



# NEWS

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Newsletter of the Irish Youth Justice Service Issue 4, Spring 2010

## IYJS Conference 2010 Special

### IYJS Conference 2010

#### "Young People and Crime - Where to Now?"



Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Mr Barry Andrews TD

*Under the theme 'Young People and Crime - Where to Now?', the second biennial Conference of the Irish Youth Justice Service features a range of key speakers from Ireland and abroad.*

The IYJS Conference 2010 takes place in Dublin Castle on 25 February 2010. The Conference will be opened by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Mr Barry Andrews TD.

Speaking ahead of the event, Minister Andrews said "I am delighted to be opening the IYJS Conference. This Conference not only provides an opportunity for those working in the youth justice system to reflect on progress made in the implementation of the National Youth Justice Strategy 2008-2010, but also provides a valuable opportunity to begin discussions on future

youth justice policy and the next Strategy."

Key note addresses will be delivered by Estelle MacDonald, Head of Hull Centre for Restorative Practices, and Lars Rand Jensen and Henrik Andersen from the Danish SSP (School, Social Workers and Police) model.

The morning session will also feature presentations on the work of the IYJS with An Garda Síochána to reduce crime, and on the Priority Youth Offending Pilot Project in Northern Ireland.

The afternoon session will feature short presentations from key agencies involved in

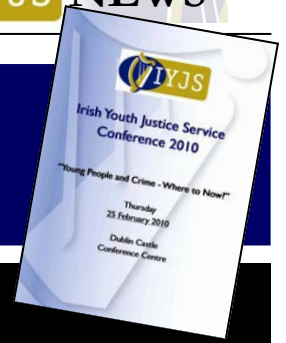
developing a new Strategy followed by workshops. The discussions and outcomes of the workshops will provide a clear idea of how effective the objectives of the Strategy have been and how future youth justice policy should be developed.

Ms Michelle Shannon, National Director of the IYJS, added "I am looking forward to discussing future youth justice policy with a range of experts at the Conference and I believe many very valuable points will emerge from the event".

**All Conference presentations will be placed on [www.iyjs.ie](http://www.iyjs.ie) for download on Friday, 26 Feb-**

# IYJS Conference 2010 Special

## Speakers' Biographies



### Ms Michelle Shannon

Michelle Shannon is the National Director of the Irish Youth Justice Service. She is a graduate of UCD and has worked in a number of senior positions since joining the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform in 1994. She previously worked in the Department of Education and Science dealing with Youth and Sports, and the Vocational Education Committees. Prior to her current appointment she spent three years as head of Human Resources in the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

### Ms Estelle MacDonald

Estelle is a very successful inner city Headteacher who transformed her current school from special measures (failing School) to outstanding in under two years. Her school has a national reputation for the quality of its provision, particularly the impact of Restorative Practices. Estelle played a leading role in establishing Hull City's Restorative Community Plan and is now working to support organizational change in schools and other organizations. She is the head of Hull Centre for Restorative Practice and on the management group of Sutton Place - an alternative to custody provision in Hull for young offenders.

### Mr Mark Finnis

Mark Finnis is an experienced Restorative Practices trainer and practitioner. He was an original member of the Sefton Centre for Restorative Practices, where he gained extensive experience in training, development and implementation of restorative practices across the authority. Mark then worked as Assistant Director for the International Institute of Restorative Practice, UK, where he led training and development at both local and national levels. In 2008 Mark joined the Hull Centre for Restorative Practices, acting as a consultant and lead trainer for the City.

### Mr Henrik Andersen

Henrik Andersen is Senior Prosecutor at Fyns Politi under the Danish Ministry of Justice. He is former Chief Constable of Nyborg and served as Chairman for the Danish Association of Prosecutors from 1996 to 2002. He has published 'Prevention of Finance Blackmail' at the Danish Crime Prevention Council.

### Dr Lars Rand Jensen

Lars Rand Jensen is Chairman of the Committee for Cooperation between: The Social Sector, The Educational Sector and the Police (SSP), under the Danish Crime Prevention Council. He is also Advisor for Crime Prevention at the Danish Crime Prevention Council in the Danish Ministry for Justice. He served for 12 years as Chief Constable in Esbjerg and 15 years as Chief Constable in Odense. He is a member of the faculty board in the University of Southern Denmark and has published books on criminology, alternatives to prison, social work, and policing and alcohol and drug abuse.

### Mr Seán Redmond

Seán Redmond is Head of Young Offender Programmes with the Irish Youth Justice Service. Seán qualified as a social worker in 1988 and has over the last 20 years worked in the fields of juvenile justice, child welfare and prison resettlement. Prior to joining IYJS in 2008 Seán was Assistant Director for Children's Services with Barnardos.

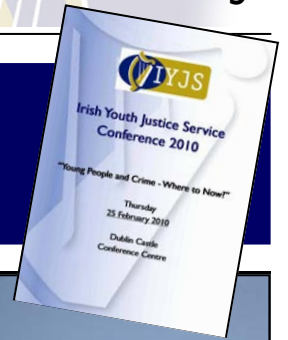
### Supt Colette Quinn

Superintendent Colette Quinn works at Community Relations & Community Policing in An Garda Síochána and is head of the Garda Office for Children & Youth Affairs since 2007. Among her areas of responsibility are, the Garda Schools Programme, the Garda Diversion Programme, the Garda Age Card Programme and Garda Youth Diversion Projects. Her office also has responsibility for Victim Support and Family Liaison. Colette is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin with a BSc (Management) and University of Ulster with an MSc in Executive Leadership. She is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia and she is currently completing a Barrister-at-Law degree with Kingsinns, Dublin.

