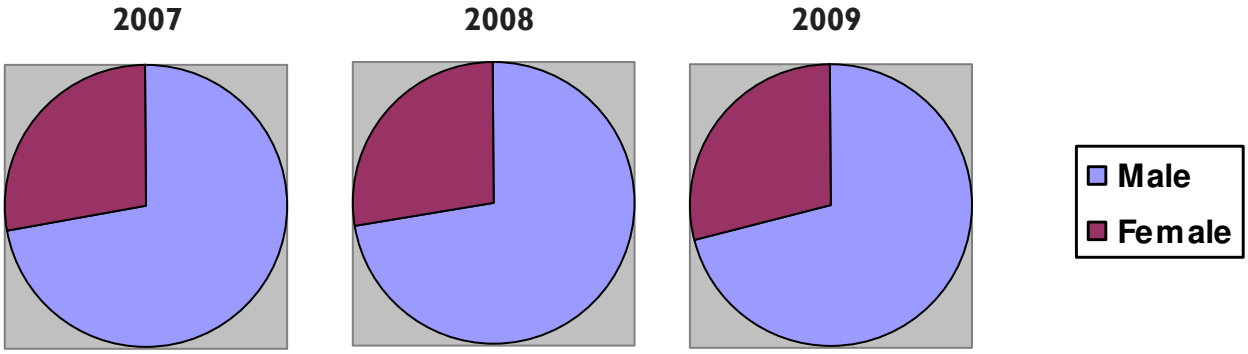
Total Participants	Male	Female	Total
2007	2636	1025	3661
2008	3222	1235	4457
2009	3493	1429	4922



Gender Make up of Projects

This figure was made up of 3,493 (71%) Male, and 1,429 (29%) female.

Gender breakdown by year

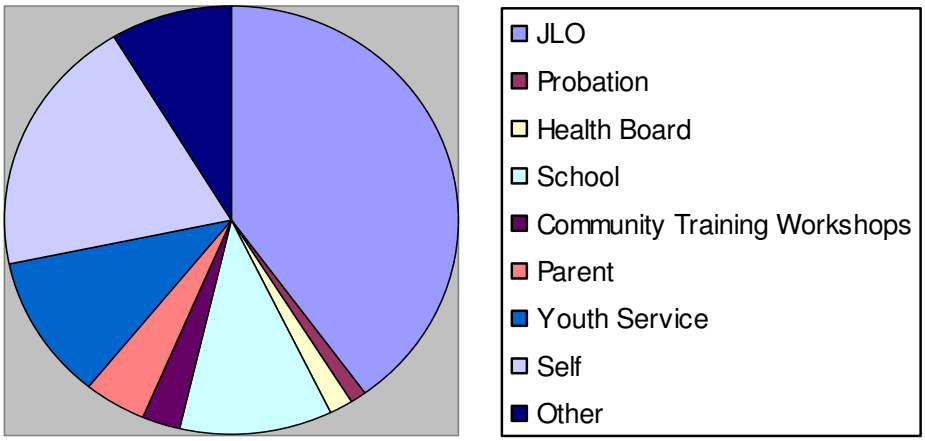


Community Programmes Statistics

Source of Referrals

40 % of young people (1,966) engaged were referred by members of An Garda Síochána. [Table below]

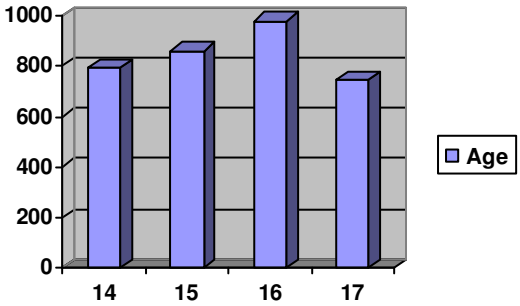
	JLO	Probation	Health Board	School	Community Training Workshops	Parent	Youth Service	Self	Other
Referral Breakdown	1966	56	89	521	140	221	540	965	424
% of Total	40%	1%	2%	11%	3%	4%	11%	20%	9%



Age Make up of Projects

69% of young people (3,383) engaged were between the ages of 14 - 17. [Table below]

	14	15	16	17	Total
Age 14 - 17	794	862	981	746	3383
	16%	18%	20%	15%	69%



Some projects also provide services for under 12s and also for over 18 year olds.

