

SeCollege: A Proposal for the Establishment of a Secure College in the Maltese Islands

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Document Scope

This proposal aims to review the need and requirements for the establishment of a secure college for children in Malta. The need is felt for a place, where children in need of control, can be educated in a safe environment that will enable their re-integration into society. This document is drafted in the light of new amendments in the Criminal Law, which increased the age of criminal liability to 14 years.

Introduction

Criminal career research shows that the early age of onset of offending is that of between 8 and 14 years old, whilst offending prevalence peaks between 15 and 19 years. On the other hand, adolescents desist at the age of 20 to the age of 29 thus many children manifesting antisocial tendencies enter adulthood in a conformist way (Farrington, 1992). Desistence has been attributed to marriage, job satisfaction, and internal migration to better neighborhoods or even joining the military (Laub and Sampson, 2001; Horney, Osgood and Marshall, 1995).

It is claimed that the earlier the onset the longer the criminal career (Farrington, Lambert and West, 1998). It is highly likely that those who frequently offend during a particular age group also show high prevalence rates in other age brackets, so there tends to be a permanence of crime from childhood towards adolescence and into adulthood (Farrington, 1992; Tracy and Kempf-Leonard, 1996). One may change his/her offending behaviour, at age ten one can resort to shoplifting from the school canteen or a local grocery, than resorts to theft during teenage and may commit domestic violence as an adult spouse (Farrington, 1991; Verhulst, Koot and Berden, 1990). This could be compared to a “normal” career situation; a shop assistant is promoted to a supervisor and eventually to a managerial role.

Also, the “chronic offender population” stands to be relatively small sample of the population responsible for most crimes, starting early the long criminal career and engaging in crime on recurrent occasions (Farrington and West, 1993). However, Farrington (2008) points out that it is not known why chronic offenders differ in scale and style from non-chronic offenders. Offending stands to be one of the larger syndrome of antisocial behaviour and offenders tend to be multi-talented and resourceful (Farrington, 1991).

A relatively small number of young offenders commit offences which are serious enough, to result in detention. However, these children and youths usually have significant social problems and are often manifest risk factors such as that of having failed in the education system. Young offenders often persist and become career criminals, often with a plethora of social and economic problems which risk factors together with accumulated consequences of their behaviors and crime limit their opportunity for change (Moffitt, 1993). Farrington and West (1990) claim that problem children tend to grow into problem adults whom in turn bear problem children. This posits itself as a cycle of antisocial tendencies constituting what stands to be the antisocial syndrome.

Keywords

Secure College: a detention setting for young adults in crime and for whom detention is awarded by the Law Courts; a Care order is issued; Police Cases and/or referral from the Child Protection Services¹. Children/Youths: aged between 11 and 16.

Care Plan: a written detailed plan outlining the strategies, interventions and learning programme for an individual young adult.

Key Worker: member of staff responsible for the coordinating design and ongoing review of an individual care plan.

Control Policy: a written policy defining clearly acceptable conduct behaviour at the detention school, visits & home leave and allowed personal belongings. This outlines also the disciplinary procedures taken in view of potential incidences such as absconding, failure to return back to detention from home leave, possession/use of prohibited items and misuse of addictive illegal substances (alcohol and drugs).

Privacy Policy: written policy covering letter writing, making and receiving telephone calls.

Personal File: a log book of all information about a young adult including criminal record (court sentence/case), medical record, personal information (family background), care plan, log of observations of behaviours by staff on a daily basis.

Single Separation: a young adult for a short time (not a set period) is deprived from contact with other young adults in cases of eminent risk to self and others. Close monitoring and recording of observations is necessary for reviewing the use of single separation.

Home Leave: hours a child spends outside the Secure College to attend to a family function (birthday; special occasion; visit a bed-bound close relative; training programmes and job shadowing programmes in specialised and licensed institutions.

¹ Care Orders, Police Cases and Referrals from Child Protection Services are issued for children and youths who manifest behaviours that mirror inability to control oneself and/or where incidences of bodily harm are reported.

The Local Context

Moffitt (1993) claims that if a child “steps off on the wrong foot” and remains on this unconventional path, the consequences may be perpetuated by persistent offending. In such a situation, it is difficult to make up for lost opportunities in acquiring conventional skills such as academic skills. All children deserve access to a good education that will enable them to find work and develop their potential. Unfortunately, often prisons do not have as their primary focus education but rather focus on security, community safety and incapacitation of offenders. However, if we want these youths to be able to secure employment, they must leave the custodial centres with some form of qualifications and discipline that enables them to find, secure and maintain a job.

Target population: sentenced by the Law Courts for detention; care-order issued in cases where the child/youth needs control and not care (psychological neglect); Police cases (youths identified by the police for committing petty crimes and whom the Police deem it is unfit to prosecute due to nature of crime and/or psychological well being of youth concerned); Referral from services such as Child Protection Services (potential clients who need control). The setup must be single sexed and grouped by age (11 to 13²) and (14 to 16). This classification serves two purposes distinguishing between those whose are within the age limit stipulated by the law with regards to criminal responsibility and addressing the needs of child and youth in an age appropriate manner.

This report is based on data analysis carried out over a number of years as linked to juvenile courts and the Corradino Correctional Facilities. Data sources pertain to Testa, S., (2012), Formosa, S., (2007, 2014), and Formosa Pace, J., (2003, 2014).

² In view of the new law stipulating that the age of criminal responsibility is no longer 9 but that of 14 years. A potential scenario is likely to prevail that of children who need control but cannot be legally prosecuted. The age groups (11 to 16) here reflect the ages of children following their secondary schooling years.

Juvenile Courts Records

Background data shows that the 412 persons who appeared before the Juvenile Court between 2008 and 2012 (the latter a few cases in the first quarter), 76% were aged between 14 and 15 years (Table 1 – Figure 1). The youngest were aged 10 years and the older the juvenile, the larger the number of persons taken to court. It is interesting to note that one third were female and the rest were male.

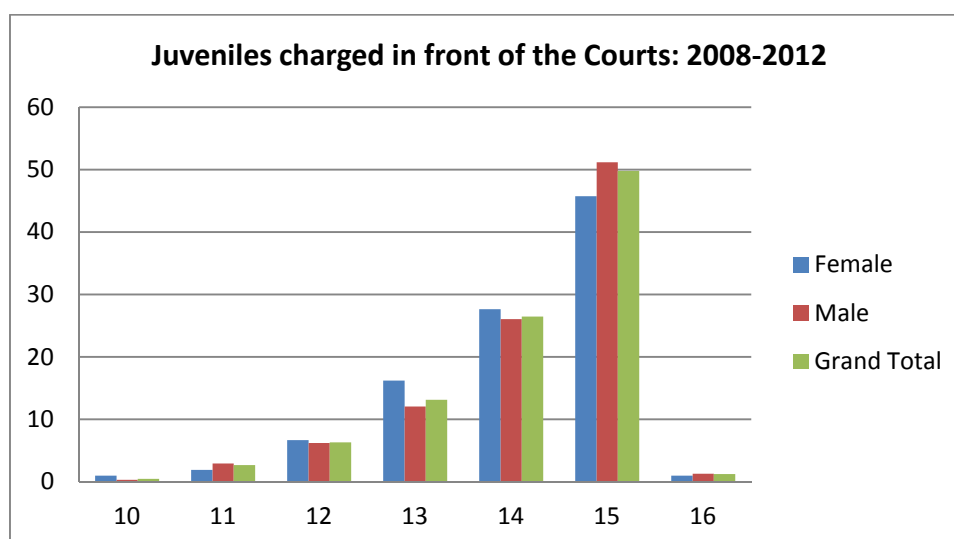
Refer to Appendix for more detail on the Age-Sex Judgment data.