### Ms Alice Chapman

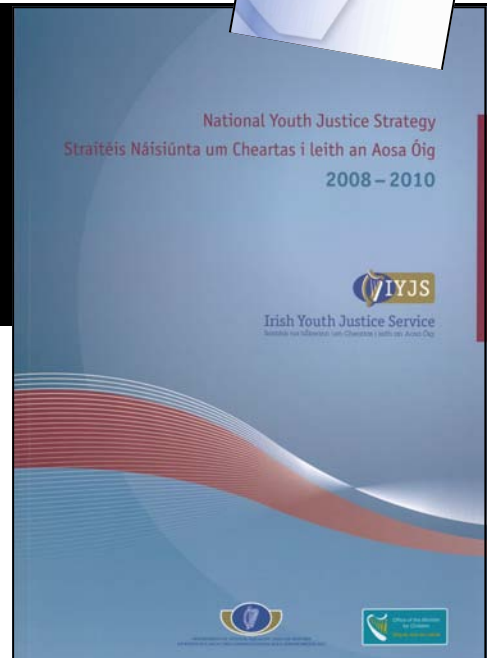
Since the creation of the Youth Justice Agency in 2003, Alice has been Director of the Youth Conference Service, focusing on establishing the framework for the introduction of restorative youth justice and overseeing its roll-out across Northern Ireland. This extensive roll-out programme was completed in December 2006. For over 20 years Alice worked in the Criminal Justice System through the Probation Board of Northern Ireland. In the subsequent five years, Alice was Director of the Community Safety Centre. Alice is also a Director of the Criminal Justice National Training Organisation.

# IYJS Conference 2010 Special



## Implementation of the National Youth Justice Strategy

*The National Youth Justice Strategy 2008-2010 was launched in March 2008. The Strategy is being progressed at a national level by the National Youth Justice Oversight Group. The IYJS Conference 2010 provides an opportunity to reflect on progress after two years and plan future youth justice policy.*



The IYJS Conference 2010 takes place two years after the launch of the National Youth Justice Strategy. This is an opportune time to review the progress made on implementing the Strategy, re-examine our priorities and plan the future direction of youth justice policy.

The Strategy provides a coordinated approach among Departments and agencies working in the youth justice system. It was developed in consultation with key stakeholders in the area and is based on the principles of the Children Act 2001. It is based around five high level goals (see box).

The Strategy is being progressed at a national level by the National Youth Justice Oversight Group which was established to facilitate the cross-agency collaboration required. The Oversight Group reported progress on the implementation of the Strategy to the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, Children and Integration in October 2009.

Overall, it can be said that significant progress has been made by the key stakeholders to fulfil the various objectives under each of the High Level Goals. This

demonstrates the commitment which has been shown to implementing the Strategy. The net effect of this effort is to create a more co-ordinated strategic approach, make better use of existing resources, create positive working relationships amongst stakeholders and deliver better outcomes for children in trouble with the law and for the community in general.

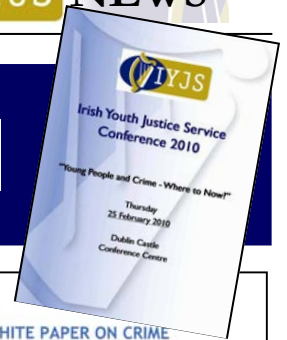
Some of the key achievements to date include:

- The appointment of specialist IYJS staff including a Head of Young Offender Programmes, a Head of Mental Health and an accountant.
- The launch of the IYJS website, the IYJS Newsletter and information leaflets.
- The part ESF funded GYDP Human Capital Investment Programme provides support in accessing further education and training.
- Significant work has been carried out in reviewing and improving the performance of Garda Youth Diversion Projects.
- Four Children's Services Committees have been established.
- New National Children Detention Facilities are to be built on the Oberstown campus.

### High Level Goals of the Strategy

1. To provide leadership and build public confidence in the youth justice system.
2. To work to reduce offending by diverting young people from offending behaviour.
3. To promote the greater use of community sanctions and initiatives to deal with young people who offend.
4. To provide a safe and secure environment for detained children which will assist their early re-integration into the community.
5. To strengthen and develop information and data sources in the youth justice system to support more effective policies and services.

# IYJS Conference 2010 Special



## Consultation on Criminal Sanctions launched as part of White Paper on Crime process

*In January 2009, the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform announced that the commencement of work on a process designed to lead to a White Paper on Crime. The White Paper, due to be completed in 2011, will set out the overall policy framework within which measures to tackle crime will be implemented well into the future.*

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr Dermot Ahern TD, has launched the second in a series of discussion documents leading to the production of a White Paper on Crime. It builds on the consultation process commenced last year, including the first discussion document which dealt with Crime Prevention (covered in the last issue of IYJS News).

