



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




ciste na
gcuntas díomhaoin
the dormant
accounts fund

Presentation on

Extern Justice Services

for Juvenile Justice Seminar **Wednesday, 20th March 2024**



An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service

Justice Programmes

- ▶ **Garda Youth Diversion Programme-** 4 GYDP's in Limerick, Dublin, Naas and Athy
- ▶ **Janus Justice Project-** Covering Limerick and Clare. Specialist harder to reach programme targeting young people who are continuing to offend and deemed at a higher level of need that a GYDP can offer. In operation since 2015, based on the Janus TUSLA model.
- ▶ **Bail Supervision Scheme-** In operation in Dublin since 2016 and opened in Limerick and Cork in 2021. Evidence based model of intervention, Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) and Janus Justice Worker.

Garda Diversion Programmes

- ▶ Engage with young people aged 12-18 at risk of, or who are involved in, anti-social and/or criminal behaviour. Provide them with targeted supports to stop their offending and divert them away from the criminal justice system.
- ▶ Co-Funded by Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS) and European Social Fund (ESF) as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning.

Southside Youth Initiative-Referral Process

- ▶ Each GYDP has a Management Committee which is responsible for advising on and approving project planning (Annual Plan) and strategy, and monitoring and evaluating project performance.
- ▶ Each project also has a referral committee, which decides on participants for inclusion on the project. Referral committee aims to meet every 4-6 weeks.
- ▶ Primary referrals- referred by Juvenile Liaison Officers (JLO). Young people who have been cautioned for an offense.
- ▶ Secondary referrals- referred by community agencies, social work departments, schools, and/or self referral. Young person at risk of offending, possible involvement with anti-social behaviour.

Southside Youth Initiative- How it works

- ▶ Referral committee meets and agreement made on young person referred to the project.
- ▶ Youth Justice Worker contacts parents to receive consent to carry out initial assessment- Gather information from parents and other agencies to deem young person's suitability to the project using YLS-Sv.
- ▶ If young person is not suitable for the project referral made to more suitable service.
- ▶ If young person is suitable for the project then an initial home visit is arranged with young person, parents, and JLO (or other referral agent if it is a secondary referral). Introduction to the programme, voluntary, consent, complaints procedure, and reporting on concerns.
- ▶ Initial 4-6 weeks is the relationship building stage- relationship building stage- get to know young person and assess strengths and needs. YJW goes out to collect the young person and sessions take place in the community.

Southside Youth Initiative- How it works

- ▶ Initial Extern Review- Held after 4-6 weeks and then every 4 months with young person, parents, JLO (or other referral agent), Youth Justice Worker, and Assistant Manager. Review how engagement, how young person and family are finding the service, and focus of work is agreed. Each review offers the opportunity to explore continued involvement or closing-if closing agree up on an exit plan.
- ▶ Individual sessions- one to one sessions initially focused on building the relationship and focus on objectives after the initial review. Example- motivational interviewing, restorative practices, iscoil
- ▶ Activity and special interest sessions- game of pool, sports, art, music, woodwork, and gym. Cinema and Karting as reward for meeting objectives/goals.
- ▶ Group work- Life of choices, small group work Example of equine programme, hill walking, and soccer.
- ▶ Flexibility- evening and weekend work, day trips and occasional overnights.
- ▶ Home visits- Check in with the family and offer support.
- ▶ Interagency work- link in with other services involved with the families (with consent) and in the community.
- ▶ Schools- aim to engage with schools in the community-this was limited in 2020 due to covid.

Southside Youth Initiative- How it works

- ▶ Assessment tools- Outcome star (teen star), Youth Level of Service-Short version- initial assessment tool, and YLS-CMI 2.0- assess criminogenic needs and develop case management plan, risk assessments.
- ▶ Annual plan- Develop plan for the following year using logic model.
- ▶ Quarterly and yearly reports to Irish Youth Justice and European Social Fund

Southside Youth Initiative-Profile

- ▶ 2023- All Primary referrals. Mostly male, small number of female.
- ▶ Age range- 13-17
- ▶ Education Status = On referral 59% of young people were out of education or training. Closure saw 83% of cases in education and attending.
- ▶ Offenses- Theft (shop/person), Possession of drugs, Burglary, Criminal damage, Handling stolen property, trespass public order, taking of vehicle
- ▶ Most young people deemed moderate risk of reoffending on YLS and a few high risk.
- ▶ Areas of highest risk were Leisure/Recreation, Peer Relations, and Education/Employment. Moderate risk were Personality/Behaviour, Attitudes/Orientation, and Family Circumstances/Parenting.

Janus Justice Project

- ▶ Janus Justice Project- Engages with young people who are high risk of reoffending, referred in by JLO's. Also, engage with young people, up to the age of 23, referred in by Young Persons Probation Service. Many of the young people are involved in a-typical offending (burglary, sale and supply, etc)- Greentown study
- ▶ Service Manager, 1 Assistant Manager, 3 Janus Justice Workers.
- ▶ Co-Funded by Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS) and the dormant account funds.

