



Irish Youth Justice Service

Seirbhís na hÉireann um Cheartas i leith an Aosa Óig

Irish Youth Justice Service: A Review

**Presentation by Ms Michelle Shannon, National Director at 'Juvenile
Justice: Criminal and Welfare Concerns 2001-2011'
Seminar on 8th November, 2011**

www.iyjs.ie

National Youth Justice Strategy 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

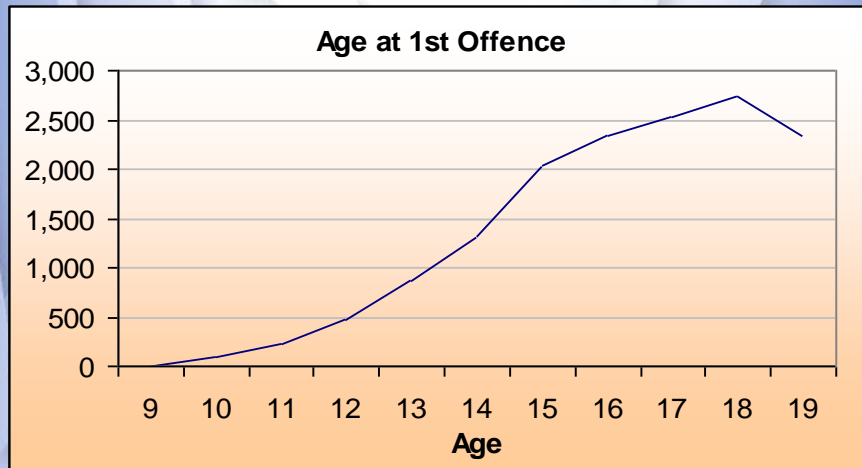


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Youth Crime: The Age/Crime Curve

Source: PULSE 1999 – 2009

N = 14,986



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1. This is a trend graph based on data relating to age and offending behaviour in Ireland.

Of significance

1. **Close working between IYJS + AGS [needs to continue]**
2. **First of all** it is a significant dataset – almost 15,000 PULSE entries of all 19 year olds in 2009 reported for offences over the previous 10 years and the age at which they were detected for their first offence. It is a retrospective snapshot.
3. **Secondly** you will notice an upswing towards age 19 when you begin to see a tail off. We've started to look at the pattern for 2010 and it appears that the swing is continuing.
4. **Thirdly** provides substance for taking a light touch to youth offending / keeping kids out of the formal system – especially given the mixed results of system contact reported by the likes of McAra and McVie in their Edinburgh study
5. **In sum – we have an age crime curve similar to neighbouring jurisdictions – indicating that crime drops as young people [boys] grow up – this however is of little comfort to the people at the receiving end of poor behaviour in the here and now and its also a cyclical pattern**

6. **YOUTH CRIME IS DIFFERENT TO ADULT CRIME** [P.T.O]

New annual planning process assuring better fit between interventions and outcomes

- What does youth crime look like in your locality?
- What positive difference (s) are you going to make?
- How are you going to do it?
- Requires professionals to gather data, to 'think' about what improvements they will make for the young person
- Demands close working relationship with An Garda Síochana
- Compliance / Local creativity
- Individual review of plans by IYJS
- Highlights competence




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1. Annual Planning [SCAN]

2. This is compliance – brings about certain level of improvement

3. TO GET BETTER PERFORMANCE IT HAS TO BE GENERATED FROM PRACTITIONERS – *internally motivated*

Capacity Building YJForum



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Welcome, Gráinne Roughan. You last visited : Today at 16:18:
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Notices

09/2011: New Book Club Read Now Available: Tackling Youth Anti-Social Behaviour in Devolving Wales: A Study of the Tiered Approach in Swansea.

09/2011: New Blog by Sean Redmond now available.

08/2011: Please see request from IYJS in General Q&A regarding Creative Writing Initiatives.

Forum	Posts	Topics	Lastpost
Forum			
Presenting Challenges Use this forum to discuss any challenges that your project is encountering and where you may want advice or support from colleagues in other projects	41	11	Smoking Policy?? 31-08-2011 09:03 (Kathleen Maher)
Innovations Use this forum to discuss any ideas that you believe may be of benefit to other projects. The idea may be a full blown programme that you have designed or an idea that you are working on when you'd appreciate other colleagues input.	90	22	Induction and Exit Strategies 09-09-2011 11:17 (Sean Redmond)
New Knowledge / Research Use this forum to participate in the monthly research book club or to discuss any other research related issue.	23	13	Tackling Youth Anti-Social Behav... 07-09-2011 10:59 (Sean Redmond)
Head of Young Offender Programmes Blog Analysis and Commentary on Topical Issues by Sean Redmond	16	12	Results of survey on Increasing ... 09-09-2011 14:22 (Sean Redmond)
General Q & A This forum is for any general questions which projects may have for each other or for the Irish Youth Justice Service.	78	19	ESF I.T. Programmes. 09-09-2011 16:24 (Aoife Mangan)



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CAPACITY BUILDING

- This was the second part of the change programme – here's one example 'YJForum' – developed by IYJS in 2009/2010 as a response to the complex organisational structure of GYDP and their broad geographical spread**

Objectives

Tap into the organisational wisdom held within the GYDP network

Help projects to use this forum to problem solve and innovate

Provide each project with access to relevant international research literature **Not the only capacity building measure national training**

