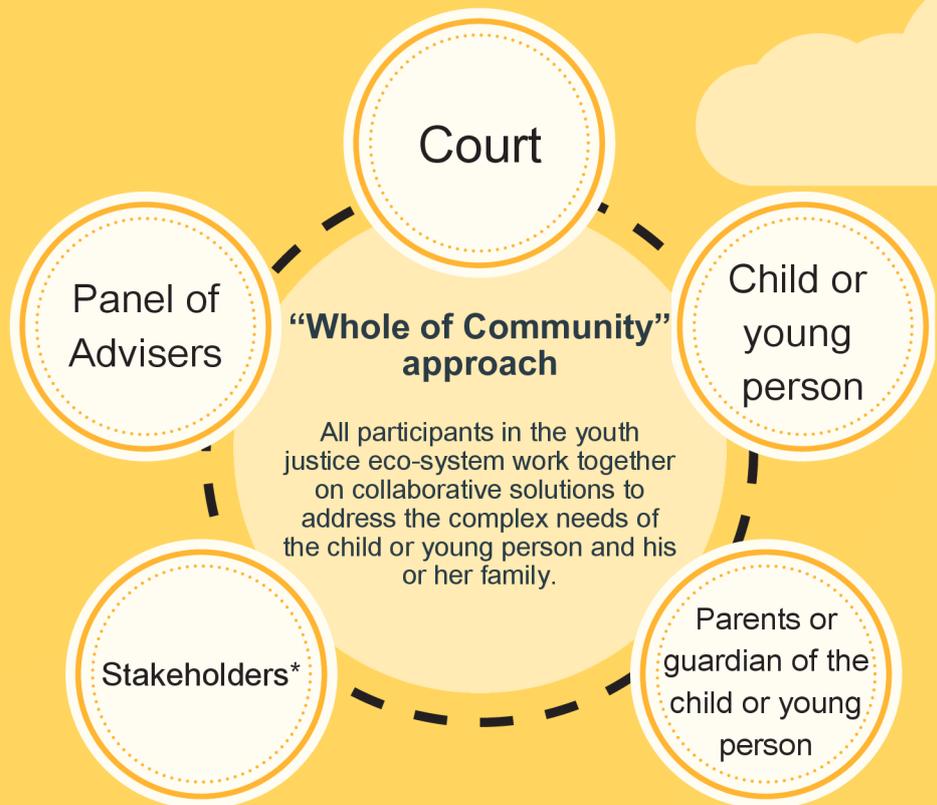


FAMILY JUSTICE COURTS YOUTH COURTS



THERAPEUTIC JUSTICE MODEL (ABRIDGED VERSION)

Therapeutic Justice (“TJ”) in the Youth Courts (“YC”) is about helping a child or young person who needs guidance, protection and/or rehabilitation move towards his or her best possible future through appropriate interventions. It involves a judge-led process where the Court, the Panel of Advisers, the child or young person, the parents or guardian of the child or young person, and stakeholders* in the youth justice eco-system, come together to find appropriate solutions for the child or young person within the framework of the law.



**The stakeholders include student welfare officers in schools, Protection Officers, Family Guidance Programme officers and case workers, lawyers and prosecutors*

Objectives of TJ in the YC

1. Provide a child or young person with opportunities to move towards a positive and meaningful future.
2. Identify and address underlying issues resulting in or affecting the child’s or young person’s behaviour or circumstances, as far as possible.
3. Where appropriate and without compromising the child’s or young person’s wellbeing, family relationships should be preserved and strengthened and families equipped with skills to better support the child or young person.
4. The parents or guardian remain primarily responsible for their child’s or young person’s care and welfare. They should prioritise the welfare, protection or rehabilitation of their child or young person, and work with stakeholders on solutions that help the family move towards their best possible future.

In youth offender cases:

Support therapeutic interventions and focus on problem-solving and addressing underlying causes, complementing restorative justice practice.

In family guidance applications:

Help the child or young person, and his or her parents or guardian, work towards an enduring solution, which includes participating in therapeutic interventions and being accountable for the progress of the child or young person.

In care and protection applications:

Prioritise the safety, care and welfare of the child or young person, while providing the family the opportunity to be heard and supported, building their capacity to care for the child or young person, and giving due consideration to the views of the child or young person where appropriate.



Applying the new TJ initiatives to YC proceedings

Type of YC Case	One Family, One Team	Collaborative Teams	School Reintegration Network	Care Conferences	Visionary Map and Promise for Change
Youth Offender cases	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family Guidance applications	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Care and Protection applications	✓	✓	✓	N.A.	N.A.

“One Family, One Team” approach

A single multi-disciplinary team is assigned, as far as reasonably practicable, to handle all YC proceedings when two or more children or young persons from the same family are involved in YC proceedings.

Collaborative Teams approach

When a family has both YC proceedings and ongoing Family Court proceedings that are under the Teams Track, the YC team and the Family Court team will collaborate to facilitate the efficient and effective management of the related matters.

School Reintegration Network

When a child or young person has been continuously absent from school, the YC may make a referral to the Ministry of Education to facilitate the reintegration of the child or young person into school.

Visionary Map (“VM”) and written Promise for Change (“P4C”)

The VM is a series of guided questions that serve as a tool for reflection. The P4C is a voluntary written statement by the child or young person, setting out his or her commitment to behavioural change through concrete, measurable actions. These tools encourage the child or young person and his or her family to identify underlying issues, collaborate on addressing these concerns to promote the long-term development and well-being of the child or young person, and follow through with concrete action towards the expressed goals.

Care Conferences

A Care Conference is a structured dialogue facilitated by the Court Family Specialist (“CFS”), held where the CFS and the YC Judicial Officer believe that additional engagement with the child or young person, his or her parents or guardian, and relevant stakeholders, will benefit the child or young person by recognising the crucial role of family support in the rehabilitation journey. It is a platform for the family to discuss their concerns, process emotions, work towards addressing strained relationships and develop the parents’ or guardian’s capacity to support the child or young person going forward.