The latest document deals with Criminal Sanctions and is principally aimed at the general reader. Its purpose is to provide an outline of the current range of penalties available in Irish law, to seek views as to how well these measures are working, and to ask how policy

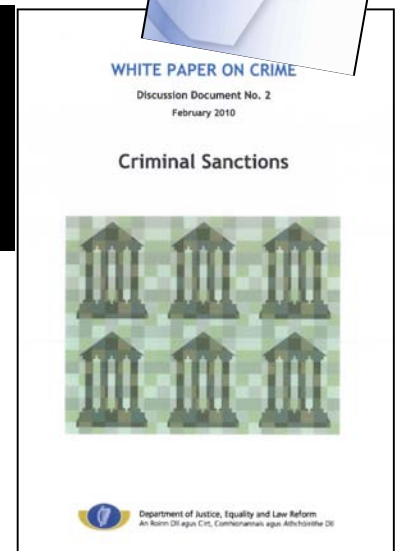
and practice on their use can be developed and implemented.

Announcing the publication of the document, the Minister said, "The public response to the White Paper on Crime process has been very encouraging to date and I would encourage members of the public, community groups and others concerned with criminal justice to provide their views on the questions raised in this latest discussion paper. The use of sanctions, whether in the form of imprisonment or non-custodial penalties, plays an essential part in responding to crime and in protecting the public from further harm. How this is best achieved in practice, however, gives rise to

many complex issues. It is therefore important that our long-term planning in this field has a well-founded basis and takes into account an inclusive spectrum of views, with the protection of the public as the pre-eminent consideration."

In addition to inviting written submissions on the issues raised, it is also planned to hold a consultative seminar with a broad range of participants, including community groups, criminal justice experts and other relevant stakeholders.

***The closing date for receipt of submissions on this document is end June, 2010.***



## Hull Centre for Restorative Practices

Hull, led by the Hull Centre for Restorative Practices (HCRP) and the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP), is attempting to become a 'restorative city.' The goal is for everyone who works with children and youth in Hull, one of England's most economically and socially deprived cities, to employ restorative practices.

"Restorative practices", an idea pioneered in Pennsylvania, USA, was first used in Hull at Collingwood Primary

School and Endeavour High School in 2007. It involves training teachers in specific methods to deal with misbehaviour, including running "circles" where staff, pupils and parents are encouraged to deal with problems face to face.

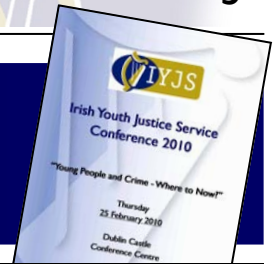
At Endeavour, the programme reduced incidents of physical abuse by nearly 60% and fixed term exclusions by 45%, as well as cutting the number of staff absence days by more than 60%. The scheme was then rolled out in 7 further schools where again

there have been marked improvements including a 73% reduction in students verbally abusing teachers and a 57% reduction in pupil-to-pupil physical abuse.

Under the Hull Centre for Restorative Practice, 27,000 people working with the city's 57,000 young people will be trained.

*The International Institute for Restorative Practices is holding its 13th World Conference on Restorative Practices in Hull in October 2010.*

# IYJS Conference 2010 Special



## Priority Youth Offending Pilot Project

The introduction of Youth Conferencing across Northern Ireland marked a significant change in youth justice policy. The Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 made it, in most instances, mandatory for the Youth Court to order a Youth Conference upon finding of guilt.

This change led to inter-agency discussions between the Youth Justice Agency (YJA) and the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) in an attempt to improve cooperation and provide a more cohesive service.

The Priority Youth Offender Project (PYOP) became operational in April 2009. The project will operate as a two year pilot scheme with an evaluation at the end of this period. The PYOP brings together staff from the YJA and PBNI who work with young offenders in the Greater Belfast area and whose offending is either persistent or serious (or both). The team is led by a Probation Manager and a Youth Justice Team leader.

The aims of the project are to enhance communication between PBNI and YJA, co-ordinate services and deliver effective super-

vision and action plans, reduce re-offending, and reduce seriousness of offending.

The project will achieve these aims by providing intensive supervision and support to address offending lifestyles, increased accountability to victims and communities harmed by offending, closer liaison and integration with youth custody, rapid intervention when alleged incidents are reported by Police and closer partnerships with local communities, voluntary and statutory organisations.

## The SSP Model

SSP stands for a form of interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral co-operation involving schools and after school programmes (S), the social services and health care services (S) and the police (P).

The SSP Committee under the Danish Crime Prevention Council was set up in 1975. The objective of the SSP committee

is to guide and assist local authorities in establishing SSP co-operation in the communities.

The aim of SSP cooperation is to build a local network that has a crime preventative effect on the daily lives of children and young people.

Ways of organisation, kinds of effort,

work methods, and the circle of people should be suited to local conditions, an overall impression of the children and young people's situation and the criminal tendencies and phenomena found locally.

It is the long term formation of attitudes and the consequent behaviour that should be worked with by influencing it every day.

## Biennial 5 Nations Conference to be held in Dublin in June 2010

The 5 Nations Biennial Conference on Children, Young People and Crime will take place in Dublin in June 2010 hosted by the Irish Youth Justice Service.

