

Angus Youth Justice Strategy

2009-2012



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1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE ANGUS YOUTH JUSTICE FORUM

The Angus Youth Justice Forum is a multi-agency partnership which meets on a quarterly basis to plan and co-ordinate Youth Justice services within Angus.

The Angus Youth Justice Forum sits within the revised Angus Children's Services Structure which was launched on 1 April 2008, and reports directly to the Children's Services Quality Improvement and Performance Management Group (see Figure 1 for this structure)

Membership of this partnership includes:

- Angus Council Youth Justice Co-ordinator
- Angus Council Social Work and Health
- Tayside Police
- Angus College
- NHS Tayside
- Angus Children's Panel
- Rossie Secure Accommodation
- Tayside Fire and Rescue
- Angus Council Neighbourhood Services
- Tayside Council on Alcohol (TCA)
- CAIR Scotland/WEB Project
- Victim Support Tayside
- Angus Council Education Department
- Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
- Angus Council Community Learning and Development
- Barnardo's
- Angus Community Safety Partnership

A number of sub groups of the Youth Justice Forum meet on a regular basis, these include:

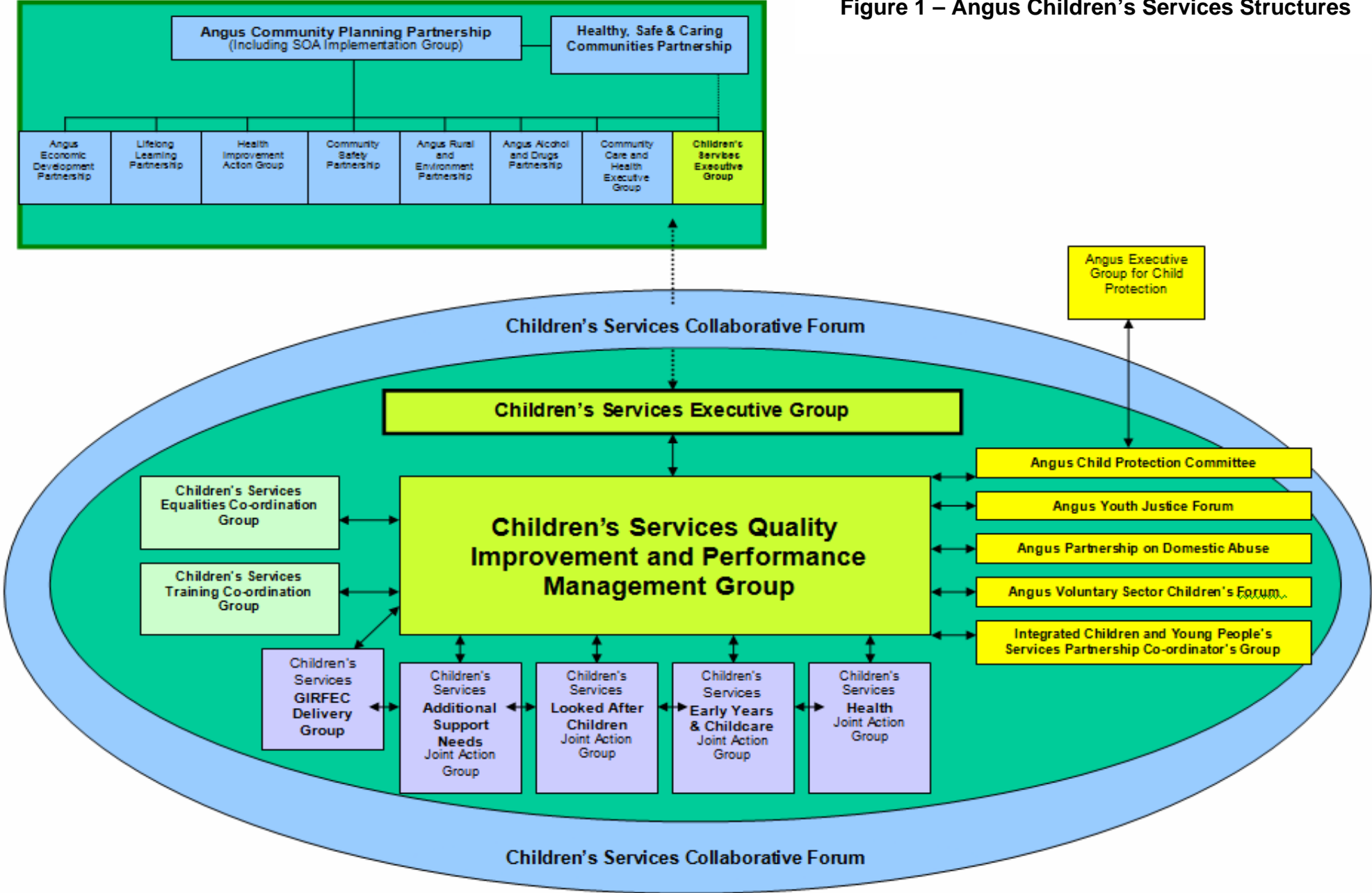
- The Restorative Justice Steering Group
- LMART Steering Group
- Young Offenders Monitoring Group
- Intensive Support and Monitoring Group

The work of the forum is supported by a multi-agency youth justice co-ordinator. This post contributes to a number of cross cutting groups whose themes link to the work of youth justice, these include:

- Choose Life Steering Group
- Angus Community Safety Tactical, Tasking and Co-ordinating Group
- Drug and Alcohol Accountable Group
- Angus Council Community Lifelong Learning Partnership Group

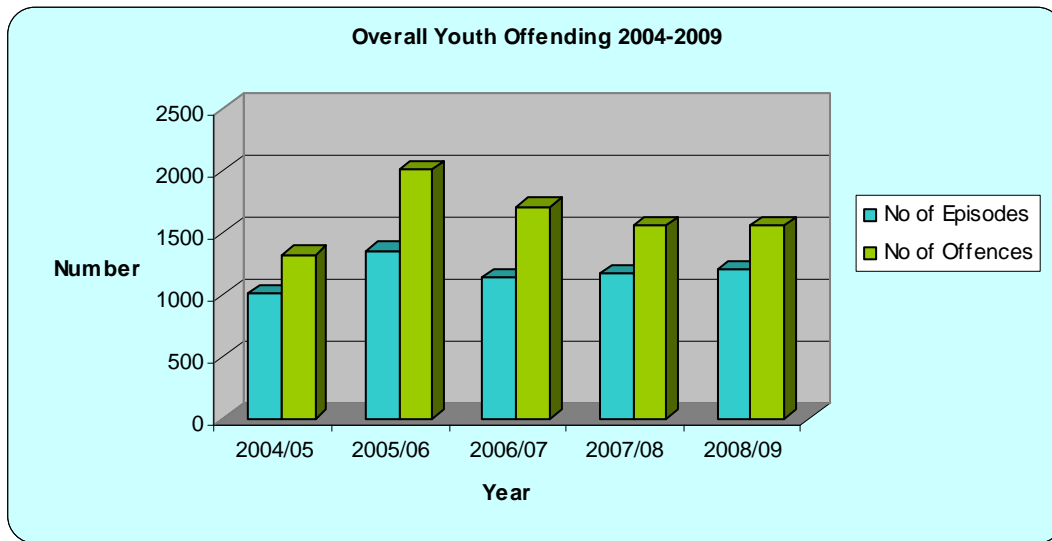
The Youth Justice Co-ordinator is also represented on the National Youth Justice Co-ordinators Group, and is also called to sit on review groups locally, most recently the Joint Review of Behavioural Management in Schools Group.

