

The Evaluation of The Moray Youth Justice Strategy

**Third Year Report
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Executive Summary

The Youth Justice Strategy

The aim of the Youth Justice Plan is to build community confidence by reducing the incidence of youth crime and particularly the risk posed by more serious offenders. This is a strategy which has been developed, delivered and reviewed over a ten year period, which is founded on research and which supports Government policy on reducing youth offending. It has a logical structure. It is clearly and concisely set out and should be easily understood by all stakeholders.

The role of the Youth Justice Team

The levels of intervention structure for service delivery usefully clarifies the role of the Youth Justice Team. The deployment of the team

- in assessing cases where there is a pattern of offending,
- in providing specialist programmes to meet risk factors or criminogenic needs,
- and in providing more intensive and specialist supervision for young people involved in serious harm and at risk of being accommodated outside Moray

represents an efficient use of a limited resource and an effective use of their specialist expertise.

The Youth Offending Referral Group

The YORG is an effective structure for sharing information and creating a common ownership of the problems of young people in Moray.

The Youth Justice Team's Model of Practice

As a result of the new strategy the work of the team has moved from a high intensity, crisis driven approach to a more planned and managed model. It is based upon a range of assessment systems, a menu of structured programmes and specialist expertise in working with sexualised behaviour.

Leadership and Management Arrangements

A structure for planning and accountability has been established. The Youth Justice Strategy Group which has oversight over the strategy is functioning well.

The Youth Justice Implementation Group has a critical role in the delivery of the strategy. It has taken steps to improve levels of attendance and participation. It will now adopt a more pro-active problem

solving model ensuring that the potential of its multi-agency composition is fully exploited.

Staff Development

The Youth Justice Strategy has been supported by a substantial training programme. Staff in the Youth Justice Team report that they are satisfied with the level of supervision and support that they receive.

Performance and Outcomes

The Moray Youth Justice Strategy can demonstrate substantial progress in reducing youth offending. Grampian Police Youth Justice Management Unit report that, based upon baseline figures during the year 2006-2007, the number of youth offenders have reduced by 46%, the number of detected crime files have reduced by 54% and the number of crime files have reduced by 52%.

The Youth Justice Team is engaging with very vulnerable young people some of whom are at a potentially high risk of harming themselves or others. This requires intensive and skilful interventions.

Professor Kazi of the State University of New York at Buffalo has been conducting a case by case evaluation of the Youth Justice Team's work over several years. He has found that in relation to the young people with whom the team work, Asset scores indicate that the team is effective in meeting their needs and reducing the risk of their re-offending. 71.1% of cases improved.

Analysing the frequency of offending of 184 of the young people, the average number of offences committed by the group in the year prior to intervention was 12. This reduced to 5 during the intervention. There was a reduction in the average number of offences of 7 or 59.4% during the intervention. This is an indication of the effect that the team is having on community safety. Overall 81.4% of the young people reduced their offending.

The Youth Justice Management Unit (Grampian Police) has begun to monitor the offending rates for juveniles who completed work with the Moray Youth Justice Team. In relation to the first 13 young people monitored:

- 92.3% offended during the six months prior to involvement;
- 30.8% offended during involvement;
- 23.1% offended during the six months post involvement.

Consultations of young people's and their carers' views on the service they received from the Youth Justice Team revealed high levels of satisfaction.

Progress on performance improvement objectives

The comprehensive planning and performance improvement framework has been established and is operational.

A Youth Justice Communication Strategy has been prepared and circulated. It has a clear aim, a set of objectives and activities and is underpinned by sound principles. Presentations to local community councils have been received very positively.

The 'menu of options', (a curriculum of research based programmes to address risks of offending and to meet the needs of young people at risk,) has been established and staff have been trained to deliver them. Young people referred to the Youth Justice Team are benefiting from them.

Significant work has begun to address the transition between the Children's Hearing System and the Adult Criminal Justice System.