Table 1: Juvenile Courts: Age-Sex: Juveniles aged 10 to 16

Age	Female %	Male %	Total %
10	1.0	0.3	0.5
11	1.9	2.9	2.7
12	6.7	6.2	6.3
13	16.2	12.1	13.1
14	27.6	26.1	26.5
15	45.7	51.1	49.8
16	1.0	1.3	1.2
Total	100	100	100

Age	Female Count	Male Count	Total Count
10	1	1	2
11	2	9	11
12	7	19	26
13	17	37	54
14	29	80	109
15	48	157	205
16	1	4	5
Total	105	307	412

Figure 1: Juvenile Courts: Age-Sex: Juveniles aged 10 to 16



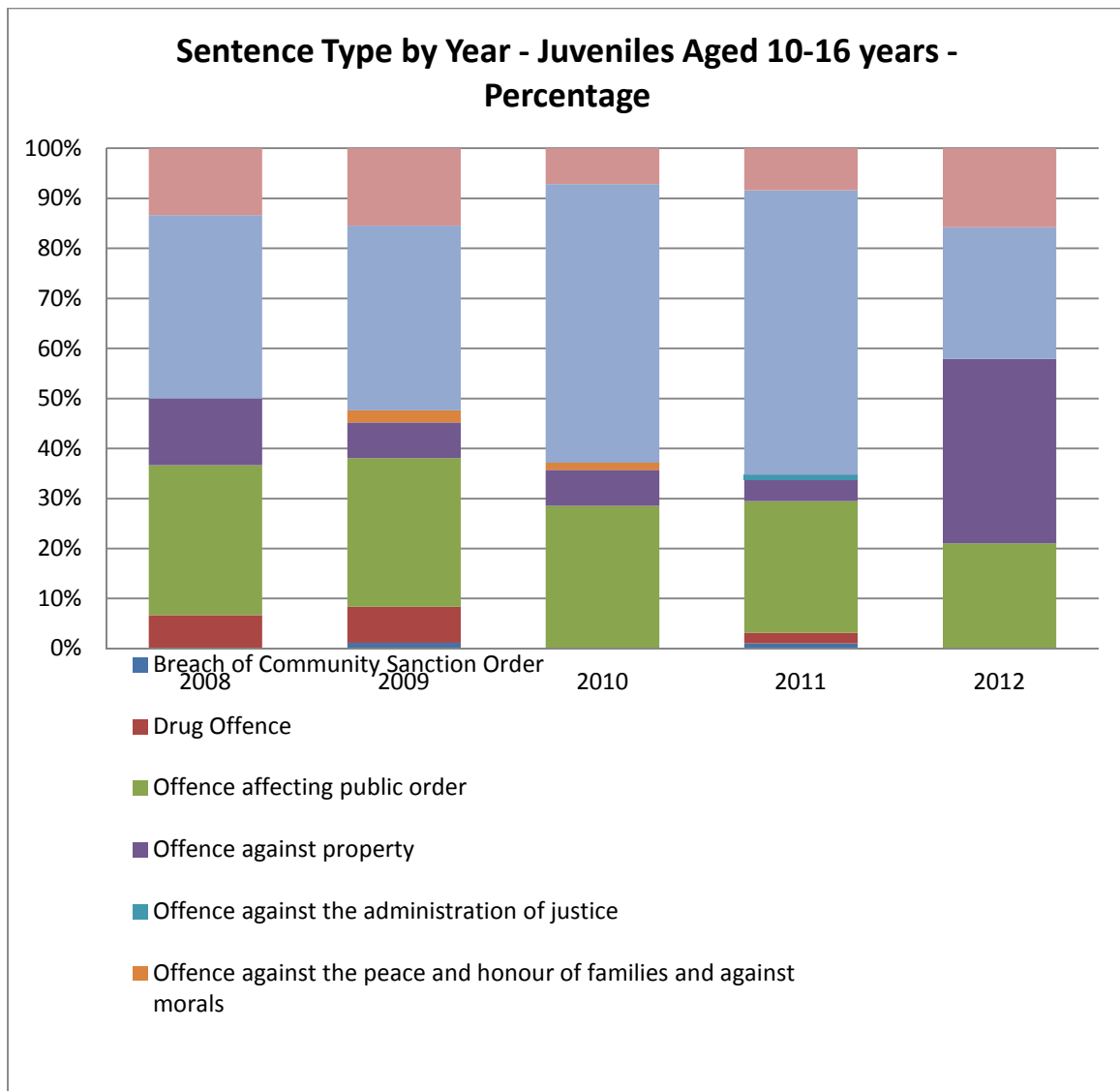
In terms of offence category, between 2008 and 2012, the highest is that relating to “offence against the person”, followed by “offence against public order” (Table 2 – Figure 2). These two categories comprise nearly 70% of all offences, where whilst the latter comprises 25% and fluctuates by year, the former is indicative of a highly dynamic occurrence that is increasing over the years. “Offences against the person” comprises 44% of all offences and is rapidly increasing in overall weighting of all offence categories, having increased from 31% in 2008 to 52% in 2011.

This indicates a cohort more prone to violence, which is seen as a measure for the intervention at early stages in an effort to mitigate for such incidents before violence becomes a way of life. In addition, other offences include theft, property-related, justice-related and drugs.

