



Annual Report of the Committee Appointed to Monitor the Effectiveness of the Diversion Programme 2022

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Garda Youth Diversion Bureau

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Glossary of Terms

BPDT	Best Practice Development Team	IMS	Investigation Management System
BPI	Best Practice Initiative	JLO	Juvenile Liaison Officer
CBOR	Community Based Organisation Representative	KPI	Key Performance Indicator
		PAF	Performance Accountability Framework
CIC	Children in Care	PO	Principal Officer
CMI	Case Management Inventory	PULSE	Police Using Leading Systems Effectively
DMR	Dublin Metropolitan Region	REPPP	Research Evidence into Policy Programmes and Practice Project
FPN	Fixed Penalty Notice	UTC0	Unsuitable This Case Only
GISC	Garda Information Services Centre	YJOG	Youth Justice Oversight Group
GYDB	Garda Youth Diversion Bureau	YJW	Youth Justice Worker
YDP	Youth Diversion Projects	YLS	Youth Level Service

Caution

A caution is defined in S.25 1(a) in Part 4 of the Children Act, 2001:

“Formal caution” means a caution to be administered to a child where —

(a) no previous caution has been administered, or

(b) one or more than one informal or formal caution has been previously administered, and the Director considers that the child’s criminal behaviour was of such a nature that it could not be adequately dealt with by way of informal caution;

“Informal caution” means a caution to be administered to a child where —

(a) no previous caution has been administered, or

(b) one or more than one informal caution has been previously administered, and the Director considers that the child’s criminal behaviour was not sufficiently serious to warrant a formal caution.’



S. 29 Conference

A S.29 Conference is defined in S.29 in Part 4 of the Children Act, 2001:

'A "conference", in relation to a child, means a meeting held pursuant to this Part of persons concerned with the child's welfare, and such a conference shall have the following functions:

(a) to bring together the child in respect of whom the conference is being held, his or her parents or guardian, such other family members, relatives and other persons as appropriate and the facilitator with a view to -

- (i) establishing why the child became involved in the behaviour that gave rise to his or her admission to the Programme,*
- (ii) discussing how the parents or guardian, family members, relatives or any other person could help to prevent the child from becoming involved in further such behaviour, and*
- (iii) where appropriate, reviewing the child's behaviour since his or her admission to the Programme;'*



Message from the Chairperson

Dear Commissioner,

In my capacity as the Chair of the Monitoring Committee, designated by Section 44 (1) of the Children Act of 2001, I have the privilege of introducing the 2022 Annual Report. As I enter my third year in this position, I have continued my collaboration with the Garda Youth Diversion Bureau, the Monitoring Committee, and external stakeholders to monitor and improve the Program's efficacy.

The Diversion Programme plays an important role in protecting our youth and, with that in mind, I am encouraged that restorative cautions saw an increase of 37% in 2022. This year, the first Juvenile Liaison Officer Training Conference also took place, which offered practical support and training to our JLO's. These are small examples of the excellent work being carried out by all those involved in the operation of the Diversion Programme on a daily basis.

The Monitoring Committee provides support to the Diversion Programme by identifying areas for improvement, making recommendations and monitoring implementation of those recommendations to foster the Programme's effectiveness in diverting children and young people from crime. The Annual Report highlights the developments that occurred during the year, identifies current challenges to the Programme and provides statistics regarding the functioning of the Programme in 2022. Having monitored the effectiveness of the Diversion Programme through our engagement with the GYDB, a number of recommendations have been identified for delivery in 2023.

I wish to extend my appreciation to Chief Superintendent Quinn on her retirement from An Garda Síochána in 2022 and wish her success in her future endeavours, and welcome Principal Officer Rose Sweeney in her role as Head of the Youth Diversion Bureau.

I would like to thank the Director, Superintendent John Finucane and the entire staff of the GYDB, and each operational JLO for their continued commitment to the Youth Diversion Programme. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Garda Síochána Analysis Service for the provision of the Diversion Programme statistics for 2022, and to extend my appreciation to the staff of the YDPs and the community-based organisations responsible for the delivery of the YDPs, for their dedication and commitment as displayed in their daily work. I wish to sincerely thank the members of the Section 44 Monitoring Committee for their support and positive contribution to the said Committee; Dr. Sean Redmond, PO Rose Sweeney and Dr. Salome Mbugua – it is a pleasure to work with such fine advocates.

