



**ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS IN SCOTLAND**

# **ACPOS Youth Strategy 2011-14**

**Version 11  
2011**

## Contents

DOCUMENT INFORMATION .....	2
VERSION CONTROL.....	3
VERSION DISTRIBUTION.....	3
FOREWORD .....	4
1. KEY STRATEGIC DRIVERS.....	5
2. VISION AND VALUES .....	6
3. KEY THEMES .....	6
3.1 PREVENTION .....	7
3.2 EARLY AND EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION.....	7
3.3 HIGH RISK AND TRANSITIONS (GOVERNANCE - YOUNG PEOPLE WHO OFFEND PROJECT).....	7
3.4 VICTIMS AND COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE .....	8
3.5 PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT .....	8
3.6 SUMMARY .....	9
4. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES .....	9
5. GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY .....	9
5.1 GOVERNANCE .....	9
5.2 ACCOUNTABILITY.....	10
6. CONNECTING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH THEIR SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT .	11
APPENDIX A – STRATEGIC SCHEMATIC .....	12

Document Information

Document Title	ACPOS Youth Strategy 2011-14
Version	V11
ACPOS Business Area	ACPOS Youth Issues Sub Group
Publication date	
Author(s)	Sgt James Devoy, Youth Strategy Officer, Central Scotland Police
GPMS Marking	Not Protectively Marked
Reason for GPMS higher than Not Protectively Marked	
Disclosable under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002?	Yes
Publishable under Scottish Police Publication Scheme?	Yes
If NO, provide reason	
Document Review	ACOPS Youth Issues Sub Group 2014
Equality Impact Assessment	Author - Sgt James Devoy, Central Scotland Police Authorising Senior Officer – t/ACC Gordon Samson, Chair, Youth Issues Sub Group
Full EIA or Screening Document?	Full
Date of assessment	23.09.11
ACPOS Publication No.	[0050]

The effectiveness and ongoing relevance of this document will be subject to review by the ACPOS business area(s) detailed above.

The next review of this document is due by April 2014 however, it will be updated according to significant legislative and policy changes and re-released earlier, if required.

Version Control

Version	Date	Authorisation	Information
11	23.10.11	Chief Constable Norma Graham, Chair, ACPOS Operational Policing Business Area	Authorised by CC Norma Graham

Version Distribution

Version	Date	Information
11	27.10.11	ACPOS Internet

## Foreword

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2011 – 2014 Youth Strategy on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland. This strategy is grounded on the Scottish Government Strategic Objectives to make Scotland a wealthier and fairer, greener, smarter, safer and healthier country. We aim to engage with Scotland's children and young people whilst working with Government and other partners to ensure they achieve their full potential in the four capacities within National Outcome 4 to be successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

This strategy is launched at a time of significant change within our communities across Scotland, not least, due to the economic realities we all face. This will clearly impact on the public sector as a whole, including the Police Service. This raises the question, how do we continue to perform to the high standards achieved in recent years with limited resources? This question is particularly posed in respect of our engagement with and service provision for our young people who offend across Scotland.

This Strategy takes account of the Concordat between the Scottish Government and the Convention of Local Authorities (COSLA) and links through the Community Planning Process into Single Outcome Agreements. Furthermore the Strategy has considered the entitlements detailed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. ACPOS fully supports the Scottish Government's GIRFEC approach to ensure all children and young people are safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible and included.

To ensure this, children and young people need to be supported to become confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens.

I believe that we have a great deal to be optimistic about, despite the current challenges. We have vibrant communities and our challenge is to continue to engage with our young people to promote the positive citizenship which the vast majority of our young people are the epitome of. Additionally, we must work to prevent young people making life choices which increase their risk of harm and where young people have entered offending behaviour, engage with them to change the paths of their lives.

This strategy outlines the ACPOS commitment to deliver on these challenges. This we cannot do alone and this strategy emphasises the need for the Police Service in Scotland to work with our partners across professional agencies and our colleagues in the third sector to deliver genuine improvements in the quality of life of all our citizens and our young people in particular. The strategy outlines our commitment to deliver on the Scottish Government's policy with the clear focus on early and effective interventions to prevent young people being exposed to harm due to their behaviour or the behaviour of others.

Whilst the challenges we face are significant, I believe that with our partners we can continue to deliver for the young people of Scotland.