Figure 1 – Angus Children’s Services Structures



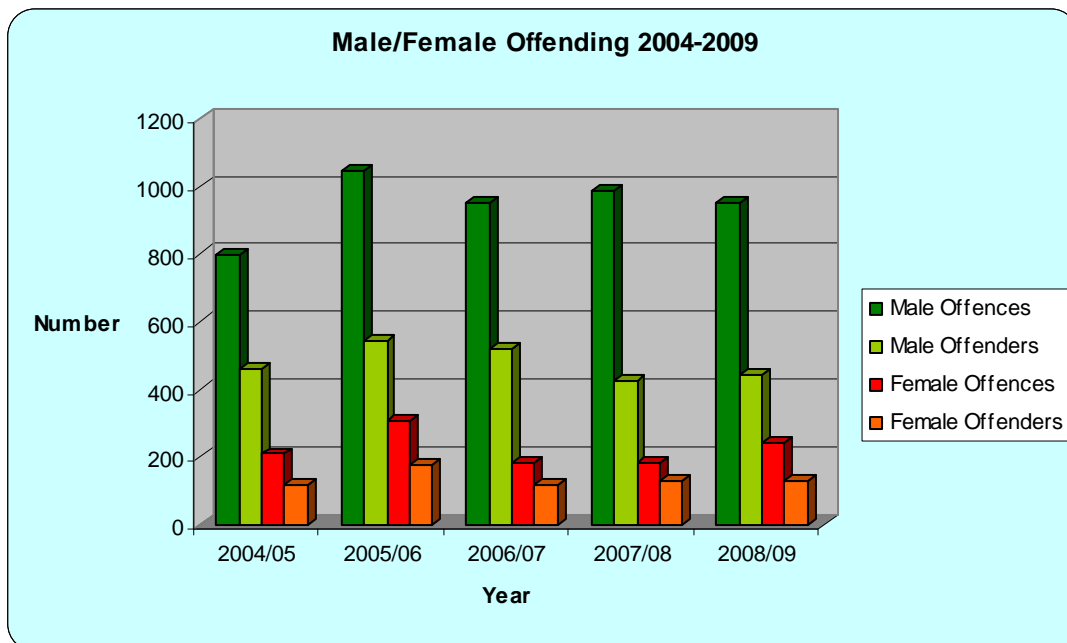
2. YOUTH JUSTICE STATISTICS DURING PAST FIVE YEARS

2.1 Overall Offending Figures



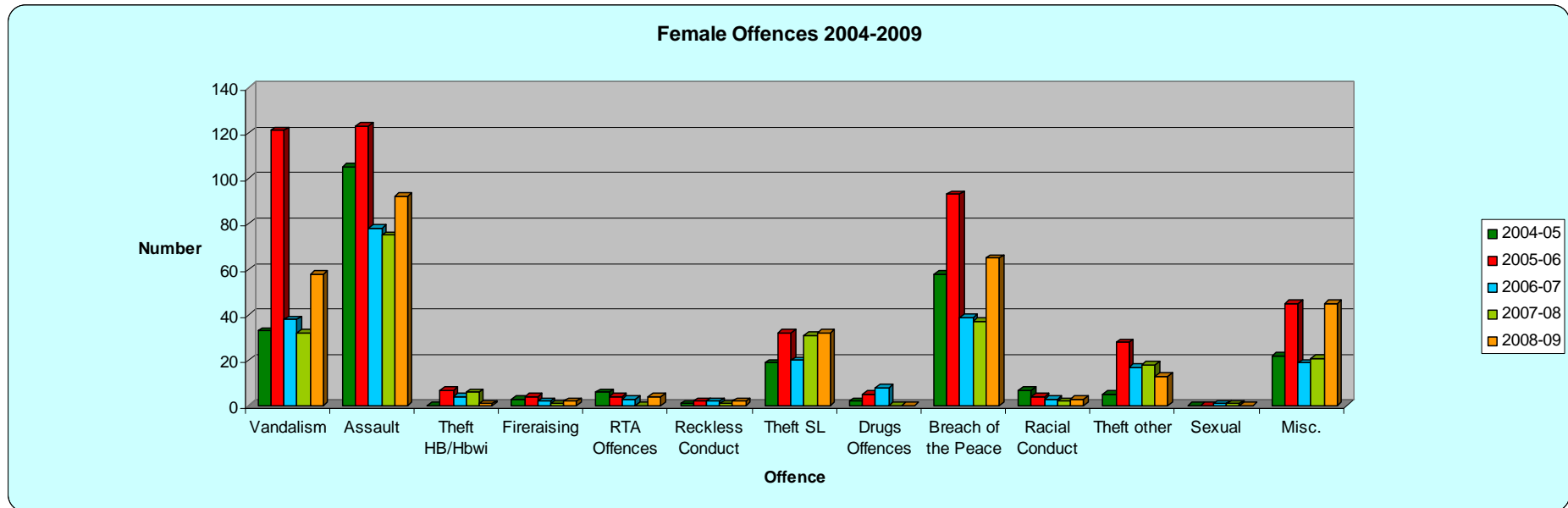
The above chart shows that since year 2005/06, young people in Angus have been involved in 208 less episodes of offending amounting to 451 less offences.

2.2 Male and Female Offending Figures



The figures show that significantly more offences have been committed by males than females in Angus during 2004-2009. Although female offending is lower, an increase was noted during 2006-2009, this is in line with the national trend.

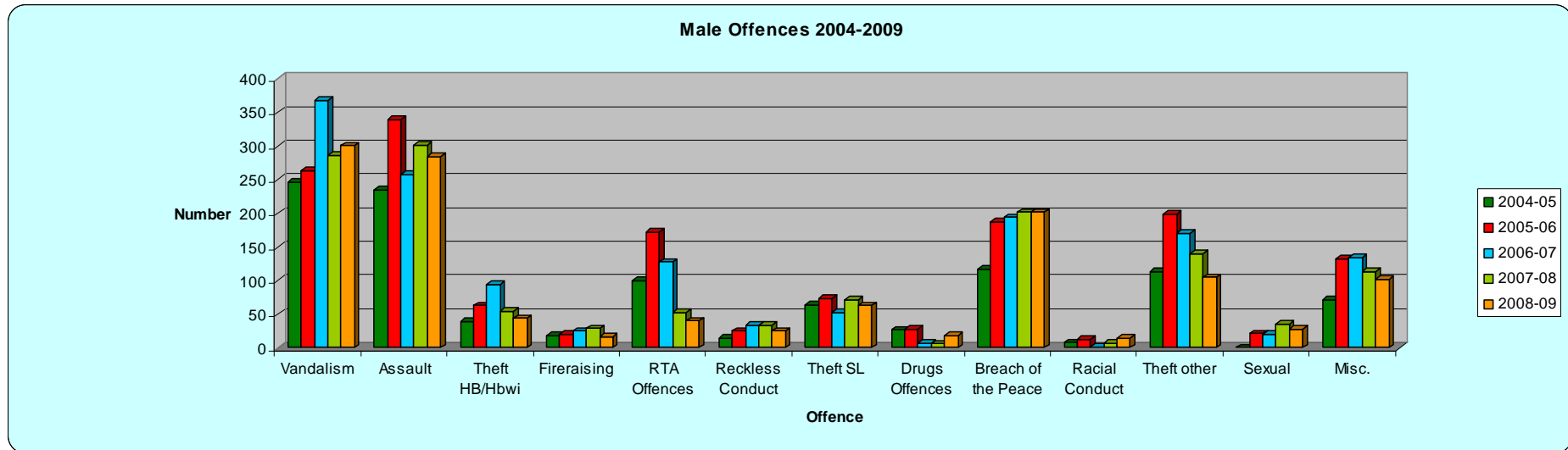
2.2.1 Female Offending



It is noted from the above chart that:

- In 2005/06 there was a large increase in Vandalism followed by a reduction in 2006/07 and 2007/08, however this has not continued with a notable increase in 2008/09.
- In 2006/07 and 2007/08 there was a large reduction in Assaults committed by females, however this has not continued with an increase in 2008/09.
- In 2005/06 there was a large increase in Breach of the Peace followed by a reduction in 2006/07 and 2007/08, however this has not continued with a notable increase in 2008/09.
- In 2008/09, all female offences increased except for Theft (other) and Sexual Offences.

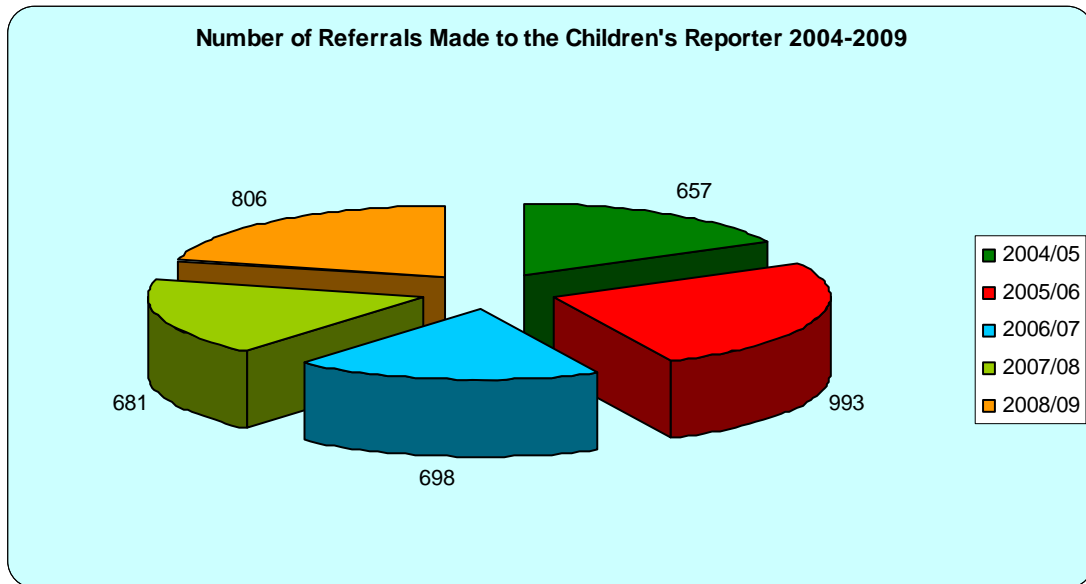
2.2.2 Male Offending



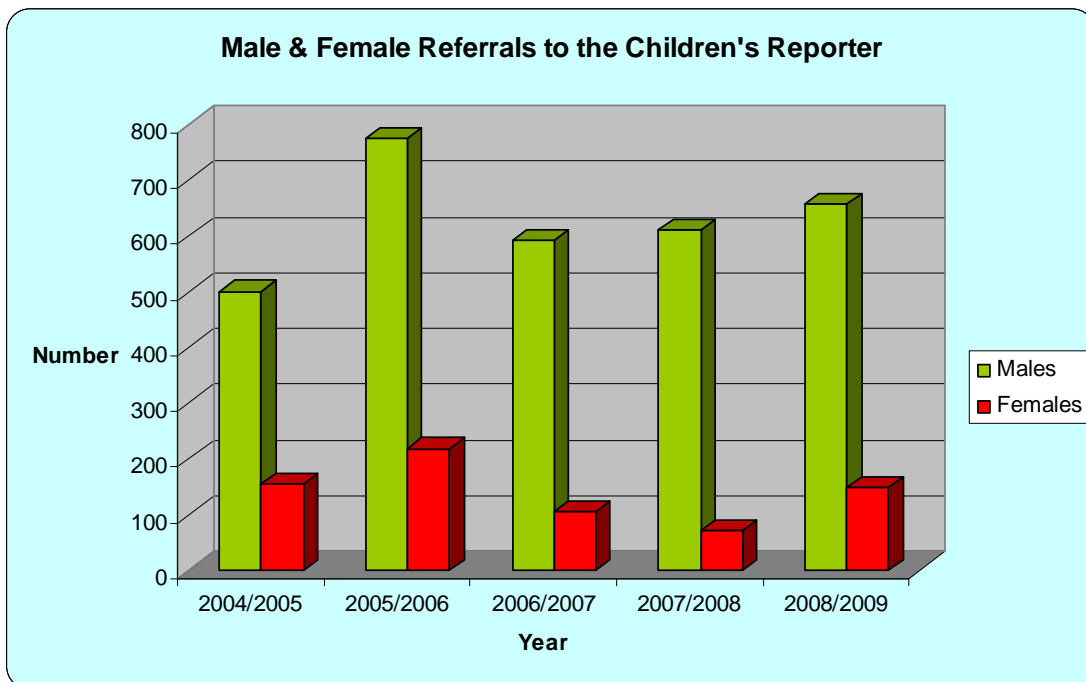
It is noted from the above chart that:

- In 2005/06 there was a small increase in Vandalism and in 2006/07 there was a significant rise. However in 2007/08 there was a large reduction in Vandalism but then in 2008/09 a small increase has again been noted.
- In 2005/06 there was a large increase in Assaults but in 2006/07 there was a significant decrease, then in 2007/08 Assaults increased again with a small reduction in 2008/09.
- In 2005/06 there was a large increase in Breach of the Peace and a small increase in 2006/07. It was also noted that in 2007/08 showed a very small decrease and this stayed the same in 2008/09.
- In 2008/09, in general, all male offences decreased with the exception of Drugs Offences and Racial Conduct Offences.

