

The whole system approach: responding to complexity and lessons learned

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CYCJ Theory of Change

Children & young people flourish



Practice and policy improvements



Practice Development

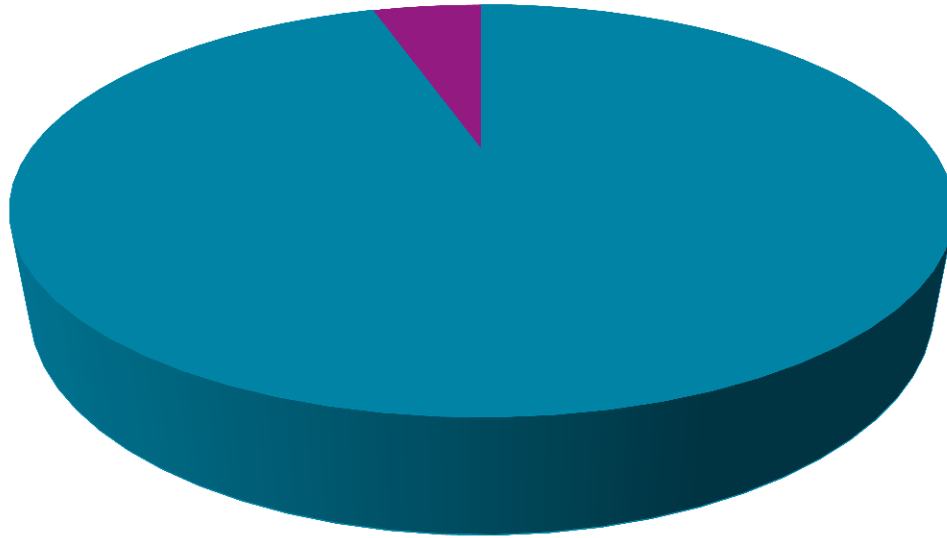
Advice, peer support,
consultancy support,
trying out initiatives,
guidance, toolkits,
training, supporting
change projects

Research

New knowledge,
synthesising research
evidence, evaluating
initiatives, supporting
evidence use

Knowledge Exchange

Capturing knowledge,
promoting sharing,
disseminating, improving
access & accessibility,
integrating forms of
knowledge



95%

**Graffiti, stealing money from home,
underage drinking etc..**

Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime

Scotland 2012-13

- 4.7% (24,000 children)
- 43,000 crimes
- 6% of all crimes & offences

(Scottish Government (2013) Scottish Policing
Performance Framework, 2012-13)

Vulnerability and victimisation

- Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions & Crime
- 4,300 children started secondary school in Edinburgh in 1998
- At 15, 23% reported involvement in violence
- Those involved in violent offending were the most vulnerable and victimised

Violent offenders were significantly more likely than non-violent youths to be ...

- victims of crime and adult harassment
- self-harming and para-suicidal behaviour
- problematic health risk behaviours
- Weak bonds (parent / school)
- Personality measures (impulsivity and risk taking)
- Bullying others
- Family turbulence
- socially deprivation
- Friends involved in offending (McAra & McVie, 2010)

100 children under 12

- 100 children under the age of 12 referred to the children's reporter on offence grounds
- 37 children where the offence referral was part of a pattern of behaviour
- 81% of these children had parents who presented risks
- 43% had mental health difficulties
- 70% educational problems
- 30% had been the victims of physical or sexual abuse (Henderson et al, 2016)

Adverse Childhood Experiences

1. <i>emotional abuse</i>	51%	68%
2. <i>physical abuse</i>	39%	36%
3. <i>sexual abuse</i>	8%	18%
4. <i>emotional neglect</i>	51%	68%
5. <i>physical neglect</i>	69%	73%
6. <i>domestic violence</i>	58%	68%
7. <i>household substance abuse</i>	49%	50%
8. <i>household mental illness</i>	39%	45%
9. <i>parental separation/divorce</i>	80%	68%
10. <i>household imprisonment</i>	19%	36%