Table 2: Offence Category: Sentence Type by Year - Juveniles Aged 10-16 years

Offence	pre-2008	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Grand Total
Breach of Community Sanction Order			1		1		2
Drug Offence		2	6		2		10
Offence affecting public order	2	9	25	40	25	4	105
Offence against property		4	6	10	4	7	31
Offence against the administration of justice					1		1
Offence against the peace and honour of families and against morals			2	2			4
Offence against the person	3	11	31	78	54	5	182
Theft	1	4	13	10	8	3	39
Traffic offence	2	5	5	15	11		38
Grand Total	8	35	89	155	106	19	412
Offence	pre-2008	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Grand Total
Breach of Community Sanction Order			1%		1%		
Drug Offence		6%	7%		2%		2%
Offence affecting public order	25%	26%	28%	26%	24%	21%	25%
Offence against property		11%	7%	6%	4%	37%	8%
Offence against the administration of justice					1%		
Offence against the peace and honour of families and against morals			2%	1%			1%
Offence against the person	37%	31%	35%	50%	51%	26%	44%
Theft	13%	11%	15%	6%	8%	16%	9%
Traffic offence	25%	14%	6%	10%	10%		9%
Grand Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Figure 2: Offence Category: Sentence Type by Year - Juveniles Aged 10-16 years



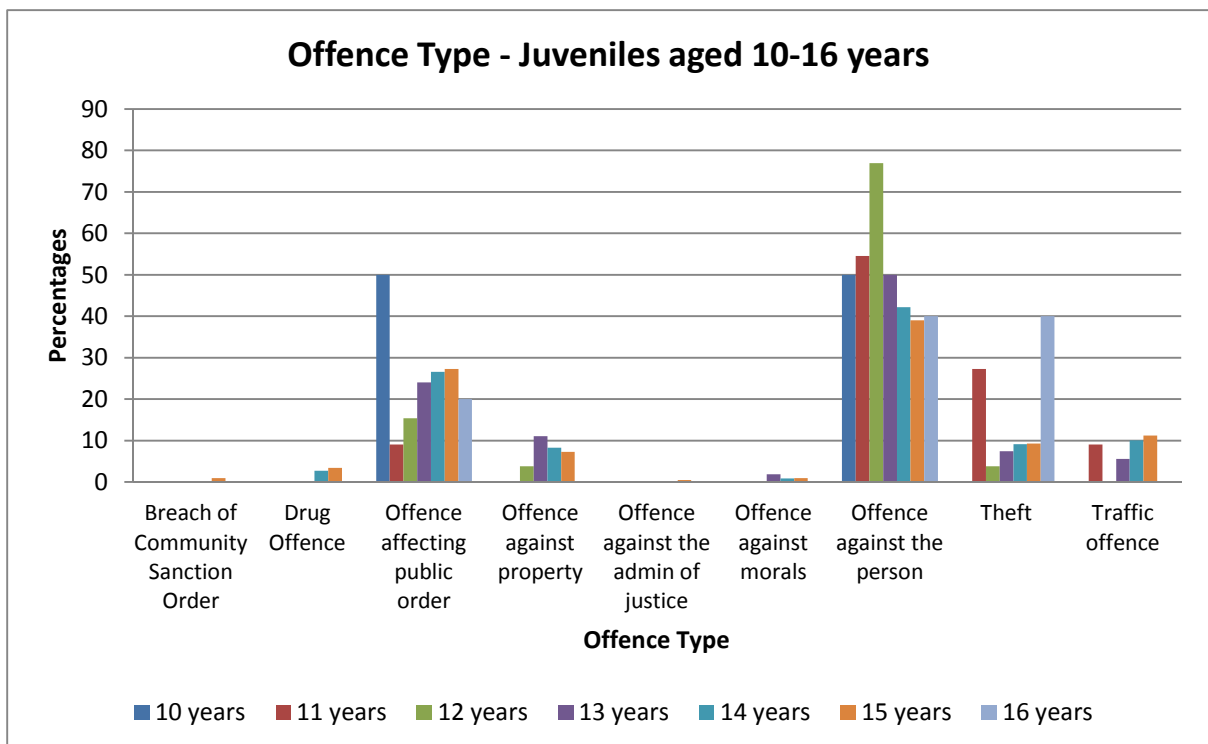
In terms of age, juveniles who offend in terms of violence against the person are effectively less prone to offend in this category as they grow older, whereas the other main category (offences against public order) increases with age (Table 3 – Figure 3). In terms of mitigation, the younger the juvenile the earlier the intervention is required in terms of violence, whilst respect for public order needs more intense intervention as the juveniles grow older.

Table 3: Offence Category: Sentence Type by Age - Juveniles Aged 10-16 years

Offence	10 years	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	16 years	Total
Breach of Community Sanction Order						2		2
Drug Offence					3	7		10
Offence affecting public order	1	1	4	13	29	56	1	105
Offence against property			1	6	9	15		31
Offence against the administration of justice						1		1
Offence against morals				1	1	2		4
Offence against the person	1	6	20	27	46	80	2	182
Theft		3	1	4	10	19	2	39
Traffic offence		1		3	11	23		38
Grand Total	2	11	26	54	109	205	5	412

Offence	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Total
Breach of Community Sanction Order						1.0		0.5
Drug Offence					2.8	3.4		2.4
Offence affecting public order	50	9.1	15.4	24.1	26.6	27.3	20.0	25.5
Offence against property			3.8	11.1	8.3	7.3		7.5
Offence against the administration of justice						0.5		0.2
Offence against morals				1.9	0.9	1.0		1.0
Offence against the person	50	54.5	76.9	50.0	42.2	39.0	40.0	44.2
Theft		27.3	3.8	7.4	9.2	9.3	40.0	9.5
Traffic offence		9.1		5.6	10.1	11.2		9.2
Grand Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Figure 3: Offence Category: Sentence Type by Age - Juveniles Aged 10-16 years