Mrs Norma Graham

Chair of ACPOS Operational Policing Business Area

## 1. Key Strategic Drivers

The Scottish Government's ambition is to put children at the centre of agencies' thinking and ensure that all children in Scotland will be supported to achieve their full potential. The means to deliver this is the Scottish Government national programme "*Getting it Right for Every Child*"<sup>1</sup>, which has been described by Scottish Ministers as the "Golden Thread" through all policy, strategy and delivery for children and young people. This approach is consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which also underpins all the work undertaken in support of our children and young people.

The ACPOS strategy supports the guiding principles of the 3 social policy frameworks which are:

- Early Intervention
- Prevention
- Tackling Inequalities

The social policy frameworks are:

- Early Years Framework<sup>2</sup>
- Achieving Our Potential<sup>3</sup>
- Equally Well<sup>4</sup>

GIRFEC is an approach to working with children and young people and informs responses based on policy in relation to the following areas:

- Preventing Offending by Young People – A Framework for Action<sup>5</sup>
- Reducing Re-offending Programme (Young People Who Offend)<sup>6</sup>
- More Choices, More Chances<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/01/3095148/0>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/24055/0069426.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/229649/0062206.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/228013/0061713.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/public-safety/offender-management/about/rr-programme>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/06/13100205/16>

## 2. Vision and Values

In responding to young people's offending behaviour the Police Service in Scotland have adopted the GIRFEC approach to ensure these core values and principles are reflective of the work we collectively do.

We believe that the Scottish Police Service can best deliver this vision collaboratively through Community Planning Partnerships, to deliver Single Outcome Agreements in a sustainable and effective way. Success will be shown in the positive outcomes of all our children, families and communities. This strategy is particularly relevant to 3 national outcomes relating to children and young people:

- National Outcome 4: Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- National Outcome 5: Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
- National Outcome 8: We have improved life chances for children, young people and families at risk.

We will also work towards the following outcomes, as these relate to children and young people:

- National Outcome 9: We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger; and
- National Outcome 11: We have strong, resilient communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.

We will also work indirectly to achieve other national outcomes as a result of good collaborative work.

## 3. Key Themes

This strategy has been designed around the key themes of the Preventing Youth Offending Framework:

### 3.1 Prevention

- Work together to deliver early years framework, ensuring the needs of the most vulnerable are addressed.
- Building on the work of the Health Inequalities Task Force, seek to ensure that all children and young people get the help they need to be mentally and physically healthy.
- Expand positive opportunities for young people through the Curriculum for Excellence, Cashback for Communities and the Scottish Government's forthcoming youth framework.

### 3.2 Early and Effective Intervention

- Embed the principles and practice of Getting it Right for Every Child across our agencies.
- Ensure that all our systems are more effective in sharing information to support identification and intervention for young people at risk.
- Develop an evidence base around what works in early and effective intervention.
- Identify and disseminate good practice, including supporting local learning partners, to develop knowledge and understanding around applying the principles and practice of *Getting it right for every child* to young people who offend.

### 3.3 High Risk and Transitions (Governance - Young People Who Offend Project)

- Develop integrated processes and services across both children and adult systems.
- Increase opportunities for diversion from formal measures (Children's Hearing and Prosecution).
- Develop and introduce a range of evidence based approaches and programmes for community alternatives to secure care and custody.
- Improve re-integration from secure care and prison towards community based orders, back into the community.

### **3.4 Victims and Community Confidence**

- Develop an evidence base around effective interventions with young victims and strengthen support to all victims of youth crime.
- Continue to work as partners to demonstrate the potential benefits that can be achieved in certain circumstances by adopting a restorative approach to youth offending.
- Address issues around media perceptions of young people through the Government's Youth Framework.
- Promote positive messages about young people and support engagement with communities, including opportunities for intergenerational communication.

### **3.5 Planning and Performance Improvement**

- Developing a voluntary framework for management information to support work to tackle offending by young people, populated by national and local information. This will set out the kind of information that local areas might want to consider in planning, commissioning and managing services.
- Improving the quality and availability of national management information relevant to this agenda.
- Supporting the dissemination and analysis of comparative performance information. This is not about league tables, but helping local areas to identify their strengths and areas for improvement and access good practice.
- Supporting the development and dissemination of the evidence base for work to tackle offending by young people through the effective use of national analytical resources, in consultation with stakeholders.
- Ensuring that the inspection regime for relevant services reflects the objectives set out in this framework, while minimising the bureaucratic burden on agencies, linking to the follow-up to the Crerar review as appropriate.