The theme of the Conference will be Crime Prevention and Intervention with an emphasis on children at risk in the 12-17 year old age cohort.

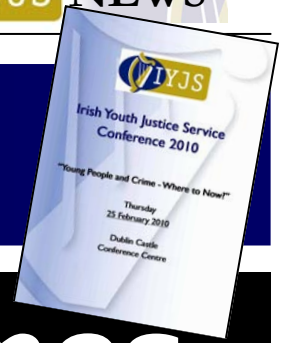
The conference was first initiated in 1998 in Sterling with the first in a sequence of biennial conferences

supported by the Governments of Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. The conference brings together policy makers, academics and practitioners embracing both the voluntary and the statutory sectors to address contemporary issues in youth justice.

Every two years since 1998 each jurisdiction, in turn, has hosted a conference. The conferences provide a significant platform for debate on youth justice policy and practice

across the jurisdictions. They provide a unique opportunity to each jurisdiction to explore policy initiatives and their implications for practice on a wider perspective. There are also significant advantages for jurisdictions in terms of building networks, sharing of best practice and providing opportunity for discussion around issues such as prevention and early intervention, anti-social behaviour, restorative justice and detention.

# IYJS Conference 2010 Special



## Improving Outcomes in Diversion

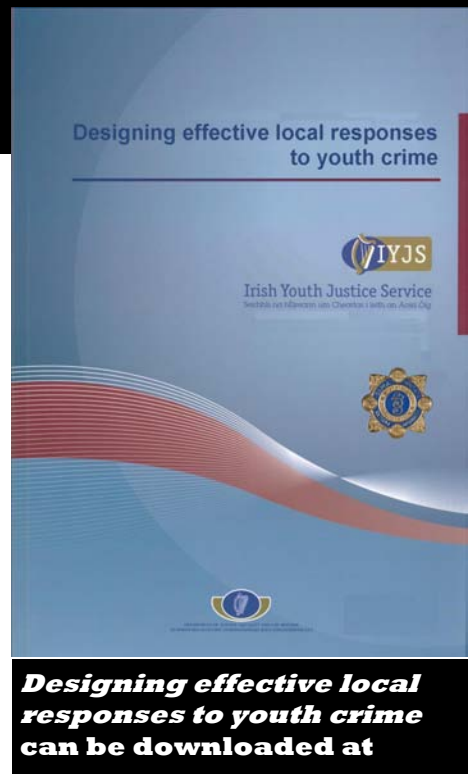
*2010 is set to be a busy year of development for the country's 100 Garda Youth Diversion Projects.*

Previous issues of IYJS News highlighted the work being undertaken in collaboration with An Garda Síochána and all 100 Garda Youth Diversion Projects to make improvements in reducing youth crime.

In short:

- A baseline of current practice was undertaken April 2008-September 2008
- The draft findings were fed back to youth organisation management and all Garda Youth Diversion Project staff in a series of regional seminars September 2008-January 2009
- The final report and change programme *Designing Effective Local Responses to Youth Crime* was published in July 2009

Since publication, IYJS and the Office for Children and Youth Affairs in An Garda Síochána have been working with Youth Organisations and Garda Youth Diversion projects to implement significant changes.



**Designing effective local responses to youth crime can be downloaded at**

### **Alignment: Making Garda Projects more responsive to local youth crime**

Outcomes-based service planning is now a condition for funding GYDPs. This new approach involves local staff consulting closely with members of an Garda Síochána to undertake a detailed analysis of youth crime in the locality served by the project. This exercise has been considerably enhanced by the direct support of local Juvenile Liaison Officers adding their knowledge and expertise. Based on this analysis, the IYJS standard annual planning document requires each project to outline how it proposes to impact youth crime in its locality. This exercise has been a considerable undertaking for project staff but it should yield benefits by ensuring greater focus for future work.

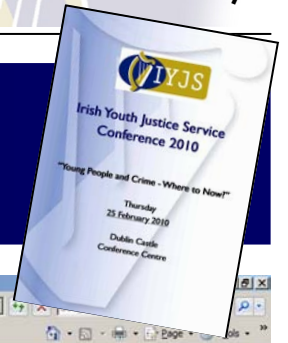
### **Capacity Building: Exploiting the talent in Garda Youth Diversion Projects and developing new skills**

In addition to improving the alignment of project activities to local youth crime patterns, IYJS is seeking to further develop and inspire future practice. The wide distribution of the 100 Garda projects across the country is a significant strength. However it is also a considerable weakness, in terms of sharing learning and championing emerging promising practice. It is difficult for instance to transfer lessons learned in Mayo to Cork or an innovative response developed in Kerry to Dublin. We are currently developing an on-line learning network to meet precisely this need. It is anticipated that the network will be accessed via a portal in the IYJS website. The next edition of IYJS newsletter will cover more news on this development.

The on-line learning network will be made available to all Garda project staff, Juvenile Liaison Officers and other relevant IYJS, Garda and youth organisation staff.

Each member of staff in a Garda Project and Juvenile Liaison officers will also be offered three training inputs in 2010. The training will focus on encouraging young people to behave pro-socially [pro-social modelling], motivating young people to engage in changing their behaviour [Motivational Interviewing] and motivating parents to become more effective in their relationships with young people [delivered by Families First, the Irish license holders for the blueprint programme 'Functional Family Therapy].