Boys - 34% 6 or more ACE

Girls – 50% 6 or more ACE (Jonson, 2016)

The impact of system involvement

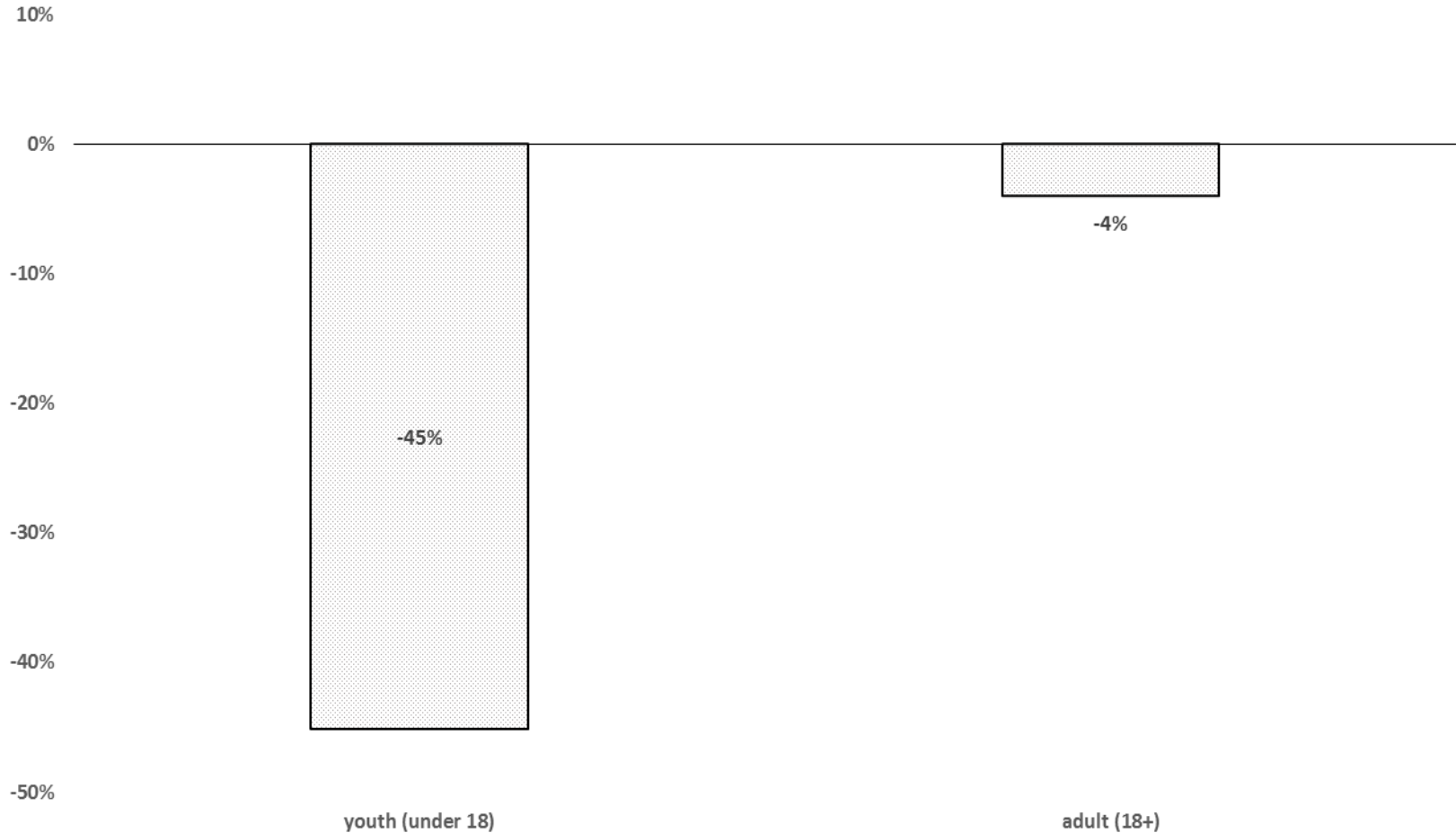
- Contact with the youth justice system is the biggest factor in whether someone will continue to offend
- The impact of labelling, stigma and the “usual suspects”
- The importance of not intervening as a ‘justice’ service and keeping children out of formal systems (McAra and McVie, 2010)