- **JLO's ALSO INVOLVED – EXTENDED TO ACADEMICS AND COLLEAGUES IN THE NORTH**

Irish Service Model

The Trial Site

- 5 projects selected as 'trial sites'
- No new money
- Full commitment to the trial
- Commitment to be self critical
- Change current practice for new practice if necessary
- Leadership and dissemination
- Outcomes
- Evaluation



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- 1. The last element of change programme related to the lack of domestic reference points for excellent practice –**

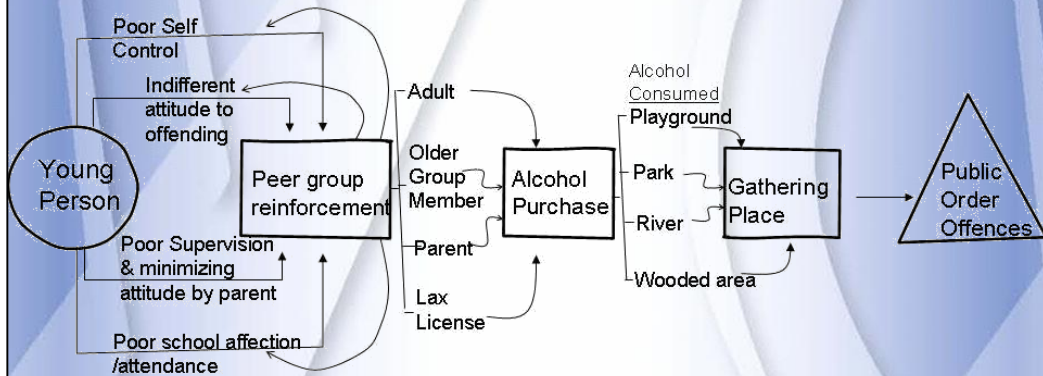
- 2. and having domestic reference points showing that more can be achieved for less is v powerful**

Progress to date [change programme relatively recent.....

Pulse Data & Local Intelligence = Better Precision

Alcohol related public order crime

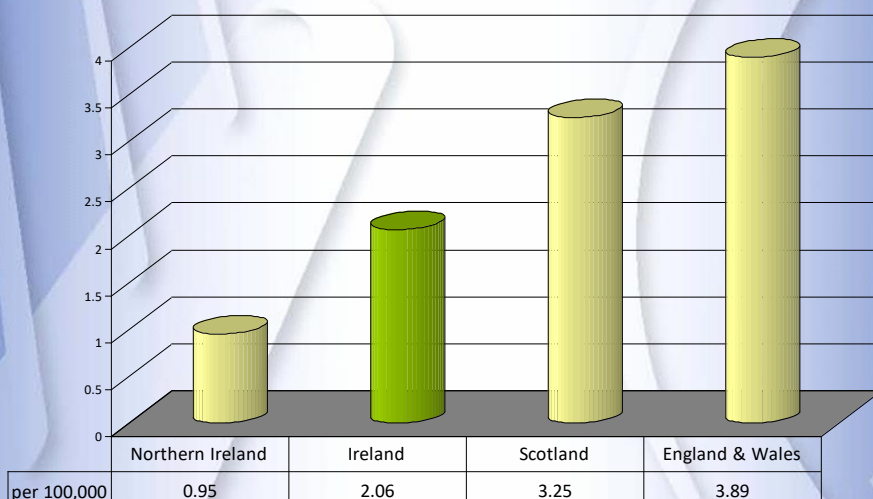
Repeat behaviour by a friendship group



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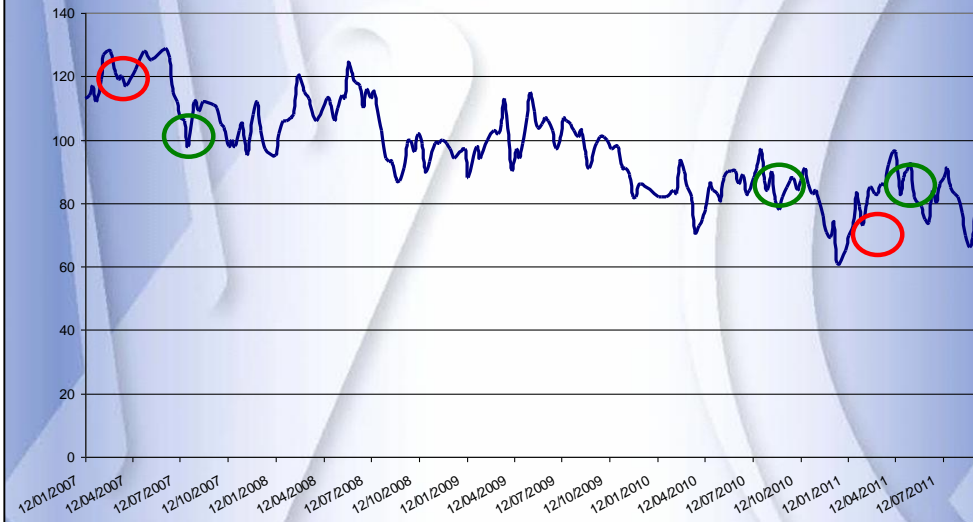
Number of young people < 18 years September 1st 2009

[Source: Council of Europe, Annual Penal Statistics]



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Children Detention Schools and Irish Prison Service Total occupancy 2007 – March 2011



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Offences detected under 18 years 2007 – 2011

Source: PULSE



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