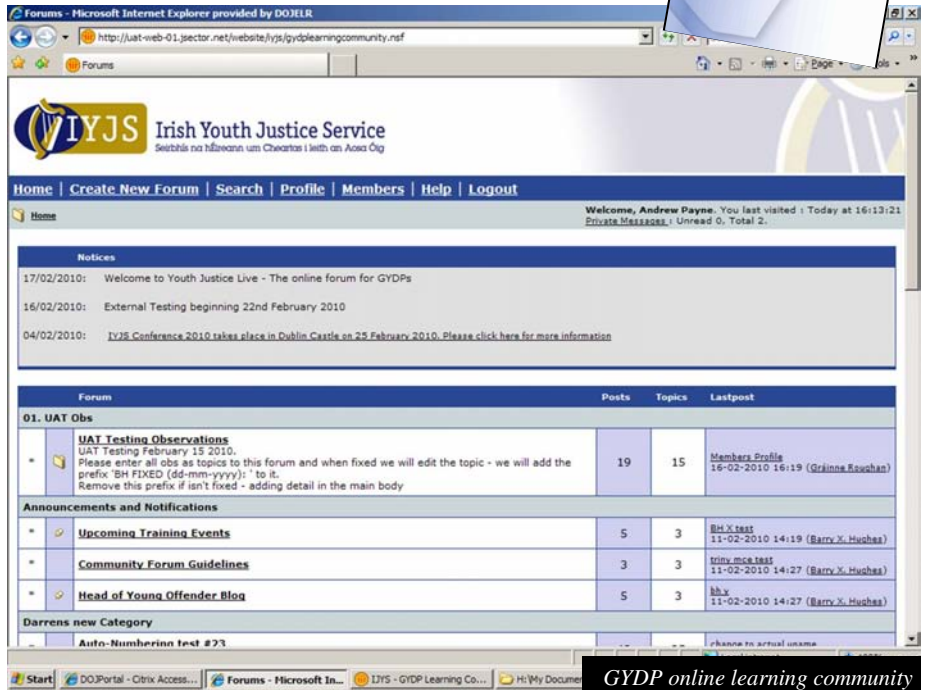
# IYJS Conference 2010 Special



## Trial sites: Pushing the limits of practice

We have also been working directly with 5 Garda Youth Diversion Projects on an ambitious project to see how far we can develop practice within existing resources. The five projects in Birr, Tallaght, Togher, Priorswood, and Ballinalsee have all committed fully to the project which commenced in July 2009 and will continue to the end of 2010. The project has been given significant support by the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána.

Our model of development consciously encourages local professionals to invest their knowledge and talent to improve the contribution that their project makes to their local community. The plan includes the delivery of almost 40 training events in 2010, the development YJForum to put practitioners in touch with each other across the country and a challenging trial



GYDP online learning community

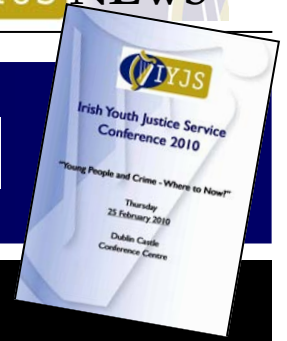
site programme to see how far we can improve the GYDP service. We want to be ambitious for the young people and local communities that we all serve and it is clear

that our colleagues in An Garda Síochána and committed partners in the 38 youth organisations we work with share this ambition.



GYDP trial site staff

# IYJS Conference 2010 Special



## The Garda Case Management Initiative

*The Garda Case Management Initiative was developed by Gardaí in Dublin's North Inner City area. The goal is to identify young people at risk and to engage and coordinate all appropriate services in order to achieve a positive outcome.*

Garda Case Management was developed to address the rate of youth offending in the Garda Division of Dublin North Central. Research indicated that this Division had a higher rate of cases before the Children's Court than any other Division in the Dublin Metropolitan Region.

The Project involves the appointment of a named Garda to act as individual Case Manager for a young person who is subsequently responsible for co-ordinating and managing the young person's interaction with the criminal justice system, the child's family and other agencies with which they may be involved. The objective is to provide appropriate interventions and services necessary to meet the needs of the child and to coordinate, manage and assess the impact of those services with a view to diverting the child out of the criminal justice system.

There are four key steps that underpin the Case Management project:

### **Step 1: Identifying and Profiling the Young Person at Risk**

The young person is identified by the Gardaí as a result of anti-social behaviour or criminality, by referral by one of the partner agencies or by way of observation and information via community policing etc. A profile of the young person is then developed by the Case Manager in consultation with the family and other partner agencies which includes all social, educational and behavioural information. A registered

interest is also placed on the Garda PULSE system linking the Case Manager with the individual child so that all issues arising with that child are communicated directly to their Case Manager.

### **Step 2: Creating and coordinating the services network**

The Case Manager takes responsibility for liaising with the family of the young person and identifying any support needs required. The Case Manager identifies, engages and coordinates the activities of other relevant agencies to support the young person and family. The Case Manager plays a central role in the court room and monitors progress and engagement by the young person with service providers, reporting to the Court as required.

