

Tackling Youth Crime
Youth Justice Action Plan
2014-2018

Tackling Youth Crime

Progress Report 2017



AN ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY



Irish Youth Justice Service
Seirbhís na hIúireann um Chosantas i leith ar Aoise Óg



An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of
Children and Youth Affairs

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Mission Statement
(Irish Youth Justice Service and Youth Justice Action Plan)

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

Introduction

This report outlines how the “Tackling Youth Crime: Youth Justice Action Plan 2014–2018”, was implemented during 2017 and it signals important actions to be pursued during 2018. The Youth Justice Action Plan is an interagency plan that focuses on children and young people who require targeted, strategic attention because their behaviour has led to their involvement with the youth justice system. The Action Plan sets out a number of specific goals and objectives that aim to deliver better outcomes for children who get into trouble with the law. These goals also aim to reduce crime and make communities safer.

The Action Plan:

- Builds on the existing community policing partnerships and forums to enhance trust between local communities and their Gardaí.
- Emphasises alternative programmes for young offenders through the work of Garda Juvenile Liaison Officers and the Garda Diversion Programme.
- Focuses on outcomes-based contracts with community based organisations to help reduce re-offending by young people.
- Ends the practice of sending 16/17 year old boys to St. Patrick’s Institution.
- Prioritises resources based on evidence, research, tracked levels of recidivism and the voice and experience of children involved in the youth justice system.

The Action Plan identifies specific goals to achieve the commitments set out in “Towards Recovery: Programme for a National Government 2011-2016” in the area of youth justice, and was extended into the 2016 “A Programme for a Partnership Government”. The Action Plan also forms part of broader national policies, particularly “Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures - the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020”.

During 2017, agencies made significant progress in implementing the Action Plan under each of its five high-level goals. For example, important research on the involvement of children in criminal networks was progressed under the Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice (REPPP) project in the University of Limerick (UL), supported by IYJS. In addition, a general review of the Children Act 2001 commenced, which will form a key element in the future development of youth justice strategies.

An Inter-Agency Implementation Team, which is comprised of senior representatives from all of the key youth justice agencies plus Tusla, oversees implementation of the Action Plan. A list of the agencies represented on the Implementation Team and a summary of their roles in relation to youth offending is included below.

This report highlights important progress made in implementing the Action Plan in 2017. For the final year of the plan, 2018, there will be a focus on the development of future national strategy as well as pursuing any outstanding actions under the current Action Plan.

Agencies represented on the YJAP Implementation Team

Irish Youth Justice Service

www.iyjs.ie

The Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS) operates as an executive office located in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. It has responsibility for leading and driving youth justice reform and Chairs the YJAP Implementation Team. It is staffed by officials from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Department of Justice and Equality.

An Garda Síochána

www.garda.ie

The Garda Youth Diversion Office is the national office for the management and implementation of the Garda Diversion Programme. The Programme offers children who accept responsibility for an offence the opportunity of a caution and appropriate support to divert them from committing further offences including referral to a Garda Youth Diversion Project (where available in their area).

TUSLA

www.tusla.ie

Tusla, The Child and Family Agency, is the dedicated State agency responsible for improving wellbeing and outcomes for children, guided by the principle of best interests of the child. Tusla works closely with IYJS and other agencies to ensure that these responsibilities are met in the case of children who are in trouble with the law.

The Probation Service

www.probation.ie

The Probation Service is an agency within the Department of Justice and Equality, which works with offenders to help change their behaviour. Young Persons Probation (YPP) is a specialised division of The Probation Service established to work with children and young people aged 12-21 years s.

The Irish Prison Service

www.irishprisons.ie

The Irish Prison Service operates as an executive agency within the Department of Justice and Equality and deals with male offenders who are 18 years of age or over and female offenders who are 18 years of age or over. From 31 March 2017, 17 year olds are committed by the Courts to the Oberstown Children Detention Campus. St. Patrick's Institution was closed and subsumed into Mountjoy Prison by Ministerial Orders under the Prisons Act, 2015 from 7 April 2017. Children are no longer held in the adult prison system as the last 17 year old in prison custody left the prison system on 27 December 2017.

Oberstown Children Detention Campus

www.oberstown.com

The Oberstown Children Detention Campus is Ireland's national facility for the detention of children remanded or sentenced by the criminal courts and is located on a single site in Oberstown, Lusk, Co Dublin. The facility is funded by IYJS and its principal objective, under the Children Act 2001 (as amended), is to provide care, education, training and other programmes, with a view to reintegrating children and young people into their communities and society after their release. The Oberstown Children Detention Campus is the new name for the Children Detention Schools at Oberstown, which were amalgamated into one facility in June 2016.

Acronyms

ACTS	Assessment, Consultation and Therapy Service
AGS	An Garda Síochána
BOBF	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures - the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CEHOP	Care, Education, Health, Offending and Planning for Future
CFSN	Child and Family Support Networks
CJSC	Criminal Justice Strategic Committee
CMP	Case Management Plan
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CYPSC	Children and Young People’s Services Committee
DAF	Dormant Accounts Funding
DCYA	Department of Children and Youth Affairs
DJE	Department of Justice and Equality
EPIC	Empowering People in Care
ESF	European Social Fund
GSAS	Garda Síochána Analysis Service
GYDP	Garda Youth Diversion Project
HIQA	Health Information and Quality Authority
HSE	Health Service Executive
IGA	Intergovernmental Agreement on Cooperation on Criminal Justice Matters
IPS	Irish Prison Service
IYJS	Irish Youth Justice Service
JLO	Juvenile Liaison Officer
PAG	Project Advisory Group
PBNI	Probation Board of Northern Ireland
RSCW	Residential Social Care Worker
TAG	Teenagers and Gardaí
YAP	Youth Advocacy Programmes Ireland
YJAP	Youth Justice Action Plan
YLS/CMI	Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory
YPP	Young Persons Probation

High Level Goal 1: To work together to ensure public confidence in dealing with young people in trouble with the law

This High-Level Goal is pursued through two objectives: enhanced collaboration between all of the youth justice agencies; effective information sharing and promoting best practice, with a view to ensuring that investment in the Youth Justice System yields positive results.

The key actions identified in the Youth Justice Action Plan (YJAP) to achieve these objectives are:

1. Prioritising youth justice policy in strategies, policies and programmes of all agencies;
2. Continually reviewing standards and practices;
3. Identifying and providing training to personnel delivering services;
4. Reviewing and amending, as required, the governing legislation, i.e. Children Act 2001 (as amended);
5. Supporting North/South and international cooperation across the justice agencies;
6. Promoting integrated approaches to youth offending;
7. Developing, strengthening and aligning policies, legislation and resources to achieve better outcomes for children and young people;
8. Implementing effective governance to ensure that service providers deliver within allocated resources.