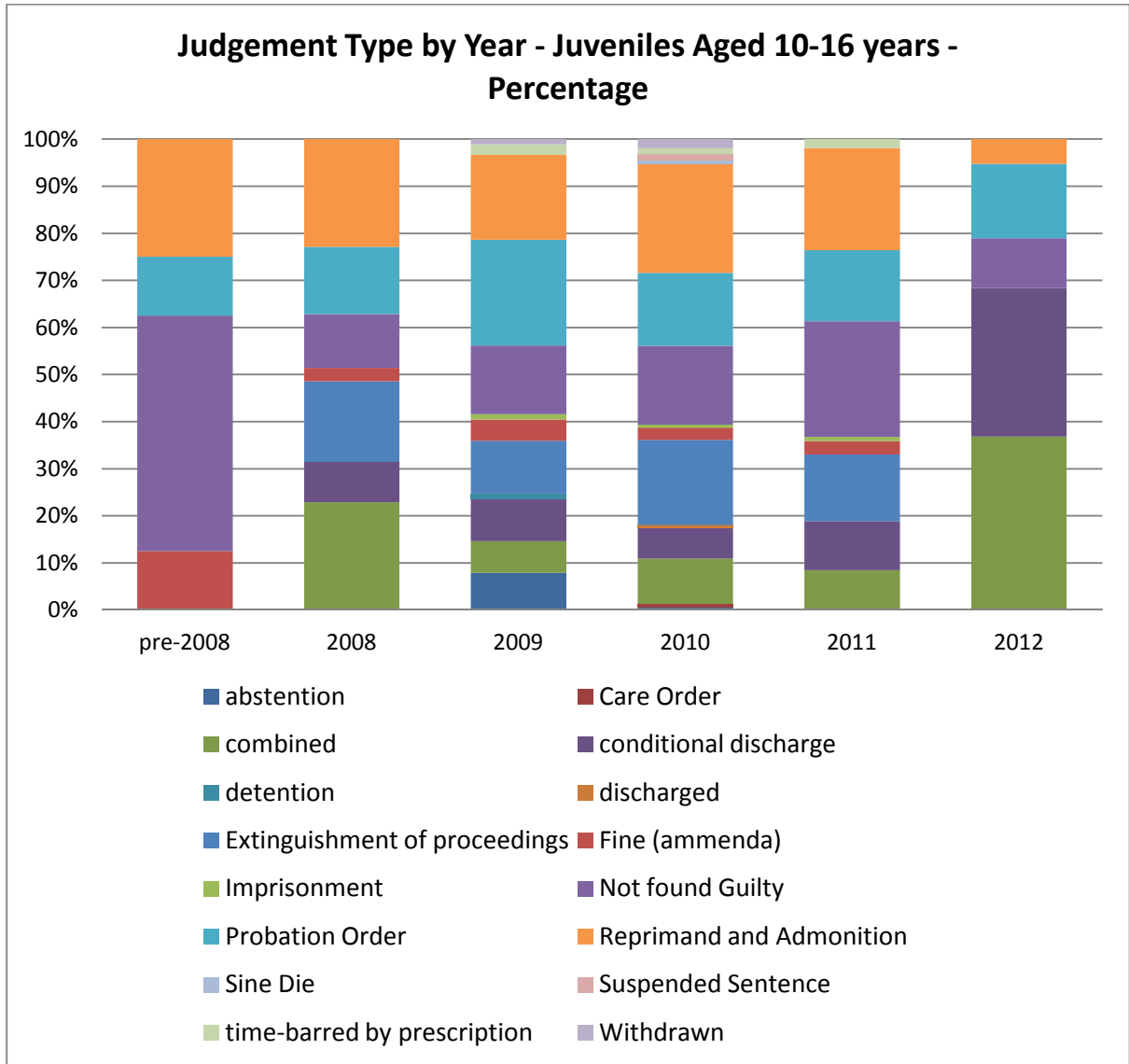


In terms of judgment, between 2008 and 2012, 21% received a sentence of “Reprimand and Admonition”, 17% were awarded a Probation Order, whilst 11% a combined sentence. 18% were not found guilty. One person was sentenced through a detention in 2009 and another three were imprisoned between 2009 and 2011 (Table 4 – Figure 4).

Table 4: Judgment Type - Juveniles Aged 10-16 years

Judgment	pre-2008	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Grand Total
Abstention			7	1			8
Care Order				1			1
Combined		8	6	15	9	7	45
conditional discharge		3	8	10	11	6	38
Detention			1				1
Discharged				1			1
Extinguishment of proceedings		6	10	28	15		59
Fine (ammenda)	1	1	4	4	3		13
Imprisonment			1	1	1		3
Not found Guilty	4	4	13	26	26	2	75
Probation Order	1	5	20	24	16	3	69
Reprimand and Admonition	2	8	16	36	23	1	86
Sine Die				1			1
Suspended Sentence				2			2
time-barred by prescription			2	2	2		6
Withdrawn			1	3			4
Grand Total	8	35	89	155	106	19	412
Judgment	pre-2008	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Grand Total
abstention			8%	1%			2%
Care Order				1%			
combined		23%	7%	10%	8%	37%	11%
conditional discharge		9%	9%	6%	10%	32%	9%
detention			1%				
discharged				1%			
Extinguishment of proceedings		17%	11%	18%	14%		14%
Fine (ammenda)	12.5%	3%	4%	3%	3%		3%
Imprisonment			1%	1%	1%		1%
Not found Guilty	50%	11%	15%	17%	25%	11%	18%
Probation Order	12.5%	14%	22%	15%	15%	16%	17%
Reprimand and Admonition	25%	23%	18%	23%	22%	5%	21%
Sine Die				1%			
Suspended Sentence				1%			
time-barred by prescription			2%	1%	2%		1%
Withdrawn			1%	2%			1%
Grand Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Figure 4: Judgment Type - Juveniles Aged 10-16 years



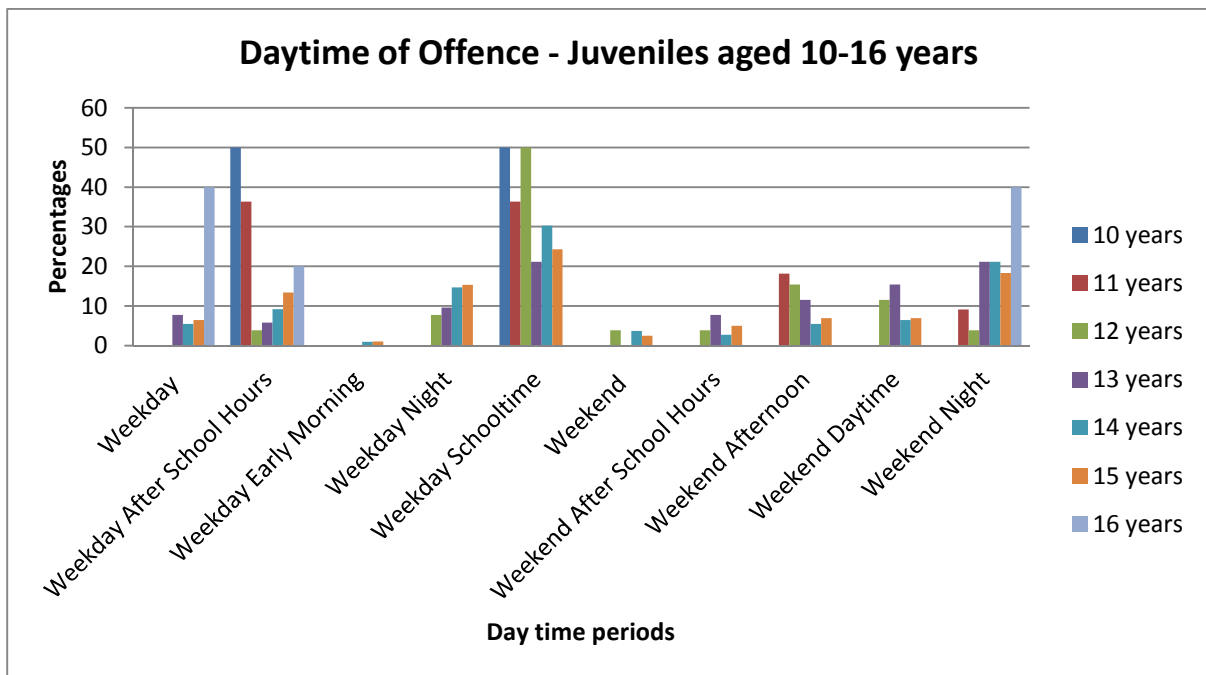
In terms of the modus operandi, when offences take place, one can note that that over the years nearly one third of the offences occur during school time with another 11% occurring just after school time and another 13% occurring at night during weekdays. Another 18% occur during the night over the weekends. Such can be interpreted as being highly weighted during the school hours and the immediate post-school hours where juveniles carry out their offending activities (Table 5 – Figure 5).