Paula Hilman -

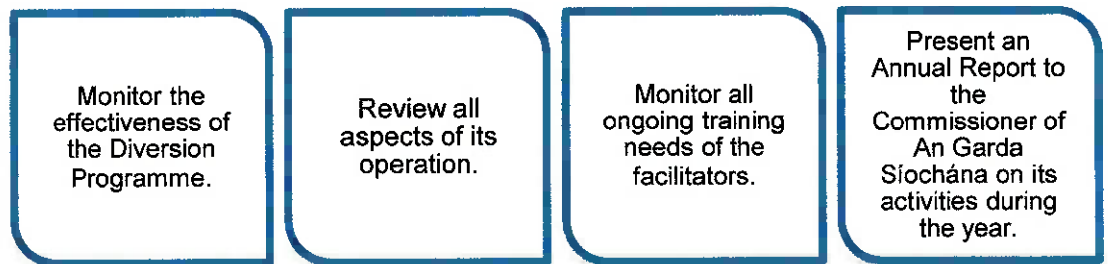
Chair of the Monitoring Committee



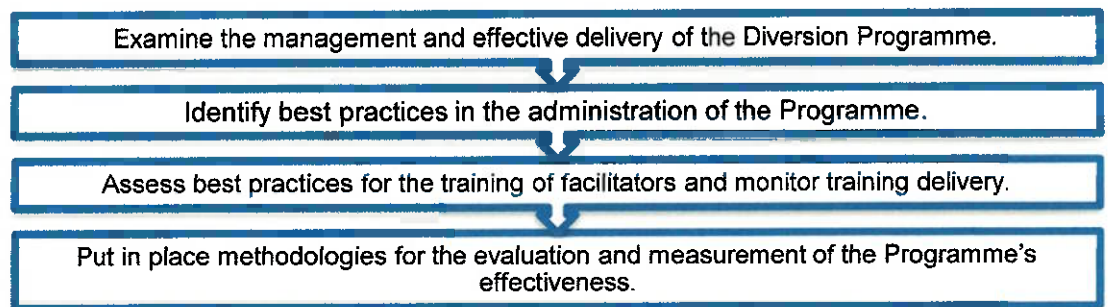
Overview of the Committee

Section 44 of the Children Act, 2001 provides that a committee is appointed to monitor the effectiveness of the Diversion Programme.

The terms of reference of the committee are to:



The tasks of the Committee are to:



The current members of the Committee are:

Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman is responsible for Roads Policing and Community Engagement within An Garda Síochána. This includes strategic oversight of the GYDB. Assistant Commissioner Hilman was appointed Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee in 2020.

Dr Salome Mbugua is a commissioner member with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission. She has over 20 years' experience of working with under-represented groups, in particular women, children, and young people, in Europe, Africa and internationally. Dr Mbugua is the founder of AkiDwA.

Dr Sean Redmond is an Adjunct Professor of Youth Justice in the School of Law at the University of Limerick. He is a civil servant employed by the Department of Justice, seconded to the University.

Principal Officer Rose Sweeney is responsible for the GYDB. Prior to taking responsibility for the GYDB in October 2022, PO Sweeney had responsibility for the Garda National Community Engagement Bureau.



Executive Summary

GYDB and Nationwide Structure

The GYDB is the national office tasked with administration of the Diversion Programme under Part 4 of the Children Act, 2001.

Statistics

Statistics for this report are provided by the Garda Síochána Analysis Service, from PULSE data as of 31st March 2023. There were 15,719 referrals and 8,404 children referred to the Diversion Programme in 2022.

Youth Diversion Projects

Youth Diversion Projects (YDPs) seek to divert young people from entering or remaining within the justice system. The 106 YDPs work with children, young people and their families in their communities, taking a strengths-based approach to support positive change, enabling them to reach their full potential and improve their long-term outcomes.

Restorative Justice

There were 568 Restorative Cautions administered in 2022, which is 37% higher than the number of Restorative Cautions reported in 2021 (416).

GYDB Monitoring Unit

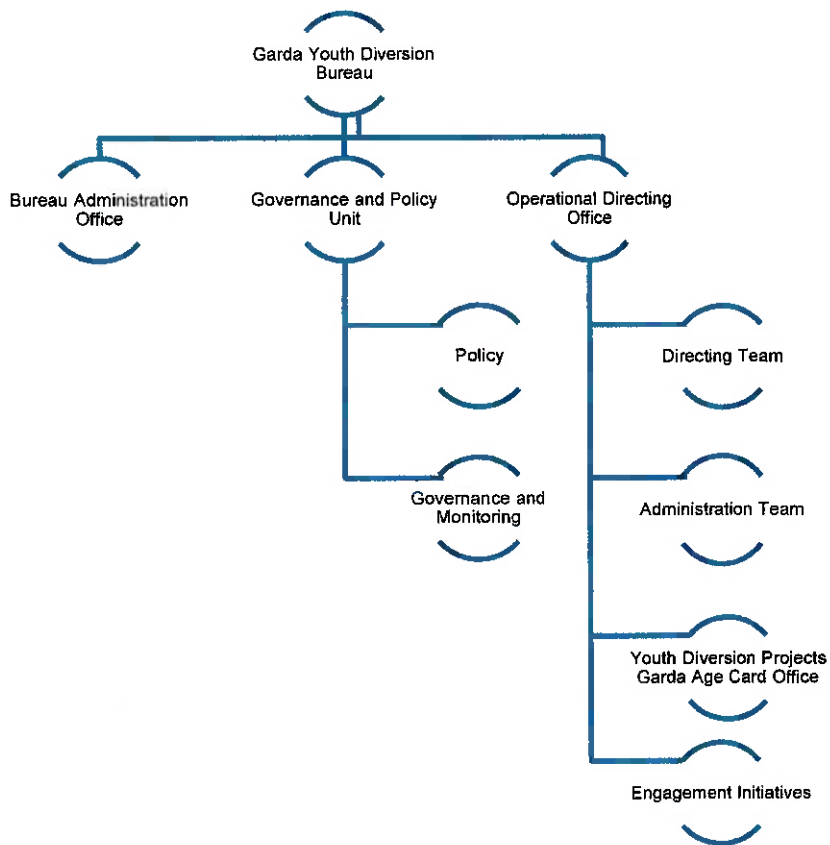
Following the examination of the Diversion Programme processes and procedures for the period of 2010 to 2017, a Monitoring and Governance Unit was set up in the GYDB to monitor and ensure progression of youth referrals and carry out other governance functions. The purpose of this unit is to support, remind, advise and assist frontline members in progressing a youth referral to a final conclusion in a timely and correct manner, regardless of whether a youth was included in the Diversion Programme or not.