Notable Progress in 2017

2. Continually reviewing standards and practices

- Training for Youth Justice Workers is ongoing
- Information seminars on the YLS/CMI Risk Assessment system were delivered to JLOs during 2017
- A JLO induction Course was held at the Garda College from the 4th to the 8th of September 2017. This week long course saw 19 newly appointed JLO trained in all aspects of the diversion programme as provided under statute
- Mediation Training as is required under statute for each JLO was held over two modules in November and December 2017. The completion of this mediation training will see that the full complement of JLO are fully trained in mediation skills.
- The JLO Training Conference 2017 was held on October 3rd and 4th. This training conference, held every alternate year, saw the attendance of 105 JLOs as well as Gardaí from the areas of community policing, professional standards unit and domestic violence & sexual assaults units.
- All Youth Justice Workers were trained in the use of YLS/CMI at the end of 2015. Training continues to be rolled out for new Youth Justice Workers, with 6 training sessions being held during 2017.

- Launch of Strategic Plan 2017-2020, Oberstown Children Detention Campus.
- A short summary report on the outcomes of the Best Practice Team audit of GYDP interventions was prepared and circulated to GYDPs. IYJS is awaiting the final report.
- Progress was made on the implementation of a mentoring programme using Dormant Accounts Funding. Mentoring services are integrated with and support the operation of the nationwide network of GYDPs. Mentoring programmes provide one-to-one support for young people through a network of local volunteers which act as role models and provide support to young people. In total 65 individual GYDP projects currently benefit from the pilot mentoring programme. Approx. 150 young people are expected to benefit from mentoring services.
- The development of Innovative approaches to supporting “hard-to-reach” young people were supported by IYJS with the assistance of Dormant Accounts Funds. In 2017, 18 young people engaged in the Solas Compass project and over 25 young people engaged in the Janus Justice Project in Mid-west.

4. *Reviewing and amending, as required, the governing legislation, i.e. Children Act 2001 (as amended);*

- The 4th Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies (ICJA) Conference in association with the Association of Criminal Research and Development (ACJRD) was held in Dublin Castle on 4th July 2017. The conference theme was “Youth Justice Policy in Ireland – Where to next?”. The conference kicked off the review of the Children Act 2001, as required under the YJAP. The conference was opened by Minister of State David Stanton, and included a number of thought-provoking presentations from experts in the youth justice field, including Judge John O’Connor (Dublin Children Court), Dr. Geoffrey Shannon, (Special Rapporteur on Child Protection), Professor Ursula Kilkelly (UCC) as well as important contributions from youth workers and young people who reflected some of their own personal experiences.
- The conference papers have been compiled and will provide an important reference for IYJS in pursuing the review of the Children Act.
- IYJS is coordinating the review of the Act in consultation with other agencies and stakeholders, with a view to clarifying the principal issues for consideration as part of a wider consultation process which will inform the development of detailed proposals for legislative and structural reform.

5. Supporting North/South and international cooperation across the justice agencies

- Each Rol agency and NI counterparts support ongoing actions and information exchanges. These are discussed and developed in meetings of the Youth Justice Policy Advisory Group (PAG), which operates as part of cross-border structures established following the Belfast Agreement. The PAG had two formal meetings in

2017 and it includes representatives from the respective Justice agencies (North and South) including the PSNI, An Garda Síochána, as well as Probation, Detention and Youth Justice policy bodies.

- An official from IYJS participated in the International Fund for Ireland study visit to the USA on US approaches to Diversion and young offenders during March 2017.

6. Promoting integrated approaches to youth offending

- Further development of the Greentown study by the REPPP project (See HLG 2 below) will focus on the development of particular models for integrated approaches to address the involvement of children in criminal networks
- The legal and administrative frameworks to support more integrated approaches to youth offending will also be considered in the context of the review of the Children Act 2001, which began in 2017

8. Implementing effective governance to ensure that service providers deliver within allocated resources.

- YPP funded projects are subject to ongoing governance and reporting, supported by Probation Service Regional Managers, in conjunction with local community-based service representatives
- GYDP Operational Requirements were reviewed and issued to all GYDPs in April 2017.
- GYDP Funding Agreement was finalised and signed by all GYDPs

High Level Goal 2: To strengthen and develop our evidence base to support more effective policies and services, having regard to the voice of young people

This High-Level Goal is pursued through four objectives: developing mechanisms to produce performance-focussed data for young people across the criminal justice system; improving and increasing the availability of reliable and relevant research on youth crime and the youth justice system to inform and focus policy and service development; examining new and emerging patterns of persistent offending, including serious criminal and violent behaviour and designing appropriate interventions; and exploring active means by which children and young people can inform policy and improve the performance of the youth justice system.

The key actions identified in the YJAP to achieve these objectives are as follows:

1. Facilitate the collation of youth justice data and information in conjunction with stakeholders;
2. Promote the sharing and dissemination of data within the youth justice sector;
3. Conduct joint research to identify progression routes into serious adult crime;
4. Conduct research on levels of compliance with community sanctions and evolution of youth justice service systems;
5. Conduct research on children and young people's journey into detention;
6. Track the level and nature of recidivism through the youth justice system;
7. Review data holdings on supports and services provided by the youth justice system;
8. Generate a national profile of participants in the GYDPs;
9. Profile substance misuse among children and young people subject to community sanctions/probation service supervision;
10. Actively seek the views of children and young people with regard to youth crime, policy and practice.

Notable Progress in 2017

- The Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice Project (REPPP) project, funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, continues to operate in University of Limerick. The REPPP Projects aims to develop and utilise the evidence base in relation to youth offending to better support the development of policy and programmes and practice across the youth justice sector. It is pursuing a number of important research initiatives that are referenced elsewhere in this report.
- A further initiative that commenced in 2017, supported by IYJS, will assist the consideration of a wide range of policy questions into the future. This is the development of a bespoke model of Systematic Evidence Review, which will facilitate comprehensive examination of existing international literature and also support analysis of the transferability of particular approaches in an Irish context.
- The Irish Prison Service & Oberstown Children Detention Campus Joint Administration Protocol was launched on the 22nd May 2017.