Table 5: Juvenile Courts: Daytime periods when the offences occur

Weekday Time	Age							
	10 years	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	16 years	Total
Weekday				4	6	13	2	25
Weekday After School Hours	1	4	1	3	10	27	1	47
Weekday Early Morning					1	2		3
Weekday Night			2	5	16	31		54
Weekday Schooltime	1	4	13	11	33	49		111
Weekend			1		4	5		10
Weekend After School Hours			1	4	3	10		18
Weekend Afternoon		2	4	6	6	14		32
Weekend Daytime			3	8	7	14		32
Weekend Night		1	1	11	23	37	2	75
Total	2	11	26	52	109	202	5	407

Weekday Time	Age							
	10 years	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	16 years	Total
Weekday				7.7	5.5	6.4	40.0	6.1
Weekday After School Hours	50.0	36.4	3.8	5.8	9.2	13.4	20.0	11.5
Weekday Early Morning					0.9	1.0		0.7
Weekday Night			7.7	9.6	14.7	15.3		13.3
Weekday School time	50.0	36.4	50.0	21.2	30.3	24.3		27.3
Weekend			3.8		3.7	2.5		2.5
Weekend After School Hours			3.8	7.7	2.8	5.0		4.4
Weekend Afternoon		18.2	15.4	11.5	5.5	6.9		7.9
Weekend Daytime			11.5	15.4	6.4	6.9		7.9
Weekend Night		9.1	3.8	21.2	21.1	18.3	40.0	18.4
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Figure 5: Juvenile Courts: Daytime periods when the offences occur



CCF Records

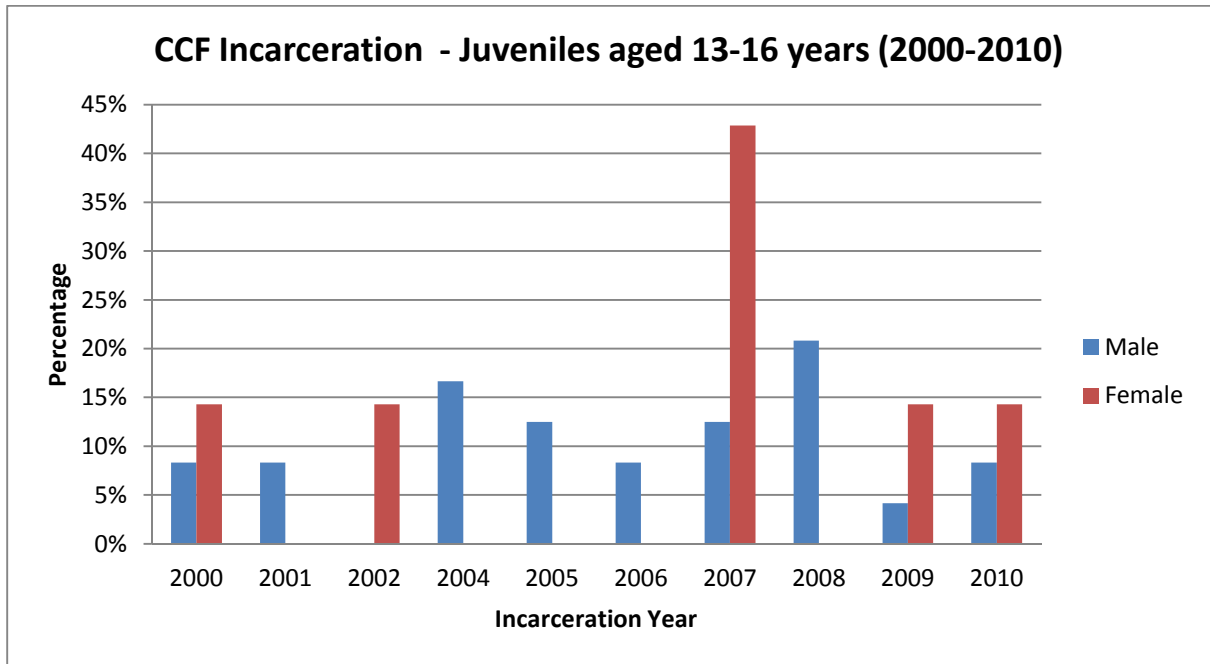
In terms of those juveniles who were incarcerated in CCF, between 2000 and 2010, 31 juveniles aged between 13 and 16 years were serving a sentence (Table 6 – Figure 6). 7 were female and 24 male with the years 2007 and 2008 registering the largest number of entries. 2007 also saw the highest number of female entries, over 40% of all female entries during the decade.

Note that the numbers in CCF pertaining to the older ages are greater than the figures emanating from the Juvenile Court data as juveniles who have committed offences with adults (over 16 years of age) appear in front of the criminal courts.

Table 6: Incarceration by Sex – CCF juveniles 2000-2010

Sentence Year	Sex Counts		Total
	Male	Female	
2000	2	1	3
2001	2		2
2002		1	1
2004	4		4
2005	3		3
2006	2		2
2007	3	3	6
2008	5		5
2009	1	1	2
2010	2	1	3
Total	24	7	31
Sentence Year	Sex - Percentage		Total
	Male	Female	
2000	8.3	14.3	9.7
2001	8.3		6.5
2002		14.3	3.2
2004	16.7		12.9
2005	12.5		9.7
2006	8.3		6.5
2007	12.5	42.9	19.4
2008	20.8		16.1
2009	4.2	14.3	6.5
2010	8.3	14.3	9.7
Total	100	100	100

Figure 6: Incarceration by Sex – CCF juveniles 2000-2010

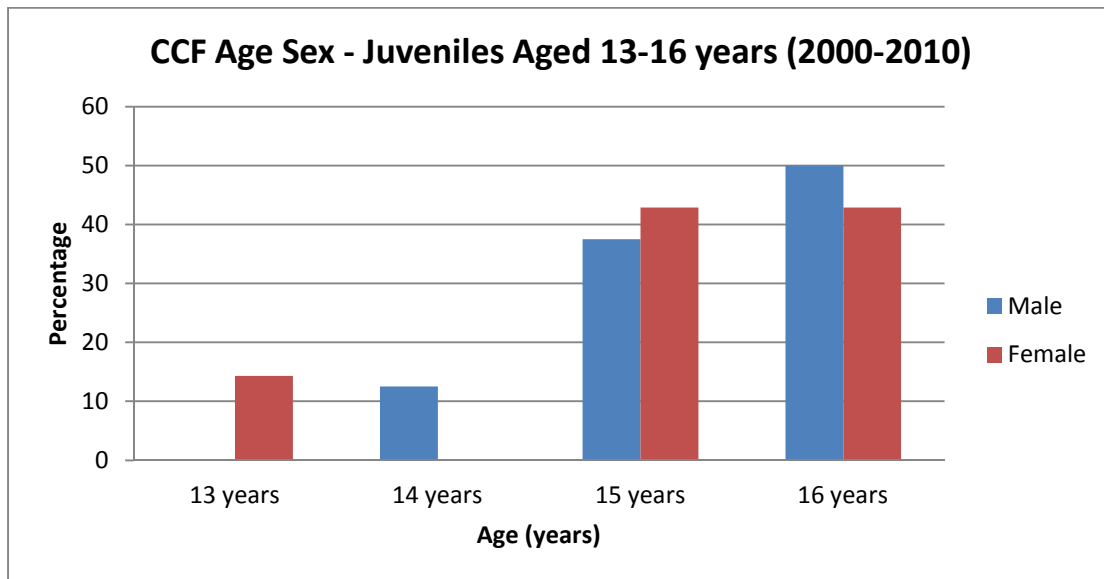


In terms of age, the numbers increase with age, with very few at the earlier ages, jumping to 39% aged 15 and 48% aged 16 (Table 7 – Figure 7).