GYDB Structure

The Commissioner appoints a Garda Superintendent as Director of the Diversion Programme, with statutory responsibility for deciding on the suitability of a child for admission to the Programme. The Director's role is provided for under Section 20 (1) Children Act, 2001.

The GYDB continues to work closely with the Irish Youth Justice Service, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Garda Diversion Projects Best Practice Development Team, youth organisations and other stakeholders, to identify, share and promote best practice in the field of youth justice.



Overview of Statistics

Statistics for the review period 2022 are provided by An Garda Síochána Analysis Service. Figures are based on PULSE data (Youth Referrals created in respect of youths aged 12 to 17 as of 31st March 2023).

Percentage figures in some cases may not total 100% due to the rounding of values to whole numbers.

A) Annual Referrals

- There were 15,719 referrals to the Diversion Programme in 2022 which represents a 4% increase from 15,090 in 2021.

B) Children Referred

- There were 8,404 children referred in 2022 which is 1% fewer than in 2021 (8,514 referred).

C) Suitability for admission to the Programme

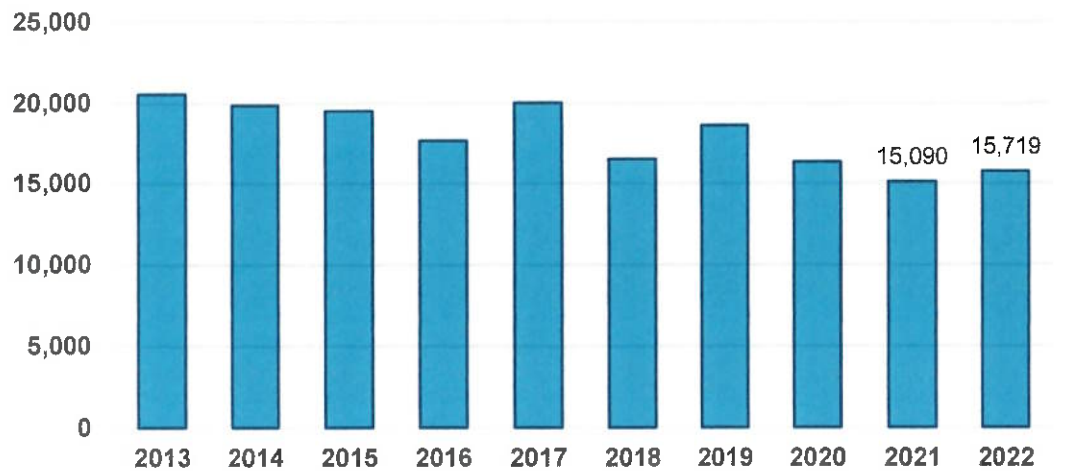
- There were a total of 1,200 children deemed Unsuitable for the Programme in 2022. This represents a decrease of 1.5% compared to 2021 (1,219).



Annual Referrals

There were 15,719 referrals to the Diversion Programme in 2022 which represents an increase of 4% compared to 2021 (15,090 referrals).

Number of Referrals 2013 - 2022



35% of referrals were dealt with by Informal Caution, 23% dealt with by Formal Caution and 4% by way of Restorative Caution. 30% of referrals resulted in an Unsuitable recommendation and Others make up 8%.

Recommendation	Total	%	%± v 2021
Informal Caution	5,480	35%	+3%
Formal Caution	3,658	23%	+3%
Restorative Caution	568	4%	+37%
Unsuitable	4,735	30%	+15%
*Others	1,278	8%	-24%
Total	15,719	100%	+4%

***Others' included 696 incomplete referrals at the time of analysis (31st March 2023) and 582 referrals had a recommendation of 'Criteria Not Met'**.*

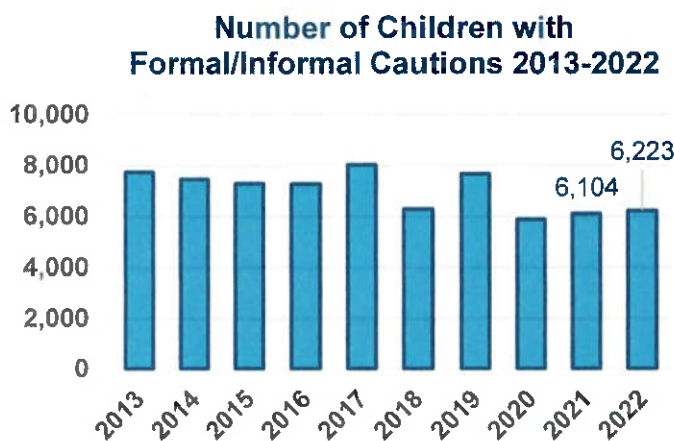
***The 'Criteria Not Met' are; no prima facie evidence exists in the case, the matter is statute barred, no statement from injured party/ statement withdrawn, dealt with sufficiently at scene, on grounds of welfare and other e.g., health reasons.*