### **Step 3: Building positive relationships between stakeholders**

The Case Manager builds a relationship with the young person and their family. The Case Manager then acts as the 'centre of the wheel' for all other agencies and service providers in coordinating activities and managing outcomes to ensure that a seamless process is maintained.

### **Step 4: Ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in the courts system**

The Case Manager identifies themselves to the judge and manages all outstanding cases ensuring that they are grouped and presented in a coherent fashion. The case manager updates the court on the young person's

progress, engagement with other agencies and services and the family situation. If a young person is remanded to detention, the Case Manager is notified upon their release and the process is restarted with a view to preventing the child from re-offending.

The Case Management Project has been evaluated and has been shown to be effective. The young people initially selected for were chosen as they had a high number of criminal charges before the courts and were frequently coming to Garda attention. The group that were the subject of the evaluation had amassed a total of 219 charges in a 9 month period prior to engaging with the project however, at the end of a 9 month period of Case Management, the number of new charges brought before the courts had dropped to 80, showing a reduction in recidivism of 64%.

Gardaí who were interviewed as part of the evaluation process indicated that Case Management was time consuming but was effective in dealing with young offenders and children at risk. The reduction in the number of charges before the courts and the coordination and management of issues brought and presented before the court has also resulted in very favourable comment from the judiciary.

Following the review and the subsequent report, the Garda Commissioner has directed that Juvenile Case Management be rolled out in all of the Dublin Metropolitan Region (5 new Divisions), Cork and Limerick.





# IYJS Conference 2010 Special



## Development of new national children detention facilities

*Planning work is well underway for the new national detention facilities to be developed at the Oberstown campus.*

The use of detention for a child is a last resort. The Children Act 2001, as amended, requires that all other avenues be explored before a child is sent into custody.

Boys aged under 16 and girls under 18 at the time of being remanded or committed by the Courts are held in a children detention school. Boys aged 16 or 17 years of age at the time of being remanded or committed are detained in St Patrick's Institution under the aegis of the Irish Prison Service.

In March 2008 the Government approved the development of a National Detention Facility on the existing State-owned Oberstown Campus for all children under the age of 18 years remanded or committed by the Courts. This decision was announced at the IYJS Conference 2008 by the then Minister for Children Brendan Smith.

The new facility is being developed to ensure an integrated and unified service to children remanded and committed by the

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**“The completion date for the new facilities will be subject to the planning process but it is hoped that phase 1, which will deliver 80 places, could be completed by 2013.”**

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Courts and will provide 167 places.

The Office of Public Works (OPW) has been appointed to deliver the design of the new detention facilities. The OPW has developed sketch designs and an order of magnitude cost for the project which have been approved by the Steering Committee established to oversee progress on the project.

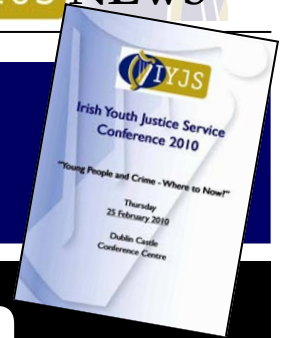
Following consultation with the planning authorities to determine the most appropriate planning mechanism to be used, the OPW will begin to develop detailed specifications and drawings in order to go to prepare the tender documentation for the construction stage of the project. Consultation will take place with various stakeholders throughout this period to ensure appropriate input to the

final specifications.

Construction will take place on a phased basis in order to ensure the continued operation of the existing facilities on the site until such time as new facilities are available. The completion date for the new facilities will be subject to the planning process to be followed but it is hoped, subject to any requirements that the planning authorities may have, that phase 1 which will deliver 80 places, could be completed by mid-2013.

Tendering for construction of the new facilities will be subject to Government approval and to the necessary funding being made available.