Table 7: CCF Juveniles: Age and Sex

Age	V1_Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
13	0	1	1
14	3	0	3
15	9	3	12
16	12	3	15
Total	24	7	31
Age	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
13		14.3%	3.2%
14	12.5%		9.7%
15	37.5%	42.9%	38.7%
16	50.0%	42.9%	48.4%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Figure 7: CCF Juveniles: Age and Sex

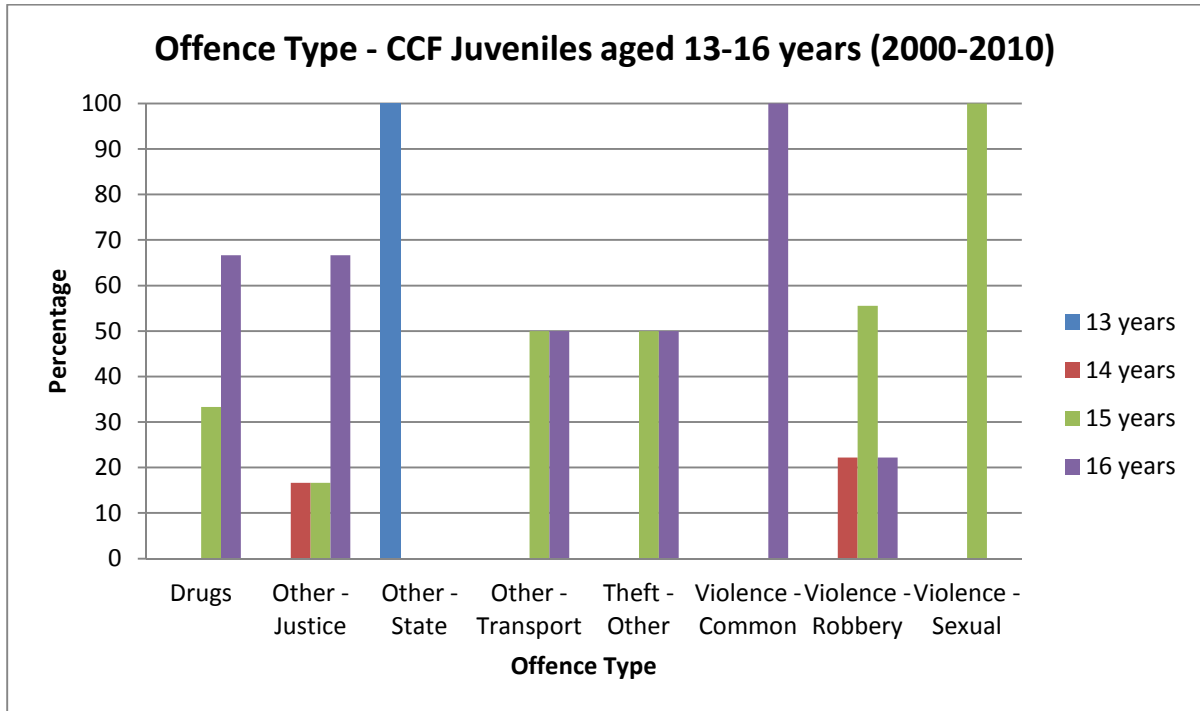


Offences committed by juveniles are mainly related to violence-robbery and drugs, followed by others related to the administration of justice. The latter two saw increases as the juvenile aged (Table 8 – Figure 8).

Table 8: Offence Type: CCF Juveniles (2000 – 2010)

Counts									
Age	Drugs	Other - Justice	Other - State	Other - Transport	Theft - Other	Violence - Common	Violence - Robbery	Violence - Sexual	Total
13 years			1						1
14 years		1					2		3
15 years	3	1		1	1		5	1	12
16 years	6	4		1	1	1	2		15
Total	9	6	1	2	2	1	9	1	31
Percentages									
Age	Drugs	Other - Justice	Other - State	Other - Transport	Theft - Other	Violence - Common	Violence - Robbery	Violence - Sexual	Total
13 years			100						3
14 years		17					22		10
15 years	33	17		50	50		56	100	39
16 years	67	67		50	50	100	22		48
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Figure 8: Offence Type: CCF Juveniles (2000 – 2010)

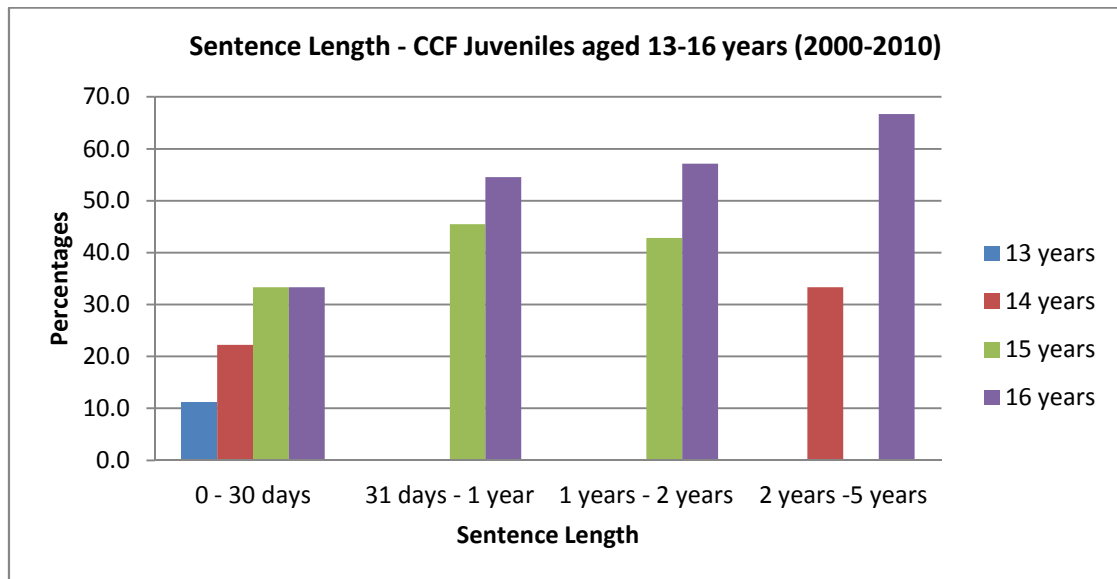


In terms of sentence length, one third received a short sentence, whilst the rest received a long sentence with one third being awarded a sentence longer than 1 year with 3 being awarded a sentence of 2 to 5 years (Table 9 – Figure 9).