Whole System Approach (WSA)

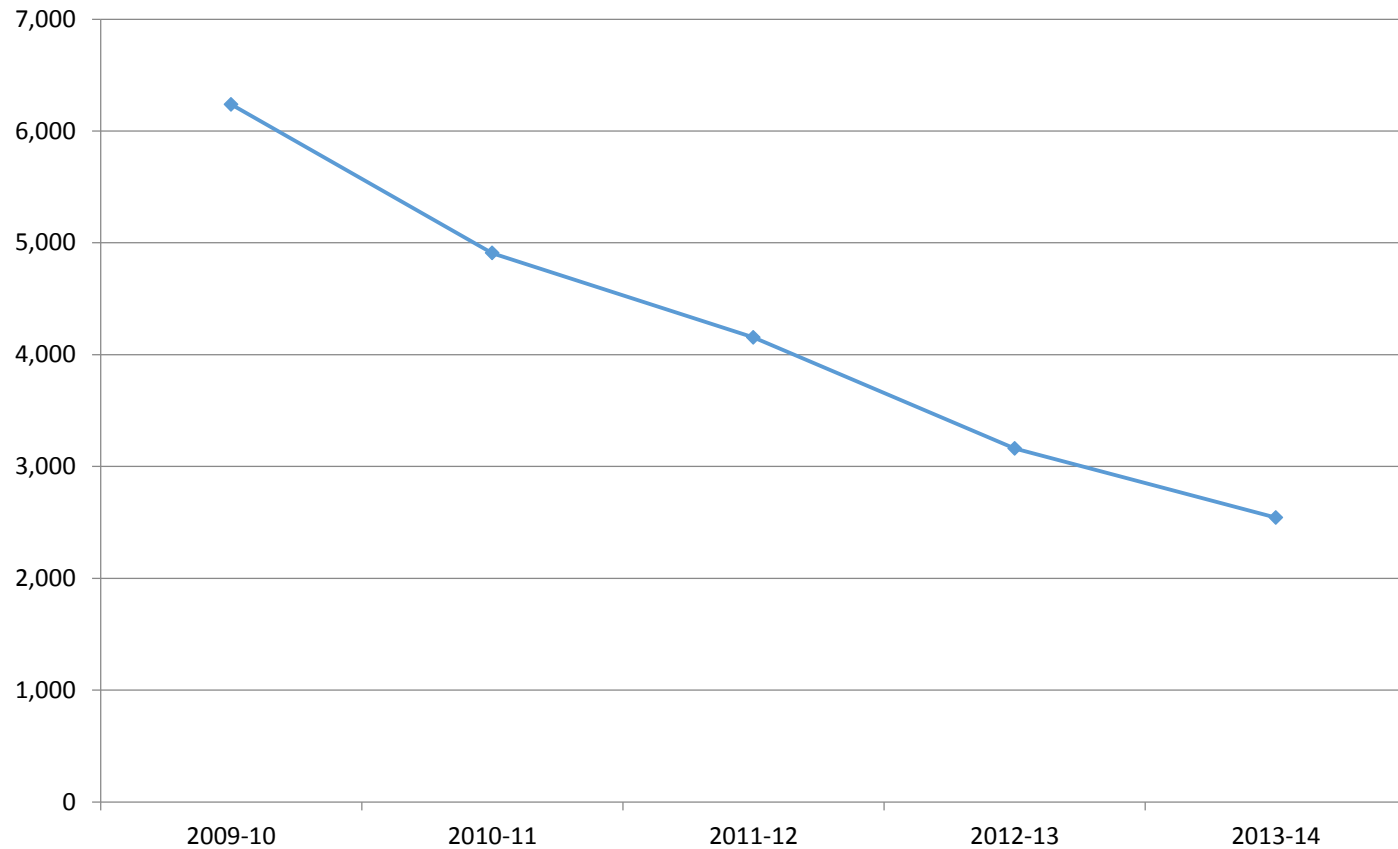
- The six core elements of the WSA are:
 - Early and Effective Intervention for low-level offences
 - Maximising opportunities to divert from prosecution
 - The provision of court support
 - Robust alternatives to secure care and custody
 - Effective risk management measures
 - Improved reintegration and transitions to and from the community