The Youth Justice Team has increased its expertise in working with young people with problematic sexual behaviours and has introduced the AIM 2 assessment system and the G Map programme.

Grampian Police have completed a major survey of victims of youth crime. This has resulted in improvements in communications with and services for victims.

The Youth Justice Team is responding effectively to the challenge of young people with problematic sexual behaviour in Moray.

Early Intervention

The Youth Justice Team are involved in initiatives to enable schools to respond effectively to sexualised behaviour, to deliver a restorative justice approach to acceptable behaviour contracts and to reduce under-aged drinking.

Conclusions and recommendations

The Youth Justice Strategy in Moray has been fully established and structures and services have been put in place to support it. Much has been achieved:

- Youth crime continues to reduce in Moray and at a quicker rate than surrounding areas;
- The Youth Justice Team can provide evidence that they continue to reduce the re-offending of the young people with whom they engage;
- A structure for directing and implementing the strategy has been set up;
- The Youth Justice Team has developed expertise in assessment and engaging with young people with high risk of harming themselves or others;
- The Youth Justice Team can offer a menu of programmes to meet the needs of young people who offend.

This report has identified several priorities for action:

1. Develop the potential of the Youth Justice Implementation Group;
2. Address the problem of alcohol misuse among young people;
3. Evaluate in depth the effectiveness of the work with young people with problematic sexual behaviour;
4. Increase the use of restorative conferences;

1. Introduction

Ten years ago Moray Council began to develop its strategy to reduce youth crime. It was based upon a multi-agency partnership at both strategic and service levels. The strategy has been informed by the latest research and thinking on effective practice, e.g. Time to Grow¹, G Map (addressing sexual harm) and restorative justice. The Council has monitored and evaluated performance and outcomes from the start using the 'realist evaluation' methodology. During this period the government and youth crime policy has changed. The strategy has responded to these changes.

This third annual evaluation reports on the development and delivery of the Youth Justice Strategy and its outcomes up until December 2010. It is based upon Grampian Police data, Professor Kazi's, (State University of New York at Buffalo,) realist evaluation of the work of the Youth Justice Team, Moray Council documentation, meetings with stakeholders, observations of the Youth Justice Strategy Group, the Youth Justice Implementation Group and the Youth Offending Referral Group, meetings with the Youth Justice Team, Grampian Police, Criminal Justice Social Work, and consultations with young people and their carers.

¹ Chapman, T (2000) Time to Grow Russell House Publishing.

2. The Youth Justice Strategy

This section comments on the key outputs set for the Youth Justice Strategy.

(i) A clear strategy on youth crime

The Moray Youth Justice Strategy Group agreed the Youth Justice Strategy on behalf of the Smarter Theme Group of the Moray Community Planning Partnership in August 2008. The strategy supports the Scottish Government's 'Reducing Offending by Young People – A Framework for Action'. It contributes to the Moray Single Outcome Agreement particularly to the National Outcome 9 – 'We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.'

The strategy sets out five levels of intervention:

- Level 1 Support Services – offered by Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator, Health, Education, and Housing to young people vulnerable to social exclusion and not fulfilling their potential.
- Level 2 Preventative Services – young people who have committed one or two offences are reviewed by the Youth Offending Referral Group and generally dealt with by Grampian Police issuing a warning letter and offering restorative warnings.
- Level 3 Early Intervention Services – young people who are beginning to establish a pattern of offending will be engaged by the Youth Justice Team in time limited interventions.
- Level 4 Intermediate Services – young people who offend persistently will be engaged in a formal voluntary intervention or a Supervision Order. The work will be undertaken and coordinated by Children and Families social work and education supported by structured programmes targeting specific issues delivered by the Youth Justice Team.
- Level 5 Intensive Supervision and Monitoring – a highly intensive intervention delivered by the Youth Justice Team as an alternative to detention in a secure unit.

Six performance improvement objectives were set.

