



Item 5

19th March 2026

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership

Safe Glasgow Partnership

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Youth Justice Strategy Group Update

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an overview of the Youth Justice Strategy Group (YJSG), its members and purpose.

Recommendations

The Safe Glasgow Partnership members are asked to:

- note the report
- request regular updates on progress.

1. Youth Justice Strategy Group (YJSG) - Background

- 1.1 The YJSG was initially formed in the early 2010s by the then Glasgow Community Justice Authority, with the vision of ensuring the city becomes and remains a positive place to live, a place where young people are safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, respected & responsible and included, reflecting the [Getting it Right For Every Child](#) approach to considering children's wellbeing. The group comprised of all of the partners involved in the youth justice context at this time.
- 1.2 The group developed a Youth Justice Strategy and with the objectives outlined, planned to monitor and evaluate the full range of provision to ensure that services were effective, that areas for improvement are identified at an early stage and that services are transparent and accountable.
- 1.3 Some of the supports and services across Glasgow and Scotland have changed since this time, as has the landscape in relation to the nature of risk and need of the children who have become known to services, which has been reflected in the focus and working of the group.
- 1.4 There were periods during which the group did not meet, and there have been changes to the Chair and membership over this period.

2. Current Format

- 2.1 In 2018 the group was re-established and recommenced quarterly meetings. It was co-chaired at that time by Tom Jackson, Head of Community Justice, and Peter Orr, Service Manager, Citywide Intensive Services. It is currently co-chaired by Yvonne Kerr, Service Manager Children and Families, Citywide Intensive Services, and Karen Baxter, Policy Officer, Community Justice Glasgow (CJG).

2.2 Given the policy landscape in Glasgow has changed since the establishment of the group, the membership has been reviewed and a review of the role and function of the group has commenced. Current members include:

- Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership – including Child Protection and Youth Justice
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Children’s Reporters Administration
- Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal’s Service
- Education Services
- Voluntary Sector services including Barnardo’s, Action for Children, Aberlour
- NRS – Early and Effective Interventions and Analytics Services
- Community Justice Glasgow
- Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice
- NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde – Health Improvement

3. Focus of the Group

3.1 Previously, the YJSG developed a Youth Justice Strategy for the city. The last Youth Justice Strategy drafted was for the period 2013-15, with other strategic documents for the city informing of the approach of youth justice services across the city.

3.2 The YJSG has now collectively agreed that there is a need for a revised Youth Justice Strategy for Glasgow, building upon Glasgow’s [Family Support Strategy 2024 to 2030](#), and the Glasgow City [Integrated Children and Young People’s Services Plan](#) and aligning with the changing legislative frameworks.

3.3 The Strategy moving forward will focus on our collective commitment to supporting children who come into conflict with the law through early intervention, prevention, and holistic family support. The strategy will align with national frameworks such as Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC),

The Promise, and the UNCRC, ensuring a rights-respecting, trauma-informed, and strengths-based approach.

- 3.4 As part of the strategy, a performance framework will be developed. This will support the group in monitoring patterns in offending to help guide the work undertaken by the group and partners. It will also provide a mechanism to highlight work carried out by partners, such as One Glasgow and the Early and Effective Interventions team, to demonstrate the positive outcomes they achieve for the people they work with, and the impact they have on reducing reoffending in the city.

4. Current Context

- 4.1 Nationally, the landscape has changed with the incorporation of the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (UNCRC) into domestic law via the [UNCRC \(Incorporation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2024](#). The [Children \(Care and Justice\) \(Scotland\) Act 2024](#), has introduced a phased approach to the commencement of provisions, aligning Scottish justice systems with UNCRC rights. This aims to treat children involved in the justice system as "children first," and where any child requires the support and intervention of formal systems, this is available through the children's hearing system. Where children do come into contact with the criminal justice system, it will ensure approaches are trauma-informed and appropriate to their age and stage of development. The Act has ended the placement of under-18s in Young Offenders Institutions, where a child requires to be deprived of their liberty, it will ensure that this is only in age appropriate care facilities. The incremental changes will see the raising of the age of a "child" to under 18 within the children's hearing system. It will enhance existing provisions in respect of people, including children who have been harmed and through the introduction of a single point service for victims in the hearings system, to understand their rights and request information. There will be enhanced safeguards for children within police custody prior to the commencement of criminal proceedings and place new duties on agencies to safeguard the welfare and safety of children involved in criminal proceedings.

- 4.2 The Promise Scotland was created to facilitate the change demanded by [the Independent Care Review](#). The Promise is a commitment “that all Scotland’s children and young people will grow up loved, safe and respected so they can realise their full potential.” The aim is to drive transformational change in how care and family support systems operate across Scotland, moving away from systems that can be impersonal or harmful towards ones which are rooted in relationships, family support and listening to children’s voices. [Plan 24-30](#) provides the framework for Scotland’s pledge to fully implement all of the recommendations by 2030, setting out the remaining work required to transform how Scotland supports children, young people, families, and care experienced adults.
- 4.3 The YJSG also recognises the context of child poverty in the city, and Grand Challenge 1 - Reduce Poverty and Inequality in our Communities, in the [Strategic Plan 2022-27](#). The YJSG will align with the Child Poverty Action Plan and No Wrong Door philosophy.

5. Future Planning

- 5.1 A Short-life Working Group has recently been established to consider the remit of the YJSG within the current national and local context. The group recognises the need to aim to reduce the need for statutory interventions by addressing the root causes of youth offending, such as poverty and inequalities, and providing timely, accessible, and non-stigmatising support. Glasgow prioritises the voice and influence of families and young people in shaping services, ensuring their needs are met in a culturally sensitive and inclusive manner. Collaborative networks, community-based services, and multi-agency partnerships are central to delivering integrated and effective support and the strategy will draw upon the support and learning from services which are being delivered across the city.
- 5.2 The group will focus on the work to draft a Youth Justice Strategy for the city, which will build upon existing local strategies and provide greater detail on how these will be implemented across youth justice systems. It will ensure

that there is a youth justice strategy which is comprehensive, actionable, and aligned with broader policy goals, while addressing the needs of children and their communities.

6. Recommendations

6.1 The Safe Glasgow Partnership members are asked to

- note the content of the report.
- Request regular updates on progress