



The Bail Supervision Scheme:

“a period of detention should be imposed only as a measure of last resort” (CA2001 s.96)

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Outline of Presentation

I will:

- Background
- Implementation
- Outcome
- Future developments

Kevina will then cover:

- How MST works within the BSS
- How change is achieved
- Evaluation findings
- Treatment Outcomes



Background; Implementation & Outcome

- Research; Evidence Based; DCYA (then); Transfer to D/Justice 2020
- Pilot basis in Dublin's Children Court
- Extern contracted to provide the intervention needed (MST/Janus Justice)
- Started in 2016
- Proved successful and Evaluation confirmed this



Bail Supervision in Youth Justice System

- The intensive bail supervision scheme for children is aimed at impacting remand trends by offering the court a new option 'bail with intensive supervision' as an alternative to a remand to detention
- This alternative option also helps a child to moderate their chaotic circumstances and promote greater stability
- At a strategic level successful such a programme could also provide the evidence to support reducing the number of high cost remand places allowing for more effective use of resources in evidence based community programmes.



Future Developments

- Implementation of Evaluation Findings
- Expansion of the interventions
- Expansion of the scheme
 - Limerick
 - Cork

Bail Supervision Scheme

Incorporating

MST and Janus Justice interventions

**Kevina Maddick
BSS Service Manager & MST
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4th June 2021**

Bail Supervision in Youth Justice System

Diversion

Children's Court

Bail

Custody

Diversion: Garda Youth Diversion Office give JLO Caution and Supervision. May also refer to Garda Youth Diversion Project



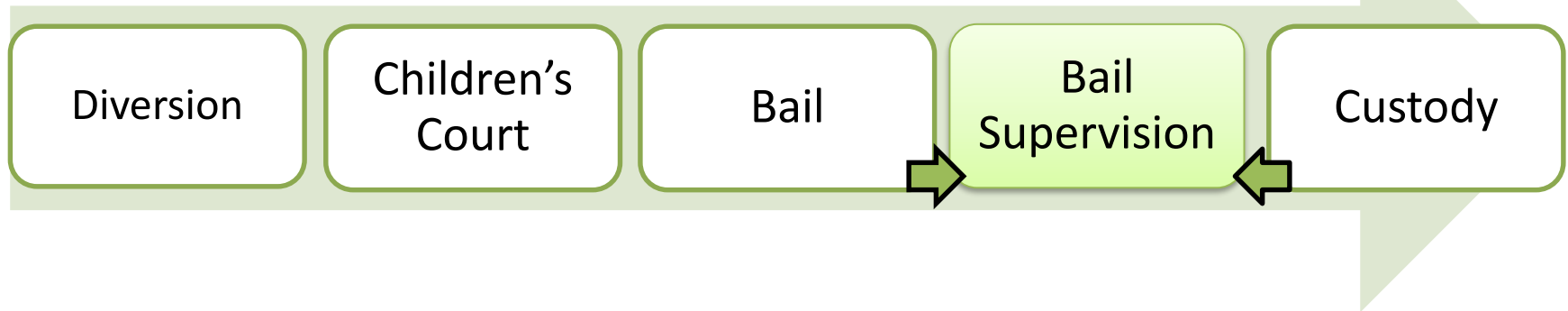
Court Proceedings: Small Minority deemed unsuitable for Diversion –Sent to District Children's Court – Can then be sent on to Circuit Court



Bail: Most children are granted bail until their cases are heard.

Remand in Custody: A small minority of young people who have had bail revoked or refused can be remanded into detention until their case is heard.

Bail Supervision in Youth Justice System




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


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

Bail Supervision Scheme and MST

The Bail Supervision Scheme aims to address the anti-social behaviours of young people on bail in order to achieve the overall goals of:

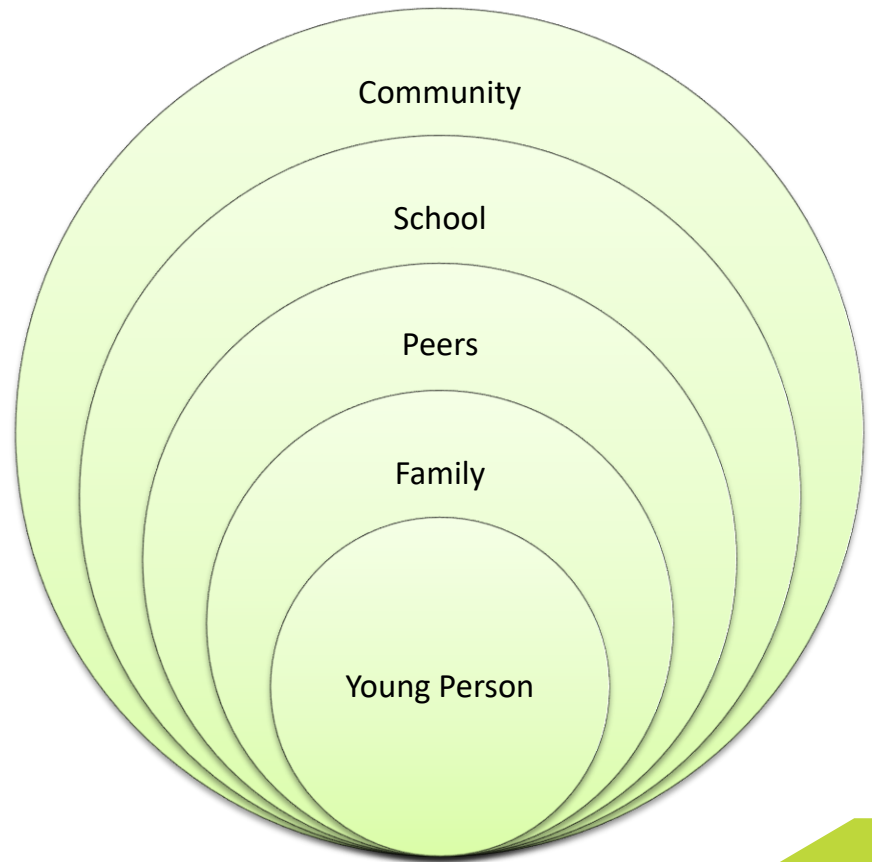
- Increased compliance with court set bail conditions
 - Reducing the demand for remand places
 - Making positive behaviour changes across the individual, home, school, peer and community systems.
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Bail Supervision Scheme and MST

