

A Guide to Youth Justice in Scotland: policy, practice and legislation

Section 2: Youth Justice in Scotland The roles and responsibilities of key partners

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1. Introduction

Youth justice in Scotland involves many professionals, agencies and organisations. This section gives an overview of who is involved, in what capacity, and how they work.

2. Child Protection

At the outset of this section it is recognised that all professionals, regardless of their organisation, have roles and responsibilities in respect of child protection and children's rights. Children and young people who are involved in offending behaviour are first and foremost, children. Their welfare and potential need for protection must be the paramount concern for all agencies involved with the child and their family. Young people who offend are more likely than the general population to have experienced child abuse and to have been in local authority care (Utting et al., as cited by Arthur, 2004). [The Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime](#) (McAra and McVie, 2010) has identified that young people involved in violent offences are more likely than non-violent youths to have been victims of crime and adult harassment and have more problematic family backgrounds. Research has also revealed that 88% of children under the age of 12 who are referred to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration due to a pattern of offending, have parents who pose a risk to them (Henderson et al., 2016). These findings suggest that if the emotional, physical, developmental and social needs of children are met and they are protected from abuse and neglect, they are less likely to offend (Arthur, 2004).

The [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland \(2010\)](#) and [\(2014\)](#) reinforces the need to assess children holistically, placing a responsibility on professionals to consider all aspects of a child and family's circumstances, including offending behaviour, in determining whether a child is at risk of significant harm and therefore in need of child protection measures. The guidance makes clear "...a young person involved in offending behaviour is often a young person in need of care and protection" (2014, p.113). It is therefore essential that all practitioners working with young people involved in offending behaviour are mindful of this and have been trained in their agency's child protection procedures.

3. Children's Rights

All professionals should be familiar with key policy and legislative developments in respect of children and young people's rights, as detailed in [section 1](#) and should understand their responsibilities in upholding these rights. Since 2004, there has been a [Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland](#), whose role includes the protection of young people's rights, supporting young people's understanding of their rights, and awareness of what they can do if these are not being upheld. Under the [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#), the Commissioner can investigate whether, by what means and to what extent, a service provider has with regard to the rights, interests and views of children in making decisions or taking actions that affect those young people, either generally, to particular groups of children and young people, or individual children. This includes young people involved in offending behaviour and underlines the responsibilities of all agencies in upholding children's rights.

4. The Scottish Government

The Scottish Government holds strategic policy and legislative responsibility for key devolved areas of activity that affect day to day life in Scotland. The Scottish Government youth justice work lies with the Care and Justice Division. This division holds responsibility for the development and implementation of national policy through civil servants reporting to Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Parliament. Policy is progressed through the multi-agency Youth Justice Improvement Board, set up in 2015 with a focus on tackling offending by young people. The Care and Justice Division works closely with youth justice professionals through the Youth Justice Implementation Groups, the Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice (CYCJ) and the National Youth Justice Advisory Group (NYJAG).

There are some policy and legislative issues that remain the responsibility of the UK Government. Those most specifically in relation to youth justice are welfare benefits legislation and policy and decisions on the level of funding provided through the block grant to Scotland.

Through the [Concordat and Single Outcome Agreements](#) between the Scottish Government and local authorities agreed in November 2007, responsibility for the development of services within each local authority lies with the local authority themselves. Each local authority must develop their own plans to achieve the 15 [national outcomes](#).

A youth justice strategy - [Preventing Offending: Getting it Right for Children and Young People](#) was published in June 2015. This identified three key themes for further work:

- Advancing the Whole System Approach
- Improving Life Chances
- Developing Capacity and Improvement

The strategy builds on previous frameworks including [Preventing Offending by Young People: A Framework for Action \(2008\)](#), which was followed by [Preventing Offending by Young People: A Framework for Action – Progress \(2008-2011\) and Next Steps \(2012\)](#), which identified the future priorities for youth justice in Scotland as:

- Whole System Approach
- Victims and Community Confidence
- Extension of Early and Effective Intervention
- Young Women
- Employment
- Reintegration and Transitions
- Managing High Risk

5. Youth Justice Improvement Board (YJIB)

The Youth Justice Improvement Board is responsible for overseeing and driving the delivery of the youth justice strategy. The Board is chaired by the Scottish Government and it includes senior representation from a wide range of organisations including Police Scotland, COSLA, Scottish Children's Reporters Administration, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, the Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice, Education Scotland, health and third sector. A first meeting of the Board took place in October 2015 and the Board meets at least four times a year.