### **3.6 Summary**

- Whilst ACPOS acknowledge that the Scottish Police Service have a vital role to play in all 5 key areas of the national Preventing Youth Offending Framework, it should be emphasised that our primary area of responsibility will be in facilitating Early and Effective Intervention across Scotland. This work is ongoing with the principles learned allowing the further development of Managing High Risk and Transitions which will also be a key focus for ACPOS over the life of this Strategy. Working with partners to deliver in these areas we will be able to inform and contribute to the crucial work under prevention in order that young people do not enter into offending behaviour.
- Whilst continuing and developing our partnership commitment across all key themes we will have a particular emphasis on these areas, ensuring the outcome focus of this work is reflected in our contribution to the Planning and Performance Improvement Framework.

## **4. Strategic Priorities**

This strategy promotes a refreshed approach to supporting children and young people in the context of the National and Local Government Concordat and Single Outcome Agreements. It aims to provide a set of common principles for delivery of our key themes.

The strategy has been informed by the priorities of the Scottish Strategic Assessment 2011/15.

## **5. Governance and Accountability**

### **5.1 Governance**

Overall strategic governance rests with ACPOS Council, which consists of the 8 Chief Constables and the Chief Executive of the Scottish Police Services Authority (SPSA). There are business areas established which report to the ACPOS Council for the various areas of ACPOS Business.

Operational Policing Business Area has responsibility for Youth Issues. The Youth Issues Sub Group of the Operational Policing Business Area consists of the Youth representatives of the 8 Scottish Forces and representatives of wider groups including the Scottish Government, Youthlink Scotland, Youngscot and the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration.

Through this structure ACPOS monitors the delivery of the national vision, ensuring that initiatives are both fit for purpose and comply with national policy whilst meeting the local needs of communities across Scotland.

## 5.2 Accountability

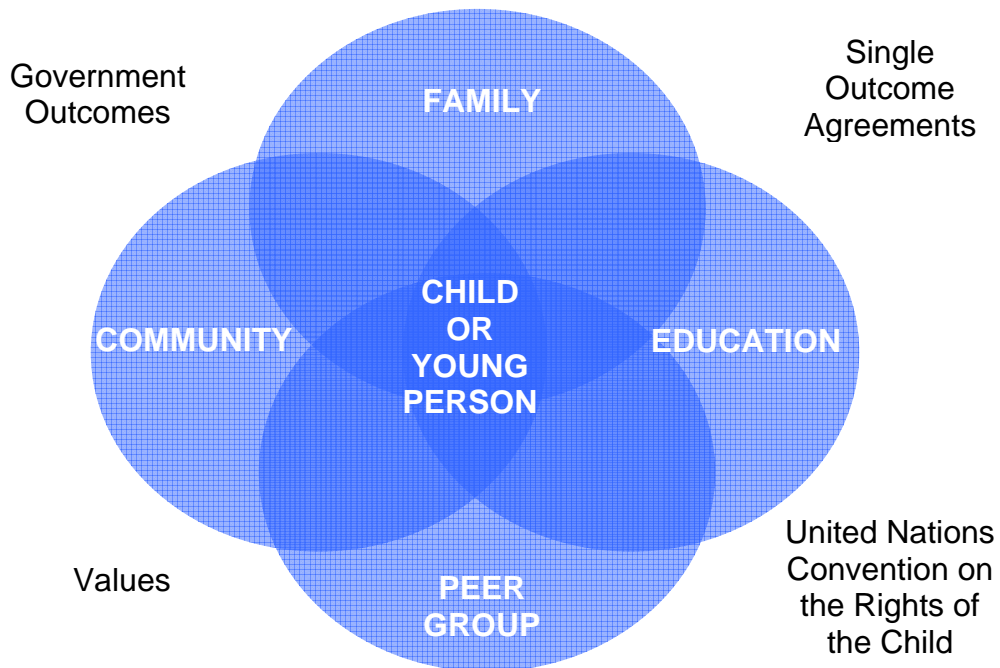
The Scottish Policing Performance Framework (SPPF) was first launched across Scotland in April 2007. The SPPF is the product of significant collaborative working between ACPOS, the 8 Scottish police forces, the Scottish Government, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland (HMICS), Audit Scotland, the Scottish Police Authorities Conveners' Forum and the Scottish Police Services Authority<sup>8</sup>.

Work is currently underway to develop the performance framework to reflect the priorities and values of principles outlined in this Strategy. This will be outcome focussed to ensure the measures consider the positive impact on children and young people who offend (see Appendix A).