Janus Justice Project-Referral Process

- ▶ Assistant Manager meets with JLO Sergeant and Senior Probation Officer every 6-8 weeks (Referral Meeting).
- ▶ 80% JLO and 20 % YPP; This can vary dependant on need, has increased to 15 total referrals.
- ▶ After young person is referred, Assistant Manager and Janus Justice Worker have an initial referral meeting with the referral agent (JLO or Probation Officer) to risk assess and gather information such as other agencies involved, potential objectives/goals, and criminogenic needs.
- ▶ Participation is voluntary.

Janus Justice Project- How it works

- ▶ Slightly less caseload compared to GYDP- Janus Justice Worker has between 4-6 service users depending on need and engagement level of service users. Youth Justice Worker typically works with 8 service users.
- ▶ Lower caseload means Janus Justice Worker can offer more sessions to a service user, Average 3 sessions per week dependant on need.
- ▶ After initial referral meeting, Janus Justice Worker arranges initial home visit with young person and parents (if under 18) to introduce the project and obtain consent for the young person to participate.
- ▶ Initial 4-6 weeks-relationship building stage and assessment of needs.
- ▶ Initial Extern review and then every 4 months afterwards.
- ▶ Biweekly home visits- under 18's.

Janus Justice Project- How it works

- ▶ Individual sessions-flexibility on amount offered. Focus on supporting service user to adhere to bail conditions, conditions of probation, and objectives agreed at review.
- ▶ Activity and Special Interest Sessions-
- ▶ Flexibility-evening and weekend work, daytrips and occasional overnights.
- ▶ Court Support- accompany to court
- ▶ Interagency work- similar to SYI- links with Solicitors

Janus Justice Project- How it works

- ▶ Assessment tools- Outcome star (teen star and Justice Star), YLS CMI 2.0, and risk assessments. Youth Level of Service-Looks at Prior and Current Convictions, Family/Parenting Circumstances, Education/Employment, Substance Misuse, Peer Relations, Leisure/Recreation, Personality/Behaviour, and Attitudes/Orientation
- ▶ Bimonthly progress reports- Reports sent to referral agent updating on engaging levels and focus of work/objectives/goals.
- ▶ Quarterly and Annual Reports to IYJS

Janus Justice- Profile

- ▶ JLO referrals- 13 years old-17years old. Range of offenses from theft from shop, public order, criminal damage, theft from person, assault. Young People who have previous cautions and close to entering court system or on referral to court system.
- ▶ Probation referrals- Age range 12-22. Offenses range from theft of vehicle, motoring offenses, assault with possession of an article, threats to kill/intimidation, possession of drugs for personal use, burglary, attempted burglary, aggravated burglary.

Janus Justice- Outcomes

- ▶ In 2023, 62.5% of young people had a significant decrease in their YLS score (criminogenic risk). Two young people had an increase and were referred on to Bail Supervision Scheme. One young person stabilised. Two young people disengaged.
- ▶ Evaluation of the service found that it was viewed by stakeholders as a crucial part of the youth justice infrastructure in the area it is based. Also viewed by stakeholders as having a vital role in facilitating a timely and coordinated response to a-typical youth crime.
- ▶ Young people credited the programme with the following positive changes in their lives:
 - ▶ Not hanging around with the same people
 - ▶ Going back to school/education
 - ▶ Not getting in trouble with the Guards
 - ▶ Better mental health
 - ▶ More confidence
 - ▶ Finding things they like to do

Bail Supervision Scheme

- ▶ Support for young people who are on bail awaiting finalisation of their charges- an alternative to remand in custody. Intensive supervision in the community.
- ▶ Currently in operation in Dublin, Limerick and Cork. Evidence based model of intervention, Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) for young people 13-18 years old.
- ▶ 1 Service Manager (MST Supervisor) and 3 Family Workers (MST Therapists).
- ▶ Funded by Department of Justice

Bail Supervision Scheme- How it Works

- ▶ Multi Systemic Therapy (MST)- 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 persistent, high level young offenders.
- ▶ 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 using the systems around the young person.
- ▶ Referrals made by the Court and Oberstown, within a 40-mile radius from court.

Bail Supervision Scheme-How it works

- ▶ Each family have an allocated MST therapist
- ▶ Provide Intensive support
- ▶ 24/7 on-call support
- ▶ Home/community based service to remove barriers to access
- ▶ Evidence-based interventions – CBT, Behaviour Therapy, Contingency management, structural family therapy etc
- ▶ 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, Education etc.)
- ▶ Treatment lasts 3-5 months
- ▶ Stringent Quality Assurance Measures

Bail Supervision Scheme- Profile

- ▶ All young people had persistent and serious patterns of offending behaviour.
- ▶ Most common offences included Theft, Robbery, Assault and Driving Offences.
- ▶ All cases referred had either a mental health diagnosis, substance abuse and/or a learning difficulty.
- ▶ Family presentations are predominantly single parent families, low income families, history of domestic violence, members of marginalised communities and high rates of parent criminality.
- ▶ All young people show a high level of Adverse Childhood Experience.

Bail Supervision Scheme- Outcomes

- Evaluation completed by the REPPP team in University of Limerick.
- 72% reduction in in reoffending among young people taking part in the scheme.
- 85% of young people who successfully completed the programme were given non-custodial sentences.
- An average reduction in criminal detections which was twice that of the control group of young people not enrolled.
- Evidence of improved adherence to bail conditions among young people.
- Reduced levels of drug use and aggressive behaviour for some of those enrolled.



Questions