

# Bail Supervision Scheme

**Reimagining Prison and Punishment**  
**24<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

# Bail Supervision Scheme (BSS)

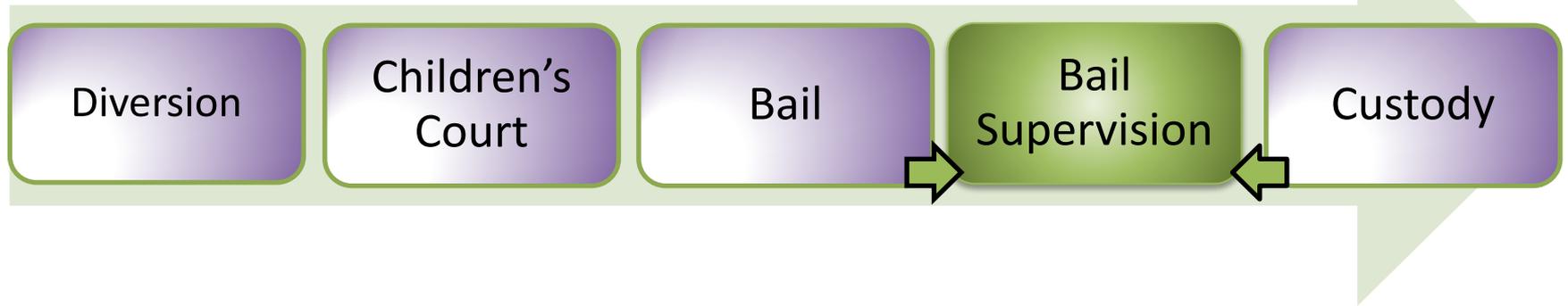
Started as pilot project in Dublin 2016 and evaluated in 2019

- A 72% reduction in reoffending (6 months post-BSS compared to 6 months pre-BSS). The control group experienced a reduction of 37%.
- 85% of young people who successfully completed the programme were given a non-custodial option at sentencing.

In 2021, BSS extended to greater Dublin and introduced for first time to Cork and Limerick.



# Bail Supervision in Youth Justice System



**The Bail Supervision Scheme gives the Court an option of Bail with added therapeutic supports as an alternative to remand.**

- Children Act (2001): Detention as a last resort
- Benefits of remand are limited



# BSS Treatment Models

## MST

YP must be residing with caregiver

MST engages the family

3-5 months intensive treatment period

Flexible 24/7

Low caseload & high intensity

Individualised & targeted

## BSS Janus Justice

YP is not residing in the family home

JJ focuses on YP

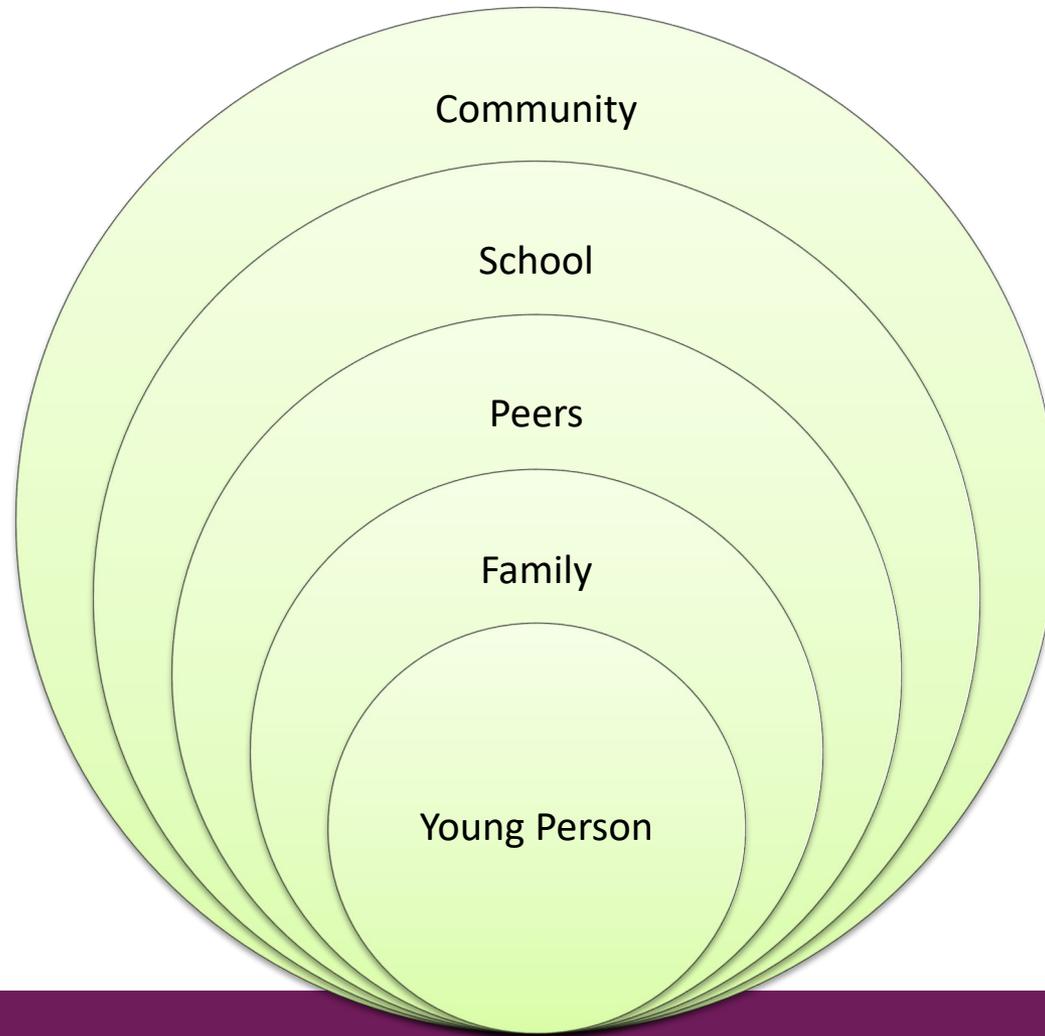
Time frame 12-18 months

Flexible times & days

Low Caseload & high Intensity

Individualised & targeted

# How Does BSS Achieve Change?



# Case Study

**John, 15**

On referral:

- Substance misuse
  - Out of education
  - Multiple charges including theft, burglary, trespass, assault causing harm, riot and affray in the community including threats, public order
  - Volatile and aggressive in the home and community
  - 'Cuckooing' in a vulnerable neighbours house
  - **Initial YLS Score: 28 (High risk for recidivism)**
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# Case Study

**John, 15**

On exit from service:

- Engaged in full time education and noted as a promising student
- Negative drug screens
- No longer involved with anti social peers and family member who were involved in criminal behaviour and drug use with him
- Engaged with counselling, probation and substance use support
- **Closing YLS Score: 5 – low risk for recidivism**

# Benefits

- Savings to the State
- Community not under threat
- Less pressure on AGS
- Young person educated
- Young person has positive coping strategies
- Mother in paid employment and contributing to society
- Parents aware of acceptable behaviors of young people
- Community have a greater understanding of the strengths and struggles of the family
- Protective factors put in place with younger siblings to divert them from criminal behaviour



‘The child who is not embraced by  
the village will burn it down to feel  
its warmth’

African Proverb