



# Reimagining Youth Justice

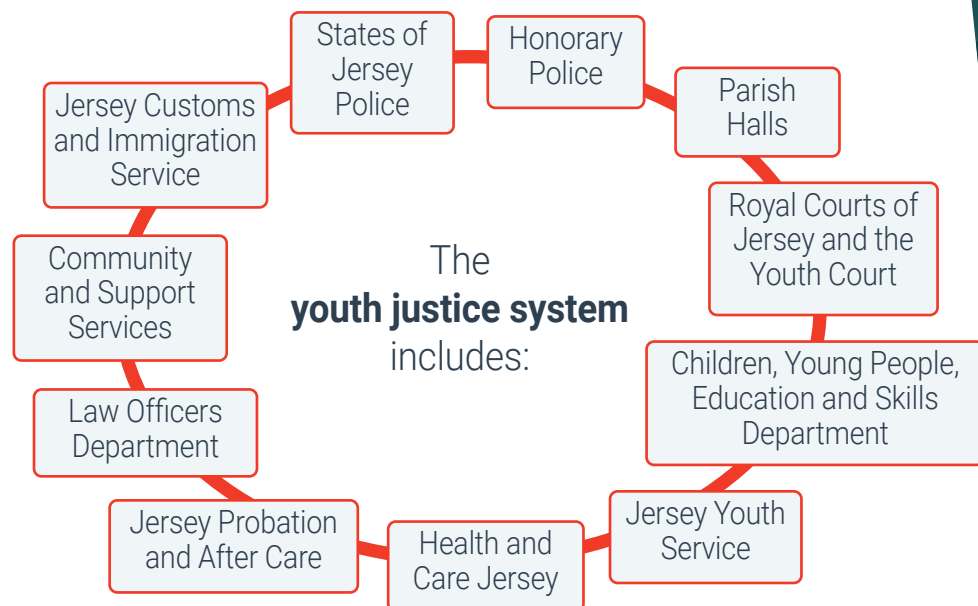
A Child-First Roadmap for Jersey 2025 - 2030

R.106/2025



# Hello

The Government of Jersey wants all children to have the best life possible. That includes children who have been involved in crime or connected to the youth justice system.



## This tells you about our new Youth Justice Roadmap and the 4 outcomes we want to achieve. It's about:

- **Prevention** — children and families have the right support early in life so they don't get involved in anti social behaviours and crime
- **Response** — children have the right support if they offend to help them not reoffend and to have positive outcomes in their lives

## Our Vision

We want a youth justice system that:

- puts children first and works in their best interests
- helps children develop positive identities
- removes barriers and creates opportunities for success
- supports children to be resilient islanders who add value to their communities
- breaks the circle of crime and stigma

This Roadmap is built upon a children first approach and the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**. It makes sure children are treated fairly and have their rights met, no matter what they have done. **Hover over to see.**



**We will make sure everyone puts children, and their rights first.**

# Working together to build a safer community

This Roadmap is part of the **Building A Safer Community (BASC) Framework** that helps services, organisations, professionals and the community work together to keep Jersey a safe place to live!

It has 2 stages

## 1. Prevention – helping people early on to stop them getting involved in crime

### Universal prevention



Islanders have the information, knowledge and support needed to stay safe

### Targeted intervention



Knowing where there are risks and supporting people in the right ways

### Community development



Building strong communities, where people work together to belong, feel safe and stop crime

## 2. Response – dealing with crime and supporting victims, witnesses and the community

### Enforcement



Investigating crimes, taking action and charging people if they have committed a crime

### Justice



Charging and sentencing offenders in courts, while supporting victims and witnesses at every step

### Rehabilitation and recovery



Supporting people who have committed crime to not reoffend and help victims and the community recover

### What prevention looks like...

#### Jack's story.

"I used to be angry all the time. I didn't get why. I started drinking with mates on weekends and staying out late. Mum worried, we argued – and I got angrier. I lost it at school and threw something. It didn't hit anyone, but that was it – everyone was worried.

My teachers stepped in. They helped me and Mum get support. I met a peer mentor who helped me quit drinking, and I started talking to a counsellor about why I was so stressed.

Now? I've got ways to manage my anger and keep myself safe. Things feel a lot better."



### What response looks like...

#### Abby's story.

"I was dating Connor. Yes, he's 5 years older than me, but he made me feel special when things were rough at home. One night, he came over and stole from my mum. After that, things at home went bad, and I ended up sofa-surfing at friends'.

