

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL
TRANSFORMING LIVES



HMP & YOI POLMONT PRESENTATION 5TH DECEMBER 2017 - SASO



How many children and young
people are in custody in Scotland?

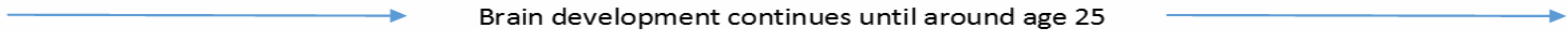
Population on 01/12/17:

374

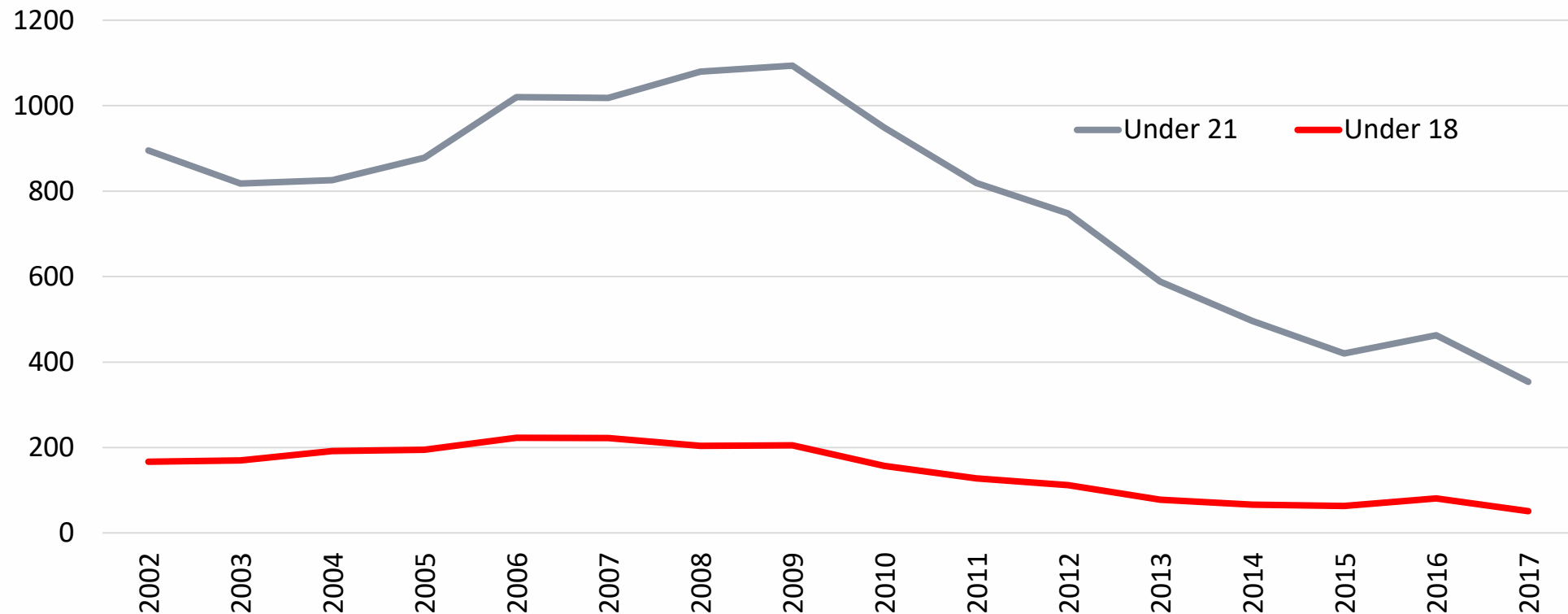
Young women		Young men	
16 & 17	18 - 21	16 & 17	18 - 21
0	14	41	319

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YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUNG ADULTS IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM: SOME AGE-RELATED FACTORS