6. Youth Justice Implementation Groups

The Youth Justice Implementation Groups are multi-agency groups focusing on identifying and promoting effective youth justice practice within the key priorities set out by the Youth Justice Improvement Board. There are three implementation groups: Advancing the Whole System Approach; Improving Life Chances; and Developing Capacity and Improvement. The Advancing Whole System Group is chaired by Neil Hunter (SCRA), the Improving Life Chances Group is chaired by Gill Robinson (Scottish Prison Service) and the Developing Capacity and Improvement Group is chaired by Phil Denning (Education Scotland). The first meetings of the Implementation Groups took place in January 2016 and each group is working to deliver an agreed workplan, reporting on progress to the Youth Justice Improvement Board. Minutes from the implementation group meetings [can be accessed here](#). The Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice provides support for the work of the three Implementation Groups, and coordinates the meetings. Contact the team via cycj@strath.ac.uk or 0141 444 8622 if you have any queries about the work of the three groups.

7. The Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice (CYCJ)

CYCJ is a national centre which is primarily funded by the Scottish Government and hosted by the University of Strathclyde. CYCJ provides support and guidance to practitioners and managers involved in the delivery of youth justice services. CYCJ is connected with all of Scotland's local authority areas and supports front-line staff, both on a single and multi-agency basis, with issues ranging from early and effective intervention through to high risk cases. In addition, the team works with policy-makers to support improvements to youth justice. CYCJ's team consists of three workstreams: practice development, research and knowledge exchange. The Centre works to ensure advice and guidance is based on the most up to date research and knowledge available, and that learning is captured and shared across Scotland (and where possible beyond).

CYCJ is actively involved in the Scottish Government's youth justice priority areas and is tasked with taking forward a number of initiatives to help identify and promote good practice when working with young people involved in offending. These include:

- Engagement with practitioners and managers from a wide range of backgrounds, to support, further develop and improve youth justice practice

- Supporting the three youth justice implementation groups and any subgroups
- Delivering a range of training, events and conferences across Scotland, including the annual National Youth Justice Conference
- Ensuring good communication with the Scottish Government, Social Work Scotland and research institutions
- Developing existing links between youth justice policy, research, training and practice
- Production of regular news bulletins, information sheets, briefing papers and research papers to communicate youth justice developments across the country
- Delivering the Interventions for Vulnerable Youth ([IVY](#)) service to promote best practice in clinical mental health risk assessment and management
- Providing a national strategic improvement function for secure care in Scotland.

8. National Youth Justice Advisory Group (NYJAG)

This is a national forum for local authority and third sector managers with responsibility for youth justice to support the development and promotion of effective youth justice. Representatives are also invited from SCRA, Police Scotland and Community Justice Authorities. The membership of the group reflects the varied approaches of how services are delivered across Scotland and provides a strategic link between local youth justice representatives and the government to provide policy and strategic direction. NYJAG is guided by an Executive Group made up of representatives from the Advisory Group, Scottish Government and CYCJ. The chair of the NYJAG Executive is a member of the Scottish Government Youth Justice Improvement Board.

9. Local Authorities

Children and young people who commit offences or are at risk of offending are likely to be known to a range of local authority services. Local authorities may directly provide services for these young people or commission services from third sector agencies.

Local authorities have a statutory responsibility to local communities in relation to working with people who are involved in offending through the Concordat and Single Outcome Agreements. For every child and young person, the local authority has a responsibility to ensure that the [Getting it Right for Every Child \(GIRFEC\)](#) core components, values and principles are implemented to promote the wellbeing of every child and support them to reach their full potential. The [Children \(Scotland\) Act \(1995\)](#), [Children's Hearing \(Scotland\) Act 2011](#) and [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#) enshrine the specific powers and duties of local authorities to protect and promote the welfare of children and young people who are "in need", looked after and care leavers (see also [Section 1](#)). The following sections on social work, education and health detail the roles and responsibilities of these different parts of the local authority.