2.3 Referrals to the Children's Reporter



The figures show that following a sharp rise in referrals during 2005/06, referral rates did decrease significantly during the following two years. Another rise was then noted in 2008/09 with referrals reaching 806.



The chart above demonstrates that considerably more males are referred to the Children's Reporter than females. An increase in females referred to the reporter was noted in 2008/2009, this is again in line with the national trend.

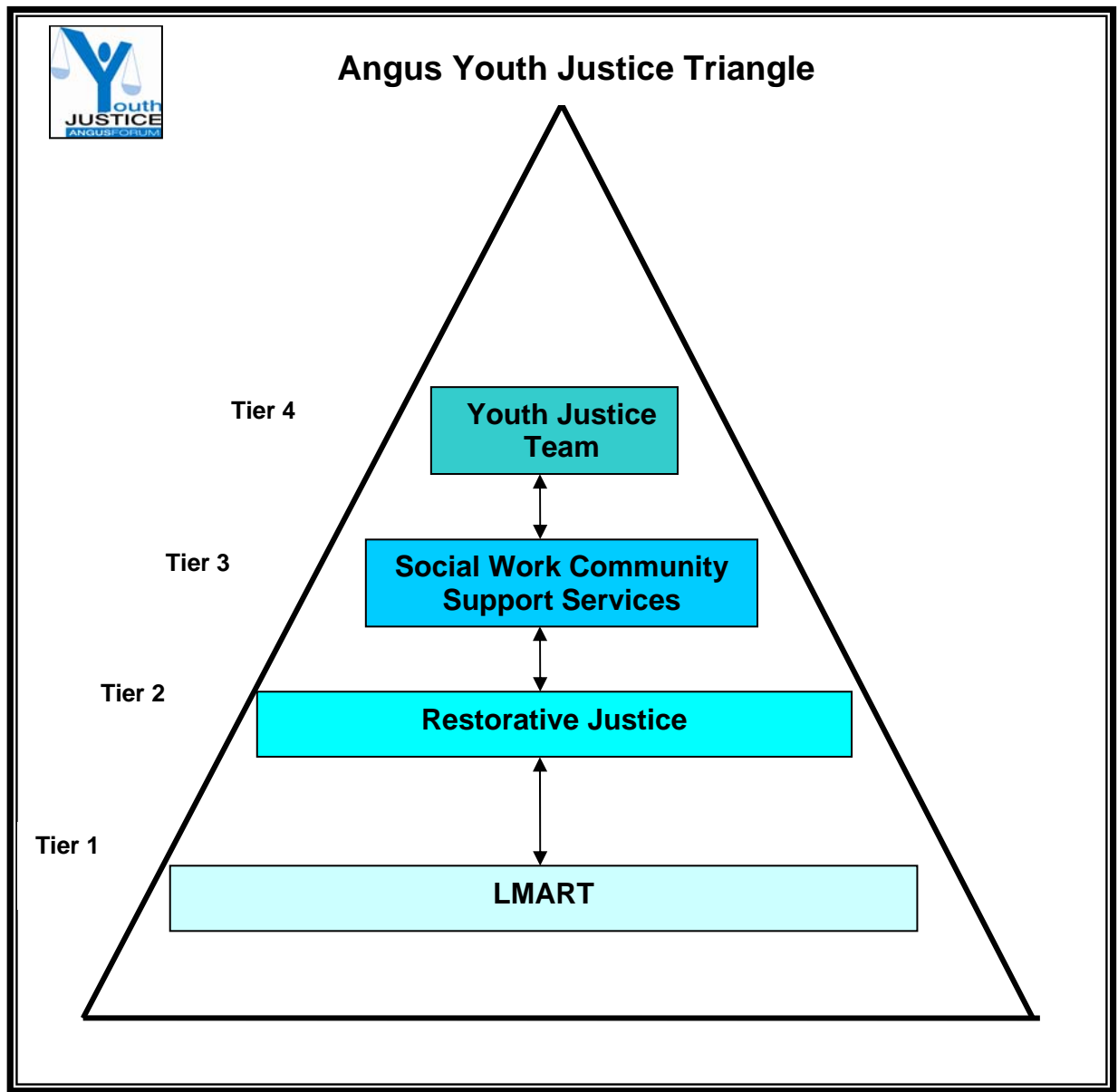
3. CURRENT YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGY

Within Angus there is a clear framework for intervention that aims to support the youth justice agenda. There is no doubt this framework is integral to future plans and would remain with consideration being given to additional developments that can enhance it.

Local multi agency resource teams (LMART) are at the lowest scale dealing with young people who are on the fringes on offending. The structure then moves up tariffs ending with the youth justice team that works with persistent young offenders.

The following pages detail each tier and what it provides.

Figure 2 – Angus Youth Justice Triangle



3.1 Tier 1 - Local Multi Agency Resource Teams (LMART's)

Currently, there are three local multi agency resource teams, each of which covers a geographical area in Angus (Forfar/Kirriemuir, Brechin/Montrose and Arbroath, Carnoustie/Monifieth). Each LMART comprises of representatives from various agencies including a number of council services, Tayside Police and a range of voluntary organisations including The WEB Project and Tayside Council on Alcohol. The work that they carry out sits exclusively within the youth justice continuum at tier 1.

The focus of the LMART groups is to ensure that mainstream services are available to children and young people in both schools and the community, to offer appropriate support to meet the needs of the most needy children and young people at an early intervention stage, before they need support from the statutory services provided under the Children's Hearing System.



Each LMART is supported by a development worker who works with staff from the other agencies to develop programmes for young people based on one to one or group work approaches.

The LMARTs deal with young people ranging from primary five right through to secondary four. However, it is becoming evident that more and more of their work is with the younger age group categories. In essence their work involves young people at risk of offending, at risk of being excluded from school and those who truant. In addition it may also include young people believed to be involved in drinks/drugs/sexual activity or exposed to such behaviour.



Staff facilitate focused programmes for young people to help to support behavioural change. This can take the form of opportunities in a wide range of sports and activities (indoor and outdoor) to enable young people to find an activity that is right for them. It may also incorporate activities as part of a wider programme to promote active citizenship and social responsibility.

Referrals to the LMARTs can be made via young people themselves, from their family, the Children's Reporter, Children's Hearings or from participating agencies/services.

3.2 Tier 2 - Angus Restorative Justice Service, Mediation and Reparation

Based on the principles of Restorative Justice, this tier offers mediation and reparation between the victims of crime (persons harmed) and young people (persons responsible) between the ages of 11-16 years as a diversion from the Children's Hearing System. This is a partnership delivered for Angus Council by The WEB Project and Tayside Council on Alcohol.

The target group will have received police warnings and reporter's warnings yet have continued to offend. The young person makes amends for an offence in accordance with the victim's wishes.

The service therefore actively includes the victim of an offence, the community and the offender in dealing with the consequences of crime and its impact on those involved.

At present the Angus Restorative Justice Service sits within tier two of the Youth Justice Continuum.

The service also contributes within tier one through group work as part of a programme or a specific piece of work.

At tiers three and four; Angus Restorative Justice Service also plays a role as part of a more focused structured intervention for young people. e.g. anger management programmes.

Exemplar Profile of a Restorative Justice Client:

Age: 14

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: White

Locality: Arbroath

Offence/s: 1-3 offences, Vandalism/Assault

Family Background: Supportive

Additional Issues: Disruptive at school/ part time time-table or non-attende; Alcohol use with peer group

Development of Service:

In recognition of the increasing number of younger children (13 and under) being referred to the service, it would be appropriate to further develop work within schools (primary and secondary), through 'early intervention' programmes, focusing on 'choices, consequences and decision making'.

3.3 Tier 3 – Social Work Community Support Services

The Social Work and Health support to family teams provide community support services to address offending behaviour and supporting young people at risk of being removed from their communities.

During the last year, over 100 young people and their families benefited directly from individual work programmes. These focussed on areas such as anger management, bereavement, development of social skills, life story work, substance misuse and keeping safe in the local community.

Partnership involvement in the Youth Offending Monitoring Group has led to a significant reduction in requests being received from the Children's Reporter but, conversely, means that the smaller number of requests that we do receive require a substantial package of support to effect positive change. More than 40 young people and families have accessed a service from the community support services by way of the Reporters Administration over the past year.



The support to families teams also work in partnership with the “Step Up” program in conjunction with the youth justice team and Tayside Council on Alcohol and a number of group work provisions have been delivered throughout the Angus area. These have generally been in response to a perceived need in a particular community and most recently have targeted Forfar and Montrose. Again, there is a great emphasis on partnership working with contributions from a variety of sources.

A sample program is detailed below:

Figure 3 – Community Support Program

BOY'S GROUP

WEEKS/DATES	ACTIVITIES/PARTNERS	
WEEK 1	INTRODUCTION	ANGUS COUNCIL EDUCATION DEPT, CRT, TCA.
WEEK 2	PICTURE'S IN MONTROSE SESSION	ANGUS COUNCIL EDUCATION DEPT, CRT, TCA, NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES.
WEEK 3	ANGER MANAGEMENT/ INFLATABLES	ANGUS COUNCIL EDUCATION DEPT, CRT, TCA, NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES.
WEEK 4	SESSION ON ALCOHOL AND VISIT TO FORFAR POLICE STATION	ANGUS COUNCIL EDUCATION DEPT, CRT, TCA, NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES, TAYSIDE POLICE.
WEEK 5	SESSION AT SPORTS CENTRE WITH SNAKES AND LADDERS GAME	ANGUS COUNCIL EDUCATION DEPT, CRT, TCA, NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES.
WEEK 6	SESSION AT REPORTERS OFFICE	ANGUS COUNCIL EDUCATION DEPT, CRT, TCA, REPORTERS ADMINISTRATION.
WEEK 7	FIRE ACADEMY	ANGUS COUNCIL EDUCATION DEPT, CRT, TCA, TAYSIDE FIRE BRIGADE.
WEEK 8	FINAL ACTIVITY	ANGUS COUNCIL EDUCATION DEPT, CRT, TCA.