Referral Recommendations of the Diversion Programme

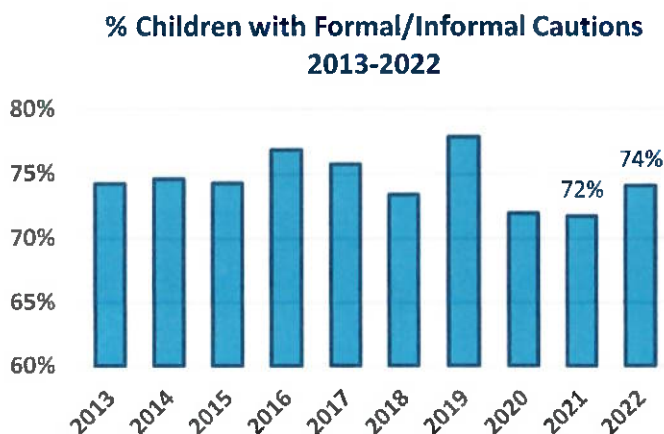
71% of Informal Caution recommendations were issued to children who received just one referral in 2022. For all other recommendation types, the majority of children were those who received more than one referral in 2022. 89% of Unsuitable recommendations were issued to children who received more than one referral in 2022.

Children Receiving Informal/Formal Cautions



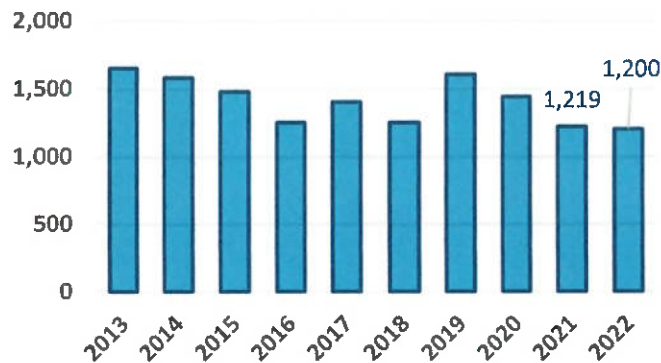
There were 6,223 children who received Formal or Informal cautions in 2022 (based on the most recent referral received). This represents an increase of 2% from the 2021 total (6,104).

74% of children who received a referral were deemed suitable for inclusion on the programme (received a Formal or Informal Caution as the most recent referral). This is 2% higher than in 2021.



Children Deemed Unsuited for the Programme

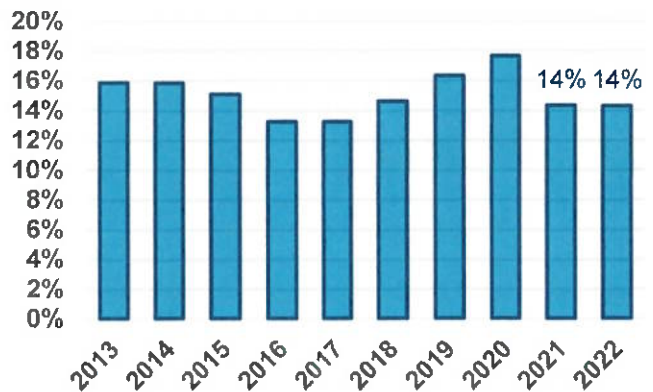
Number of Children Unsuited for Programme 2013-2022



There was a total of 1,200 children deemed Unsuited for the Programme in 2022 (based on the most recent referral received). This represents a decrease of 1.5% compared to 2021 (1,219).

% Children Unsuited for Programme 2013-2022

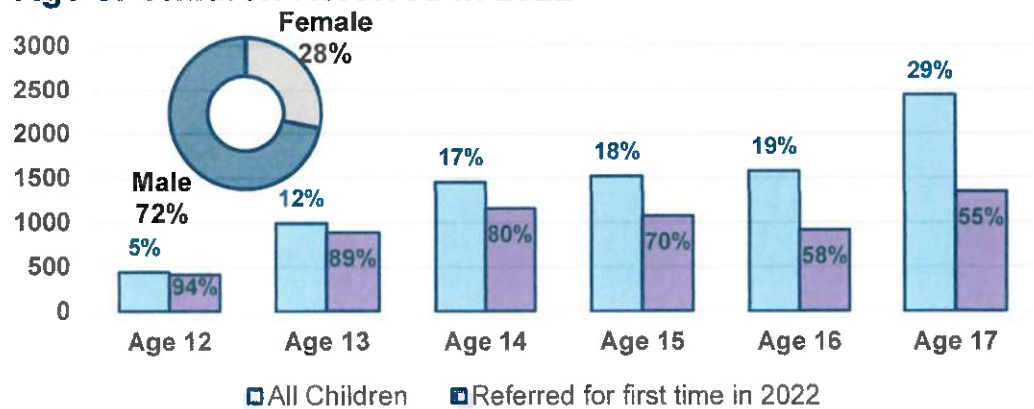
The proportion of children deemed Unsuited for the Programme was 14% in 2022, which is the same as was reported in 2021.