---

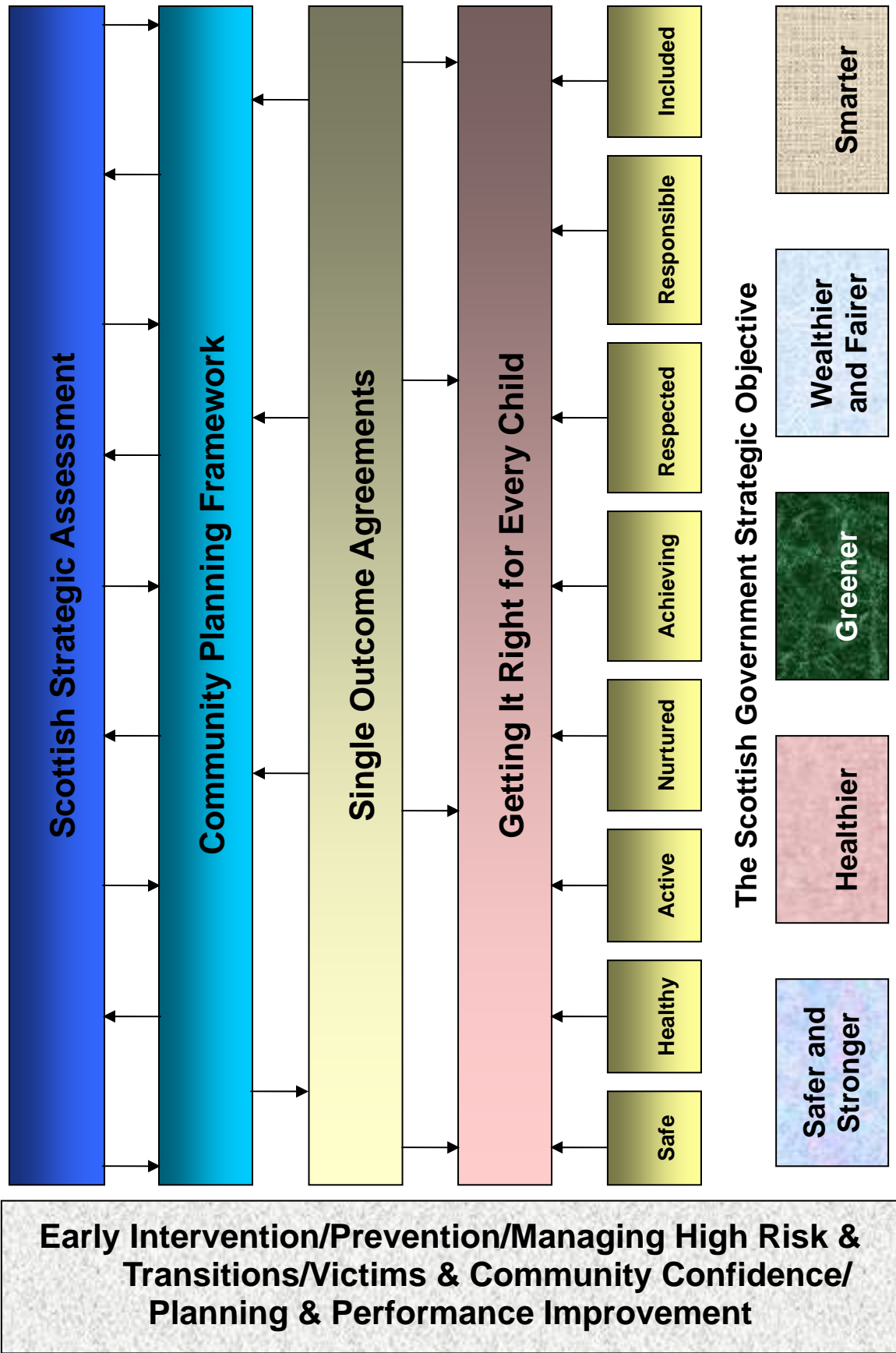
<sup>8</sup> The Scottish Policing Performance Framework 2009/10

## 6. Connecting Young People with their Social Environment



The above diagram highlights the challenge that faces the Police Service in conjunction with our partners. We must continue to strive to engage with our young people in the social environment that effects, shapes and moulds them as Scotland's future. We believe this strategy in the context of the Scottish Government framework sets the agenda for the next three years. As emphasised in the foreword, the greatest cause for optimism in delivering this strategy is the young people of Scotland themselves the majority of whom are considerate and imaginative individuals who are a credit to themselves and Scotland.

APPENDIX A – STRATEGIC SCHEMATIC



**Version control – ACPOS standard template**

[Delete this page from final document]

Version	Date	Authorisation	Information
V11.0	23.10.2011	T/ACC Gordon Samson, Chair, ACPOS Youth Issues Sub Group	Approval of final draft