In addition to working directly with young people and their families, the support to family team delivers a variety of services for parents. These take the form of programmes tailored to the individual needs of families as well as the “Handling Teenage Behaviour” group work program for parents.

The primary aim of such groups is to enable parents to rebuild stable and positive relationships with their teenagers. Some of the outcomes for participants who have completed the courses have been to enable teenagers who were at risk of coming into care to stay at home, teenagers who were being excluded from school to manage their education better and teenagers who were offending to reduce such offending in their communities.

By creating a non-threatening environment that promotes learning in a fun and informal way the programmes aim to raise self confidence and to ultimately empower parents to adopt a positive approach to handling teenagers' behaviour. The courses, empathically acknowledges that parenting teenagers can be an extremely demanding, full time job whilst reassuring participants that ‘there is no such thing as the perfect parent or teenager.



To date around 40 parents and carers have attended a number of groups delivered throughout the Angus area. A variety of partners have been involved in the provision of this service including the community adult mental health services and the Forfar area children and families service.

3.4 Tier 4 - Angus Youth Justice Team

The Angus youth justice team consists of a senior social worker, five social workers (fte 3.5) a youth worker and a senior social care officer. The team provides a service to young people who meet the following criteria:

- Persistent Offenders (Five or more offending episodes in a six month period)
- Serious Offenders under the age of 16 who appear in court
- Young People aged 16 to 18 appearing in court
- Young People who present with sexually harmful behaviour

The work is completed according to 'What Works' principles and utilises the ASSET risk assessment, the AIM 2 risk assessment and more recently SAVRY (structured assessment of violence risk in youth) for the specific assessment for violence. Individual care plans are agreed that will address offending behaviour as well as welfare concerns. The average involvement with a young person will be 6-12 months dependent on the identified issues.

As part of practice development the team have recently begun to use a structured programme 'Safer Lives'. This is based on the work of Tony Ward et al who have worked in the area of rehabilitation for a considerable time. The programme is primarily designed for use with young people who have sexually harmful behaviour. It is however a model that can be used with other young people who have complex needs.

The number of young people who work with the youth justice team varies. On average the team will work with between 70 and 80 individuals annually, using participation in group work and working alongside parents, carers and other partners to provide a holistic response to each young person

In addition to individual work the team, alongside the support to families teams and Tayside Council on Alcohol, run a Summer Activity Programme (Step Up). This is the third year of the programme which aims to reduce offending, anti-social behaviour and misuse of alcohol/drugs and to provide an alternative for the young people involved.

The 2008 programme began in May 2008 and was completed by twelve young people who were supported by staff and two mentors (participants of last year's programme).

The programme consists of a mixture of activities, all of which are designed to develop and stretch the young people involved as well as allowing them to have fun. The young people engage in activity such as go-carting, treasure hunts, camping, raft building and residential trips that aim to build self esteem and help the young people develop skills in working as a group.



Parents/carers of all the young people involved are invited to a presentation ceremony where they are able to see a DVD and photographs of the year's programme. At the suggestion of one of the young people the project is now be known by the rather snappier title of 'STEP UP'.

The over-riding objective of the team is to reduce or eliminate the offending of Angus young people. The vast majority of young people of Angus are not involved in offending behaviour. The minority that are involved may be so for a variety of reasons and the purpose of the team is to identify these factors and address them – they may relate to family difficulties, health problems, alcohol or drug misuse or negative peer influences.

The youth justice team work alongside partner agencies such as TCA, Tayside Fire and Rescue and Tayside Police to support young people's well-being, and ensure that they are safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, respected & responsible and included.

In addition to the above the youth justice team provide reports for the courts of Angus for young people aged 16 to 18 and supervise Structured Deferred Sentences and Probation Orders for these young people. The intention is, whenever possible, to divert these young people from formal court systems. Where this is not possible, work is directed at enabling these young people to manage the transition to adulthood as well as addressing their offending behaviour.



4. THE WAY FORWARD- SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT YOUTH JUSTICE FRAMEWORK

During 2008 the Scottish Government launched 'Youth Justice Framework – Preventing Offending by Young People: A framework for action'

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/228013/0061713.pdf>

The purpose of the framework is to outline what the government want to do to encourage national and local agencies to prevent, divert, manage and change offending behaviour by children and young people.

The framework has been jointly developed and is formally owned by the Scottish Government, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), the Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland (ACPOS), Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), as key national delivery agencies. It is also endorsed by the relevant inspectorates and professional organisations: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE), Care Commission, Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and Audit Scotland; the Association of Directors of Social Work (ADSW). All of these partners will have a part to play in taking the framework forward through their strategic, operational and regulatory responsibilities.

The over-arching shared commitment is to work together as national and local partners to deliver real improvements on the ground. The framework promotes a child centred approach - in line with the principles of 'Getting it right for every child' reference to the family and the wider community.

In taking forward the framework the government want to focus on

- Prevention
- Early and effective intervention
- Managing high risk
- Victims and community confidence
- Planning and performance management

Within the development of a new Youth Justice Strategy for Angus it is important to recognise the new framework and the relevant areas within it. It is important to recognise the excellent partnership working that already exists and the new government framework simply allows us to recognise new developments and services that can sit alongside the current Youth Justice Triangle.

The framework recognises the importance of prevention and early intervention at its core. We must also recognise new developments within other areas that often cross into Youth Justice such as the Early Years Framework, developments within High Risk Management, and the Curriculum for Excellence.

As such when developing the 'Way Forward' and a new Youth Justice Strategy for Angus, it is important to set priorities under each of the five themes allowing a clear focus for the next three years.

Within the following pages each of the five themes are considered and a new Youth Justice Strategy is mapped out.

4.1 Prevention

The first part of the national framework is without doubt the most vital. It is clearly recognised that the way forward in Youth Justice is to stop young people entering the process or at least stop them progressing to higher tariffs.

The existing Youth Justice Triangle in Angus does not include an area for prevention at its base; there are a number of services and structures that act to prevent children and young people becoming involved in offending behaviour. It is therefore important to recognise the contributions they play within the Angus Youth Justice Strategy.

4.1.1 Early Years Framework

In December 2008, the Scottish Government and COSLA published the Early Years Framework for Scotland. Full details of the document can be found at the following link www.scotland.gov.uk/earlyyearsframework

The framework contains ten elements of transformational change with many forming important strands within a Youth Justice Strategy. These include:

- Helping children, families and communities to secure outcomes themselves
- Breaking cycles of poverty, inequality and poor outcomes in and through early years
- Using the strength of universal services to deliver prevention and early intervention

The role of families, parents/carers and education are integral to the Early Years Framework and all will play an important part in delivering the best start for young people in Angus.

4.1.2 Social Work and Health Department Support to Families Teams

Fitting within the Early Years Framework would be the role of support to families teams. The teams can offer many important services such as supporting parents to accept appropriate services to address any difficulties in their life such as domestic abuse, mental health, drug or alcohol use.

The teams also work with teenage parents before and after the birth of a child to support their impending role as parents.

These types of services support all parents at an early stage to positively parent their children and get strategies in place that work for them.

4.1.3 Education Department

Between August 2007 and July 2008 a Joint Strategic Review of Behaviour Support for Primary and Secondary Schools in Angus was carried out. A multi-agency team of senior staff met on several occasions and a programme of structured interviews was carried out. This resulted in the production of 33 recommendations which are currently being restructured to align them to local and national developments as set out in the Angus Integrated Children and Young People's Services Plan and supporting development plans.

The role of Education within Youth Justice is important and they are willing and committed partners at many of the Youth Justice levels that we operate within.

The widening use of the Curriculum for Excellence is something we must continue to consider in all aspects of Youth Justice work as is the need to

allow young people to develop a sense of achievement and accreditation so they can follow positive pathways in life.

The use of vocational learning and qualifications within schools is vital for young people to develop skills for future life and future employment in a work related environment. It is encouraging to note the continuing development within Angus Schools in this area, and also to encourage this learning outside school settings as well as through the additional use of accreditation models such as the Youth Achievement Awards and Duke of Edinburgh Awards in community and Youth Justice settings.

Within specific Education services such as School and Family Support Service (SFSS) who attend meetings such as LMART and the Young Offenders Monitoring Group have a vital role to play, just as key is the role that all teachers play in supporting and developing young people, and the role out of the Curriculum for Excellence in school settings.

It is also important to note the five stage process used in schools to manage behavioural and educational issues, and the partnership involvement that often occurs. Further interagency meetings within schools to discuss young people who may be at risk of exclusion, or other risks, also play a vital role.

4.1.4 Community Learning and Development

Community learning and development (CLD) activities make a number of important contributions to the Angus Youth Justice Strategy.

A range of community learning and development partners offer positive opportunities for young people to learn and develop through engagement in informal and non formal learning. This work falls under the broad umbrella of the Angus Community Learning and Development Strategy, which seeks to make youth work opportunities universally available to young people, but to give particular emphasis to those young people who are more vulnerable and at risk at becoming involved in criminal activities and anti social behaviour.

Angus Council's community learning and development service contributes to the youth justice strategy in a number of ways:

- It offers a range of youth work opportunities, independently and in partnership with other agencies which are designed to help young people achieve.
- By playing an active part in the work of local Multi Agency Resource Teams and through this helping to ensure that more vulnerable young people access informal learning opportunities and are supported to participate.
- By playing an active part in the work of all seven of Angus's Integrated Children and Young People's Services Partnerships. Within these partnerships, the Service seeks to engage with partners to ensure that the right range of informal learning

- By administering the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme on behalf of Angus Council. This work involves providing quality assurance and support to all school based units, as well as operating an open unit in the Arbroath Area.
- By acting as an operating authority for the Dynamic Youth and Youth Achievement Awards in Angus. Through this facility, the Service works in partnership with a range of agencies to make these awards available to young people irrespective of the CLD partner agency or school they are engaged with.
- By providing youth work opportunities in schools in partnership with teaching colleagues. These opportunities target more vulnerable young people and help to ensure positive outcomes for them.
- Providing literacy learning opportunities for young people. These opportunities happen out with formal schooling. They can be dedicated opportunities where literacies are the main focus of the learning, or be embedded within a range of other activities which are of interest to young people and through which they can develop the core skills of literacy and numeracy and ICT.