10. Social Work

[Social Work Scotland](#) (2014) is the leadership organisation for social work established in 2014, building on the previous Association of Directors of Social Work. Social Work Scotland represents social workers and other professionals who lead and support social work across sectors. Their vision is for a social work profession across Scotland which is led effectively and creatively; is responsive to the needs of the people they support and protect; is accessible and accountable; and promotes social justice. Social Work Scotland has Children and Families and Criminal Justice Standing Committees.

Local authorities vary in their practice and delivery of youth justice social work services, doing so through specialist youth justice teams, children and families teams or criminal justice teams. The continuum of services and range of interventions available for children and young people involved in offending behaviour in each local authority will vary and should be based on knowledge of local need and types and patterns of youth offending. Services include early and effective intervention processes, diversion from prosecution schemes, and alternatives to secure care and custody. Regardless of how services are delivered, there is a need for all staff to retain the knowledge, skills and competencies in order to deliver appropriate services and understand the needs of young people involved in offending behaviour. It is also fundamental that all local authority staff understand, and their practice with children and young people is informed by, the GIRFEC approach and Whole System Approach. Staff should also be familiar with the practice framework provided by the [National Outcomes and Standards for Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice System \(2010b\)](#).

Practitioners should be aware of their local authority Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) processes in respect of youth offending and develop effective communication links with the local EEI practitioner.

The youth justice social worker fulfils the local authority's statutory responsibilities for young people in need of assessment and supervision in respect of offences, as specified in legislation through the Children's Hearing and Criminal Justice Systems. Within the GIRFEC structure, the youth justice social worker will often be the Lead Professional.

Every young person aged under 18 years referred to a Children's Hearing or court on offence grounds should have a comprehensive assessment, guided by GIRFEC principles. Assessments and subsequent reports to the court or Children's Hearing should be completed by practitioners working with children and young people involved in offending behaviour, normally the youth justice social worker. The youth justice social worker should liaise with other agencies, including children and families workers as appropriate, to complete a holistic assessment and establish whether there are other relevant factors that should be taken into account and may impact on the young person's capacity to engage in offending interventions - for example learning disability, communication needs or mental health issues.

Although the national youth justice standards, last updated 2013, state that assessments in respect of offending behaviour should include a structured risk assessment completed using ASSET/YLS-CMI and other specialist structured risk assessments as appropriate, there is a move towards a more structured professional judgement (SPJ) approach underway. Details

of different risk assessment tools can be found in the Risk Management Authority's ([RMA](#)) Risk Assessment Tools Evaluation Directory (RATED) which is currently being updated. This update will include a new SPJ tool the Short Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability: Adolescent Version (START:AV). This requires teams working with young people involved in offending behaviour to have a sufficient number of practitioners trained in the use of risk assessment tools. Further guidance on completing [Criminal Justice Social Work Reports for Court](#) is available in the Scottish Government (2010c) guidance.

All young people involved in Children's Hearings or court should have a Single Plan which will incorporate any current single agency plans and should directly address needs and risks, including criminogenic needs. The Lead Professional will be responsible for ensuring an agreed multi-agency Single Plan is produced and that agencies have specific roles in respect of this plan (Scottish Government, September 2011a).

In respect of Children's Hearings, the youth justice social worker's role will also include attending hearings and implementing the decisions of hearings. In terms of court, this role will include supporting young people to understand court processes, implementing court disposals and may also include supporting the young person at court.

There may also be a court-based support worker or social worker, the roles and responsibilities of whom are detailed in the Scottish Government (2010c) guidance.

11. Education Services

Education services are a key partner in respect of children and young people who offend. The Named Person for young people between the ages of five to 18 years is likely to be a head teacher or guidance teacher. The [Education \(Additional Support for Learning\) Act 2004](#) and [2009](#) provides direction for, and places duties on, local authorities to meet the learning needs of all children and young people, including those who offend or are at risk of offending. This is underpinned by the [Curriculum for Excellence](#).