Part 5

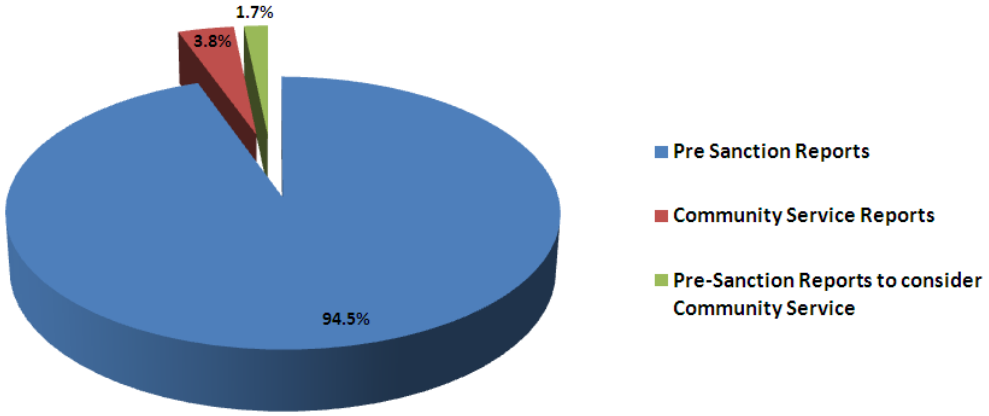
Community Programmes Statistics

Young Persons' Probation

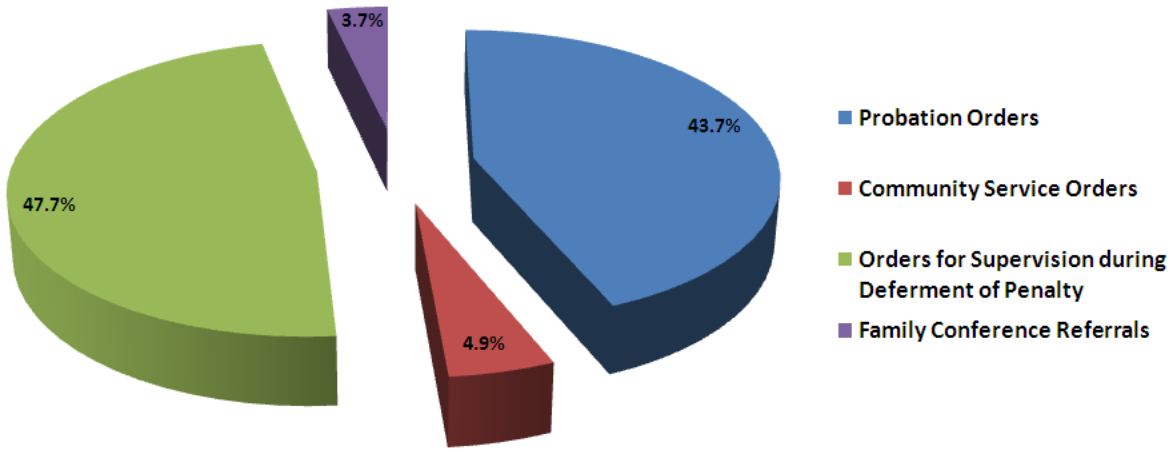
Young Persons Assessment Reports Requested (also included in overall figure)	2008	2009
Pre Sanction Reports	912	1038
Community Service Reports	36	42
Pre-Sanction Reports to consider Community Service	10	18

Supervision of Young Persons (also included in overall figure)	2008	2009
Orders for Supervision	380	383
Community Service Orders	41	43
Orders for Supervision during Deferment of Penalty	304	418
Family Conference Referrals	35	32