Table 9: CCF Sentence Length

Sentence Length Counts					
Age	0 - 30 days	31 days - 1 year	1 years - 2 years	2 years - 5 years	Total
13 years	1				1
14 years	2			1	3
15 years	3	5	3		11
16 years	3	6	4	2	15
Total	9	11	7	3	30
Sentence Length Percentages					
Age	0 - 30 days	31 days - 1 year	1 years - 2 years	2 years - 5 years	Total
13 years	11.1				3.3
14 years	22.2			33.3	10.0
15 years	33.3	45.5	42.9		36.7
16 years	33.3	54.5	57.1	66.7	50.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Figure 9: CCF Sentence Length



Secure Colleges: An Overview

The purpose of a secure setting is to reduce offending committed by school aged youths through the provision of adequate interventions which aim at diverting young people from delinquency and crime. A detention school/ secure college provides a safe and secure environment for youths in crime and facilitate the reintegration of youths into their community. These colleges will have a multi-disciplinary team approach with education as its centre. Secure Colleges are to be considered as a last resort in cases where the Law Courts, Police and Child Protection Services deem that detention is necessary in order to divert one from offending behaviour and/or where behaviour needs to be “controlled” to conform with the norm of leading a conventional lifestyle. The intake is separated by sex and the secure college caters for males/females separately.

An individual educational plan will be drawn up for each child, taking the national curriculum into consideration. Parallel to this other programmes (outlined in the care plan) will be developed taking into account a young adult’s current behavioural and emotional tendencies. Monitoring and recording of observation (behaviour, attitudes, misbehaviours, complains, leave requests, punishments) is to be logged on a daily basis by the staff. A positive behavioural approach is adopted for diverting young people from crime:

1. Young people are given the opportunity to share feelings/emotions and concerns freely. The Staff is to be aware of the needs of the individual young adult and respond sensibly whilst showing support to signs and potential traumas following separation and restricted freedom.
2. Allowing for choice of clothing, attire and personalisation of room decor.
3. Access to a spiritual director. Young people are to benefit from freedom to practice.
4. Access to a legal advisor.
5. Young adults are actively involved in planning and food preparation as integral to a well balanced diet and development of life skills.

6. An individualised behavioural management programme which is designed and reviewed in care plan meetings.
7. Life skills: personal hygiene, money management and interpersonal skills.
8. Disciplinary measures will follow as a consequence of unacceptable behaviour which measures are aimed to target the progressive development of self-control. Rewards are to follow acceptable and commendable behaviour/attitude. Single separation is not used as a disciplinary measure but only in case of immediate risk to self and others.

Child protection and rights of children

All young adults receive similar training that is child friendly and age appropriate. The detention setting is designed to safeguard the interests of young people. The care plan of each young adult is to be known by all staff that is to ensure that the targets of the care plan are addressed and met during the period of detention and aftercare. Professional relationships with staff include group and one-to-one sessions. Immediate and appropriate actions need to be taken in view of potential incidences of abuse and/or information about alleged incidences related to abuse. Victims of abuse and perpetrators of abuse need to be closely monitored.

A documented complaints procedure (readily available) and in age appropriate language (Maltese & English versions) is adopted. Young people and their parents/guardians are informed about the procedure adopted in forwarding a complaint (steps taken, time frame, scrutiny of complain and following feedback). Young people are helped to understand that there are responsibilities and rights which are outlined in a booklet provided to them on registration (entry) at the detention setting. Formal and informal complains are treated in a way that one balances between the rights of children and the rights of the staff. All complaints and outcomes are recorded and signed off by staff member receiving the complaint.

Care plan

An educational/care plan outlines in detail the welfare of a young adult in detention focusing on educational needs (academic and vocational), needs related to health, emotional and psycho-social needs. The active involvement of young adults and their parents/guardians is a must in the design and review of the care plan. This plan is drawn by the different professionals involved in the case, however a key worker (preferably a teacher or LSA) is identified to provide support and guidance to the young adult and his/her family and to monitor progress during the stay at the detention centre. Where possible the aim should be for the child to live with the parents once they exit the college.

Step 1: a comprehensive care plan can only be drawn following a thorough examination and assessment of the young adults' needs (a team of professionals are to be taken on board including a probation officer, social worker, youth worker, psychologist/psychiatrist).

Step 2: a set of aims and objectives are clearly set inclusive of time frames and strategies and interventions to be used during the detention period.

Step 3: regular and formal reviews (every three months). All reviews are to be recorded and filed.

It is at this stage that the importance of mentors, social carers and guardians are most required. Whilst the form that this concept can be decided upon once the mentors are identified (either through the university trainee workers or professionals in the process of being warranted), it is imperative that the care plans have such persons on board to ensure individual attention and ongoing mentoring/shadowing.

Strategies/Interventions

Every person is entitled to receive a holistic education that will enable them to find a job and support themselves at the end of their educational career. This college aims to deliver such to those young people who are often forgotten by our society. For the college to be successful it must aim at providing a variety of support services and intervention strategies such as:

1. Education
2. Vocational training (getting on board MCAST and ITS)
3. Support programmes for parents
4. Alcohol/drug abuse programmes
5. Counselling
6. Mental health services
7. Recreational activities (ex: gym) through which one can show his/her interests and talents.
8. Regular contact between young adult and his/her parents/guardians
9. Sports programme
10. Arts/crafts and cooking sessions.

Education

The emphasis of this college is on education. Young adults are encouraged to view education as a key to success and a tool thanks to which they set foot out of crime. The detention centre promotes an ethos that nurtures a healthy learning environment. An individualised learning programme should follow an educational assessment of the child setting the ground work for the care plan.

1. The national curriculum set by the Department of Education should set the foundation for a young adult's educational programme as far as possible.
2. Timetable: a balance of academic subjects and non formal activities that address physical and psycho-social needs.
3. Literacy, numeracy, communication and IT are top priorities. Crafts and hands-on approaches are to be taken up due to the potential needs of such children.
4. Young adults are provided the opportunity to sit for national exams such as MATSEC.

5. Those who are about to approach compulsory school leaving age are to follow vocational training programmes and embark on job shadowing experiences. The job component is to be set up as an integral part of the system where the professionals would establish a job programme for each child with post-release follow-up and review.
6. Personal and social development: particular focus on sex and intimate relationships; smoking; substance misuse; abuse; STIs; personal hygiene; exercise; eating habits. Programmes and delivery of sessions should be age appropriate.

Health

It is always important to address health issues in a closed environment. Contagious illnesses can spread rapidly, therefore the need of a complete medical check-up on residential entry and periodic medical checks. These children might also have problems with drug addiction, either because they are self-medicating or because they are abusing drugs. Whatever the cause, these problems need to be seriously addressed. One needs to address the following:

1. Medical records: complete and up to date as much as possible; a record of vaccination booklet is to be file;
2. Signed medical consent form by parent/guardian for the administration of medical treatment;
3. First complete check-up on entry;
4. Regular health checks by GP; dentist and/or other specialist;
5. Parents/ guardians are to be informed about medical/health condition of their son/daughter;
6. Consultation with psychologist and/or psychiatrist to work on identified behavioural and clinical needs identified in the care plan;
7. Medicine is only administered by paramedics such as a nurse;
8. Regular access to recreational activities and exercise.