[Research](#) has indicated that young people who offend into adulthood generally have poor educational outcomes and lack basic literacy, numeracy and reading skills. They are likely to have truanted or been excluded from school, with school exclusion found in The Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime (McAra and McVie, 2010) to be a key moment impacting adversely on future offending trajectories. However, positive school experiences and quality attachments to teachers and other educational staff, can play a pivotal role in preventing and reducing the likelihood of offending (Smith, 2006).

The role of educational staff in reducing offending will include:

- Prevention - for example in developing positive relationships, providing appropriate education and meeting additional support needs
- EEI - providing information to EEI multi-agency processes and participating fully in the decision making in terms of appropriate support for the young person
- Where the child's main needs lie within education, the Named Person has duties and responsibilities for initiating and developing the child's plan, sharing information and coordinating the delivery of support where additional targeted help is needed (*Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014*)

- Being a partner in respect of the child's plan where a young person is subject to a compulsory supervision order due to offence grounds
- Contributing to assessment and management of risk for children and young people who commit violent or sexual offences or who present high risk behaviour or vulnerability

12. Health Services

The NHS is a key partner in the GIRFEC approach, responding to children's general health and wellbeing needs and more specific needs. In respect of children and young people who offend or are at risk of offending, their roles may include:

- Prevention through the provision of universal health services which are accessible to all children and their families
- Availability of and support to access specialised health services which may address specific difficulties such as mental health issues, substance misuse problems or parenting difficulties associated with youth offending (Scottish Government, September 2011a)
- Information sharing - making information available to EEI multi-agency processes and to SCRA which could inform decision making in respect of offending behaviour
- Ensuring that assessment and appropriate intervention is available for children and young people who are looked after and accommodated
- Contributing to assessment and management of risk for children and young people who commit violent or sexual offences or who present high risk behaviour or vulnerability

13. Police Scotland

The police have a duty to protect the public, uphold and enforce the law, and to investigate on behalf of the Procurator Fiscal (PF) where they believe that a criminal offence may have been committed. In respect of young people: "...As gatekeepers to the care and justice systems, and as the principle agency which first encounters many problematic children, the police have a key role to play in the delivery of justice for children" (McAra and McVie, 2010, p.23). This includes ensuring that children and young people involved in anti-social or offending behaviour receive the right supports at the right time provided by the most appropriate service, consistent with the Whole System Approach (WSA). To support this and in keeping with the flexible approach within the GIRFEC framework, the police can offer a range of approaches including direct police measures, making referrals to the local EEI multi-agency processes, and reporting to the Children's Reporter if the police believe the child needs compulsory measures of supervision or to the PF (Scottish Government, September 2011b). This requires close working relationships between the police and a number of other key professionals including the PF, Children's Reporter, Named Persons and Lead Professionals. Police Scotland is also seeking to collaborate with young people and improve communication and dialogue, such as through the Youth Volunteers Project and Youth Advisory Panel. The [Carloway Review](#) (2011) into criminal law and practice made a number of recommendations in respect of child suspects which practitioners should be familiar with.

14. The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) is a national body focused on children most at risk. SCRA's role and purpose includes making effective decisions about the need to refer a child to a Children's Hearing, enabling children and families to participate in hearings, and disseminating information and data to inform and influence improved outcomes for children and young people. The Children's Reporter receives referrals for children and young people who may require compulsory measures of supervision and on doing so, has legal duty to carry out an investigation to ascertain the nature and substance of the concerns. This will require obtaining reports from schools, social work or other agencies involved with the child or their family, such as health visitors. The Reporter will then use this information to determine whether there are grounds for referral, which ground is the most appropriate and highlight the main concern(s) regarding the child or young person.

Grounds for referral are detailed in section 67 of the *Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011* and more than one ground of referral may be appropriate. On non-offence (care and protection) grounds, the evidential standard is the civil standard of balance of probabilities. For offence grounds, the CHS operates on the same evidential standard as the criminal justice system, beyond reasonable doubt. If there is insufficient evidence with regard to the concerns raised, the Reporter is unable to intervene on a statutory level, although there remain a variety of options such as restorative justice and voluntary interventions. If there is sufficient evidence and there is a need for compulsory measures of supervision, to either protect the child, and/or address their behaviour, the child can be referred to a hearing.