Breakdown of Offender Assessment Reports Young Persons - 2009



Breakdown of Court Orders 2009 - Young Persons



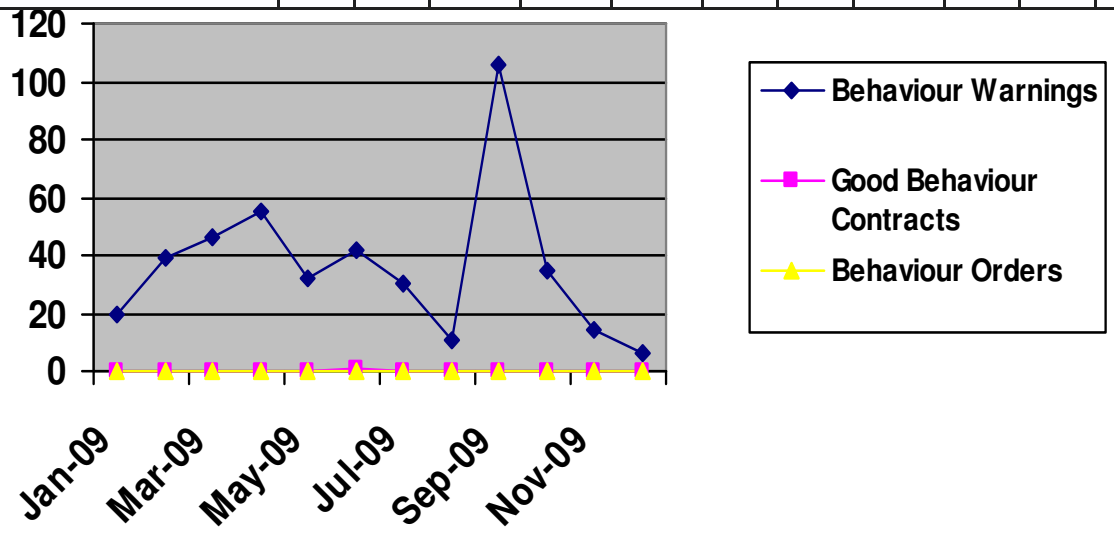
Community Programmes Statistics

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

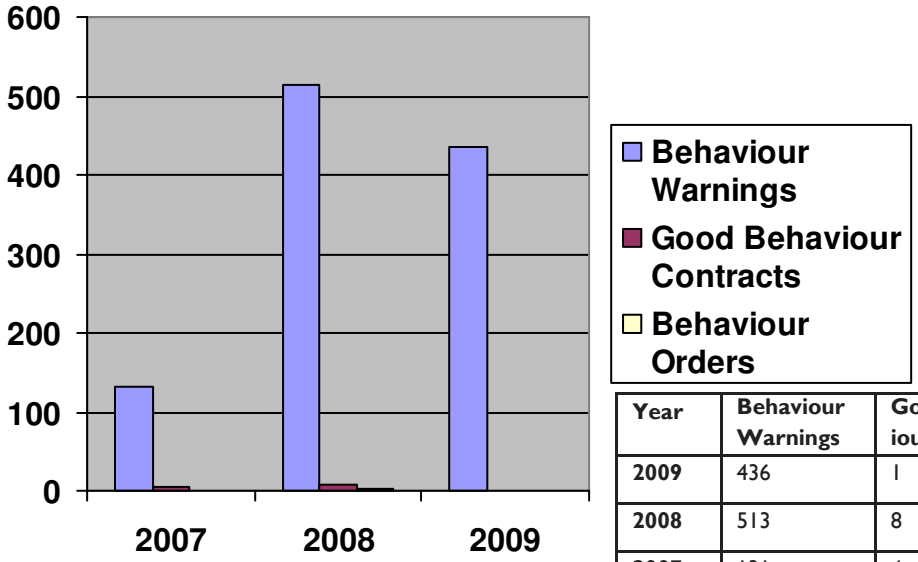
A total of **436 Behaviour Warnings** were given to children in 2009. In addition to this, there was **one Good Behaviour Contract** given to a child. **No Behaviour Orders** were given.

