



## The needs and voices of Children and Young People who come in contact with Law Enforcement

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Solas Project



## Who are the Young People in contact with the Police?

- Criminogenic Risk Factors.
- 2001 Children's Act – Garda Diversion Programme.

### **2017 Snapshot**

20,000 referrals made to **Diversion Programme** with 29% deemed unsuitable.

10,607 individuals, 73% male, 27% female.

29% are aged 17, 30% are under 15

## Who are the Young People who end up in the courts and in detention?

Approx. 80% of Juvenile Crime is committed by 20% of the young people involved.

### 2017 Snapshot

10,607 individuals, 13% are deemed unsuitable for diversion **1402** young people.

67% of these have more than 6 referrals.

Dublin North Central with the most at 142, Dublin West in second at 128 and Mayo in last with 15.

Limerick 50 and Cork City 86.

## Rua Project

### Current Rua 15 Young People

Have been sentenced or remanded to Oberstown	5	All report Oberstown as having been a positive experience
Before the courts on more than one charge	15	Majority with 20plus, some with as high as 70
Early School Leavers	15	Only 3 young people with a junior cert
Addiction Issues	15	Weed followed by cocaine
One Parent / Guardian Families	13	All with mother, dads not in their lives.
Have a parent / sibling imprisoned	12	Prison can become normalised
Suffered server trauma	12	YP witnessing family members being murdered, sexual abuse, physical abuse.
Witness to extreme abuse and violence while young	14	Severe domestic violence and cases of prostitution in the home.
Live in an area of socio-economic deprivation	15	High unemployment, high visible drug abuse, poverty.
Would report having negative views on the Gardai	15	View the Gardai as against them, would feel the Gardai harass and ridicule and wouldn't help them if they were in need.

How do we engage these young people?

Trust

Relationship

Time

What are their  
needs?  
What do they  
say?

**Pillar One**

Cognitive Position Change

**Pillar Two**

Structural and Societal Problems

**Pillar Three**

The Criminal Justice System

## Rua Intervention Model

Stage	Overview	Key Actions	Engagement Level	Dosage	Average Time Frame
Determine Suitability	Time given to decide whether the young person is a suitable candidate for the programme.	Referral committee. Family engagement. Key worker allocation	Not applicable	1- 2 a week	2 months
Building Trust	Relationship between young person and keyworker is growing. Young person is responding to engagement and developing a conscious understanding of programme purpose.	Interagency work. Building family relationships. Relationship building activities.	Behavioural	1-2 a week	Month 2-6
Engagement / Personal Growth	Practical support stage where the young person is willing to acknowledge issues and engage in new activities.	Pro-active work, Advocacy and justice system support	Emotional	2-4 a week (minimum one face to face)	Month 6-24
Contemplation	Young person has acknowledged their desire to change and is starting to put plans in place.	Pro-actively providing information, opportunities and practical help.	Cognitive	2-4 a week (minimum one face to face)	Month 18-30
Lifestyle Change	Motivation and attitude growth, resulting in positive lifestyle choices. Moving towards sustainable change.	Providing new opportunities and experiences, encouraging independence	Cognitive	1-3 a week (minimum one face to face)	Month 30 - 42
Sustaining Change	Young person takes full personal responsibility on an on-going basis. Young person will seek support as needed.	Check ins and social activities and less one to one support. Planned Ending	Cognitive	2-3 a month	Month 36-48

### Discussion Questions:

1. Are these young people worth pursuing, can they change?
2. The New Youth Justice Strategy suggests a 'Never Give Up' approach, is this happening?
3. Does Ireland need a Youth Justice Board like England and Wales? Is there a reluctance to work with this target group and if so why?