- Other notable developments included -

1. Facilitate the collation of youth justice data and information in conjunction with stakeholders.

- YLS/CMI Risk Assessment Data and data returned by the GYDPs in relation to ESF funding is gathered by IYJS with a view to providing an evidence base to support the development of future policy, programmes and practice.

3. Conduct joint research to identify progression routes into serious adult crime

- The Greentown Study “Lifting the Lid on Greentown” was published in January 2017 and looks at the involvement of children in adult criminal networks. The Greentown study is part of the Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice project (REPPP) and is supported by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Department of Justice and Equality.
- Following the publication of the Greentown study, a replication study will be undertaken, looking at whether the features observed in Greentown which give rise to significantly increased risk of youth offending are present elsewhere in Ireland. The research will be further developed to suggest models for interventions to counteract the influence of criminal networks on children.

7. Review data holdings on supports and services provided by the youth justice system

- As part of the REPPP project, the study “Improving the measurement of effectiveness in the Irish Youth Justice System” will undertake an international review of data holdings in youth justice systems and identify common features of data collection which are capable of indicating programme effectiveness and efficiency. The study will examine how Irelands youth justice data practices compare internationally and provide practical recommendations for improvement.

9. Generate a national profile of participants in the GYDPs

- YLS/CMI Risk Assessment Data and data returned by the GYDPs in relation to ESF funding is gathered by IYJS with a view to providing an evidence base to support the development of future policy, programmes and practice.

10 Actively seek the views of children and young people with regard to youth crime, policy and practice.

- Under the Oberstown Strategic Plan 2017-2020, the Campus made a commitment to adopt a strategy for the participation of young people in decision-making with a view to ensuring that the views of young people are heard and taken into account in matters that affect them, both individually and as a group. The **“Strategy for the Participation of Young People in Decision-Making”** was published in October 2017.
- The Department of Children and Youth Affairs is consulting with young people, through the Participation Hub, on the revised national standards that set out the rules which govern how Oberstown is run. The consultation is currently underway and approximately 6 sessions took place towards the end of 2017. A report of the consultation process is currently being prepared. The purpose of the process is to ensure that the new DCYA national standards will reflect the views of young people. A child-friendly version of the standards will also be published.
- Young people were invited to participate in the Annual Youth Justice Conference which took place on the 4th July in association with the ACJRD, where they had an opportunity to share their experience and express their views on youth justice policy and practice.
- A consultation process with children and young people is planned for 2018 regarding the updating of GYDP operating principles, and further consultation will be required in relation to the review of the Children Act 2001.

High Level Goal 3: To review and strengthen targeted interventions to reduce offending and divert young people from the criminal justice system

This High-Level Goal is pursued through three objectives: to promote focussed and effective interventions through our Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDPs) to challenge and divert children and young people from offending behaviour; to utilise our GYDPs' resources in areas of greatest need and to establish effective crime prevention supports in cooperation with youth service providers nationwide; to actively promote crime prevention policy through focussed educational interventions designed to positively influence the development of children and young people as responsible citizens.

The key actions identified in the YJAP to achieve these objectives are:

1. Guide the GYDPs' service delivery in line with youth justice operational requirements;
2. Identify priority locations for resource needs, based on crime incidence and evidence of need;
3. Engage with youth service providers to promote the use of crime prevention supports and a standardised working ethos in delivery of youth services;
4. Embed pro-social development strategies to prevent young persons from becoming involved in offending behaviour;
5. Strengthen the anti-crime policy framework and implementation arrangements to support a reduction in youth crime and reduced demands for detention;
6. Through the GYDPs, support AGS in the delivery of a service which engages with children and young people and their families to establish their needs and priorities;
7. Ensure that children and young people identified at risk of offending receive appropriate and adequate care.

Notable Progress in 2017

1. Guide the GYDPs' service delivery in line with youth justice operational requirements.

- Revised GYDP Operational Requirements have been finalised and are being implemented by all CBOs.
- New GYDP Funding agreement was finalised and signed by all CBOs in 2017.

2. Identify priority locations for resource needs, based on crime incidence and evidence of need.

- Initial proposals prepared to update the operating principles, including determination of appropriate service area boundaries for GYDPs, to be further developed in light of stakeholder consultation.

3. Engage with other youth service providers to promote the use of crime prevention supports and a standardised working ethos in delivery of youth services

- IYJS convened a number of meetings with stakeholders to discuss the future direction of the GYDPs and the review of the Children Act 2001.

5. Strengthen anti-crime policy framework and implementation arrangements to support a reduction in youth crime and reduced demands for detention

- IYJS published the 2016 Progress Report for the YJAP in 2017.
- Youth J-ARC pilot initiative was officially launched on June 19 2017 at the Irish Prison Service Training College, Stack House, Dublin Road, Portlaoise. Youth J-ARC is a development of the Joint Agencies Response to Crime initiative, which carefully monitors and supports repeat adult offenders who have been released from prison, to encourage them to desist from crime. The Youth J-ARC pilot targets some of the more prolific young offenders aged 16 to 21 years. It provides an operational approach for enhanced levels of co-operation and co-ordination between the Probation Service, An Garda Síochána, Irish Prison Service, Irish Youth Justice Service (Oberstown campus), Tusla and the Department of Education & Science. At the end of 2017 Youth J-ARC Crime was established in Blanchardstown, Dublin North Inner City, Cork (note the Y J-ARC Project is not confined to one area in Cork) , involving a total of 10 young people.
- The Bail Supervision Scheme (BSS) continued to operate in 2017. It is a pilot scheme used in the Dublin’s Children’s Court, works with children aged 12-17 years old who were initially denied bail and remanded in custody to Oberstown. The BSS provides therapeutic supports in the community for young people who are subject to bail conditions. It offers greater options to the courts in the knowledge that close monitoring will take place through interaction with the young people, their families and communities. The scheme facilitates a reduction in the need for detention places by allowing young people to remain in their communities.

6. Through the GYDPs, support An Garda Síochána in the delivery of a service that engages with children and young people and their families to establish their needs and priorities

- Juvenile Liaison Officers continued to engage closely with children and young people and their families in order to base interventions on the young person’s needs.

7. Ensure that children and young people identified at risk of offending receive appropriate and adequate care

- A number of interagency meeting involving representatives from TUSLA, IYJS and Oberstown Children Detention Campus were held during 2017 to look at the issue of children in care referred to the Diversion Programme for offences committed whilst in the care of the state. These meetings are ongoing.

- Young persons at risk of offending are referred for consideration as participants on GYDPs where appropriate. This will be considered further in the context of the further and ongoing development of GYDPs.