Community learning and development providers, including Angus Council's community learning and development service, will have an important part to play in the successful delivery of the Curriculum for Excellence. They will increasingly be involved in working with school colleagues to plan and deliver a range of formal, non formal and informal learning opportunities, which provide young people with the opportunity to succeed and achieve. There is a particular role for community learning and development providers within the 26 + Learning Choices initiative. This is in providing progression opportunities for young people not yet ready or able to move into a more traditional setting such as college, training place or employment.

All of these activities have a positive impact on young people in a number of ways.

They provide positive, constructive, opportunities for young people to develop relationships and engage in social and recreational activities. They help to build young people's confidence and sense of self-worth and contribute to feelings of safety and a sense of well-being.

These CLD impacts contribute to the early intervention aspects of the youth justice strategy.

4.1.5 Integrated Children's Services Partnerships

Formerly known as Integrated Community School Partnerships, these new partnerships have the ability to be at the centre of much of our prevention work within Angus and have the strength to take on and develop community issues. The partnerships have currently been the subject of a review process and the results of this will be published shortly.

The role of the current partnerships is to look at issues that affect both the school and community and projects such as the Beach Club in Carnoustie, and Monifieth Diversion project are two examples of the work of the partnerships.

There is a clear structure offered by the partnerships that may be worthy of consideration when trying to co-ordinate prevention work within the Youth Justice Strategy as well as the development of areas such as diversion activity.

4.1.6 Friday Night Projects and Developmental/ Diversionary Activity

Within the current Angus Youth Justice Strategy there are opportunities through the Youth Initiative Fund to develop projects that act as positive diversions for young people.

The fund operates on a bidding process and both statutory and voluntary organisations locally can apply through the fund for larger amounts of money or for smaller sums through a fund called 'Give it a Go'.

The fund is currently administered by the Angus Community Safety Partnership. Funding applications are considered by a group made up of representatives of the Angus Community Safety Partnership and Angus Council Community Learning and Development.

During 2008, the Youth Initiative Fund supplied funding to 37 projects across Angus, reaching as many as 4000 young people across Angus. These ranged from the extension to opening nights at projects such as the Oasis in Arbroath, to wider partnership projects such as the Beach Club in Carnoustie which runs on Friday nights.

The fund and subsequent developments by our partners within the Angus Focus on Alcohol Programme, have allowed for further developments of Friday Night projects. Friday Night projects now run in Arbroath and Kirriemuir (currently a nine week pilot), with a project also developing in Monifieth which provides provision across the week.

Each project is very similar in that partners from both local authority and voluntary groups come together with agencies such as Tayside Police, and Tayside Fire and Rescue to provide sports and arts based provision for young people during evening periods. These normally fall on Friday nights and complement existing weekly provision in many areas, whilst also allowing for credible and positive activity to be available for young people which is both free and inclusive.

It is important to recognise other developments within this area and current provision which exists on a regular basis within Angus. Angus is rich in voluntary organisations who give their time to provide important activities from local football teams to uniform organisations. Many struggle for funding,

therefore consideration needs to be given as to how best they can be supported.

We should also recognise developments within other funding pots such as the Fairer Scotland Fund which will also fund youth related activities across Angus with much of this driven through Integrated Community School Partnerships.

Diversion is also integral to the work of many of our partners, such as Tayside Fire and Rescue through Fire Academy, and more recently the Police Academy where young people can build relationships with the police and understand the role of an officer and the service provided.

During 2008 the Scottish Government launched 'Cashback for Communities'.

This money is seized directly from criminals (the main area being through the supply of illicit drugs) under the Proceeds of Crime Act, which in turn is administered through three main areas.

Youthlink Scotland currently administer the main Cashback scheme allowing projects to bid into a process which is very similar to that of the Youth Initiative Fund listed above. Funding panels then decide on the success of each bid, each panel is fully aware of the current picture locally so can make accurate decisions that do not cause overlap with existing provision.

Currently projects funded in Angus through the scheme include the YMCA in Montrose to develop music provision locally to young people, to a new project run by Enable Scotland.

There are further streams under Arts and Business and also Scotland wide activities such as Street Rugby and schemes through the Scottish Football Association.

Full details of the Cashback scheme and its provision across Scotland can be found at www.cashbackscotland.com

There are currently many funding streams that are coming into Angus and we need to consider some form of co-ordination of funding streams across Angus which relate directly to youth activity with prevention at its core.

PRIORITIES FOR 'PREVENTION' WITHIN ANGUS

- Acknowledgement of the Early Years Framework and ensure that Youth Justice takes account of the priorities set and develops this within our existing practise and service in Angus especially those developed around early intervention.
- Continue to develop and support the role of the Curriculum for Excellence in schools and consider ways to ensure young people stay in school and are engaged with education and positive pathways.
- Consider the role of Diversionary Activity and develop clear co-ordination of activity to ensure effective referral routes for young people.
- Co-ordinating funding streams to ensure best value. Within this consider the role of Integrated Children's Services Partnerships as being the central group to co-ordinate such activity.

4.2 Early and Effective Intervention

Effective responses to offending involve recognition of needs and strengths, as well as attention to risks. In this respect, this agenda is closely connected to Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), the programme which should guide and underpin the principles of work by all relevant agencies. The Getting it Right for Every Child programme is founded on acting on the principles of early intervention, through appropriate, proportionate and timely intervention and provides a framework for putting them into action for all children and young people at the individual level.

Where the need for intervention has been identified, relevant agencies must act promptly, and in line with what other agencies are doing, to provide responses that are timely, proportionate, effective and that inspire community confidence. It is crucial that all agencies are able to provide early and effective responses based on an appropriate assessment of the individual's circumstances, not least so that children and young people can relate their actions to the impact and consequences and learn from this experience. All agencies, including the third sector, should plan and work together in partnership with children, their families and others, to do everything possible to provide early and effective responses to problematic behaviour that best fits the circumstances of each individual case.

Within the new Youth Justice Strategy for Angus we can recognise existing good practise which looks at groups currently working within the GIRFEC model and the sharing of information.

4.2.1 Local Multi Agency Resource Teams

As mentioned earlier in this report the role of LMART is an important one as it sits at an early stage within the process and allows multi agency teams to meet and discuss young people who are at risk of progressing into the Youth Justice process.

The multi agency teams meet on a monthly basis and are given the opportunity to share information, agree plans, and look for the support, where required of the LMART workers currently based within sports and countryside division of community services which forms part of Neighbourhood Services.

Many of the referrals to LMART come from Education and it is important to ensure that the work of LMART complements existing schools structures and that no duplication exists.

4.2.2 Community Safety Tactical Tasking and Co-ordinating Group

A relatively new group within Angus Council, this multi agency group are directed by an annual strategic assessment exercise which can effectively measure relative areas of crime and concern for communities across Angus and look to develop partnership solutions.

Within the group are links to areas within the Youth Justice Framework including Youths Causing Annoyance Calls which often measure anti social behaviour incidents.

The work of the group can clearly support our work and much of our early prevention work can be targeted at the areas in greatest need at the times when young people are at greatest risk.

4.2.3 Acceptable Behavioural Agreements

The role of Acceptable Behaviour Agreements (ABAs) for young persons continues to develop within Angus.

ABAs are a voluntary intervention that can be implemented by a number of partner agencies working together, such as Social Work, Police, Education, Housing and Community Safety to address escalating unacceptable behaviour by a young person. Warning Letters/Notices as detailed within 5.1.5 of this strategy normally attempt to seek resolution prior to this intervention being implemented. It involves the young person with the support of family/guardian signing an agreement to amend his/her behaviour which is unacceptable. The agencies involved also agree to provide support to the young person to encourage a successful resolution. An agreement is normally in place for between six months and one year. It should include monthly monitoring and feedback.

A central record of all Acceptable Behaviour Agreements is held by the police community safety liaison officer who is located within the Angus Community Safety Partnership joint services team. All young person ABAs are monitored for effectiveness at the Youth Offender Monitoring Group (YOMG) meetings.

It is important to note the role that this process has within the context of early intervention as many young people make positive changes to their behaviour when subject to Acceptable Behaviour Agreements.

A new protocol has been developed for ABAs and can be found at Appendix A.

4.2.4 Youth Offending Monitoring Group (YOMG)

A multi agency screening group who meet on a fortnightly basis in Angus to discuss all young people who have been referred to the Children's Reporter in respect of offences.

The group have changed their focus slightly from the previous Persistent Offenders Monitoring Group due to changes in national standards set by the last government, and now includes discussions about young people who may also have care and concern issues.

The group consists of representatives from Tayside Police, Social Work, LMART, The WEB Project, Tayside Council on Alcohol, School and Family

Support, and the Children's Reporter. The group can accurately reflect the current provision for any young person discussed as well as looking at future developments.

Trends are also discussed within the group and a recent example resulted in further work being carried out to develop initiatives to tackle young females who were presenting risk taking behaviour across Angus.

4.2.5 Tayside Police Warning System

In February 2004, Tayside Police launched the 'Youth Justice Process' in Eastern Division.

This was a new process to deal with detected juvenile crime and anti-social behaviour by allowing Tayside Police to issue different levels of warnings for the 'less serious' crimes and for first time offenders, thus allowing the Children's Reporter to deal with Persistent Offenders and other young people who are offending on a regular basis.

Monthly partnership meetings take place to target young people who are causing concern. This multi-agency approach allows a more co-ordinated response to providing services for these young people.

Police/Parental Warning Antisocial Behaviour

- Issued by a Police Officer (and housing officer if relevant) in the presence of parents/guardians/primary caregiver
- Issued in situations of Antisocial Behaviour where no offence has been committed

Police/Parental Warning – Crime/Offence

- Issued by an officer in the presence of parents/guardians/primary caregiver where a crime or offence has been committed
- Young person spoken to and details taken of the crime/offence and any comments made by young person, followed by a Caution & Charge
- Crime/offence with details of young person is passed to Youth Justice Assessor (YJA) for further assessment to be made. If no further action is taken, a letter from the YJA is issued confirming this decision

This warning usually applies to first time offenders who have committed a very minor offence (e.g. Theft by Shoplifting whereby £1.00 worth of sweets stolen. The items were returned to the shop and there are no further concerns with the young person who committed the crime). This level of warning can be issued on more than one occasion and can be used for all tariffs of offenders where the offence is of a very minor nature.