Age of Children Referred

29% of all children referred in 2022 were 17 years of age, while 34% were between 12 and 14. 69% of children referred in 2022 had not been referred prior to 2022. 72% of children referred in 2022 were male and 28% were female.

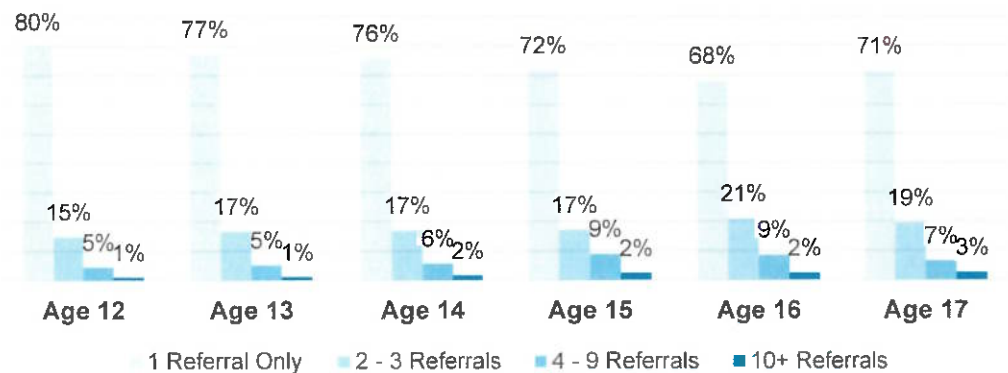
Age of Children Referred in 2022



Note: % values on blue bars represent the proportion of all children referred in 2022. % values on purple bars represent the proportion of children per age that were referred for the first time in 2022.

For all ages, the majority of children received one referral only, but this proportion decreased slightly with age (approximately 78% of 12-13 year olds and 72% of 14-17 year olds received one referral only).

Number of Referrals Received in 2022 by Age (and Total Referrals per Person)



Youth Referral Incident Categories

Incident Categories associated with youth referrals created in 2022 on the PULSE system.

Offence Category/Type	Referrals 2022	% Total 2022	Referrals 2021	% (+/-) v 2021*
Theft and Related Offences	4,719	30.0%	3,322	+42.1%
Public Order Offences	2,626	16.7%	3,039	-13.6%
Drugs	1,881	12.0%	1,927	-2.4%
Assault	1,486	9.5%	1,459	+1.9%
Traffic	1,506	9.6%	1,456	+3.4%
Criminal Damage	1,336	8.5%	1,388	-3.7%
Weapons Offences	445	2.8%	420	+6.0%
Burglary	450	2.9%	389	+15.7%
Sexual Offences*	439	2.8%	340	+29.1%
Fraud/Economic Crime	358	2.3%	287	+24.7%
Robbery	215	1.4%	167	+28.7%
Homicide**	86	0.5%	86	+0.0%
Drivers Under The Influence	38	0.2%	39	-2.6%
Court Related Offences/Bail	35	0.2%	32	+9.4%
Liquor Licensing	29	0.2%	29	+0.0%
Others***	70	0.4%	710	-90.1%
Total	15,719	100.0%	15,090	+4.2%

*Includes Child Sexual Abuse Material.

**Includes offences that fall under Homicide e.g., threats to kill.

***Includes the following Incident Categories: Animals, Gaming/Betting, Domestic, Offences Against Computer Systems, Escape Prison, Child Welfare/Tusla Notifications, Street Trading, Offences Against the State and Miscellaneous. The large difference compared to 2021 is due to offences in relation to Covid-19 restrictions which applied in 2021.