Impact of WSA(?)

Fall in detected offences



Prosecutions under 18s



(Scottish Government, 2015)

Perceptions of impact Policy

Matheson says that in relation to youth offending a change in policy is already working, with Polmont Young Offenders' Institution once "creaking at the seams" now "lying half empty" because of an improved approach, with work across the whole system on early intervention, diverting young people away from the criminal justice system at an early age and having services moving around them to address the issues that may lead them to come into contact with the system.

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Perceptions of impact Practice

- 2 evaluations highlighted that practitioners believed the WSA improves outcomes for young people. Key factors identified in this were:
- Improvements in partnership and multi-agency working, close information sharing, and shared learning which WSA galvanising factor in driving changes in relationships
- Clear commitment to the principles, goals and values of the WSA and shared ethos that all partners signed up to
- The incorporation of welfarist values in decision-making (MacQueen and McVie, 2013; and Murray et al, 2015)

Learning from WSA

1. The importance of a shared vision
...But the need for something more
2. Flexibility and responsiveness to respond to local needs and demands
...But the need for consistency
3. Layers of champions, within and across organisations
...Supported by cross-cutting champions

Learning from WSA

4. Working together

...Beyond the traditional youth justice workforce

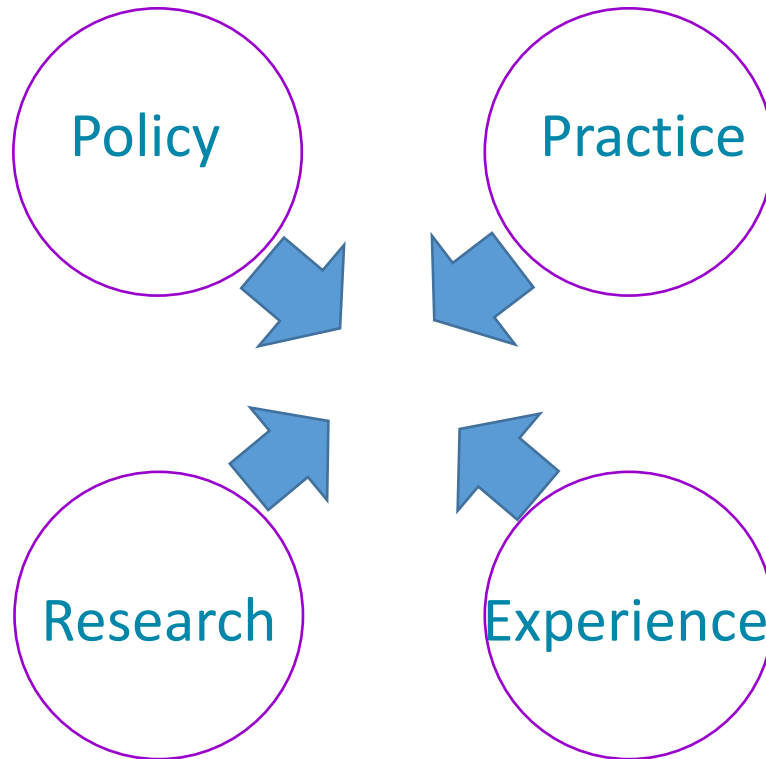
5. Supporting the workforce

...to have the skills, support and confidence



Learning from WSA

6.