- The Bail Supervision Scheme aims to achieve its goals through the application of Multi-systemic Therapy [MST].
 - MST is a globally recognised, evidence-based model, which has been in operation for over 30 years.
 - It is a model of practice that aims to reduce the anti-social behaviour of young people with persistent and high-level pattern of offending.
 - MST has a proven track record of achieving positive outcomes for these young people by keeping them at home, in education and out of trouble.
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How Does MST Achieve Change?

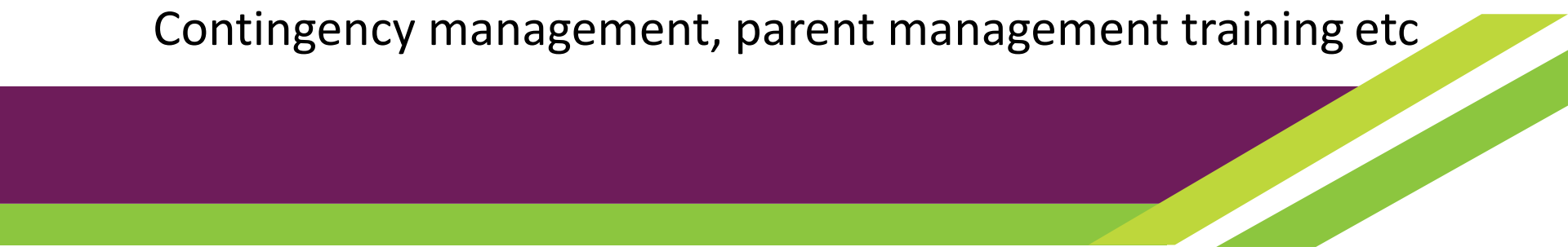
- MST targets the known causes and risk factors for offending behaviours through engagement with multiple systems such as:
- young person
- family
- peer relations
- school functioning
- community



How is the Bail Supervision Scheme achieving change?


The Bail Supervision Scheme consists of one MST Supervisor and three MST Therapists.

In delivering MST, we are offering:

- An allocated MST therapist per family
 - Intensive support
 - 24/7 on-call support
 - Home/community based service to remove barriers to access
 - Evidence-based intervention CBT, Behaviour Therapy, Contingency management, parent management training etc
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How is the Bail Supervision Scheme achieving change?

In delivering MST, we:


- Facilitate family involvement in treatment
 - Empower parents to address the needs of their child
 - Promote the long-term maintenance of positive change
 - Collaborate with key figures (Family, Community, Case Managers, Tusla, Probation, Solicitors, Education etc.) in the young person's life in setting goals and interventions.
 - Treatment lasts 3-5 months
 - Stringent Quality Assurance Measures
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The Bail Supervision Scheme Evaluation Findings