1. Implement a more comprehensive planning and performance improvement framework.
2. Establish and implement a communication strategy.
3. Achieve clarity on the operation of diversionary elements ('menu of options') of the strategy.

4. Assess the cost-benefit of investment in the 'gap' between the Children's Hearing System and Adult Criminal Justice.
5. To improve local practice regarding young people with problematic sexual behaviours.
6. Improve support to victims.

The strategy also addresses principles for effective partnership working, for training, communication and evaluation.

Conclusion

This is a strategy that is founded on research and which supports Government policy on reducing youth offending. It has a logical structure. It is clearly and concisely set out and should be easily understood by all stakeholders.

(ii) A clear role for the Youth Justice Team, other teams and agencies

The levels of intervention structure for service delivery usefully clarifies the role of the Youth Justice Team. The deployment of the team

- in assessing cases where there is a pattern of offending,
- in providing specialist programmes to meet risk factors or criminogenic needs,
- and in providing more intensive and specialist supervision for young people involved in serious harm and at risk of being accommodated outside Moray

represents an efficient use of a limited resource and an effective use of their specialist expertise.

(iii) A consistent framework of practice to which the strategy is committed.

The Young Offenders Referral Group (YORG) meets every month to review those young people who have come to the attention of the police and to determine what to do in each case. The YORG is multi-agency representing:

- Grampian Police Youth Justice Management Unit (YJMU) who manage the YORG;
- Grampian Police;
- Moray Youth Justice Team;
- Social work teams;
- Aberlour Child Care Trust;

- Criminal Justice Social Work;
- Education;
- Health;
- Action for Children;
- SCRA;
- Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator.

The YORG is well attended, with Health participating more actively in 2010, and the standard of exchange of information on each young person and discussion on the appropriate response is high. The Group has a robust Protocol and Procedures for Information Sharing. Attendance by children and families teams is erratic.

The YORG is an effective structure for sharing information and creating a common ownership of the problems of young people in Moray. It has become the primary method of identifying and referring young people at risk of offending. As youth crime in Moray has reduced the YORG has reduced its thresholds of intervention enabling more resources to be deployed in early intervention. Kazi's research demonstrates that referrals from the YORG is increasing (currently 41.6) and referrals from local social work teams is decreasing (currently 33.3%). Over the past few years there has been a substantial reduction in cases referred to the Children's Reporters.

The Youth Justice Team plays a key part in the YORG. As youth crime in Moray has reduced, the staffing of the Youth Justice Team has also reduced. The team's model has become more structured and evidence based. This facilitates planned interventions based upon need and risk of offending and harm. It is based upon the five levels of intervention in the Youth Justice Strategy. This marks a significant change from previous policy which was based simply on previous offences.

The new approach requires the use of appropriate assessment systems and the team has developed a high level of expertise in the implementation of these systems. Asset, a general risk and needs assessment is administered for most young people. Asset is a research based system which enables the practitioner to identify needs in a young person's life that relate to offending. The system allows the worker to score needs and to calculate the risk of re-offending. This assessment should determine both level and content

of service to be delivered in each case. Similar approaches have been designed for specific offending patterns. AIM is employed for sexualised behaviour and SAVRY for violent behaviour.

The team receives referrals from social workers and the YORG to undertake an in depth assessment over a six week period. Arising from this assessment the team may offer a direct intervention or suggest a more appropriate service.

The team has prepared a range of programmes, 'the menu of options', to meet the needs identified through these assessments:

1. Victim focused restorative interventions;
2. Drug and Alcohol misuse;
3. Anger management;
4. Independent living skills;
5. Health and mental well being;
6. Parenting support;
7. Interpersonal Relationships;
8. Self Esteem.

Each member of the team has developed a specific specialism. These programmes have been designed to address in a structured and research based way the key needs associated with the risk behaviours of young people in the Moray area.

