

DIVERSION *first*

Redirecting youth away from the criminal justice system



Young People Strategy

“Early is best, but it is never too late to impact trajectories and decrease harm.”



PROGRAM CRITERIA

- Youth 12 -17 years old
- Grounds to lay a criminal charge
- Youth and parent(s) are willing to participate
- Non-violent offense related to YCJA
- Limited involvement in criminal justice system (court)

PROGRAM INTAKE

- Intake conversation with parent/guardian
- Resiliency and YLS/CMI 2.0 Screening tool
- Agreement meeting to match community support with youth's risk & need
- Risk, Need, Responsivity (criminogenic needs, non-criminogenic needs, and protective factors)

RECIDIVISM 2020

3-Month	Did not reoffend	Reoffended	Total
Pilot Group (2018-2019)	86 (88%)	12 (12%)	98% (100)
Current Group (2020)	108 (95%)	6 (5%)	114(100%)

9-Month	Did not reoffend	Reoffended	Total
Pilot Group (2018-2019)	77 (79%)	21 (21%)	98% (100)
Current Group (2020)	78 (91%)	8 (9%)	86 (100%)

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE APPROACH

- Addresses accountability
- Identifies the impact and ripple effect of the behaviour
- Highlights individual strengths and challenges
- Provides creative ways to repair harm

EVOLUTION AND GROWTH

- Expertise available within the DIVERSION*first* team can support young people with ***repeat calls for service***
- Piloting “mid-risk” young offenders within the structure of DIVERSION*first*
- Efforts are underway to mobilize community partners that can effectively address the more complex needs of higher risk young people and families

DIVERSION *first* Community Partners

- Provides an individualized approach to meet each youth “where they are at”
- Provides youth and families with community connection & supports at their earliest stage of involvement with the youth justice system
- Provides ongoing support that youth can reconnect with at any time
- Provides access to broader spectrum of YMCA & BGCBIGs programs

THANK YOU