October 2016 – December 2019

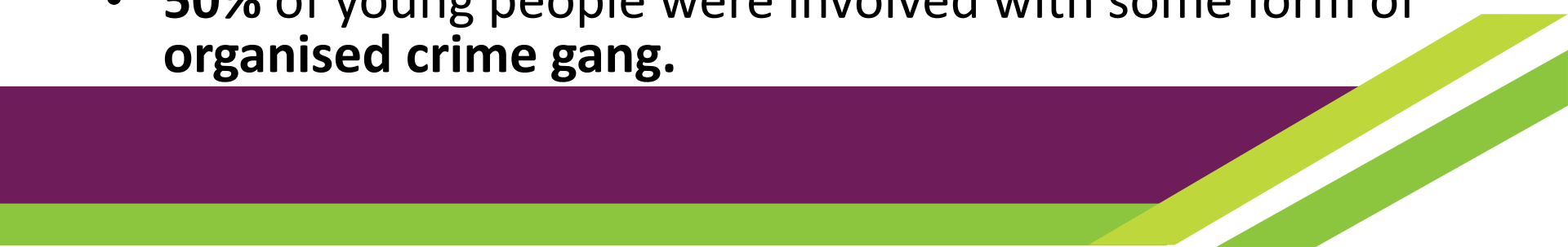


Implementation – Referral Pathways

- Referral received from **OCDC** or **Dublin District Children Court**
 - MST supervisor assesses suitability for MST treatment
 - Inclusionary Criteria Include:
 - ✓ Dublin District Children Court Case [Court 55]
 - ✓ Living within a 30km radius of Dublin
 - ✓ Aged 12- 17
 - ✓ Identified primary caregiver who the young person will live with and who is willing and able to engage with MST treatment
 - ✓ Absence of MST exclusionary criteria
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Implementation – Offending Profile

**From Evaluation 2016-2019*

- All young people had persistent and serious patterns of offending behaviour.
 - Most common offences included Theft, Robbery, Assault and Driving Offences.
 - Approximately **61% of all crimes were violent.**
 - **14%** of young people had charges that were sent forward to trial on indictment in **Circuit Court**
 - **50%** of young people were involved with some form of **organised crime gang.**
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Implementation – Social Needs Profile

All cases also presented with complex **social and emotional needs**, including;

- 75% of the young people had reported **substance misuse issues**. The majority of young people being poly drug users.
 - 53% of young people had patterns of absconding from home and/or going missing for periods of time
 - Just under half of the young people had reported mental health concerns, with 9 young people having previous serious self harm incidents.
 - Half of all cases had experienced a significant family loss or separation, including 16% who had a close family member die in tragic circumstances (homicide or suicide)
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Implementation – Social Needs Profile

Caregivers also presented with complex **social and emotional needs**, including;

- 31% of caregivers had mental health concerns.
- 31% of caregivers had reported substance misuse issues
- 69% of young people had at least one family members involved in crime:
 - 19 of the cases had a family member currently in custody during MST



Implementation– MST Interventions

MST Sessions have included:

- **Behaviour Therapy**
- **Parent Management Training**
- **Cognitive Behaviour Therapy**
- **Structural Family Therapy**
- **Strategic Family Therapy**
- **Contingency Management**

Interventions are individualised to the needs of the family building on their **strengths** and addressing identified weaknesses.

Individualised interventions and goals for each case are reviewed and agreed with the family and in MST clinical supervision every week.



Bail Supervision Scheme

Treatment Outcomes



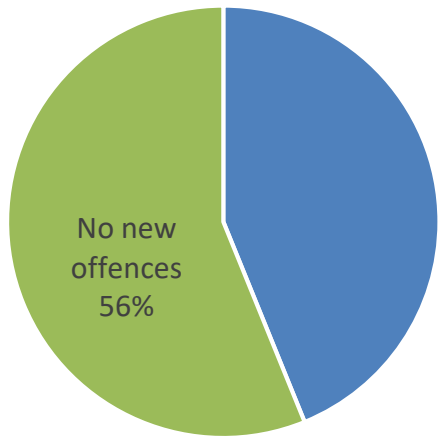
Key Findings – Education/Training

- Over **62%** of young people re-engaged in education, training or employment, most after a significant period out of the education system.



Key Findings – Offending Behaviour

No new offences while on
BSS




■ Alleged Re-offending

■ No new offences

- **56% of young people had no new arrests during MST**
- Severity & Frequency reduced significantly
- Majority of re-arrest occurred at start of treatment.

Key Findings - Offending Behaviour

Reduction in number of children being remanded to Oberstown:

- **86%** of young people completing MST were living at home and not in custody at point of closing.
 - Only **8%** of cases were placed in custody (Oberstown or treatment) due to re-offending while on BSS.
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Key Findings – Pro-Social Behaviours

- **64%** of cases have shown evidence of being minimally involved with negative peers and involved in some pro-social activity and behaviours when completing treatment.
- **86%** of families also reported improved network of informal and formal supports.



Key Findings – Family Outcomes

- Improved parenting skills - ✓ **83%**
- Improved family relations - ✓ **89%**

Empowered Parents = Increased chance of breaking the cycle of anti-social behaviour for younger siblings




Moving Forward

Inclusion

- In 2020, Extern introduced a new stream to the BSS called Janus Justice. Janus Justice offers targeted support to young people who are not residing in the family home.

BSS expansion

- BSS Dublin has expanded the catchment area covered from 30km to 50km radius
 - Extern will offer the BSS in two new locations. Cork and Limerick later this year.
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Feedback from Families

"Extern helped my family, my children and myself. It helped all the household"

"You gave me great advice, how to handle the situation with the boys"

I think it's a great idea Extern. I think it's a great idea for families to have someone

"It helped me stay out of trouble. It gives you something to do... instead of just hanging around. It wasn't really hard, just getting up in the morning! You have to want to do it."

"Things went great today in court...Thanks again, you helped me save my son, I can't thank you enough"

"Now I can understand [my son] more as a mother. Now when he talks to me I can explain things to him. Before you came along [he] wouldn't talk to me at all, he'd tell me nothing"



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