The Youth Justice Team is responsible for assessing and managing young people who present a significant risk of harm to themselves or others where the primary behaviour is offending. There are a significant (though currently decreasing) number of young people in Moray who have engaged in sexually harmful behaviour. This, then, is an important role for the team. As a consequence the team has developed its expertise and practice in this area.

In addition to the programmes listed above, the Youth Justice Team has formed a close working partnership with the Moray Integrated Drug and Alcohol Service to provide drug and alcohol counselling to young people at risk. The team has also developed its capacity to deliver targeted group work in response to local problems with youth offending.

The Team's work on early intervention has resulted in guidance packs on sexual harm being circulated to all schools in the area and

the application of a restorative approach to Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), part of the strategy to reduce anti-social behaviour.

While there is still work to be done, the team has achieved a major shift from a high intensity, crisis driven approach to a more planned and managed model.

Leadership and management arrangements that will drive the strategy forward.

The strategic conference in September 2007 agreed to create the following structure:

1. Youth Justice Strategy Group – providing direction at Chief Officer level and ensuring links to other local planning structures.
2. Youth Justice Implementation Group – implementing the strategy at lead service manager level and reporting to the Strategy Group.
3. Youth Justice Practitioners Forum – meeting twice yearly to engage a broad range of frontline staff in expressing their views on service delivery and informing both implementation and strategy.

This structure has a clear line of accountability to the Smarter Theme Group and the Community Planning Partnership.

The Youth Justice Strategy Group meets regularly and is well led. Attendance is good. The Group focuses upon performance improvement objectives and monitors the Youth Justice Management Unit's statistics. To undertake its accountability functions more fully, it requires the Youth Justice Implementation Group to be more active and to provide regular progress reports.

The Youth Justice Implementation Group is jointly chaired by the Youth Justice Team and Grampian Police. Its effectiveness has been limited by low attendance by other agencies. This group needs to sustain its attendance and develop an active agenda. Those that do attend see the opportunity that the Group offers to share ideas on common problems and to pursue a pro-active, targeted and collective response to meeting young people's needs.

The Group should take ownership of an action plan and the implementation of projects to which it is held accountable by the Strategy Group. More effective communication between the Strategy

Group, the Implementation Group and the Youth Offending Referral Group would facilitate this.

Examples of issues that the Implementation Group could get their teeth into would be early intervention, alcohol misuse (planned for 2011), the gap between the Children's Hearings System and adult criminal justice system and sharing best practice.

The Youth Justice Practitioners Group has not been implemented. Communication of the youth crime strategy has been undertaken at divisional staff conferences.

3. Performance and Outcomes

In relation to the Moray Single Outcome Agreement on the reduction of youth crime, the Moray Youth Justice Strategy can demonstrate substantial progress. Crime figures show a steady decline throughout the Grampian Police area². Of the three authorities in the Grampian Police area Moray's reduction has been the most substantial.

Indicators	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Number of recorded crime committed by 8-17 year olds	1726	1304	1183	802
Number of young people who have committed crimes	892	724	622	464
Number of crime files committed by young persons	1468	1018	970	701
Number of detected charges by young persons	2711	1928	1864	1244
Total number of young persons who committed crime	947	692	626	511

The trends are consistent across each indicator from a baseline of 2006/07 figures.

- Number of recorded crime committed by 8-17 year olds reduced by 53.5%
- Number of young people who have committed crimes reduced by 48%
- Number of crime files committed by young persons reduced by 52%
- Number of detected charges by young persons reduced by 54%
- Total number of young persons who committed crime reduced by 46%

Since 2006 Moray has recorded a disproportionate level of offences of a sexual nature. This declined significantly in 2010.

² Grampian Police Youth Justice Management Unit

The contribution of the Youth Justice Team

The workload of the Youth Justice Team has reflected the reduction of young people engaged in offending in Moray. In 2008 the team responded to 90 referrals. In 2009 there were 80 referrals and in 2010 the team worked with 59 young people. This represents a decrease of 35% of referrals since 2008.