7. Data and evidence

...To provide the rationale and monitor impact

8. System change

...Across legislation, policy and practice

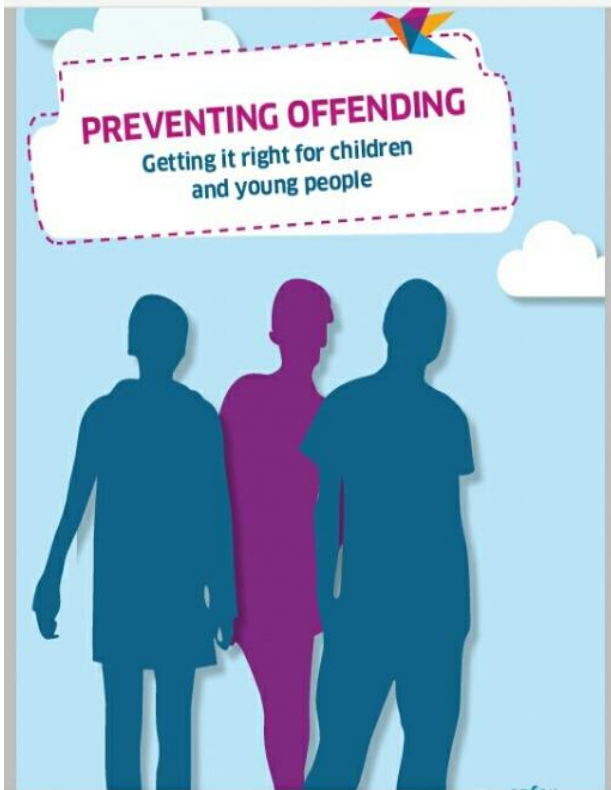
9. Victims and community confidence

...An area for joined up working?

Still a way to go with WSA

- “The hole in the WSA”
- Diversion from prosecution
- Failure to maximise the powers of CHS
- Use of custody rather than secure care
- Keeping youth justice on the radar
- Why stop at 18?

Youth Justice Strategy Priorities 2015-2020



3 main priority themes –

➤ **Advancing the Whole System Approach**

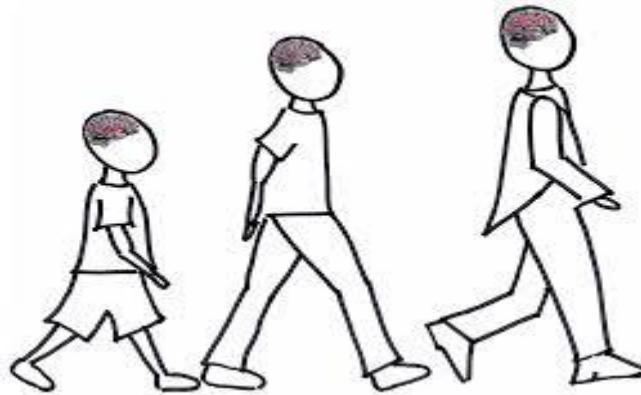
➤ **Improving Life Chances**

➤ **Developing Capacity and Improvement**

(Scottish Government, 2015)

Extending WSA to adults

- The evidence base
- Wider legislation and services
- Vision to reality



The West Lothian example

- Early and Effective Intervention
- Diversion from prosecution
- Retaining young people in the CHS
- Court support
- Alternatives to secure care and custody
- Risk assessment and risk management
- Reintegration

(Dyer and Carter, 2017)

Learning from WSA

“It’s proving to be effective and successful,” says Matheson.

“What we now want to do, and what I want to do, is to take some of the learning from that and to use that at an adult level as well within our adult prison population.

How can we make sure we capitalise on that and start to see that within our adult prison population?”

Michael Matheson MSP on WSA
Holyrood Magazine 6 February 2017

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