

# *"How is the Health Sector a key player in the youth justice system?"*

**Presented by**

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MINISTRY OF  
**JUSTICE**  
*Tāhū o te Ture*

# What is the Youth Justice process?



- CYPF Act
- Alternative Action
- Family Group Conference
- Youth Court

# Persistent offenders: significant risks

- Mixing with anti-social peers
- Aggressive or hyperactive behaviour
- Barriers to treatment
- Family problems
- Drug/alcohol abuse
- Living in poor neighbourhood
- Poor school performance / attendance

Derived from K McLaren (2000), 'Tough is not enough – getting smart about youth crime'.

# Protective Factors

## Family/ Whanau

Good supervision of children  
Positive affection  
Use of non-violent effective  
methods of discipline  
Improved socio-economic  
status

## School

Increased attendance &  
emphasis on vocational skills  
Increased involvement in  
extracurricular activities

## Individual

Good relapse prevention skills  
Model & teach skills for  
controlling emotions &  
impulses  
Model & teach moderate use  
of alcohol & drugs

## Neighbourhood

Increased number of adults  
looking out for young  
people and providing  
encouragement

## Peer

Increased contact with peers  
who are law abiding

Source: YOT E-flash 18, K McLaren 2005

# Why should health be involved?

- 80% have alcohol and drug problems
- 31% have Mental Health problems
- 18% had problems with depression
- 10% suffer from anxiety
- 7% have problems with hyperactivity



# How are we working together to address these Health problems?

- Youth Forensic Framework
- AoD Clinicians in Court
- Health Services in Residences
- Youth Drug Court & Intensive Monitoring Group (IMG)

# Health Assessments

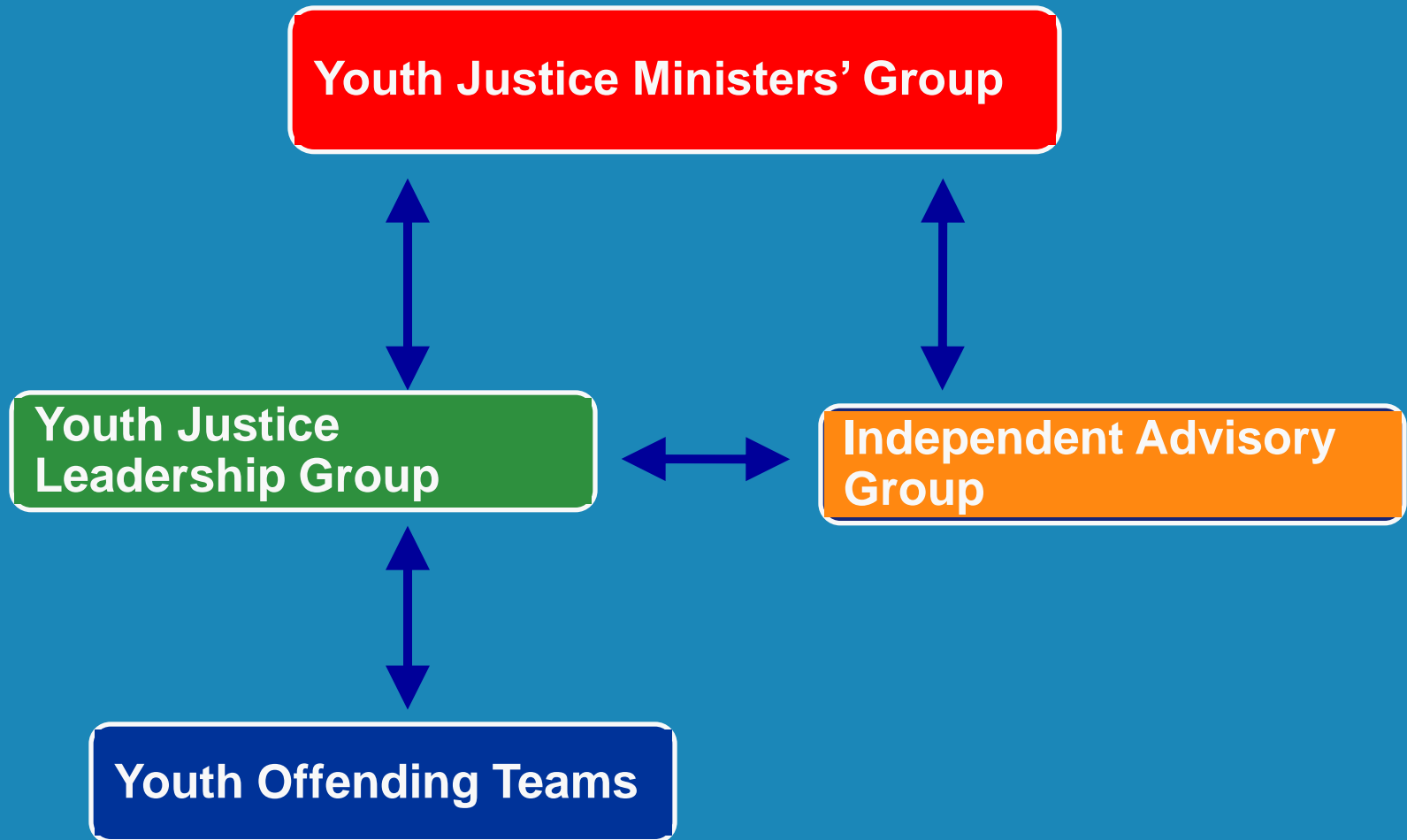
- Physical, mental health, disability and social factors
- Fee for service
- Must be a child offender or young person's first FGC
  - assessed as high-risk of re-offending
  - identified health need

# Youth Offending Teams (YOTs)

33 Teams nationwide who co-ordinate and improve service delivery to young offenders locally



# Coordination in Youth Justice



# How YOTs are successfully addressing health problems

## Triage clinics in Counties Manukau

- Improved service delivery of health assessments
- Improved relationships
- Improved communication

# How are YOTs successfully addressing health problems

Link between daytime offending and drugs & alcohol

- On-site support and treatment services
- Reduced stand-downs and suspensions
- Reduced day time offending

# What commitment is needed from you?

- Support your local YOT
- Nominate a staff rep to attend YOTs
- Include YOT work in performance agreements
- Contact your local YOT!

# What's in it for you?

## Improved service delivery

- Improved relationships
- Improved communication and information sharing
- Improved referral processes
- Window of opportunity to engage the 'hard to engage'
- Reduce crime related harm

# How do we improve health's engagement in YOTs?

*From a health perspective:*

1. What are the strengths of YOTs?
2. What is working well with YOTs? What isn't working well?
3. What are the key benefits of Health engaging with YOTs?
4. What are the barriers to engaging with YOTs?

# How do we improve health's engagement in YOTs?

# Questions / Thoughts?



For more information about YOTs please contact:

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