Work with young people tends to be focused by the assessment, intensive and time limited. Contact with most young people lasts between six to twelve weeks. The ages of the young people range from 9 to 19.

In 2010, 27 referrals were for core work on their offending behaviour. 6 referrals were for assessments of sexual harm through the AIM assessment system. 6 were referred due to acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs). 25 were referred for restorative justice interventions. Working with sexual harm which had been a substantial proportion of the team's work is decreasing. There is a gradual increase in activity relating to restorative justice. This is in part due to training and in part due to the support of the Children's Reporter. There were no young people subject to intensive supervision and monitoring (ISMS) during 2010.

The Youth Justice Team currently comprises of an acting manager, one social worker, five project workers (two of whom are part-time) and two part-time administrators. Over the past two years the team has been under strength. It has proved difficult to fill the vacancy for a social worker and there are some tasks only a social worker is qualified to perform. The Youth Justice Coordinator left the team at the beginning of 2010 and has not been replaced. While the team can cope with the current workload, there is some concern over the capacity of the team to respond effectively to an upturn in youth crime.

Professor Mansoor Kazi, State University of New York at Buffalo, has been evaluating the work of the Youth Justice Team since 2002 using the realist evaluation methodology. The results below are based on a database of 274 children in the period June 2002 to December 2010 inclusive³.

³ Mansoor A.F. Kazi (2011) Evaluation of Moray Youth Justice Team Tenth Interim Report: University of

222 (81%) were males, with an average age of 14 years; and 99% were British White. The highest proportion of referrals was from the YORG at 41.6%. 33.3% of referrals came from the four area social work teams (15.7% from the Elgin area team). The main reason for referral was their offending (60.6%), followed by sexual behaviour (9.9%).

Reason for referral

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	offending behaviour	166	60.6	65.6
	drugs	2	.7	.8
	behaviour	6	2.2	2.4
	school non-attendance	1	.4	.4
	Crisis	22	8.0	8.7
	absconding	2	.7	.8
	ASSET	2	.7	.8
	Sexual Behaviour	27	9.9	10.7
	Court Support	2	.7	.8
	Assessment	23	8.4	9.1
	Total	253	92.3	100.0
Missing	System	21	7.7	
Total		274	100.0	

A profile of young people referred to the Youth Justice Team:

- 59.9% known to Social Services;
- 56.2% had an offending peer group;
- 38% had alcohol issues;
- 33.9% had been excluded from school in the past;
- 30.7% had drug issues;
- 20.4% had a history of being accommodated;
- 17.2% had mental health issues;
- 14.6% had a history of child protection.

Typically within their families were characterised by siblings with a history of offending (24.8%), mental health issues (16.1%), alcohol issues (21.9%), and drug issues (18.2%).

The most common offences recorded were assault (37.9%), followed by sexual offences (15.3%) and theft (12.8%). It is clear that the team are working with a group of vulnerable young people with complex needs and at a high risk of offending and anti-social behaviour. They tend to be difficult to engage in behaviour change.

One method of measuring outcomes with this group is to compare levels of risk and need at the beginning of intervention with levels at later stages of the intervention. These levels are assessed through an accredited assessment system, ASSET. Assessments had been completed at least twice in 166 (60.6%) of the 274 cases in the database. Where the ASSET had been repeated more than once, a comparison of the first (baseline) and last scores indicated that 118 (71.1%) had improved, 18 (10.8%) did not change and 30 (18.1%) had become worse, confirming the overall improvement in the risk of offending in a large majority of cases where the ASSET had been used more than once.

The second method of assessing outcomes was to measure reductions in offending. Offence data was available for 184 children for the year prior to the Youth justice intervention (the baseline phase), and the number of offences during the intervention. 31.9% committed no offences during the intervention phase. Given the high risk nature of the young people this is a very positive result.