Restorative Justice

Definition of Restorative Justice

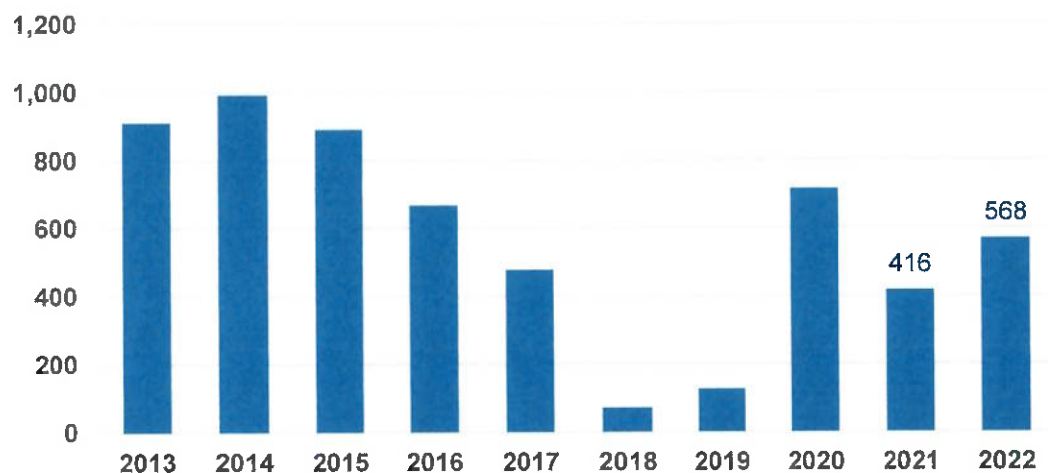
Section 26 of the Children Act, 2001 provides for the presence of a victim at a formal caution allowing a process where the young person accepts responsibility for their offending behaviour and becomes accountable to those they have harmed. The victim is given the opportunity to have their views represented, by either meeting the young person face to face or having their views represented by someone else. This means that, instead of focusing on a criminal justice outcome for a child who has admitted an offence, repairing the damage to the victim and reintegrating the child back into the community becomes the primary focus. By validating the victim's experience and by reintegrating the child back into their community, restorative justice is associated with more positive outcomes for the victim, better outcomes for the offender with a reduced risk of reoffending, and is, in practice, more cost effective and better associated with practitioner well-being and improved community relations.

Objective of Restorative Justice

Where the Director of the Diversion Programme directs a restorative caution to be administered, it is an opportunity for a child's behaviour to be addressed in a way that holds the child accountable, while ensuring that the victim experiences validation and recognition for the harm.

There were 568 Restorative Cautions in 2022 which is 37% higher than the number reported in 2021 (416).

Number of Restorative Cautions 2013-2022



Youth Diversion Projects

Youth Diversion Projects (YDPs) seek to divert young people from entering or remaining within the justice system. YDPs work with children, young people and their families in their communities, taking a strengths-based approach to support positive change, enabling them to reach their full potential and improve their long-term outcomes.

The GYDB supports the network of YDP as well as the referring agents, Garda JLOs and each Garda Chairperson of the YDPs across the network.

The Bureau works closely with all of the stakeholders, including the Department of Justice, all of the Community-Based Organisations, the Best Practice Development Team, and the REPPP Team at the University of Limerick which form part of a National YDP Advisory Committee.

The GYDB has two Garda representatives on this Committee, which provides a mechanism to collaborate on the strategic development of YDPs.

In addition, the Committee allows for the exploration of opportunities for learning and information sharing with a focus on developing practice across the network of YDPs, consequentially improving outcomes for young people and families engaged nationally.

The YDPs engaged in the following work over 2022:

- A review and publication of new Operational Requirements for Youth Diversion Projects - to take account of developments in YDPs as a consequence of Department of Justice investment in line with commitments in the Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027, which include guidance on -
 - Early Intervention;
 - Hard to Reach Young People;
 - Family Support.
- A group of 16 YDPs participated in an action research project with the REPPP project in the University of Limerick to develop an evidence-informed approach to relationship building with young people.
- Over the period 2021-2022, 28 Youth Justice Workers have completed Masters in Human Rights in Criminal Justice programmes funded by the Department of Justice.
- Together Stronger workshops focused on guidelines for effective partnership between Garda JLOs and YDPs. This workshop is delivered by GYDB and the YDP Best Practice Development Team.



- GYDB and YDP Best Practice Development Team also developed support for YDP Community Based Organisation Representatives (CBORs) and Garda Committee Chairpersons in 2022 which relates to the operations of the YDP Project Committee. This support document will be distributed in 2023.
- YDP training was provided by GYDB to all newly-appointed Garda JLOs, as well as all newly-promoted Sergeants and Inspectors.
- Restorative Justice training was provided by GYDB to all newly-appointed Garda JLOs.
- Mediation Skills training was provided to all newly appointed Garda JLOs.
- The GYDB worked closely with the Department of Justice supporting the work of Research Matters Ltd who have conducted an Evaluation of Youth Diversion Projects. GYDB supported this evaluation by facilitating engagement by way of interviews and surveys from Garda JLOs, Garda Chairpersons of Youth Diversion Projects and interviews with Garda Youth Diversion personnel. The findings of this evaluation are due to be published in June 2023.
- The GYDB supported the development of the Department of Justice National Youth Diversion Conference at both planning and facilitating stages. The conference took place at Croke Park in November 2022. Superintendent Finucane, Director of the GYDB took part in a panel discussion on the day which was moderated by Colin McAree from Foróige.
- GYDB is continuing to supporting the mapping of development and expansion of the YDP network across the regions, supporting the Department of Justice to meet its targets of full YDPs coverage by the end of 2023.

In 2023, the YDP will:

- Continue to support the implementation of areas within the Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027.
- Work alongside REPPP and BPDT to scale-out the model of evidence-informed relationship building with young people developed over 2021-2022.
- Contribute to the ongoing strategic development of YDPs through involvement in the National YDP Advisory Committee.
- Support and consult with the Department of Justice on a range of policy-related issues.



- Continue to support the Garda JLOs, Garda Chairpersons of Youth Diversion Projects and An Garda Síochána in relation to the ongoing provision of a high-quality YDP service, informed by both international research and best practice.