Community Warning Notice –Crime/Offence

- A written warning that may follow a Police/Parental warning which is served on the child in the presence of a parent/guardian/primary caregiver
- YJA then makes an assessment and decides the issue of a CWN is the best course of action to take
- Parental responsibilities, contact points where advice, support and assistance are detailed and action to redress behaviour of young person is noted and signed by the parent

This warning follows the above verbal warning where it is felt that the young person requires to be spoken to again. Used in cases where the young person hasn't totally taken on board the consequences of their actions and this warning gives the officer an opportunity to speak with the young person and their family again. This warning can be issued twice.

Police Restorative Warning – Crime/Offence

- A face to face interview held at a Police Station in the presence of a parent/guardian/primary caregiver which may follow a Police/Parental Warning or a Community Warning Notice where the incident is discussed and views are shared on the impact on the victim and community
- Again, all details are passed to YJA who then makes an assessment on the current crime/offence and any previous warnings issued to the young person and decides the issue of a PRW is the best course of action to take
- Young person will sign accepting that they have received this warning

This warning is for young people who have exhausted the above warnings and for first time offenders who may have committed a higher level of offence. Again, this warning can be issued twice.

It should be noted that the youth justice team in the government is currently developing guidance that may eventually replace the Police Restorative Warning Guidance and seeks to cover all police warnings. This is with a view to standardising police approaches to warning young people within the context of the youth justice framework, GIRFEC, etc.

It is likely that little change will occur in Angus as the Tayside Police system was held up as best practise.

4.2.6 Diversionary Activity Working with Young Offenders and Young People at Risk

Whilst Diversion is mentioned under prevention, its use is not solely delivered in that area and is worthy of mention in this area as it also addresses a multi agency approach to services to young people in a way that is measured and needs led.

Recent excellent examples of this are the Summer Scheme, mentioned earlier in this document under the work of the youth justice team, and more recently the partnership work with the army where young offenders worked on an outreach programme at Barry Buddon for a week. There are further developments in this area with the Army Cadets to develop a model for young people currently in primary school offsite provision.

Other examples of this work have included the Witches Project which is led by Tayside Council on Alcohol and looks to deliver an excellent project which targets young females at risk within Angus.

All these projects play an important role within the Youth Justice Framework with clear successes being recorded against reduced offending and more positive outcomes for young people.

It is also encouraging to note the return to many projects by young people as peer mentors and the positive nature of this role for the young people considered.

It is important therefore to consider this within a new youth justice strategy and again consider funding streams that allow sustainability and growth within each area so young people can not only reduce offending or risk taking, they can also realise a sense of achievement that can only benefit the young person and society as a whole.

PRIORITIES FOR EARLY AND EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION WITHIN ANGUS

- Support current structures within Youth Justice to ensure the sharing of information in a way that best meets the needs of young people that effectively delivers positive outcomes for the young person and the communities they stay in.
- Review and develop a clear protocol for Acceptable Behaviour Agreements that supports the Youth Justice process.
- Support diversion work for young people who offend or are at risk and develop sustainable models that allow growth and encourage young people to support future programmes within a peer mentor role.

4.3 Managing High Risk Young People

There are a small but significant number of children and young people who present a high risk to themselves and others, and who have complex needs, including mental health and learning disabilities. This includes children and young people involved in sexually harmful behaviour, sexual offences and violence. These children and young people should have their needs met and the risks they pose managed in order to give them the opportunity to change their behaviour and become positive contributors to society. Care for this group should be high quality, and approaches and programmes should be effective. Those who work with them need to have a high level of expertise.

Young people who present a serious risk of harm also present a serious challenge to society. Not only may they threaten and damage communities and properties, their actions may have a devastating impact on their lives and those of others. At the extreme, people may die, be sexually abused or assaulted. It is the responsibility of us all to take steps to ensure that risks are managed effectively and that communities and people are protected. Some young people may have to be protected against themselves.

4.3.1 Sexually Harmful Behaviour

Within Angus a referral group has been developed to discuss all cases in the area where there is a concern regarding a child or young person's sexual behaviour. The group discuss all referrals to agencies and make decisions about the most appropriate resource to take the work forward.

This group will identify gaps in provision and opportunities for earlier intervention where appropriate. The referral group will also discuss cases and offer advice, guidance and support to members where appropriate.

The group can also track referrals through agencies from initial referral to what happens when a service ends. It is not envisaged at this stage that the group is a place for agencies to make referrals directly to and that referrals should continue to go directly to services as normal and the group members will bring referrals to this group for discussion.

The group is made up of representatives from youth justice, child protection team, throughcare and aftercare and the Barnardo's Bridge Project.

Within Angus relevant agencies and workers have recently received training through the Safer Lives Model. Feedback from those taking part in the training has been excellent.

Further training is also being considered to spread a wider awareness to workers to perhaps identify the early signs of young people who may present risk taking sexual behaviour.

Both sexual and violent behaviour amongst young people are also high on the Scottish Government's agenda and the subjects are driven through

Champions Groups and regional practitioners networks. The strategies and direction of both these groups are monitored by the youth justice co-ordinator locally as well as relevant local representatives who will attend some of the groups and network events.

4.3.2 Young People Involved in Violent Behaviour

Within Angus the Youth Justice Team will take the lead in this area with young people being assessed using ASSET which is a tool which effectively identifies risk of harm. A further risk of harm assessment is then completed to inform a safety plan and identify programmes to address the issues. The continued developments in GIRFEC may eventually lead to a single shared assessment model and this may have to be considered in this area.

Programme work is designed on an individual basis and will cover needs as well as risks specific offences. Planned group work also takes place and evaluation is sought from parents and young people accordingly. All this programme work is reviewed on an annual basis. Whilst figures can fluctuate depending on the type of referrals and levels of needs/risks the team can work with as many as 70-80 young people including court work in Angus. Trends can shift over time and at present there are concerns about the use of Class A drugs amongst 16-18 year olds.

There does appear to be some obvious gaps that have been identified whilst working with groups and these include mental health services for 16-18 year olds, education and training provision for hard to reach young people, especially those unable to sustain placements and course attendance, and access to services for High Tariff young people has been identified by practitioners working with young people.

4.3.3 Vulnerable Girls and Young Women Involved in Offending

It was considered of value to promote this within the strategy as nationally the issue is continuing to cause concern as to the types of interventions that can be used. Locally within Angus there has also been concern raised as to the rise in young females who have been involved in worrying sexual behaviour which often crosses into other risk taking practices such as drugs and alcohol use. This area of work has developed the possibility of creating a post to work with these girls around their sexual behaviour which may allow us locally to develop other programmes and initiatives specifically for females.

Nationally the Scottish Government have continued to tackle the issue through their Champions groups and regional practitioners networks and through these forums the following issues have emerged-

- Normal programmes used to work with this group are less effective as they are often delivered in a way that is structured for males.

- Female vulnerabilities and chaotic behaviour often leads to secure or residential placements at a lower threshold than their male counterparts.
- Young females were more likely to receive a tough sentence for crimes such as violence and housebreaking which were considered to be more normal province of male offenders.

4.3.4 Getting it Right For Children and Young People Who Present a Risk of Serious Harm

This important document was published by the Scottish Government on 19 May 2008, and its full detail can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/223323/0060122.pdf>

The document covers area such as meeting need, matching risks and achieving outcomes and lays out nine key areas to follow for all people working with high risk young people, these are:

- Key area 1 - Key performance outcomes
- Key area 2 - Impact on Young People who have committed serious offences, their parents/carers and families
- Key area 3 - Impact on staff
- Key area 4 - Impact on the Community
- Key area 5 - How good is the support we provide
- Key areas 6,7,8 How good is our management
- Key area 9 - How good is our leadership

The document provides an excellent self assessment tool for all agencies to consider and follow.

4.3.5 Intensive Support and Monitoring Systems (Operational Group)

Intensive Support and Monitoring (ISMS) was introduced by the Anti-social Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004, as an alternative to Secure Accommodation. As such, the criteria for authorising ISMS are the same as for authorising secure.

ISMS was initially introduced in seven 'phase one' local authorities in April 2005. Following analysis of the effectiveness of the scheme, it was announced in December 2007 that it would be rolled out nationally. As of 1 April 2008, ISMS has been available in all 32 local authority areas.

ISMS involves a 24 hours wrap-around support package (intensive support), which includes up to 30 hours per week of education, and a movement restriction condition (MRC). It is the responsibility of the local authority to provide the intensive support package. This is often done by contracting with a voluntary organisation. The MRC can be for any period, on any day which

the hearing decides, provided that the restriction period does not exceed more than 12 hours in any one day.

Compliance with the MRC is monitored via an electronic monitoring device (tag) which is placed on the young person's ankle (or wrist) and a monitoring box which is placed at their residence. Where the MRC is not complied with, the electronic monitoring contractor contacts the intensive support provider. Where a young person is repeatedly in breach of their MRC they may be referred back to the Children's Hearing for an alternative disposal.

As part of the process, Angus Council developed an Operational Group who would be drawn together to discuss any ISMS package that may be considered for a young person. The Operational Group has now met on several occasions with five ISM's being rolled out to date.

The use of ISMS will continue to develop and the demand on this group, which includes representatives from most services within the local authority, will also rise in the coming years.

It is vital therefore within this area that ISMS and their effectiveness are properly evaluated on a regular basis and the outcomes for young people are tracked beyond the delivery of the service.

PRIORITIES FOR MANAGING HIGH RISK IN ANGUS

- Develop awareness training for staff to recognise the early signs of risk taking sexual behaviour, and ensure this is fed into the Children's Services Training Co-ordination Group audit.
- Continue to develop training and learning opportunities for high tariff young people so they have clear exit routes.
- Develop programmes and initiatives around working with vulnerable young females.
- Develop alternatives to the use of residential and secure placements for young females so reducing admissions which are often set at lower tariffs than males.
- Consider and promote the Scottish Government document 'Getting it Right For Children and Young People Who present a Risk of Serious Harm' so agencies have clear self assessment systems to follow.

- Continue to develop the ISMS model to support young people at greatest need and consider other areas that ISMS could be used in a proactive way, such as diversion from residential schools.