Analysing the frequency of offending of 184 of the young people, the average number of offences committed by the group in the year prior to intervention was 12. This reduced to 5 during the intervention. There was a reduction in the average number of offences of 7 or 59.4% during the intervention. This is an indication of the effect that the team is having on community safety. Overall 82.1% of the young people reduced their offending.

The Youth Justice Management Unit (Grampian Police) has begun to monitor the offending rates for juveniles who completed work with the Moray Youth Justice Team. In relation to the first 13 young people monitored:

- 92.3% offended during the six months prior to involvement;
- 30.8% offended during involvement;
- 23.1% offended during the six months post involvement.

Kazi found that those with alcohol issues were 7 times more likely to offend during the intervention than those who did not have alcohol issues. Additionally, it was found that those who were younger at the time of the first offence were more likely to offend at least once during the intervention. This strongly suggests that interventions which address alcohol issues and early intervention should be developed to further improve the effectiveness of the team in reducing offending.

Kazi concludes that the findings provide considerable evidence that the Moray Youth Justice Team is effective in reducing offences and that Moray Youth Justice Team's interventions also helped in dealing with the underlying factors that are associated with offending. The team is enabling young people involved in persistent offending to bring about real positive changes in their lives for the longer term.

Views of service users

Each year young people and their parents or carers are consulted by the independent evaluator in relation to the quality and outcomes of the service provided by the Youth Justice Team. Results have been uniformly positive. In 2010 five young people and five parents or carers were interviewed in depth. This is a summary of their views.

They were asked:

1. *What was life like just before you began to work with the Youth Justice Team?*

One young person believed that he was close to being accommodated. He was engaged in acts of vandalism, theft, fire-raising and racist harassment.

One girl said she was never at home hardly ever seeing her mum preferring the excitement of being with her friends and getting into trouble with the police. Mostly it was about being accepted and making friends.

Another spoke of being in residential school which he hated and rebelled against.

One young woman talked about going out with pals, drinking and fighting.

2. *What led to you being referred to the Team?*

Most young people said that they were referred by social workers after a children's hearing due to their offending and to see if the Team could help.

3. *What did the Team do with you?*

Young people reported being involved in assessments, working on their offending and anger, and participating in positive activities with project workers.

“Concentrating on what is right and wrong.”

“If I’m not happy, I tell him and he’ll do what he can do.”

4. *How did you get on with the Team?*

Young people emphasised understanding:

“She knows what I’m talking about.”

“Someone I can talk to. He doesn’t pass judgement or think any less of no matter what I tell him.”

5. *What is your life like now?*

Young people stated that they had learnt ways of staying out of trouble:

“If I went to the park to meet people and they asked me to do something....I would pretend that my mum wanted me to go home.”

“I just sit at home with a friend and have fun with the X Box instead of trouble.”

“Going to school. Avoid certain people. Keeping out trouble.”

“I joined the TA and things are a lot better at home.”

“I would say I’m happier when I’m in school. My education has become really important.”

“I’m a lot calmer. But I still go out and enjoy myself.”

I’ve worked hard to get to where I am.”

Some were still getting into trouble but improving their behaviour gradually.

“Last time I was in trouble was July.” (six months ago).

“I know what I have to lose.”

Mothers notice a difference:

“Whatever they have been doing has been a massive improvement on her whole outlook on life.”

“Excellent service...built up a good reliable relationship...provided activities and someone to talk to...”

“Big difference. She (worker) went above and beyond what she needed to do – not just with her (daughter) but with us.”

Views of key stakeholders

The Youth Justice Team continues to have excellent working relationships with its key stakeholders particularly Grampian Police and the Children’s Reporter who respect the team’s openness to new ideas and its proactive offers of support. They also relate positively to

the team's model of practice which not only offers support to young people but also holds them accountable for their offending behaviour.