ASBO Figures: January - December 2009

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Mar	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Behaviour Warnings	20	39	46	55	32	42	30	11	106	35	14	6
Good Behaviour Contracts	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Behaviour Orders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



ASBO figures since introduction of legislation



Year	Behaviour Warnings	Good Behaviour Contracts	Behaviour Orders
2009	436	1	0
2008	513	8	3
2007	131	4	0

Part 5

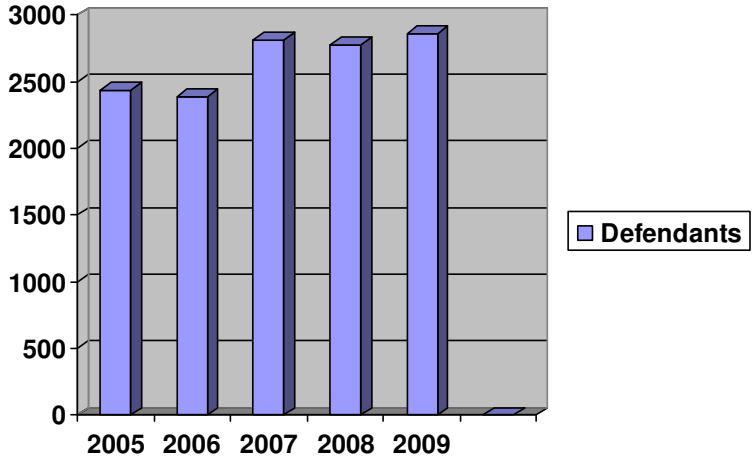
Courts Service Statistics

Juvenile Crime Outcomes in terms of Offences and Defendants 2009

	Offences	Defendants
Community service	85	30
Detention	603	272
Detention part suspended	8	7
Detention suspended	179	126
Dismiss	297	155
Dismiss on probation	555	286
Disqualified	220	134
Fine	516	277
Other	58	38
No order	185	112
Peace bond	234	141
Poor box	9	8
Probation order	994	280
Strike out	2,024	700
Taken into consideration	1,923	359
Returned to higher Court for trial	272	133
Withdrawn	266	164
Total	**8,428**	**3,222**

Number of Defendants 2005-2009

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Defendants	**2,434**	**2,386**	**2,813**	**2,778 ***	**2,863 ***



** Having consulted with the Courts Service, the "Taken into consideration" category is a double counting of individuals (Criminal Justice Act 1951 s.8). Excluding this category the total is 2,778* defendants in 2008 and 2,863 in 2009.

Courts Service Statistics

Outcomes 2005-2009

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Change 08/09
Strike Out	558	565	619	636	700	+10%
No Order	108	131	126	131	112	-14.5%
Probation	321	304	331	334	280	-16.2%
Withdrawn	144	134	127	132	164	+24.2%
Dismiss	144	158	145	147	155	+5.4%
Detention	441	399	537	436**	405**	-7.1%
Children Returned to Higher Court for Trial*	131	121	121	121	133	+9.9%
Fine	58	86	237	246	277	+12.6%
Peace Bond	42	62	102	140	141	+0.7%
Community Service Order	40	60	49	38	30	-21.1%
Poor Box	24	10	2	8	8	0%
Disqualified from driving	88	90	132	131	134	+2.2%
Dismissed under the Probation Act	275	216	236	253	286	+11.5%
Taken into Consideration***	N/A	N/A	N/A	402	359	-10.7%
Other	60	50	49	25	38	+52%
Total	**2434**	**2386**	**2813**	**2,778 *****	**2,863 *****	**+3.1%**

** no data is currently available for outcomes in this category*

*** The 2008 Courts Service Annual Report disaggregated the Detention category into: Detention - 280; Detention part suspended - 6; Detention suspended - 150. For 2009 this is: Detention - 272; Detention part suspended - 7; Detention suspended - 126*

**** Having consulted with the Courts Service, the "Taken into consideration" category is a double counting of individuals (Criminal Justice Act 1951 s. 8). Excluding this category the total is 2,778 defendants in 2008 and 2,863 in 2009.*

Part 5

Children Detention Schools Statistics

Number of Admissions to children detention schools in 2009

	Male	Female	Total
New Remand Admissions	122	50	172
New Committal Admissions	21	9	30
Total Admissions	143	59	202