# IYJS Conference 2010 Special



## Refurbishment work in Trinity House School

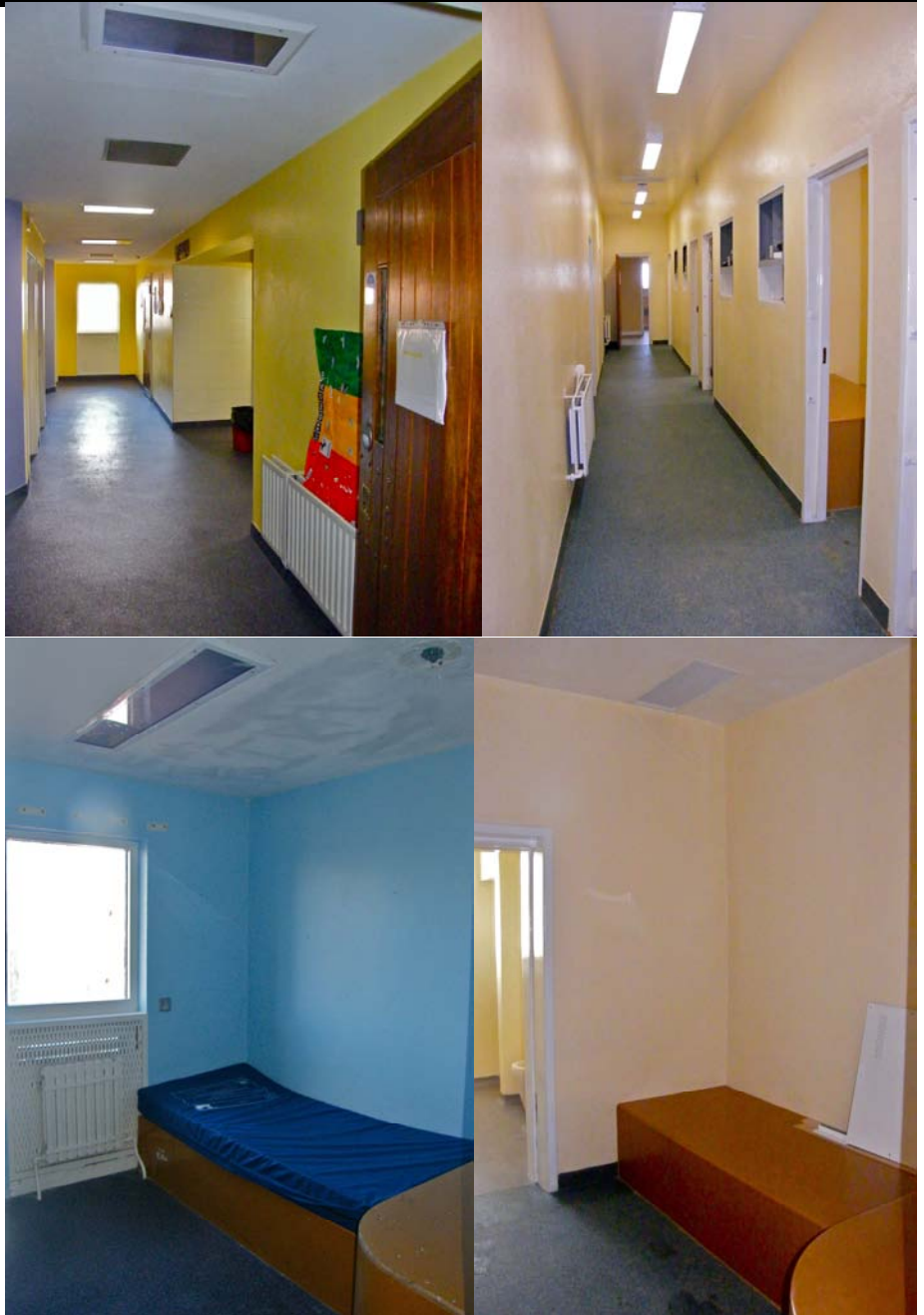
*In addition to the new development, refurbishment work is continuing in the existing children detention schools to ensure they remain operating to the highest possible standards.*

A project is currently well underway in Trinity House School to provide inroom sanitation and some ancillary works.

Work started on site in September 2009 and is expected to complete in August 2010. The project is being managed by the OPW on behalf of the IYJS and will see conditions in the school improved to meet best practice in children detention and to improve conditions generally for both children and staff.

The investment required for the project is expected to provide value for money in supporting operational efficiencies and by ensuring that the school can continue to operate as part of the new national detention facilities to be developed on the Oberstown campus.

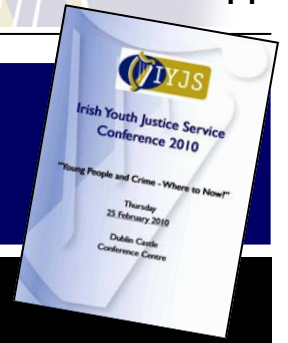
Management and staff of the school have been extremely patient and co-operative with the restrictions imposed on them in order to facilitate the works as have staff of the other schools on the Oberstown campus in enduring heavy construction traffic on campus.



**Top: Before and after pictures of the corridors in Trinity House School**

**Bottom: Before and after pictures of the bedrooms in Trinity House School**

# IYJS Conference 2010 Special



## CDS Integration Strategy

In consultation with Directors and senior management in the children detention schools, the IYJS is currently working on implementing a strategy for the future operation of the schools.

This is in line with the Government decision of March 2008 to develop new children detention facilities on the Oberstown site. Plans are being made for the future development of a new unified

detention school service based in Oberstown. It is envisaged that this will involve taking a shared services approach to building an integrated service. The intention is to build on work already done, make best use of available resources and provide for the delivery of a quality service to those in our care.

Key considerations include the recommendations of various reports including the OECD Public Management Review on the Public

Service, Transforming Public Services, and the Special Group on Public Service Numbers and Expenditure Programmes.

The IYJS is striving to ensure that the development of a unified management structure, flexible deployment of staffing resources and a shared services approach will result in greater efficiencies in the delivery of all services for children ordered to be detained by the Courts.

## Implementation of HIQA recommendations

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) carried out inspections of all four children detention schools in late 2008/early 2009 (reports of the inspections can be found on [www.hiqa.ie](http://www.hiqa.ie)).

These were the first inspections of CDS by HIQA and were carried out against the "Standards & Criteria for Children Detention Schools" which were adopted by the IYJS following the transfer of responsibility for the schools from the Department of

Education and Science.

In the main, the findings of the inspections indicated that many of the care, health and education practices met the required standard throughout the four schools and highlighted the positive relationships which exist between staff and young people.