The Children's Reporter has welcomed the Team's growing expertise on sexual offending as it increases confidence in the difficult decisions that must be made in these cases. He believes that more in depth interventions are required to address alcohol and drug issues among young people. He would also support an extension in the use of restorative justice and would like social workers to consider this option more often in their reports. Although the Reporter acknowledges that referrals have reduced, he remains concerned that unfilled vacancies or further reductions in the resources allocated to the Youth Justice Team might affect performance if there was a sharp upturn in demand.

"It is a professional service and the families they work with respond for that reason. We have been very fortunate to have this service in Moray." The Children's Reporter.

Grampian Police clearly value the working relationship that they have with the Youth Justice Team and its *"no nonsense approach."* Their collaboration with the Team has paid dividends in Operation Avon, a strategy to tackle under-aged drinking and youth disorder. This has reduced public concern over young people drinking in public places.

Progress on performance improvement objectives

1. The comprehensive planning and performance improvement framework has been established and is operational. The planning cycle is being followed and is working effectively. Accurate statistics used to review performance are regularly supplied by the Grampian Police Youth Justice Management Unit.
2. A Youth Justice Communication Strategy has been prepared. It has a clear aim, a set of objectives and activities and is underpinned by sound principles. Throughout 2010 the Council has attended 14 local Community Council meetings at which the youth crime strategy was discussed. Local people have responded positively to information demonstrating reduced youth crime. Greater coverage by the local media on positive developments would be welcomed. A conference on anti-social behaviour is being organised for March 2011.

3. The 'menu of options' or research based programmes has been established and staff have been trained to deliver them. Young people referred to the Youth Justice Team have benefited from these programmes.
4. Arrangements have been made to address the transition between the Children's Hearing System and the Adult Criminal Justice System. A programme to make young people more aware of the consequences of their offending has been prepared for those diverted from prosecution. For the higher risk a worker and a one to one programme is in place to address offending in depth.

The Procurator Fiscal has been involved in work on this issue. At present the number of young people who have been identified as falling between the two systems is not large. The problem is manageable. There is now a very active working relationship between the Youth Justice Team and the Criminal Justice Social Work Team. It is important that this initiative is supported by effective referral processes and strong management.

5. The Youth Justice Team has increased its expertise in working with young people with problematic sexual behaviours and has introduced the AIM 2 assessment system and the G Map programme. All members of the team have been trained in these approaches. One of the workers is specialising in working with sexual harm. After a period of disproportionate growth the number of young people involved in sexually harmful behaviour has decreased in 2010. An independent evaluation of this work is about to commence.
6. Grampian Police has completed a comprehensive study on support to victims of youth crime. It has resulted in a fundamental review and improvement of the services and information available to the victims of youth crime in Moray. A review of the restorative justice process will be undertaken with a view to making restorative justice more available to victims.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

The year 2010 has been productively spent in developing the Youth Justice Strategy and putting in place structures and services to support it. Much has been achieved:

- Youth crime continues to reduce in Moray;
- The Youth Justice Team can provide evidence that they continue to reduce the re-offending of the young people with whom they engage;
- The structure for directing and implementing the strategy is working;
- The Youth Justice Team have developed expertise in assessment and engaging with young people with high risk of harming themselves or others;
- The Youth Justice Team can offer a menu of programmes to meet the needs of young people who offend.

This report has identified several priorities for action:

1. Improve the effectiveness of the Youth Justice Implementation Group;
2. Interventions which address alcohol issues and early intervention should be further developed to improve the effectiveness of the Youth Justice Team in reducing offending.
3. Evaluate in depth the effectiveness of the work with young people with problematic sexual behaviour;
4. Develop an effective service for victims and increase the use of restorative conferences. The Children's Reporter would like social workers to integrate the need for restorative interventions into their assessments;

In conclusion, the Moray Youth Justice Strategy and the Moray youth Justice Team have delivered very positive results to the local community. This should be communicated to the general public and the Scottish Government. I believe that other areas in Scotland engaging with youth crime have much to learn from the Moray experience.