Number of Discharges from children detention schools in 2009

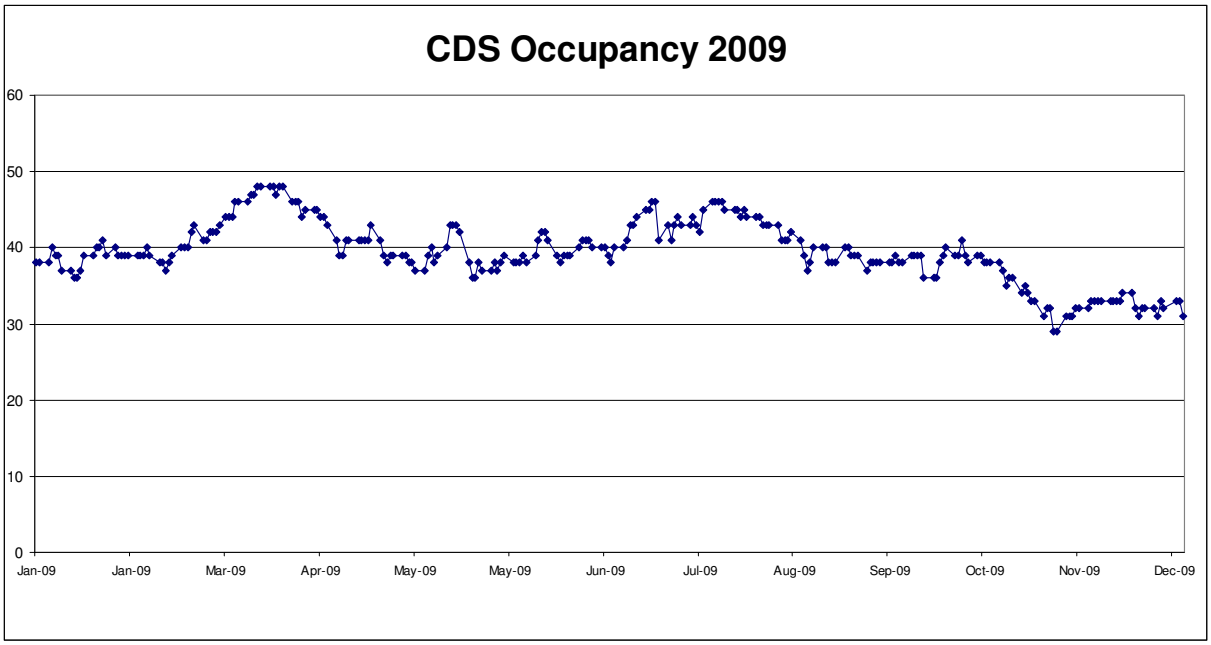
	Male	Female	Total
Remand Discharges	121	50	171
Committal Discharges	30	9	39
Total Discharges	151	59	210

Number of Individuals who were admitted to children detention schools during 2009

	Male	Female	Total
Individual Remanded	72	37	109
Individuals Committed	21	9	30
Total Individuals Admitted	76	38	114

Average Occupancy

The average occupancy in 2009 was 39.

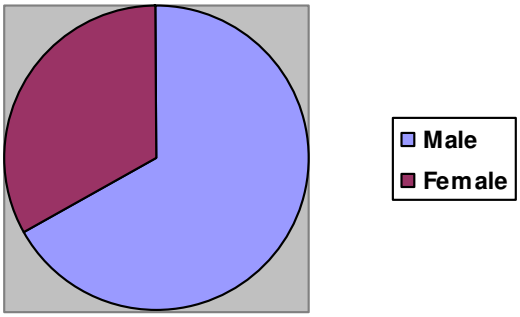


Children Detention Schools Statistics

Children Detention School Occupancy 1998-2009

Figures relate to children held in the children detention schools which transferred to the Irish Youth Justice Service in 2007

Gender breakdown of individuals admitted



Age of young people who were admitted/discharged in 2009

	Male	Female	Total
Average Age of Committals on Admission	15.05	17.02	15.64
Average Age of Remands on Admission	15.12	16.73	15.58
Average Age of Admission (R & C)	15.11	16.78	15.59
Average Age of Discharged Committals	16.02	17.55	16.37

Assessments

55 assessments were ordered by the Courts in 2009.