4.4 Victims and Community Confidence

We have a clear commitment to work towards a safer and stronger Scotland and to achieve this we must strive to remove inequality and injustice from across all our communities. It is a basic human right of everyone to feel safe in their homes and wider communities no matter where they live. We need to ensure we create a feeling of safety and well-being by tackling crime and the associated fear that this has on our communities.

Communities themselves have an important role to play in achieving this. Working with local partners, supporting community events and acknowledging the many positive contributions that children and young people make can all help communities come together to provide a safer environment to live in.

4.4.1 Restorative Justice (RJ)

Within Angus we currently have strong links with Restorative Justice Practices which are built into our Youth Justice Process as can be seen earlier within this document.

The process continues to run at an early stage in the process and results continue to provide positive results for both the victim and young people involved.

What may be worthy of consideration however is that all current RJ provision results from young people offending and within our developments in Angus we may wish to consider looking at how best the RJ process can be developed at an earlier stage.

When developing the new Youth Justice Framework the Scottish Government encourages the use of intergenerational initiatives to bring communities closer together and allow younger people to work with older generations.

The use of RJ work could be extended into the areas that involve young people at an earlier stage in the process such as those who cause anti social behaviour within their communities. The use of innovative approaches in this area to perhaps bring the community closer to young people and both working through problems would be an ideal model to consider.

Within school settings in Angus, RJ is also starting to develop a wider use and in some cases will allow young people to work through issues with staff that can allow for positive results for both parties and the young person fully engaged with education. This use may also be worthy of consideration in the wider community perspective when dealing with anti social issues as discussed above.

4.4.2 Community Safety Survey

A survey of 10,000 residents in Angus was commissioned by the Angus Community Safety Partnership. The aim of the survey was to establish how safe and secure residents of Angus feel in their communities. It also asked residents to highlight to the partnership specific concerns in their area, such as antisocial behaviour, litter, dog fouling, youths causing annoyance etc.

The previous survey carried out by the partnership in 2007 sought to create baseline figures against which areas of concern and the improvement in perceptions of safety within the 2009 survey could be measured.

Young people were not included in the initial 10,000 surveys. However, plans are being formulated for a similar kind of survey to be undertaken to gauge the opinion of young people as regard feelings of safety within their communities.

Within the review of ICSP there is an engagement priority with young people which may serve as one way to develop this area.

4.4.3 Communication

Within the context of our strategy we clearly need to consider the use of communication and how we effectively engage with communities and young people.

The development of a new communications strategy would be an effective tool but this should not merely be the collection of data rather a clear strategy as to what we actually want to achieve.

It is important that the public are full aware of our work within Youth Justice, why it is needed and the benefits that result, we should be more proactive in the delivery of good news stories. We also need to consider how young people are presented more as effective citizens in society rather than the root of all the problems that occur.

The growing use of new technologies must also be considered in our developing communication strategy so we can reach all parts of the community and this includes the ability to have clear pathways for feedback for all parts of Angus including young people. The use of social marketing techniques already used within Health is also important within this area and worthy of consideration.

Young people need to be at the centre of our work in this area and strategies developed must involve a process of consultation or involvement from young people from all backgrounds so we can effectively engage.

4.4.4 Youth Justice Seminar

In 2008 Angus held its own Youth Justice Seminar with managers and practitioners from all our services, the voluntary sector, schools, and young people themselves.

The day was hailed a great success and allowed groups, who were divided into managers, practitioners and young people, to work on specific ideas that could be developed within the youth justice process. These ideas which were driven by adults and young people alike included:

- Early Intervention targeted at the 5% of young people who offend. (Managers group)
- Increased and improved communication across agencies and with young people, parents and carers including consultation with less able 'young people' (Practitioner's group)
- Going back to basics, based on an educational package at schools developing a community approach to engage all young people as positive citizens. (Young People's group)

It is interesting to note that the three main ideas have all been picked up in some format within this strategy with the educational package one that is being addressed through developing streams within the Curriculum for Excellence.

What is important about the process is the widening communication network it allows and the clear process of emerging ideas from all sectors of our Youth Justice service.

As the seminar was deemed so successful it would be fair to suggest running a similar seminar within the cycle of this current strategy, perhaps using it to measure the effectiveness of our work within the priorities we set as well as continuing to develop new ideas and priorities for the coming years.

PRIORITIES FOR VICTIMS AND COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE IN ANGUS-

- Consider developing the current role of Restorative Justice delivery to be expanded into all school settings and issues around anti social behaviour and youth annoyance.
- Using the Restorative Justice approach consider the use of more intergenerational programmes that look to address the concerns of the community.

- Review the results of the Angus Community Safety Survey when published and consider its implications for Youth Justice and our practise in Angus.
- Consider a model that measures the fears and concerns of young people within Angus so we can also review this area within our Youth Justice Process, taking the review of the ICSP into account.
- Develop a new communication strategy that effectively supports our work and has young people at its centre.
- Within the cycle of this strategy run a Youth Justice Seminar to consider our progress within the current strategy, the seminar should build on the positive experiences of the one held in 2008 and use a similar model with managers, practitioners and young people being drawn together.

4.5 Planning and Performance Improvement

Addressing offending by young people will now be planned in the context of the development of Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs). While it is important that work on this agenda links ultimately to the purpose of government and the five strategic objectives, all partners will continue to need access to high-quality management information which tells them about the efficiency and effectiveness (including cost-effectiveness) of relevant activities. Audit Scotland's report, 'Dealing with Offending by Young People', identified a paucity in the availability and use of such management information which presents a serious barrier to the effective planning and accountability of services and hampers sharing of good practice. Whilst this does not seem to be an obvious problem in Angus, we will still ensure our systems are robust and efficient to deal with such issues if they arise.

Since the publication of the Audit Scotland report, the change in the relationship between Scottish Government and local government has signalled a major shift in the role of performance information. No longer will Scottish Government set detailed targets linked to demands for performance reports. Local authorities and their partners will determine through the Single Outcome Agreements, subject to the commitments in the Concordat, what information will be reported to communities about achievement against outcomes. It is important to stress that local authorities will not be held to account for performance unless it is part of the SOAs, or a statutory requirement (which includes the requirement to demonstrate best value). This is an important condition of the empowering relationship reflected in the Concordat.

It is interesting to note that there is no clear reference to Youth Justice in Single Outcome Agreements; however it is obvious that we contribute heavily to many of the indicators that have been set, these include:

- National Outcome 4 – Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens
- National Outcome 5 – Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed
- National Outcome 6 – We live longer, healthier lives
- National Outcome 9 – We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger

It should also be noted that national Youth Justice Co-ordinators Group are working with the government to develop national guidance in this area so that clear outcomes can be set to measure the success or failure of youth justice processes.

4.5.1 Youth Justice Assessor-Tayside Police

Within Angus much of our data is driven by the collection of data delivered by the youth justice assessor based at the Angus Community Safety Partnership joint services team, Sheriff Court Annexe, Market Street, Forfar.

Statistical data and trends analysis is delivered to the Youth Justice Forum on a quarterly basis and this allows us to measure areas such as offending as well as identifying possible issues or specific crimes that are developing.

The role of the youth justice assessor is therefore an important one when collating stats and data.

4.5.2 Agency Information

Many agencies that are involved in the youth justice process and wider cross cutting areas will collect data to measure their success through hard outcomes and softer outcomes. Both areas can also allow us to measure the success of our work and an overall measurement tool would be an effective one to capture some of this to give us a wider picture of the impact we make.

4.5.3 Community Safety Tactical Assessment

The Community Safety Tactical Tasking and Co-ordinating Group are tasked through the use of a Community Safety Tactical Assessment document. The document contains analysis of information received from a number of partner agencies and departments and is utilised to target resources according to the needs of the community. It identifies areas of concern and also allows for the preventative delivery of services to the correct areas in order to make the most impact.

4.5.4 Viewpoint

Viewpoint was introduced to Angus in 2008, and is used by the four main strands of our current youth justice process to measure feedback from young people who are clients of the services such as LMART, restorative justice, the community resource team and the youth justice team.

This is also a vital area of our work and uptake within this system continues to grow, which in turn allows for accurate feedback from young people as to the effectiveness of the services we offer.

Viewpoint therefore offers an important measurement tool within the process and should be considered in any developments around data collection and evaluation.

PRIORITIES FOR PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IN ANGUS-

- Taking the findings of the current National Guidance development, and links to the Single Outcome Agreement, create a clear framework in Angus to measure the impact of Youth Justice.
- Incorporate Viewpoint data within the agenda of the Youth Justice Forum so ensuring feedback from young clients on the quality and delivery of existing services.

4.6 Summary of Priorities for Angus

PREVENTION

- Acknowledgement of the Early Years Framework and ensure that youth justice takes account of the priorities set and develops this within our existing practise and service in Angus especially those developed around early intervention.
- Continue to develop and support the role of the Curriculum for Excellence in schools and consider ways to ensure young people stay in school and are engaged with education and positive pathways.
- Consider the role of Diversionary Activity and develop clear co-ordination of activity to ensure effective referral routes for young people.
- Co-ordinating funding streams to ensure best value. Within this consider the role of Integrated Children's Services Partnerships as being the central group to co-ordinate such activity.

EARLY AND EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION

- Support current structures within Youth Justice to ensure the sharing of information in a way that best meets the needs of young people that effectively delivers positive outcomes for the young person and the communities they stay in.
- Review and develop a clear protocol for Acceptable Behaviour Agreements that supports the youth justice process.
- Support diversion work for young people who offend or are at risk and develop sustainable models that allow growth and encourage young people to support future programmes within a peer mentor role.

MANAGING HIGH RISK

- Develop awareness training for staff to recognise the early signs of risk taking sexual behaviour, and ensure this is fed into the Children's Services Training Co-ordination Group audit
- Continue to develop training and learning opportunities for high tariff young people so they have clear exit routes.
- Develop programmes and initiatives around working with vulnerable young females.
- Develop alternatives to the use of residential and secure placements for young females so reducing admissions which are often set at lower tariffs than males.
- Consider and promote the Scottish Government document 'Getting it Right For Children and Young People Who present a Risk of Serious Harm' so agencies have clear self assessment systems to follow.
- Continue to develop the ISMS model to support young people at greatest need and consider other areas that ISMS could be used in a proactive way, such as diversion from residential schools.