YDP Best Practice Development Team (BPDT) 2022 Report

YDPs work with children, young people and their families in their communities, taking a strengths-based approach to support positive change, enabling them to reach their full potential and improve their long-term outcomes.

The BPDT is a multi-agency team made up of four full time staff managed by Foróige, Youth Work Ireland Galway, Crosscare and the Kilmore West Youth Project (Independent YDP) providing support and delivering training to workers across all YDPs. The work of the YDP BPDT is overseen by the National YDP Advisory Committee. This Committee provides a mechanism for the Department of Justice, the University of Limerick, An Garda Síochána and all Community Based Organisations (CBOs) to collaborate with the YDP BPDT on the strategic development of YDPs. In addition, the Committee allows for the exploration of opportunities for learning and information sharing with a focus on developing practice across the network of YDPs, consequentially improving outcomes for young people and families engaged nationally.

The YDP BPDT is merging with the Research Evidence into Policy Programmes and Practice (REPPP) in the University of Limerick in 2023 which will support the Department of Justice in its endeavours and bring a collaborative, enhanced service to the YDPs nationally.

2022 BPDT Work Highlights

The Youth Justice Workers continued to receive training in using the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory SV & 2.0, which is the tool used by all YDPs for risk/need assessment.

Training in YDP Restorative Practices continued to be provided to YDP workers with the aim of building a restorative ethos throughout the YDP network. The training has been delivered to a large cohort of YDP workers with continued roll-out scheduled for 2023, including line manager workshops.

Motivational Interviewing training and Exploring Anger workshops were delivered to increase the effectiveness of interventions targeted at addressing local issues. Outcomes Focused



Programme Design training was delivered to enable staff to plan effectively in line with the specific needs of their YDPs.

Planning for Success (Annual Plan) workshops were provided to assist YDPs with the successful completion of yearly plans designed in line with local crime statistics provided by An Garda Síochána. The YDP BPDT provided feedback to all YDPs on their Annual Plans for 2022.

Together Stronger workshops focused on guidelines for effective partnership between Garda Juvenile Liaison Officers and Youth Diversion Projects. This workshop is delivered by the YDP BPDT and the Garda Youth Diversion Bureau.

Support was also developed for YDP Community Based Organisation Representatives (CBORs) and Garda Committee Chairpersons in 2022 which relates to the operations of the YDP Project Committee. This support document will be distributed in 2023.

Further developments were made for both Early Intervention and Family Support with the development and distribution of guidelines and workshops to support these areas of work.

A brief overview of the work of the BPDT was presented to the incoming Juvenile Liaison Officers during their induction week in Templemore.

Future Direction

In addition to the range of learning experiences referenced previously, additional areas of focus for the YDP BPDT in 2023 include:

- Engaging with REPPP to bring a collaborative, enhanced service to the YDPs nationally.
- Continuing to support the implementation of areas within the Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027.
- Contributing to the ongoing strategic development of YDPs through involvement in the National YDP Advisory Committee.
- Support and consultation with the Department of Justice on a range of policy-related issues.
- Ongoing support for YDP workers, CBORs and An Garda Síochána in relation to the ongoing provision of a high-quality YDP service, informed by both international research and best practice.



GYDB Monitoring Unit

Following the examination of the Diversion Programme processes and procedures for the period of 2010 to 2017, a Monitoring and Governance Unit was set up in the GYDB to monitor and ensure progression of youth referrals and carry out other governance functions. The purpose of this unit is to support, remind, advise and assist frontline members in progressing a youth referral to a final conclusion in a timely and correct manner, regardless of whether a youth was included in the Diversion Programme or not.

The Monitoring Unit runs PULSE KPI (Key Performance Indicator) reports that support the submission of files/reports and the delivery of cautions (by District offices/relevant authority). The Unit also follows any decision where a youth is not included in the Diversion Programme to prosecution, or, if this is not possible, then adequate reasons for non-prosecution are documented and approved by management in accordance with An Garda Síochána policy. Quarterly and Annual Reports are sent to each Region highlighting the total figures for the last quarter, the length of time since the recommendation of the Director, the number of incidents still requiring progression and highlighting any trends regarding the overall number of youth referrals with the status of UTCO.

The Monitoring Unit runs and disseminates on a monthly basis a PULSE KPI Report for UTCO – Unsuitable This Case Only – to each Garda Region regarding youth referrals where a child has been deemed unsuitable for admission to the Programme (UTCO). The report is filtered to only highlight the UTCO cases where prosecution has not taken place to date.

The Monitoring Unit runs and disseminates on a monthly basis to each Garda Division KPI PULSE Report for Outstanding Skeleton Files and for Covering Reports, and KPI PULSE Report for Outstanding Suitability Reports and Cautions requesting the outstanding files or reports for a youth referral to be progressed expediently or the delivery of a caution by a JLO.

An Inspector has been assigned a monitoring and oversight role in each Division. Each Inspector occupies the role of liaison officer between GYDB and the Division. This oversight ensures good governance, accountability, clear reporting lines and the timely progression of referrals, files, reports, cautions and prosecutions through the system. Quarterly and Annual Reports are sent to these Inspectors to assist with local oversight and governance.