A fire safety audit and a health and safety audit are currently being organised for all of the CDS as a result of recommendations made in the inspections. The audits are expected to

address conditions in the existing schools and develop policy documents for use in the future.

The IYJS and the schools have drawn up an action plan to identify the measures needed to implement recommendations made in the reports and to facilitate improvements identified as required. The IYJS will also ensure that there is an integrated response to recommendations which cross all four schools.

## Risk Assessment Tools

One of the high-level goals articulated in the *National Youth Justice Strategy* is to strengthen and develop information and data sources in the youth justice system to support more effective policies and services. Action 5.1.4 states that the IYJS will identify appropriate assessment tools to assess young people's level of risk and need at various stages in the criminal justice system. This literature review was completed in May 2009.

The literature review is the first stage in a process of identifying a common assessment tool for use in community and deten-

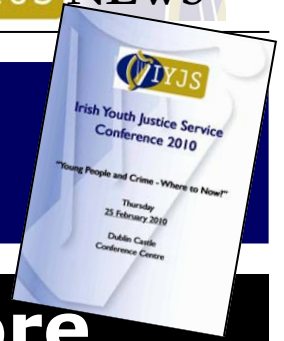
tion settings. The introduction of a formal risk assessment tool was also identified as a key recommendation for the children detention schools following the HIQA inspections.

The literature in terms of risk assessment is improving and expanding all the time. Two tools are commonly used internationally to assess the risk of general recidivism - *Asset* developed in 2000 by the Youth Justice Board in the UK and *Youth Level of Service / Case Management Inventory* (YLS/CMI) developed in Canada by Hoge and Andrews (2002). Both of these are used in Ireland; Oberstown Girls' School use *Asset* and the Probation Service

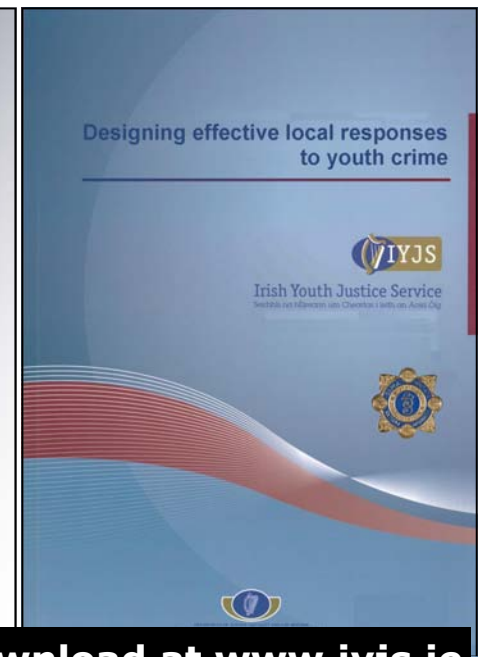
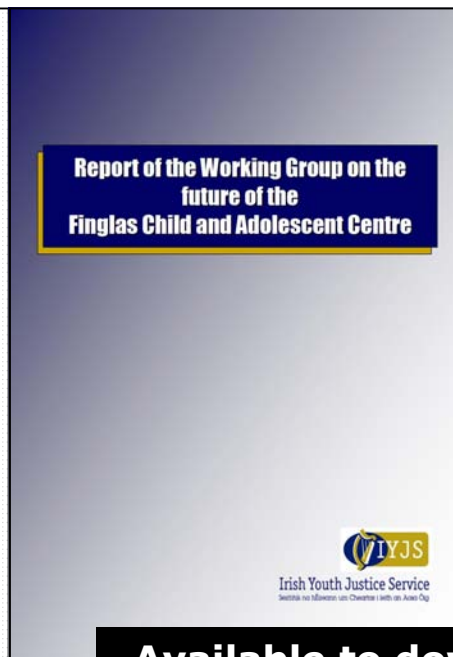
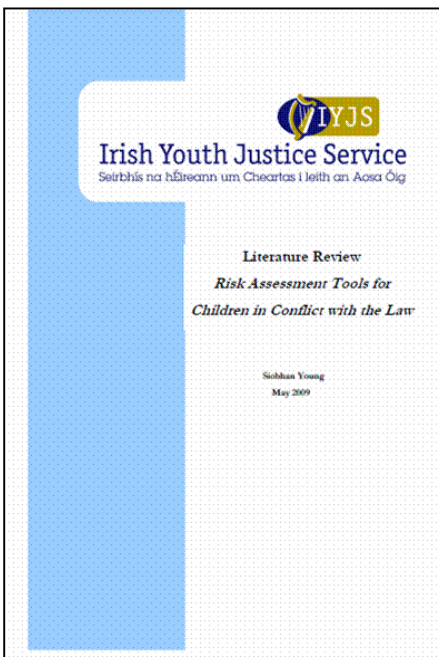
use YLS/CMI. Given that YLS/CMI is more widely used in Ireland, it is probably the more suitable tool to adopt across the youth justice sector. Moreover, research has shown that it is easier to complete than *Asset*. Use of the same tool at different stages of youth justice will allow practitioners to use a shared language across the sector and for smoother transitions when a young person is detained or discharged.

Professor Robert Hoge, co-developer of YLS/CMI visited Dublin in November 2009 and trained staff in its use.

# IYJS Conference 2010 Special



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