15. The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS)

COPFS is responsible for the prosecution of crime. The PF considers all crime reports submitted by the police and/or other specialist reporting agencies. The PF will make a decision on whether to take action based on a range of factors including sufficiency of evidence, seriousness of offence, interest of victims and witnesses, age and conviction history of the offender, and whether prosecution is in the public interest. The PF has a duty to ensure effective and consistent use is made of the range of prosecuting options and alternatives to prosecution including issuing a warning, fine, or use of diversion from prosecution including reparation and mediation (Scottish Government, September 2011b). These factors and the range of prosecuting options are set out in the COPFS (2001) [Prosecution Code](#). The Code recognises that for cases involving children accused of committing an offence, the UNCRC is relevant and that in all such cases the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

There are various categories of offences that, if alleged to have been committed by a child or young person, require to be "jointly reported" to the Procurator Fiscal and the Children's Reporter by the police, as specified in the [Lord Advocates' Guidelines](#) (Mulholland, 2014). Under the Joint Agreement in Relation to the Cases of Children Jointly Reported to the

Procurator Fiscal and the Children's Reporter (COPFS, 2010), the presumption is that children aged under 16 years will be referred to the Children's Reporter in relation to the offence. If COPFS consider it is in the public interest to prosecute the child, in overriding this presumption, COPFS require to take into account a range of factors, such as sufficiency of evidence, the gravity of the offence, pattern of offending and whether services within the Children's Hearings System currently are, or could work with the child in relation to the child's offending behaviour or offending related needs. For young people aged 16 or over, it is presumed that the PF will deal with the case. If COPFS consider that this matter would better be pursued by the CHS because it is deemed to be in the public interest not to prosecute the child, factors including the gravity of offence, frequency of offending, and whether the behaviour or needs of the young person could be best addressed through the CHS should be considered.

16. Community Justice Scotland (CJS)

Community Justice Scotland is a new organisation responsible for community justice across Scotland, which formally launched in April 2017. Community Justice Scotland's role is to identify and promote best practice and work closely with a range of partners to develop expertise, provide advice and support improvements to prevent and reduce offending in Scotland.

17. Secure Care

Secure accommodation provides locked facilities for young people who present risks to their own safety and/or others, that cannot be managed within the community. The ambition must be to have no child in Scotland in secure care. However, for the very small number of children whose needs can only be met in secure care, a high quality and nurturing environment that meets their needs and improves their outcomes must be provided. Young people can enter secure care authorised by the CHS if they meet the requirements as stipulated in section 83 *Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011* or through court, either on remand or having been sentenced. As secure accommodation is a child care facility, at the point of sentencing a young person must be subject to a Compulsory Supervision Order, although this can change following sentencing. The cost of placing a sentenced young person in secure care is met by the Scottish Government but if a young person is placed on remand or through the Children's Hearings System, this cost is the responsibility of the young person's local authority (Scottish Government 2005). The *Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011* under section 83(5)(c) specifies all other options available, including a Movement Restriction Condition (Scottish Government, 2014a), must have been considered prior to secure accommodation being deemed necessary. In Scotland, secure care is provided and managed by third sector providers, with the exception of Edinburgh City Council which operates its own secure accommodation. Further information on specific services provided by different units and how secure care establishments are inspected can be found on the Care Inspectorate website.

Secure care can offer clear benefits in affording young people a safe, secure environment with a full range of services provided to ensure needs can be met, which facilitates assessment and care planning, and the opportunity for a range of interventions to be provided to support behavioural changes for young people (Scottish Government, June

2011). Historically research indicated outcomes for young people leaving secure care were poor, which has led to an enhanced focus on outcomes for these young people (Scottish Government, June 2011). This has included efforts to ensure outcomes to be worked on while a young person is in secure care are agreed on admission via Individual Placement Agreements and at the initial 72 hour review meeting, with outcomes being recorded (Scottish Government, June 2011). Moreover, in recognising that young people leaving secure care should have the best opportunity to succeed when returning to their community, additional focus has been accredited to planning for a young person's release from secure care as soon as they enter, to ensure individual needs and risks are assessed and holistic and tailored interventions are provided, as well as to improve transitions and reintegration back into the community (Scottish Government, June 2011). The Head of Unit will be the young person's Named Person during their period in secure care, with the local authority where the young person resides retaining the role of Lead Professional. The role of keyworkers and personal officers in planning for a young person's move from secure care to prison is described in the [Transitions and Reintegration Guidance](#) (Scottish Government, September 2011a).