High Level Goal 4: To promote and increase the use of community measures, including restorative justice, for young people who offend

This High-Level Goal is pursued through three objectives: to continue to support the Probation Service in the promotion of optimum non-custodial interventions for children and young people who have offended; to continue to support the Courts Service to ensure the use of detention as a last resort; to encourage the use of restorative justice practices are used to the greatest extent possible.

The key actions identified in the YJAP to achieve these objectives are:

1. Further develop programmes in co-operation with the Probation Service based on recommendations of the Young Persons Probation report, “Working in Partnership with communities to reduce youth crime” (2011);
2. Improve interagency coordination of community sanctions;
3. Continue to liaise on appropriate methods of informing the judiciary of developments in the area of youth justice and the efficient operation of the Children Court;
4. Provide facilities for pre-Court consultation;
5. Examine the feasibility of Social Impact Investment;
6. Drive a restorative practice ethos in the delivery of services to challenge offending behaviour;
7. Maximise opportunities for Court-ordered conferencing;
8. Strengthen and extend restorative justice practices for children and young people subject to community sanctions.

Notable Progress in 2017

- 1. Further develop programmes in co-operation with the Probation Service based on recommendations of the Young Persons Probation report “Working in Partnership with Communities to reduce youth crime” (2011)**

The Probation Service continues to work in partnership with the 16 Young Persons Probation (YPP) funded projects which deliver supports and services to young people who are under Probation supervision, and their families. YPP aims to promote the use restorative approaches in order to reduce re-offending and deals with approximately 600 young offenders nationwide.

- 2. Improve interagency coordination of community sanctions**

The use of community sanctions, which are provided in the Children Act 2001 is one of the issues being examined as part of the overall review of the Act.

- 3. Continue to liaise on appropriate methods of informing the judiciary of developments in the area of youth justice and the efficient operation of the Children Court;**

- Two newly appointed Judges visited Oberstown campus in Q1 2017. Members of Judiciary were invited to the event “Oberstown – Building the Future” which took place on 29/05/17, during which Oberstown gathered together with stakeholders, staff, partners and politicians, in order to outline its vision for the future. A number of internal and external speakers made presentations on the day.
- Liaison with the Judges in the Childrens' Courts (with particular reference to Court 55 in Smithfield) is ongoing with YPP personnel.

4. Provide facilities for pre-Court consultation

- Significant progress has been made on the Courts Service proposal for the development of Courts services in Hammond Lane including a new Children Court complex to replace the existing facilities.

5. Examine the feasibility of Social Impact Investment

- In 2017, 27 young people and their families were supported by the Bail Supervision Scheme (BSS). The results show increasing compliance with bail conditions; reduction in breaches of bail or new criminal activity, and a return to education has been impressive. By maintaining this number of young people in the community on the Bail Supervision Scheme there is a reduction in the need for detention places.
- A draft BSS Evaluation Framework was prepared by REPPP (UL) in 2017. Further development of the initiative will be considered when the evaluation process is completed.
- The Work to Learn programme was rolled out on a pilot basis to 6 GYDPs at the start of the year. It is a 6-9 month work experience programme for participants on selected GYDPs. The Advisory Group plans to evaluate the pilot programme at the end of the year in advance of further expanding the Programme in 2018.

6. Drive a restorative practice ethos in the delivery of services to challenge offending behaviour;

- Further Restorative Practice training was delivered for Garda Juvenile Liaison Officers (JLOs) in November 2017. This training ensures that the full complement of JLOs were trained to an international (IIRP) standard.
- A literature review on Restorative Practice approaches to dealing with Young Offenders was completed by the GYDP Best Practice Development Team, following which IYJS intend to pursue the development of restorative practice as part of the ongoing development of GYDP services.

7. Maximise opportunities for Court-ordered conferencing

- The Operation of Family Conferencing provisions of the Children Act 2001 are being examined by IYJS in the context of the overall review of the Act

High Level Goal 5: To provide a safe, secure environment and necessary support for detained young people to assist their re-integration into the community

This High-Level Goal is pursued through three objectives: To provide evidence-based care and developmental opportunities to children and young people in detention and prepare them to take their place in the community as persons who observe the law and are capable of making a positive and productive contribution to society; to complete the development of integrated services in the Children Detention Schools; to complete the new national children detention facilities in Oberstown by 2015.

The key actions identified in the YJAP to achieve these objectives are:

1. To make available specialist therapeutic services to children and young people in detention;
2. Develop and review protocols to provide for the continued care of children and young people on release from detention, as well as their relevant social needs;
3. Continue to integrate services, management, practices, procedures and policies in Children Detention Schools;
4. Amend the Children Act 2001 if/as required to support an integrated model;
5. Meet and enhance the “Standards and Criteria for Children Detention Schools” (2008) and all other relevant legislation, policies and standards;
6. Review the appropriate governance structure for the integration of the schools;
7. Progress the capital project to complete the national children detention facilities in Oberstown;
8. Recruit and train sufficient staff to manage the extended facilities.

Notable Progress in 2017

There was widespread welcome when the final steps to consign the use of the outdated facilities in St. Patrick’s Institution to history. SI No 111/2017 was signed by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Catherine Zappone, on 28th March 2017, ending the practice of remanding offenders under the age of 18 in adult prisons. The Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality, Francis Fitzgerald, signed S.I No 135/2017 effecting the closure of St Patricks Institution with effect from 7th April 2017.

Other notable developments included:

1. To make available specialist therapeutic services to children and young people in detention

- The Assessment Consultation Therapeutic Service (ACTS) provided therapeutic services to young people referred by the Campus. ACTS and Psychiatric Services are in place. Implication of the review of service by Tusla is to be considered.

2. Develop and Implement and review processes and protocols to provide for the care and reintegration of young people in Oberstown.

- Minister DCYA has established an Implementation Group to manage the recommendation from the various reviews.
- The Policy and Operations Consultative Committee are meeting regularly, with policies being reviewed and sent to Board of Management for ratification
- Irish Prison Service and Oberstown Children Detention Campus, Joint Administrative Protocol was completed in May 2017.

2. Develop and review protocols to provide for the continued care of children and young people on release from detention, as well as their relevant social needs

- IPS/Oberstown Protocols were signed off on the 19th May 2017. A Review meeting was held between Oberstown & Probation Service in April 2017 and June 2017.