Things got worse. I had no money so I started stealing, and Connor started paying me to store and move drugs for him. That's when the police caught me, and I went to court.

It was scary, but it made me see what was happening. I needed the help. I got to apologise to people I stole from, including Mum. Now I've got support, and I understand that that relationship wasn't love. I'm learning to stay safe and make better choices."

# Outcome 1:

The youth justice system works together and supports children to follow the law and behave in positive ways



## How we're going to achieve this:

➡ We will assess how we work across the youth justice system to see if there are ways we can improve.

➡ We will support community projects and programs which help children and families to develop positive behaviours.

➡ We will make sure all children, no matter their background, are involved, listened to and are given the right support.

➡ We will work to understand the children who are involved in the criminal system to help prevent others in the future.

➡ We will make sure children and families are connected to services and get the right support.

➡ We will link this Roadmap to other Government plans and policies.

➡ We will work with schools and the community to raise awareness of positive behaviours, how to stay safe and follow the law.

This outcome supports the BASC pillars





# Outcome 2:

Children involved in crime and the criminal justice system are diverted away as early as possible with the right support



## How we're going to achieve this:

➡ We will assess existing early support and our options to divert people from crime, to see if there are ways it can improve.

➡ We will make sure children get the support they need to move out of the youth justice system.

➡ We will make sure services work together to help children and families in the youth justice system.

➡ We will make sure professionals have the right training, including trauma-informed and restorative practices training.

➡ We will make sure the children we work with have support for their health and get a full health and wellbeing assessment.

➡ We will make sure children have easy to understand information that meets their needs.

➡ We will explore ways to divert and support children involved in crime ahead of the Parish Hall system.

➡ We will work to connect children with their communities.

➡ We will make sure there are opportunities for children to put things right, using restorative practices, if possible.

**Restorative practices:** This is about helping people fix things when a crime or something bad has happened. It brings people together to talk, listen, and find a way to make things right. It's about saying sorry, solving problems together, and making sure everyone feels safe and respected.

This outcome supports the BASC pillars



# Outcome 3:

**Children who are involved with serious crime or reoffend, go on to achieve positive outcomes**



## How we're going to achieve this:

➡ We will make sure the youth justice system is focused on restoring children to a positive future and reducing trauma.

➡ We will make sure everyone working in the Youth Justice system follow the Jersey Children's First Framework and Youth Justice Framework so children and young people have better outcomes.

➡ We will assess how the youth justice system supports children who are involved in serious crime (or re-offend) to see if there are ways it can improve, including how they make decisions and support children.

➡ We will look at how the Parish Hall Enquiry process works to understand how we can improve the process to support positive outcomes for children and their connection to our community.

➡ We will continue to look at court processes to ensure they are less formal and child-friendly. This includes:

- looking at new sentencing options
- making sure courts make timely decisions so young people know what's happening within 14 days
- checking how courts follow the Attorney General Guidelines to identify where things need to improve and reduce barriers in the Youth Justice system.

➡ We will check that our laws treat children as children and protect them in the right ways.

➡ We will look at how we can improve detention. We want to make sure children get the right support and reduce the amount of time they are isolated from others as a punishment.

This outcome supports the BASC pillars



# Outcome 4:

Children, families, witnesses, victims and communities recover and successfully move forward



## How we're going to achieve this:

➡ We will work together across a wide range of services to support victims' needs.

➡ We will use restorative practices, whenever possible.

➡ We will review what offences are disclosed in criminal record checks after someone turns 18 and consult on a potential new approach.

➡ We will make sure people have opportunities to feedback on their experiences.

➡ We will make sure that children and families get all the support they need from services.

➡ We will make sure professionals have the right training.

➡ We will make sure we engage with offenders, families and and court information services to ensure we use children friendly practices.

➡ We will check services are following the Jersey Victim and Witness Charter.

➡ We will work with the island community to encourage restoration in communities.

➡ We will check victims and witnesses are getting the right support throughout their experiences in the justice system.

This outcome supports the BASC pillars



# Checking it works

We want to make sure this Roadmap is making the biggest difference possible, so...



We will collect information about community safety and how we're meeting people's needs.



We will listen to the views of children and their families.



We will make sure this is checked by professionals including, the BASC Coordinator and the Youth Justice Partnership.

**Checking it like this will help us see if we're reaching our 4 outcomes and if anything needs to change as we go along.**

## Thanks for reading this

For more information you can contact: [BASC@gov.je](mailto:BASC@gov.je)