18. Young People in Custody

Young people can be held in a Young Offenders Institution (YOI) either on remand or having been sentenced at court. Decisions about whether a young person is placed in secure care or custody should take full account of the young person's needs and circumstances, although it is generally agreed secure care is a more age-appropriate placement facility for young people under the age of 18 years than a YOI. However, cost differences are significant and may adversely influence decisions (Lightowler, Orr and Vaswani, 2014). Under Article 37(c) of the UNCRC, young people under the age of 18 years should be detained separately to adult offenders in recognition of their unique needs and stage of development. Young people who are on remand should also be kept in a separate environment to sentenced young people, given that they remain innocent until proven guilty (Office of the Commissioner of Human Rights of the Council of Europe (OCHR), 2009).

The Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules 2011 apply to prisons and YOIs and those detained in any such facility. All prisons and YOIs are inspected by [Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland](#), and copies of inspection reports can be found on their website. Outcomes for young people who have been detained in custody tend to be poor. For this reason, the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) has committed to a new [Vision for Young People in Custody](#) (SPS 2014) and more broadly [Unlocking Potential: Report of the Scottish Prison Service Organisational Review](#) (SPS 2013). Planning and undertaking work to address the causes of offending behaviour while young people are in a YOI and on release is crucial. As with secure care, the local authority where the child usually resides should maintain the role as Lead Professional during the young person's period in custody (Scottish Government, September 2011a). However, practice in respect of this varies. Roles and responsibilities in a young person's move from a YOI to an adult establishment are detailed in the [Transitions and Reintegration Guidance](#) (Scottish Government, September 2011a).

19. Third Sector Organisations

The third sector comprises various voluntary and community organisations, charities, social enterprises, co-operatives and mutuals who undertake a range of activities, either on a national or locality basis. They are non-governmental, value-driven organisations, who principally reinvest any financial surpluses to further social, environmental or cultural objectives.

In Scotland, a wide range of third sector organisations work with children to provide a diverse spectrum of services and programmes for young people who are at risk of, or who are involved in, offending behaviour. Services and support can be provided through a range of methods including group work, one-to-one support and mentoring, and include:

- Information, support and services as part of early intervention packages
- Supporting diversion from the youth and criminal justice systems
- Specialised assessments and interventions with young people who present significant risks in the community
- Secure care provision
- Throughcare support on release from custody
- Addressing issues that are recognised to impact on future reoffending such as housing, employability and substance misuse
- Advocacy
- Family support
- Restorative justice
- Specific services to support young people from minority ethnic backgrounds, with learning support needs and girls and young women (The Robertson Trust 2012; Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum (CJVSF) 2014).

In doing so, third sector organisations aim to contribute to improving outcomes for young people, reducing reoffending, providing holistic support, addressing equality issues and working effectively in partnership with other agencies. In recognition of the difficulties in awareness and identifying appropriate services, the Scottish Government is further developing a web based 'national directory of services for offenders' (CJVSF, 2014). Third sector organisations and statutory agencies, including local authorities, the police and health services, have worked to develop effective relationships at both strategic and operational levels. Public Social Partnerships (PSPs) developed under the Reducing Reoffending Change Fund between third and public sector organisations to provide offenders with one-to-one support through mentoring schemes, are one example of such joint working (Clark, Simpson and Shipway, 2013). In Reducing Reoffending Change Fund PSPs, the partnerships are led by a third sector organisation and an evaluation has been completed of how Development Funding has been used by each PSP in the first year to develop plans for service delivery in years two and three (Clark, Simpson and Shipway, 2013).

The third sector can pilot new approaches, identify and provide services which meet needs unmet by the public sector, provide additional support to improve the effectiveness of work done by public sector agencies and contribute to joined-up, holistic support (The Robertson



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Trust, 2012). However, factors including lack of long-term funding, competition for funding between third sector organisations, and the unequal relationship between the public and third sector are challenges that can negatively impact on the effectiveness of third sector organisations in achieving their goals (The Robertson Trust, 2012).

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