3. Continue to integrate services, management, practices, procedures and policies in Children Detention

- A Consultant was engaged to develop strategy in Q1 2017.
- Consultation process with campus was commenced in Q2 2017.
- Monthly consultative meetings re policy & procedure are ongoing since Q1 2017. New policies are available on oberstown.com
- A number of care procedures and Health & Safety Procedures actioned Q2 (linked to the separation of remand and sentenced young people on campus)

4. Amend the Children Act 2001 if/as required to support an integrated model

5. Meet and enhance the “Standards and Criteria for Children Detention Schools” (2008) and all other relevant legislation, policies and standards

- A draft of standards was presented to the Board of Management and then referred to the IYJS for review and external consultation.
- The Department of Children and Youth Affairs is consulting with young people, through the Participation Hub, on the revised national standards that set out the rules which govern how Oberstown is run. The consultation is currently taking place and approximately 6 sessions took place during 2017.

6. Review the appropriate governance structure for the integration of the schools

- The Campus continued to be run by the Board of Management.
- Internal Management Structures were strengthened by the appointment of two new Deputy Directors and the re-organisation of roles and responsibilities associated with these appointments.
- Q3 2016 Plans for the re-organisation of middle managers to fulfil roles that will support the standardisation of practices and the implementation of policies across the campus commenced by the Senior Management Team.

7. Progress the capital project to complete the national children detention facilities in Oberstown

- Majority of works completed. Some retro-fitting in funding of 2017 and due to be completed 2018.

8. Recruit and train sufficient staff to manage the extended facilities

- Staffing and recruitment needs are kept under ongoing review to support effective management of Oberstown.
- 2017 saw a total of 22 new staff employed at Oberstown Campus. Of the 22 new recruits, two were Clinical Nurse Managers, nine administration staff, one Investigations Officer, one Risk and Safety Services Manager and nine Residential Care Workers.

Appendix A: Statistics on Youth Justice

Source:

Annual Reports of the Committee Appointed to Monitor the Effectiveness of the Diversion Programme 2016 and 2017

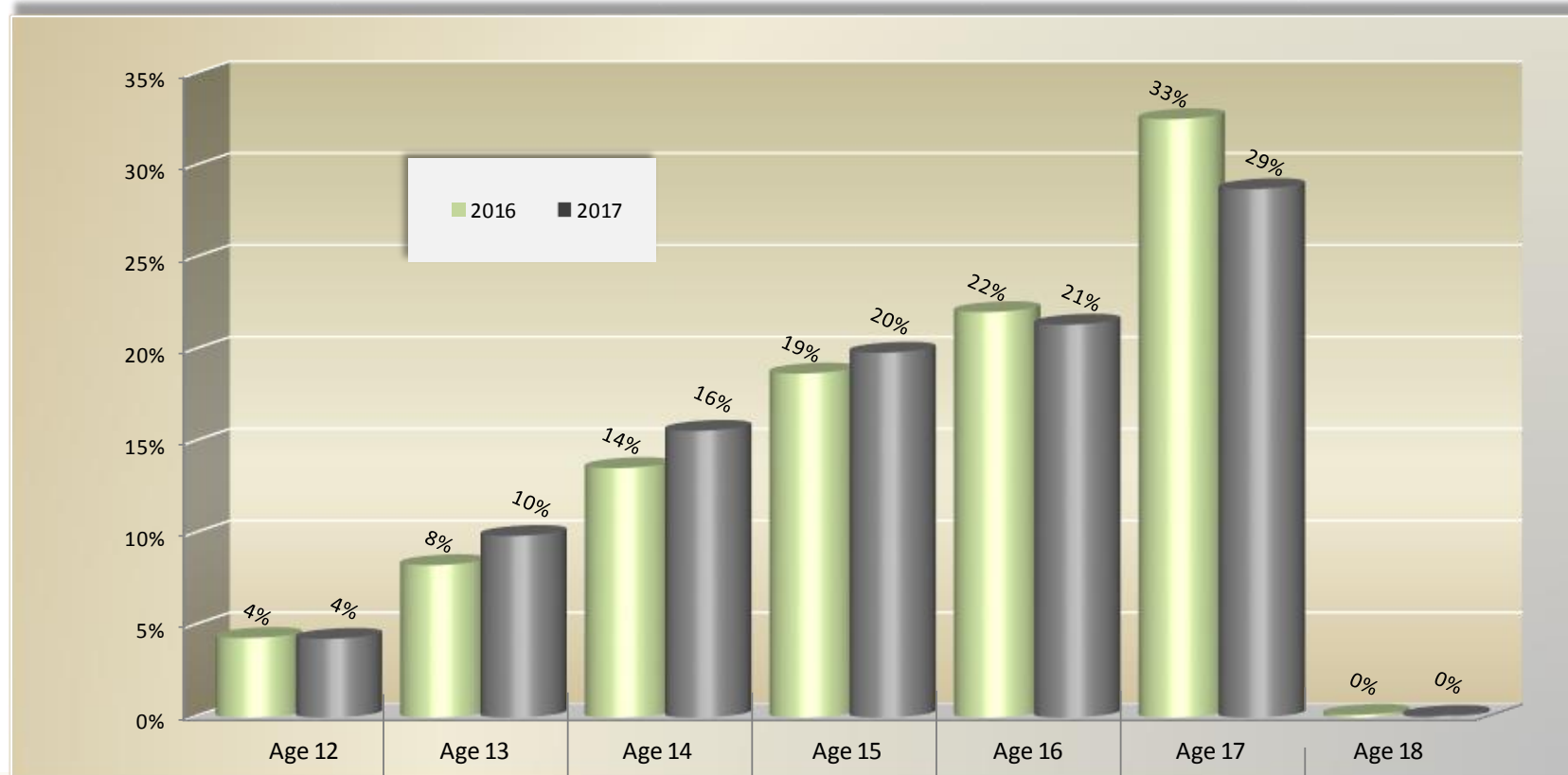
2016	2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total number of incidents referred was 17,615 Total number of individuals referred was 9,451 Total number of individuals admitted was 7,262 (77%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total number of incidents referred was 20,006 Total number of individuals referred was 10,607 Total number of individuals admitted was 8,033 (76%)

Number of Referrals per Young person/Gender breakdown 2016 & 2017

Number of Referrals	2016			2017		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1only	6,848	70%	30%	7,655	69%	31%
2-3 referrals	1,766	80%	20%	1,943	80%	20%
4-5 referrals	401	87%	13%	460	83%	17%
6 or more	436	88%	12%	549	89%	11%
Total	9,451	74%	26%	10,607	73%	27%