Safety and security

As this is a secure college certain security aspects must be kept in mind. One would wish for all children to be left at home, unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, this is sometimes not possible.

1. Lodging should be in single rooms furnished to acceptable standards. Personalisation of rooms is encouraged.
2. On entry, the young adult is guided about permissible personal possessions (mobile phones, cameras, internet keys, tablets and personal computers are prohibited).
3. CCTV in all areas except for bathrooms and toilets where privacy is respected.

4. Decoration of detention centre should as much as possible provide a homely living environment whilst safeguarding safety and security.
5. Provision of potable water.
6. Fire and safety equipment are in place; regular fire drills are to take place.
7. Policies and guidelines that explicitly outline the use of searches to prevent illicit importation of dangerous and/or prohibited items by young adults, visitors and staff (regular and visiting). Room searches are advisably conducted in the presence of the young adult concerned.
8. Family visits: regular private family meetings are encouraged unless otherwise ordered by the Court or when safety is compromised.
9. Log book of all visits and all contact attempts with family members are recorded.
10. Policies and guidelines that outline the possibility of benefiting from home leave
11. Searches (to prevent the importation of dangerous or prohibited items) and urine testing (illicit substances) preceding and following home leave.

Staffing

The college will need a number of permanent and on-call staff. As children will be living in the college it is necessary to have at least 2 staff members present at any one time. Surveillance must be on a 24 hour a day, 7 days a week basis. At no point should the children be left without adequate adult supervision. The director will have the overall responsibility of the running of the place, and when he/she is not present on the premises he/she will be on call. What follows are a number of professional positions that are a must in a secure college.

1. Director: has the responsibility of the young adult as if s/he were his/her parent and shall do what is reasonably regarded as safe and healthy for the child's psychosocial well being.
2. Senior management: Staff responsible for the management of the college and for the processing of referrals which are not court ordered; financial aspect of the detention centre; recruitment of staff and accountability; policies and staff meetings. A member of the senior management should always be on site. Senior management can be divided into three sections: security, teaching and socio-psychological needs.
3. Administrative staff: keeping of records, individual files, log books, incident reports, case review notes, complains reports and home leave. All case files (record of young adult's history and progress) are kept in a private and secure location and are kept in perpetuity (hardcopy or digital).
4. Teachers and LSAs: one has to be consonant with the circumstance that the fulcrum remains on expertise of the teaching-staff component, bearing in mind the fact that these teachers could be dealing mainly with children and young adults who find it difficult to achieve academically, to find schooling relevant to their lives, to grasp intangible, non-concrete concepts and to delay gratification!). It is recommended to target:
 - a. B.Ed(Hons) teachers who then have to follow a 2-semester course (Diploma) in Criminal Justice or;

- b. BA(Hons) Criminology students who then have to follow a 2-semester course (Diploma) in Pedagogy.³
5. LSAs: support staff who are required to have extensive on-the ground knowledge and academic background.
6. Security personnel
7. Ancillary staff: cleaning staff
8. Nurse/paramedic
9. Social worker
10. On call staff: legal aid; psychologist, psychiatrist, spiritual director, general practitioner, dentist; probation officers.
11. External agencies: family support throughout detention and after care; ETC (training programmes).

Staff Training

Staff will need to receive training prior to the commencement of the job. It is also recommended that they receive periodic in-service training to keep them informed on any new legal developments, treatment and/or rehabilitation modalities. The initial course (although not exhaustive) should include the following subjects:

1. Bullying (scapegoating, harassment and/or abuse).
2. Substance misuse
3. Delinquency and crime
4. Social and emotional behavioural disorders
5. Mental health issues
6. First aid
7. Food handling
8. Legal information

College as a Resource Centre

The college should also serve as a resource centre (of on the ground-knowledge gain and horizontal approach expertise) which also provides outreach prevention initiatives. Such initiatives would ensure the establishment of an Observatory that serves as a Centre of Excellence in the Mediterranean for the amelioration of the vulnerable delinquent school-aged children.

Such outputs include:

- a. Setting up of an expert network across the different countries, which network would be readily available with skills, knowledge and case studies on how to tackle current and emergent issues. This would be made possible through

³ Other students from the different departments within the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta can be brought on board following a wider-ranging agreement on training, mentoring and shadowing.

- establishment of an Observatory that serves as a Centre of Excellence in the Mediterranean;
- b. Establishing a series of Indicators that analyse trends and changes in society and the relative impact on the College's running and potential population. The indicators would be served also by the CRISOLA indicators established under the JANUS project.
 - c. Outreach seminars/Insight workshops: to include:
 - i. Talks/discussions to be presented regularly in the Maltese/Gozitan communities (involving local councils), covering topics targeting *Effective Parenting and Effective Enforcement of legislation related to*, in view of preventing or reducing the incidence of troubled children/youths;
 - ii. Talks/ discussions in primary and secondary schools targeting both students, educators and administrators
 - d. Ensuring of effective monitoring of legislation related to under-age children who frequent leisure and recreation zones, particularly those concerning alcohol consumption by minors, aggregation and time curfews. The importance of bringing on board the Commissioner for Children, the enforcement agencies, the social work agencies and other professional agencies as well as the recreation industry.

Timeline for Project

The proposal is set within a timeframe that requires uptake by the Ministry and relative departments. It is set within a baseline framework and can be adjusted based on feedback from the partners involved in the project.

Project outline:

- A) review of current processes - 3 months (to establish readiness)
- B) capacity review and training - 3-6 months (to establish capacity and skills)
- C) strategy proposal – 1 month (to draft a workable implementation plan based on the findings of A and B)
- D) implementation proposal – 12 months (to set up setting – could be earlier if location is established in phases A/B)
- E) ESF and ERDF funding opportunity review - 6 months/ongoing (to source funding for programmes and projects)

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Appendix

Table of Age when crime was first committed.

Judgment	Age when crime was committed																					Grand Total
	10			11			12			13			14			15			16			
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	
Detention													1	1								1
Imprisonment													1	1	1	1	2					3
Suspended Sentence													1	1		1	1					2
Probation Order							4	3	7	2	9	11	8	13	21	11	19	30				69
Care Order													1	1								1
Fine (ammenda)				1	1		1	1					4	4	1	6	7					13
Reprimand and Admonition				1	1		3	3	3	7	10	5	19	24	8	40	48					86
conditional discharge		1	1				1	1	2	2	3	5	1	8	9	10	10	20		1	1	38
combined				1	1	2		1	1	2	2	4	4	7	11	6	21	27				45
Others	1		1	1	6	7	2	10	12	8	16	24	11	25	36	11	59	70	1	3	4	154
Total	1	1	2	2	9	11	7	19	26	17	37	54	29	80	109	48	157	205	1	4	5	412