VICTIMS AND COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE

- Consider developing the current role of Restorative Justice delivery to be expanded into all school settings and issues around anti social behaviour and youth annoyance.
- Using the Restorative Justice approach, consider the use of more intergenerational programmes that look to address the concerns of the community.
- Review the results of the Angus Community Safety Survey when published and consider its implications for Youth Justice and our practise in Angus.
- Consider a model that measures the fears and concerns of young people within Angus so we can also review this area within our youth justice Process, taking the review of the ICSP into account.
- Develop a new communication strategy that effectively supports our work and has young people at its centre.
- Within the cycle of this strategy run a youth justice Seminar to consider our progress within the current strategy, the seminar should build on the positive experiences of the one held in 2008 and use a similar model with managers, practitioners and young people being drawn together.

PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- Taking the findings of the current National Guidance development, and links to the Single Outcome Agreement, create a clear framework in Angus to measure the impact of youth justice.
- Incorporate Viewpoint data within the agenda of the Youth Justice Forum so ensuring feedback from young clients on the quality and delivery of existing services.

5. SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS AND ACTION PLAN

Youth Justice Strategy 2009-2012 Action Plan			
Service Area - Prevention			
Tasks	Action Required and by Whom	Timescale	Progress
Acknowledgement of the Early Years Framework and ensure that Youth Justice takes account of the priorities set and develops this within our existing practise and service in Angus.	Youth justice co-ordinator to liaise with early years and childcare officer locally and also consider best practise locally and nationally.	To be reviewed 31 March 2011.	Completed. This has been completed and will continue to be reviewed as the Early Years Framework develops. Youth justice co-ordinator now a member of the Play Steering Group which is a sub group of the Early Years Joint Action Group.
Continue to develop and support the role of the Curriculum for Excellence in schools and consider ways to ensure young people stay in school and are engaged with education and positive pathways.	Youth justice co-ordinator to liaise with Education Reps from Forum, and other low tariff partners, and through services to gauge roll out of Curriculum for Excellence and look for links to support vulnerable young people. RJ service could deliver this through the introduction of programmes focusing on decisions/choices/consequences.	To be reviewed 31 March 2011.	On target. Curriculum for Excellence timetabled to start in schools in August 2010. Representative from Education involved in the Youth Justice Forum, and Youth justice co-ordinator has also attended events with community learning and development around their delivery into this area. Restorative justice services have made request through Integrated Children and Young People's Partnerships to support the development and renewal of restorative justice tools that are currently used in schools.

Completed

On Target

Behind Target

Tasks	Action Required and by Whom	Timescale	Progress
<p>Consider the role of diversion activity and develop clear co-ordination of activity being run to ensure referral routes for young people who may benefit, as well as co-ordinating funding streams to ensure best value.</p>	<p>Youth justice co-ordinator to work in partnership with relevant groups including Youth Justice Forum members, to identify possible diversion opportunities as well as identifying funding streams through consultation with external funding.</p> <p>Establish a sub group to look at potential work areas and consider agencies/projects best placed to deliver this work, to ensure equity of delivery and response.</p>	<p>Have at least two new diversion projects in place by 31 March 2010.</p>	<p>Completed. Achieved with delivery of Rough Riders Project and increased provision for vulnerable young people in the Glens Area of Montrose.</p> <p>Further support also given to the enhancement of the GOALS project managed by Street Games for All to increase the ability of the project to take on more vulnerable young people especially those aged 16-18 years.</p>

Completed	On Target	Behind Target
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Service Area - Early and Effective Intervention			
Tasks	Action Required and by Whom	Timescale	Progress
Support current structures within Youth Justice to ensure the sharing of information in a way that best meets the needs of young people that effectively delivers positive outcomes for the young person and the communities they stay in.	Youth justice co-ordinator to follow developments within GIRFEC and update Youth Justice Forum so allowing more thought in this area.	Review 31 March 2011.	On target. GIRFEC Delivery Group now ongoing and Youth justice co-ordinator keeping abreast of developments, and will continue to inform the youth justice forum.
Continue to develop the ISMS model to support young people at greatest need and consider other areas that ISMS could be used in a proactive way, such as diversion from residential schools.	ISMS panel group, service providers and youth justice co-ordinator.	Ongoing monitoring.	On target. Four ISM's packages taken in 2009-2010 and results continue to be positive in this area.
Support diversion work for young people who offend or are at risk and develop sustainable models that allow growth and encourage young people to support future programmes within a peer mentor role.	Youth justice co-ordinator to work in partnership with the youth justice team and other relevant partners to develop projects and potential funding streams. Establish of sub group of the forum to discuss possible targeted pieces of work and funding streams.	Have at least one new project in place by 31 March 2010.	Completed. Projects developed include – 1. Continual support for the Step Up Programme. 2. New project called Rough Riders. 3. New Girls Group. 4. Development of GOALS project run by Street Games for All to include higher tariff offenders.

Completed	On Target	Behind Target
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Managing High Risk Young People			
Tasks	Action Required and by Whom	Timescale	Progress
Develop awareness training for staff in a number of disciplines to recognise the early signs of risk taking sexual behaviour.	Youth justice co-ordinator working in partnership with Bridge Project at Barnardo's to roll out training.		On target.
Continue to develop training and learning opportunities for High Tariff Young People so they have clear exit routes.	Youth justice co-ordinator working in partnership with youth justice team and community resource team plus seek other relevant partners such as Angus College and Educational providers.	Review 31 March 2011.	On target. This area is still ongoing and needs further development although potential to deliver a new 'venue' resource locally in Arbroath that can increase skills in music and media, as well as a meeting place for many of the groups involved in youth justice.
Develop programmes and initiatives around working with vulnerable young females.	Youth justice co-ordinator to work with relevant groups such as Tayside Council on Alcohol (Witches Project), and youth justice services to develop programmes and enhance existing provision. Include work from other key services who are working with vulnerable young females – not just offending – links to Sexual Health Strategy.	Review 31 March 2011.	On target. New project developed by the youth justice team to support high tariff girls. The delivery of the Witches Project in all areas continues to grow.
Develop alternatives to the use of residential and secure placements for young females so reducing admissions which are often set at lower tariffs than males.	Youth justice co-ordinator to monitor developments in this area locally and nationally to seek areas of best practise. ISMS packages to be utilised for both males and females.	Review 31 March 2011.	On target. ISM's continue to be the best option with four packages taken in 2009-2010. Also youth justice co-ordinator following developments nationally within the Champions Group for vulnerable girls and will update where required and relevant.

Completed

On Target

Behind Target

Tasks	Action Required and by Whom	Timescale	Progress
<p>Consider and promote the Scottish Government document 'Getting it Right For Children and Young People Who present a Risk of Serious Harm' so agencies have clear self assessment systems to follow. (Links to CFE</p>	<p>Youth justice co-ordinator to consult with relevant partners in this area and ensure systems are in place and are being reviewed.</p>	<p>Review 31 March 2011</p>	<p>On target. Discussions ongoing with respective partners so ongoing at present.</p>

Completed	On Target	Behind Target
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Priorities for Victims and Community Confidence in Angus

Tasks	Action Required and by Whom	Timescale	Progress
Consider developing the current role of Restorative Justice (RJ) delivery to be expanded into all school settings and issues around anti social behaviour and youth related issues.	Youth Justice Forum, RJ Steering Group, Education Department.	Review 31 March 2011.	On target. Request now submitted to the Integrated Children and Young People's Partnerships to support additional and enhanced resources in this area, but as service is delivered by voluntary sector it continues to be funding dependent so this will continue to be investigated.
Using the RJ approach, consider the use of more intergenerational programmes that look to address the concerns of the community.	Youth justice co-ordinator to develop a possible model in partnership with RJ services, Community Mediation, Victim Support and other relevant partners.	Review 31 March 2011.	On target. Still ongoing in this area and will be investigated further with potential bid into youth inclusion programme looking at a Fear of Crime DVD which will follow an intergenerational theme.
Review the results of the Angus Community Safety Survey when published and consider its implications for Youth Justice and our practise in Angus.	Youth justice co-ordinator to work in partnership with community safety to monitor feedback from survey. Measure the fears and concerns of young people within Angus in order to review this area within the youth justice process.	Review 31 March 2011.	Completed.
Consider a model that measures the fears and concerns of young people within Angus so we can also review this area within our Youth Justice process.	Youth justice co-ordinator, community safety, and community learning development to look at model.	Review 31 March 2011.	On target. Currently following the model being approached by community learning and development around consultation with young model.

Completed	On Target	Behind Target
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Tasks	Action Required and by Whom	Timescale	Progress
Develop a new communication strategy that effectively supports our work and has young people at its centre.	Youth justice co-ordinator to look at models currently being used locally and nationally and liaise with youth providers.	Review 31 March 2011.	On target. Ongoing at present and still reviewing models, also considering this from national perspective with national models being explored.
Within the cycle of this strategy run a Youth Justice Seminar to consider our progress within the current strategy, the seminar should build on the positive experiences of the one held in 2008 and use a similar model with managers, practitioners and young people being drawn together.	Youth justice co-ordinator to plan conference in partnership with Youth Justice Forum members.	Plan to hold a conference in late 2010.	On target. To be discussed at Youth Justice Forum to be held in June 2010, funding dependent, local reps attending the National Youth Justice Seminar in June 2010. Youth justice co-ordinator to feedback to the Youth Justice Forum.

Completed	On Target	Behind Target
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Planning and Performance			
Tasks	Action Required and by Whom	Timescale	Progress
Taking the findings of the current National Guidance development, and links to the Single Outcome Agreement, create a clear framework in Angus to measure the impact of Youth Justice.	Work of National group to be monitored by youth justice co-ordinator and fed back into Angus model when relevant	To be reviewed 31 March 2011.	On target. 2009-2010 youth crime fell by 37% which met the Single Outcome Agreement target of 5%.
Incorporate Viewpoint data within the agenda of the Youth Justice Forum so ensuring feedback from young clients on the quality and delivery of existing services. Restorative Justice to potentially use Angus Viewpoint now that National Evaluation is complete.	To be fed in by youth justice co-ordinator in liaison with Administrative Assistant.	Review 31 March 2011	On target. Viewpoint now being reviewed and current picture suggest it is not the best model for youth justice but still being considered and results will be fed back.

Completed	On Target	Behind Target
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6. APPENDIX A

ABA PROTOCOL