Annual Reports of the Committee Appointed to Monitor the Effectiveness of the Diversion Programme 2016 and 2017 (Continued:)

2016 & 2017 Diversion Programme - Breakdown by Age and Number of Referrals

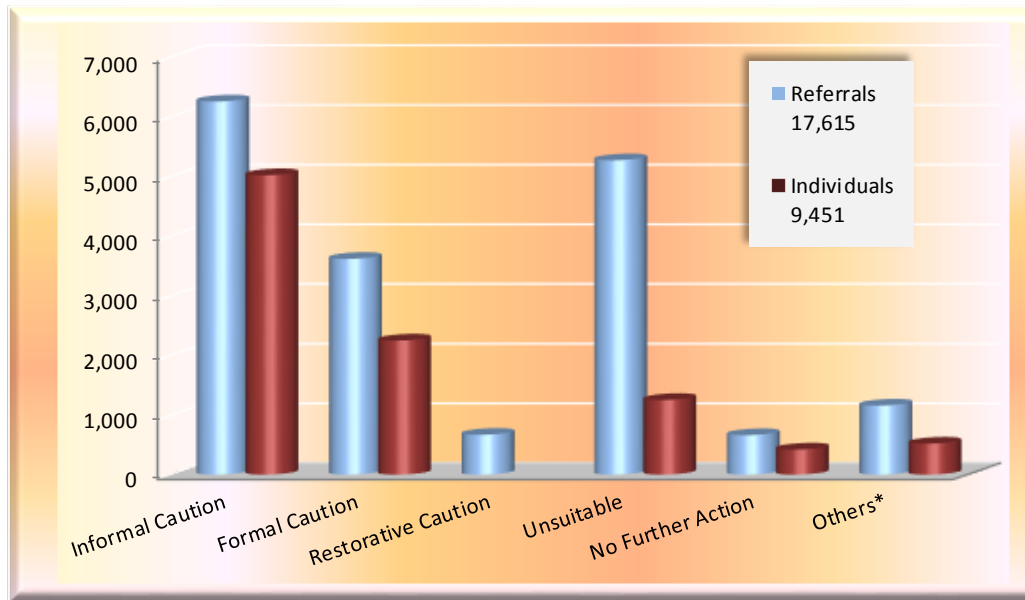


Frequency of Referrals	2016		2017		2016		2017		2016		2017		2016		2017	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
1 Referral only	297	374	632	831	971	1269	1453	1,522	1,524	1,580	1,955	2,066	9	4		
2 - 3 Referrals	72	62	150	172	197	273	346	390	410	430	586	616	2	0		
4 - 5 Referrals	7	13	23	27	64	48	68	89	94	123	144	157	1	3		
6 or more referrals	7	6	21	19	51	66	58	106	121	136	175	213	3	3		

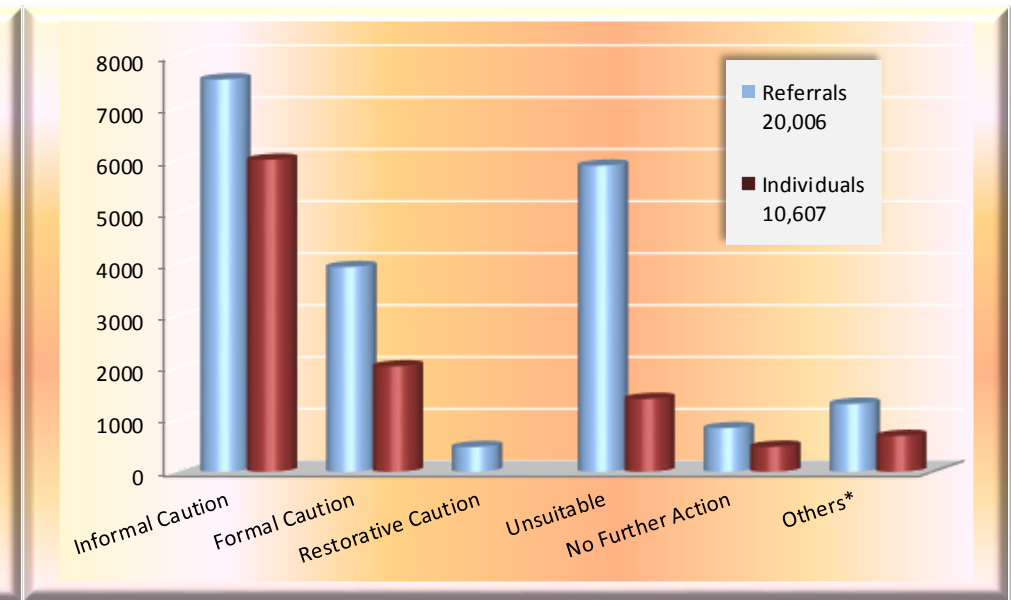
Annual Reports of the Committee Appointed to Monitor the Effectiveness of the Diversion Programme 2016 and 2017 (Continued:)

Referrals

2016 Breakdown of Referral Decisions



2017 Breakdown of Referral Decisions



*Includes requests for further information.

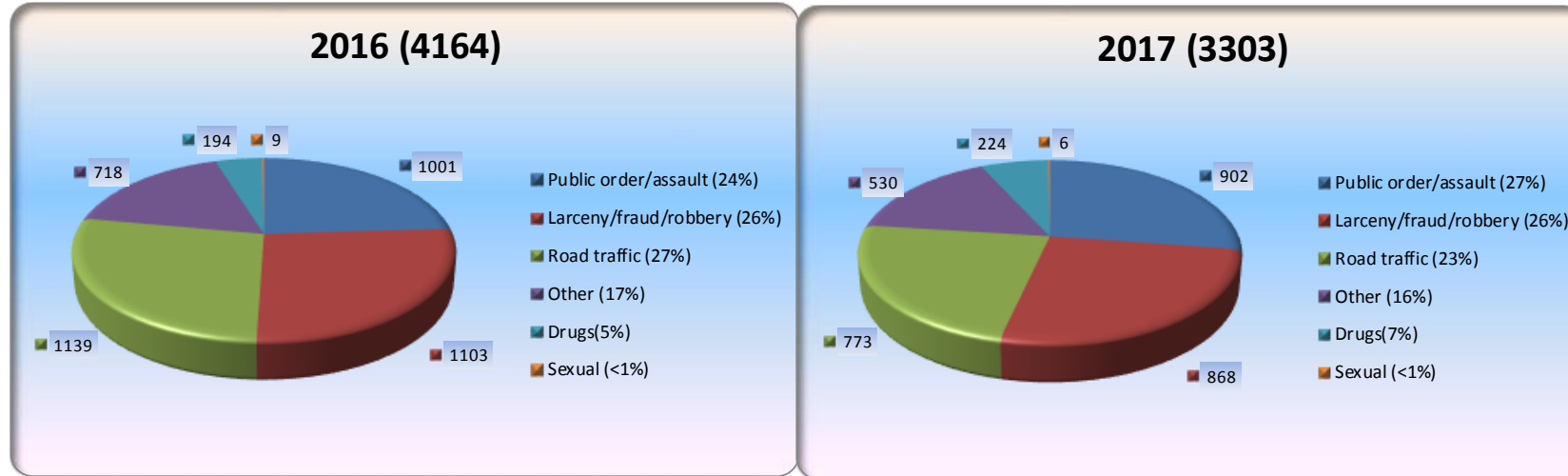
Please note that the breakdown of decisions by individual relates to the most recent referral type.