Part 6

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 tOiléan Project	Castleisland, Co. Kerry
APT Project	Tallaght, Dublin 24
BALL Project	Lisduggan, Co. Waterford
BÁN 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	Portarlington, 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 (LTDFs)

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

Appendix 4: List of useful websites

An Garda Síochána: www.garda.ie

Courts Service of Ireland: www.courts.ie

Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs: www.pobail.ie

Department of Education and Science: www.education.ie

Department of Health and Children: www.dohc.ie

Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform: www.justice.ie

Health Information and Quality Authority: www.hiqa.ie

Health Service Executive: www.hse.ie

Irish Prison Service: www.irishprisons.ie

National Educational Welfare Board: www.newb.ie

Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs: www.omcya.ie

Office for Social Inclusion: www.socialinclusion.ie

Probation Service: www.probation.ie

Part 3

Appendix 5: Community Sanctions

The following is a breakdown by order and sanction in regard to availability:

Probation Family Conference (Section 78-79 & 85-87 of Children Act)
Fully implemented nationwide. Conferences to date: 152

Parental Supervision Order (Section 111 Children Act)
This order is available nationwide and has focused primarily so far on parental support measures. Assisting with the operation of this order, YPP is involved in the delivery of Strengthening Families Skills and other programmes to parents in conjunction with partner agencies.

Probation Supervision Order (Section 2 of 1907 Act)
Available nationwide. This order states that a young person is under the supervision of a Probation officer for a specific period of time, up to a maximum of three years and is widely used.

Probation (Training or Activities Programme) Order (Section 124 Children Act)
This order is available nationwide with a particular emphasis on using our probation funded projects

Mentor (Family Support) Order (Section 131-132 Children Act)
This Order is available in most YPP areas e.g. Dublin, Cork, Waterford and later in 2008 it is to be introduced into Limerick and Portlaoise. The order assigns a person either a relative or mentor (sourced through Le Cheile Mentoring

Probation (Residential Supervision) Order (Section 126-127 Children Act)
This is a Probation Order, detailing a specific place of residence as a condition of the order. Implementation at present is on a case by case basis through individual placements sourced through approved providers. In addition developments around supported lodgings with partner agencies are under discussion at present.

Suitable Person (Care and Supervision) Order (Section 129-130 Children Act)
This order assigns a suitable person (either relative/foster parent) to care for a child. This suitable person must be approved by the Probation Service. Parents or guardians must consent in writing to this, and can withdraw their consent at anytime. This order can not exceed two years, and the child is under supervision of a Probation Officer while the order is in force. Legislative amendment may be required to fully implement this provision.

Day Centre Order (Section 118-123 Children Act)
Tallaght Day Centre is due to be operational in the Autumn of 2008. Sanction has been approved for a further day centre in Ballyfermot, Dublin which will be operational later this year. Premises have been identified and resourced in Cork for a Probation Day Centre. The necessary programme infrastructure is being put in place and will be operational by early 2009.

Appendix 5: Community Sanctions

Dual Orders (Section 137 Children Act)
The Court can combine Probation supervision, Day Centre orders and restriction on movement orders in one order for up to six months. Part of this order is available nationwide (restriction of movement and probation supervision). It will be fully implemented in Day Centre areas as they become operational.

Probation Intensive Supervision Order (Section 125 Children Act)
This is a Probation order, with intensive supervision whereby a young person must undergo an education programme or course of treatment. This order is suitable for high risk cases and is considered a robust community alternative to detention. A proposal for specific programmes to deliver this model of intensive supervision is being developed. Premises for an intensive programme have been identified in Dublin and are currently being fitted out, and in Cork. Currently YPP can provide intensive supervision to young people on a one to one basis. This order has yet to be used.

Deferment of Detention Order (Section 144 & 146 Children Act)
If no detention place is available or for any other sufficient reason the Court can defer making a detention order. Available nationwide.

Detention and Supervision Order (Section 151 Children Act)
A child will receive a detention order with a probation supervision order; the first half is spent in detention and the second half in the community. Available nationwide. Protocols with the Detention Schools have been drafted to plan for the child's release into the community. An enhanced through-care approach has been developed to facilitate this. It is anticipated that the first supervision components of such orders will come into effect this Autumn.

Community Service Order (1983 Act Section 115 (a))
This order is imposed on young persons age 16+. It specifies the number of hours of community service to be completed in lieu of a specified custodial sentence. A maximum of 240hrs in any 12 month period is permitted. Available nationwide.