In order to assist members when a decision is taken not to include a youth in the Diversion Programme, a number of supporting documents were created and disseminated. An infographic document which provides practical advice on progressing of UTCO youth referrals for prosecution or the documenting of the reasons why a referral was not progressed through the courts was updated and issued to all Districts and Divisions.



Progress on Recommendations of the Monitoring Committee for 2022

Rec.	Update
1.	<p>Convene a Juvenile Liaison Officer Training Conference in 2022.</p> <p>This recommendation is complete. A Juvenile Liaison Officer Training Conference was held on 16th and 17th May 2022.</p>
2.	<p>Support enhanced communication and cooperation between agencies and research bodies to maximise the use of data and research to inform youth justice policy as actioned in the Youth Justice Strategy 2021 - 2027.</p> <p>An Garda Síochána Analysis Service has worked with University of Limerick to examine five crime networks in local communities across Ireland creating an evidence base for the Greentown Programme. A national survey of Juvenile Liaison Officers, published by the University of Limerick, has an understanding of the size of the problem of young people's involvement in serious and organised crime activity. An Garda Síochána Analysis Service provides localised PULSE data to each Youth Diversion Project in 105 communities across Ireland to assist with programme planning.</p>
3.	<p>Promote the Diversion Programme and inform Performance Accountability Framework (PAF) administrators on their role in the referral process.</p> <p>In consultation with GISC, a training programme was developed for PAF administrators. Training was provided on two dates with approximately 145 members and staff being trained in the work of the GYDB.</p>
4.	<p>Work with Garda Information Services Centre (GISC) to develop a training seminar for PAF administrators.</p> <p>The GYDB Monitoring Unit engaged with GISC to ensure that any issues are addressed to a conclusion.</p>
5.	<p>Increase the use of Restorative Justice and involve the victim as part of the caution process under the Diversion Programme.</p> <p>There were 568 Restorative Cautions in 2022 which is 37% higher than the number reported in 2021 (416).</p>
6.	<p>Continue to engage with the Garda College to deliver presentations to newly promoted Sergeants and Inspectors on their role in the Diversion Programme.</p> <p>Presentations were delivered to 560 newly promoted Sergeants and Inspectors in 2022.</p>



7.	<p>Continue to review and monitor the Garda Youth Diversion - Child in Care Initiative.</p> <p>The Children In Care initiative was implemented under two strands:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Assessment and Review of Referrals The Children In Care initiative team dealt with offending behaviour of all such young people in examining the criminal behaviour of the children using a holistic method and have managed cases of children who have presented with multiple offences where they continue to come to Garda attention. A working group will be established to identify and address operational JLO issues with regard to the diversion of young people in care. 2) Trauma Informed Policing Pilot Trauma Informed Care in Ireland provided training by Quality Matters to Four Sergeants with a view to developing a joint partnership to co-ordinate training for Gardaí and TUSLA staff in one Division.
8.	<p>Continue to contribute to the Youth Justice Strategy 2021 – 2027 at all levels during 2022, focusing on actions requiring engagement from An Garda Síochána at all levels.</p> <p>The GYDB is represented at the Youth Justice Governance and Strategy Group by the Assistant Commissioner for Roads Policing and Community Engagement, and Youth Justice Oversight Group by the Principal Officer of the GYDB.</p> <p>The following actions were prioritised in 2022:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Overseeing the operation of the GYDB including cases referred and decisions made with a total of 15,719 in 2022. 2) Designed training and best practice initiatives regarding the Garda Schools Programme, Diversity, Restorative Justice, Mediation and Mental Health First Aid training.



Recommendations of the Committee for 2023

Having assessed the recommendations from 2022 and the updates and statistical analysis provided in the report, to ensure alignment with the Youth Justice Strategy 2021 – 2027, the Committee provides the following recommendations for 2023:

1. **Youth Diversion Projects**
 - 1.1. Contribute to the implementation of the recommendations from the evaluation of the Youth Diversion Projects.
2. **Policy**
 - 2.1. Develop relevant Directive and Policy documents with regard to Garda Youth Diversion.
 - 2.2. Assure JLO engagement with the Monitoring Committee.
3. **Training**
 - 3.1. Training of new JLOs and ongoing development of continuous training for existing JLOs.
 - 3.2. Convene a Juvenile Liaison Officer Training Conference in 2023.
 - 3.3. Hold a seminar for all Inspectors with a responsibility for Youth Justice.
 - 3.4. Training of Performance Accountability Framework (PAF) administrators on their role in the referral process.
4. **Proactive Engagements and Responses**
 - 4.1. Identify and respond to emerging crime trends and types through a proactive approach.
5. **Engagement Initiatives**
 - 5.1. Continued support of oversight and implementation of multi-agency initiatives including Bail Support Supervision, YJARC, Greentown and other youth engagement initiatives.
 - 5.2. Further development of the Children in Care Initiative to address emerging trends and issues that affect the Youth Diversion Programme.
6. **Data**
 - 6.1. Contribute to the Youth Justice Whole System Report.