It should also be noted that the number of individuals linked to Restorative Cautions is not readily available.

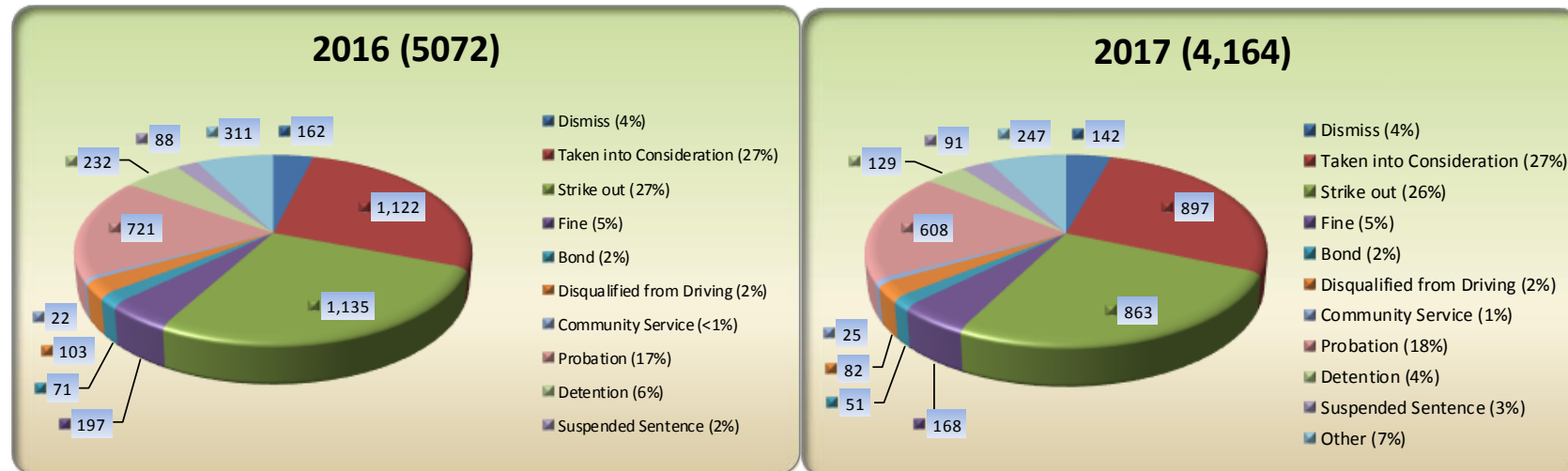
Source:

Courts Service Annual Reports 2016 and 2017

Type of Offences before the Children Court - 2016/2017 Comparison



Outcomes of Cases before the Children Court - 2016/2017 Comparison

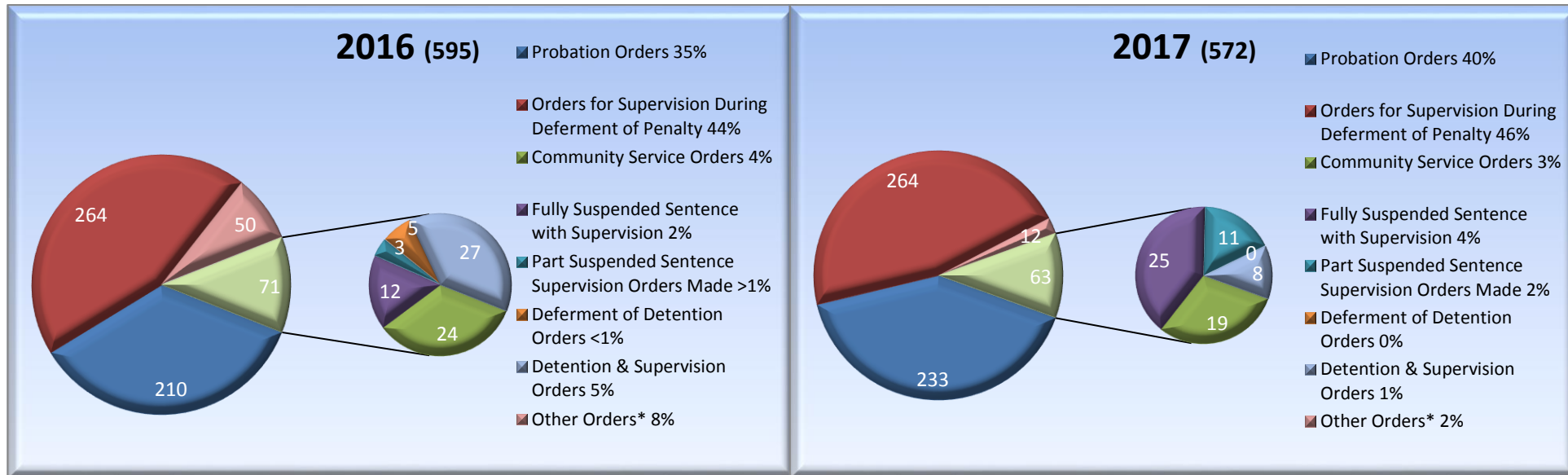


*Offences may be taken into consideration where an offender is sentenced in relation to other multiple offences

Source:

Probation Service Annual Report 2016 and 2017

Young Person Court Orders - 2016/2017 Comparison



* Other Orders includes various disposals under the Children Act, 2001

Progress Report 2017

Source:

Department of Children and Youth Affairs

Children Remand Orders 2016/2017

	2016			2017		
	<u>Total</u>	Male	Female	<u>Total</u>	Male	Female
No of Remands	<u>210</u>	204	6	<u>176</u>	170	6
Age 13-14	<u>18</u>	18	0	<u>9</u>	7	2
Age 15-16	<u>111</u>	108	3	<u>94</u>	91	3
Age 17	<u>81</u>	78	3	<u>73</u>	72	1
Average length of stay (days)	<u>30.28</u>	30.26	30.8	<u>21.39</u>	21.81	10.5

Children Detention Orders 2016/2017

	2016			2017		
	<u>Total</u>	Male	Female	<u>Total</u>	Male	Female
No of Committals	<u>88</u>	86	2	<u>45</u>	44	0
Age 13-14	<u>6</u>	6	0	<u>2</u>	2	0
Age 15-16	<u>80</u>	79	1	<u>22</u>	21	0
Age 17	<u>2</u>	1	1	<u>21</u>	21	0
Average length of stay (days)	<u>142.18</u>	144.58	63	<u>93.42</u>	93.42	0

Children subject to Remand Orders 2016/2017

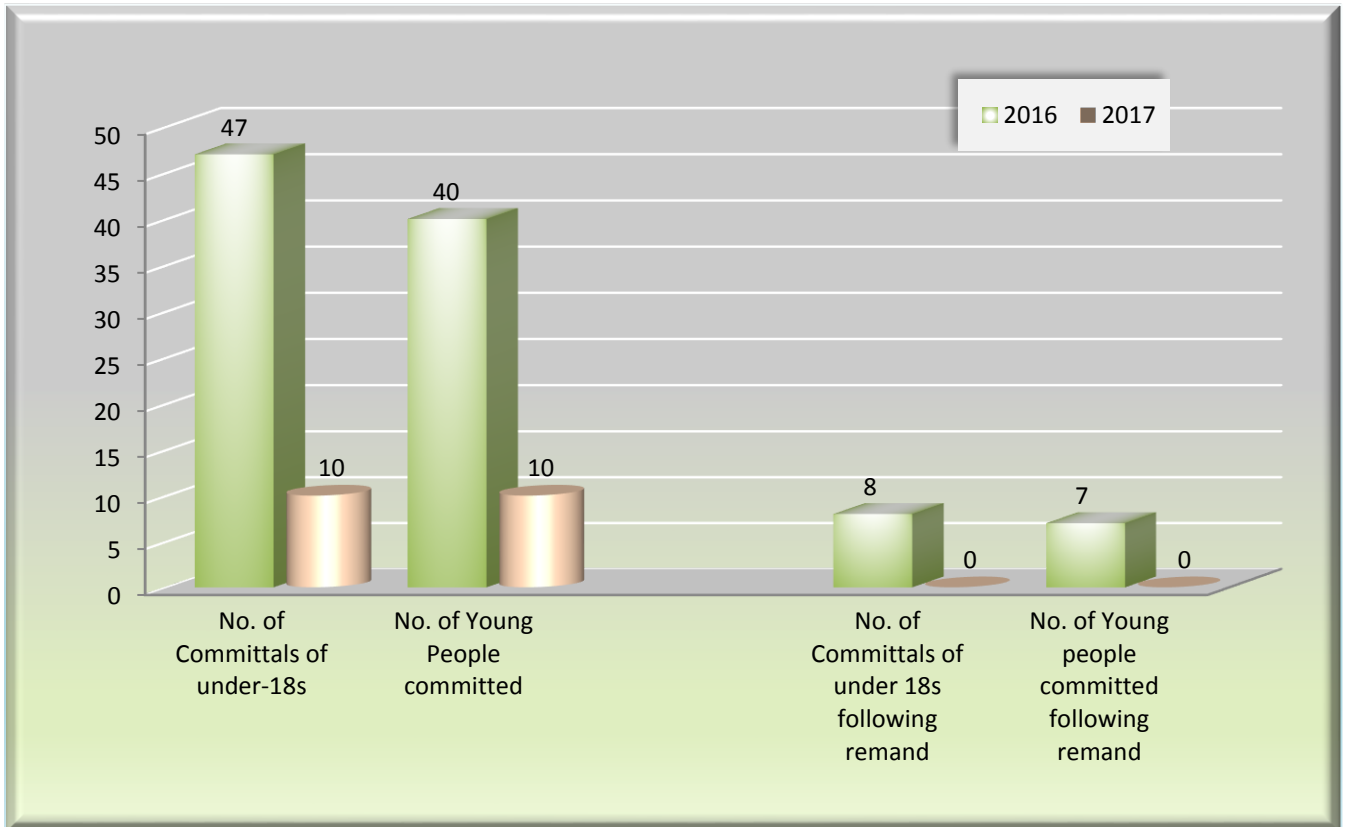
	2016			2017		
	<u>Total</u>	Male	Female	<u>Total</u>	Male	Female
No of Remands	<u>139</u>	136	3	<u>117</u>	115	2
Age 13-14	<u>11</u>	11	0	<u>5</u>	5	0
Age 15-16	<u>66</u>	65	1	<u>62</u>	61	1
Age 17	<u>62</u>	60	2	<u>50</u>	49	1
Average length of stay (days)	<u>30.28</u>	30.26	30.8	<u>21.39</u>	21.81	10.5

Children subject to Detention Orders 2016/2017

	2016			2017		
	<u>Total</u>	Male	Female	<u>Total</u>	Male	Female
No of Committals	<u>70</u>	68	2	<u>42</u>	41	1
Age 13-14	<u>5</u>	5	0	<u>2</u>	2	0
Age 15-16	<u>63</u>	62	1	<u>20</u>	19	1
Age 17	<u>2</u>	1	1	<u>20</u>	20	0
Average length of stay (days)	<u>142.18</u>	144.58	63	<u>93.42</u>	93.42	0

Source:
Irish Prison Service

No. of Committals / No. of Young People - 2016/2017 Comparison



Note: A person can be committed more than once in a calendar year.

Source:*Irish Youth Justice Service (Provisional)***Participant data in GYDPs 2016 & 2017**

Participation information	2016					2017				
	Male		Female		<u>Total</u>	Male		Female		<u>Total</u>
Numbers of Participants at start of year	1957	(77%)	598	(23%)	<u>2555</u>	1699	(74%)	596	(26%)	2295
New Participants within the year	1121	(73%)	405	(27%)	<u>1526</u>	<u>1125</u>	(77%)	345	(23%)	1470
Total Participants within the year	3078	(75%)	1003	(25%)	<u>4081</u>	<u>2824</u>	(75%)	941	(25%)	3765