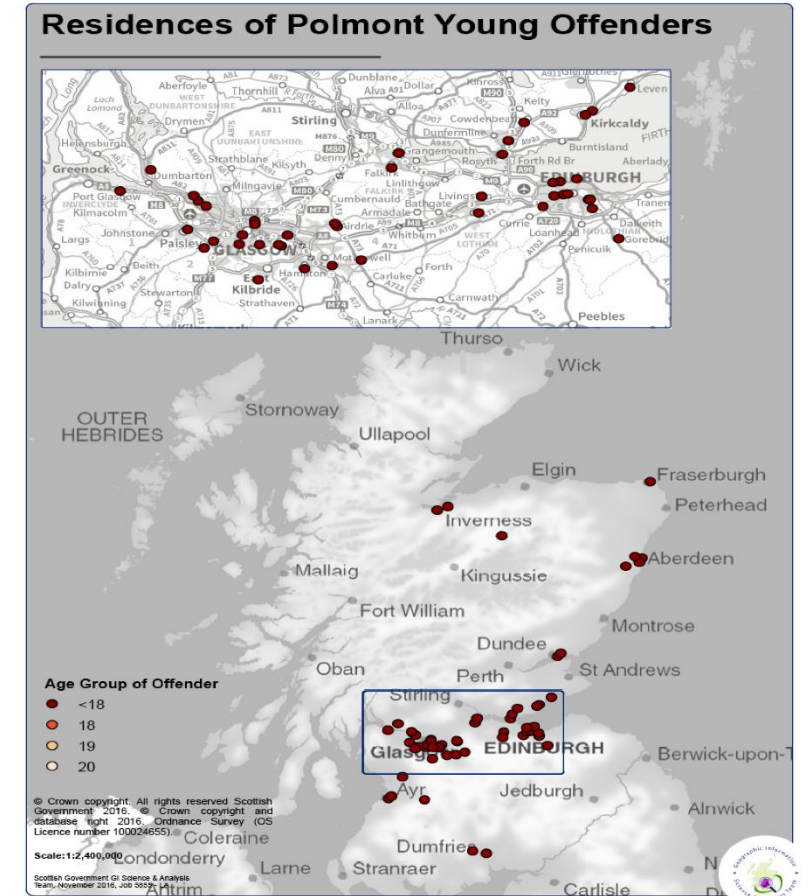
Age	16, 17	18-21	21-23	24, 25
Status	Child/young offender	Young offender	Adult	Adult
Support	Depending on offence, may be dealt with through Children's Hearings System beyond age 16 if under compulsory supervision. Entitled to support through Whole System Approach.	Not entitled to support through WSA but increasing recognition (for example within the Youth Justice Improvement Board) of the need for and benefits of WSA for this age group		
Nature of sentence	Sentenced to detention in YOI	Sentenced to detention in YOI	Sentenced to imprisonment. A decision may be made for young person to remain in a YOI after their 21st birthday and until their 23 rd birthday if in their best interests.	Sentenced to imprisonment
Corporate parenting	The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, now enacted, recognises the needs of young adults who are Looked After on or after their 16 th birthday, and extends to their 26 th birthday the period during which Corporate Parents are required, for example, to be alert to matters which might adversely affect the wellbeing of these young adults, provide them with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing, and provide advice and support.			
Examples of international standards, resolutions and practice	• <i>European Prison Rules 2006</i>: 'due account shall be taken of the need to detain ...young adult prisoners separately from older prisoners'. The rules make clear that young adults should normally be held in specialised institutions for young adults unless their social integration can be better effected in an institution for adults. • The 17th World Congress of the International Congress on Criminal Law (2002) considered that, '... the state of adolescence can be prolonged into young adulthood (25 years) and that, as a consequence, legislation needs to be adapted for young adults in a similar manner as it is done for minors' • Switzerland is one of the few countries to have implemented special arrangements for the custody of those aged 21 - 25.			
Maturation				

How have the numbers of young people in custody changed? Figures for 2002-2017



What do we know about the Young People? Where do they come from?

62 % of the 16 and 17 year olds and
55% of 18 to 21 year olds
come from the 20% most deprived
communities in Scotland



What do we know about the Young People? Family, Care Experience and School?

Involvement in Children's Hearing system ^a	Almost 60% of 103
Removed from family of origin ^a	33%
In care at age 16 ^b	24%
Reported physical abuse ^a	15%
Reported sexual abuse ^a	10%
Learning disability or difficulty ^c	39% of those assessed
Excluded from school ^b	90% (42% four or more times)
Enjoyed school some or most of the time ^b	70%
Speech, language and communication needs ^d	60%



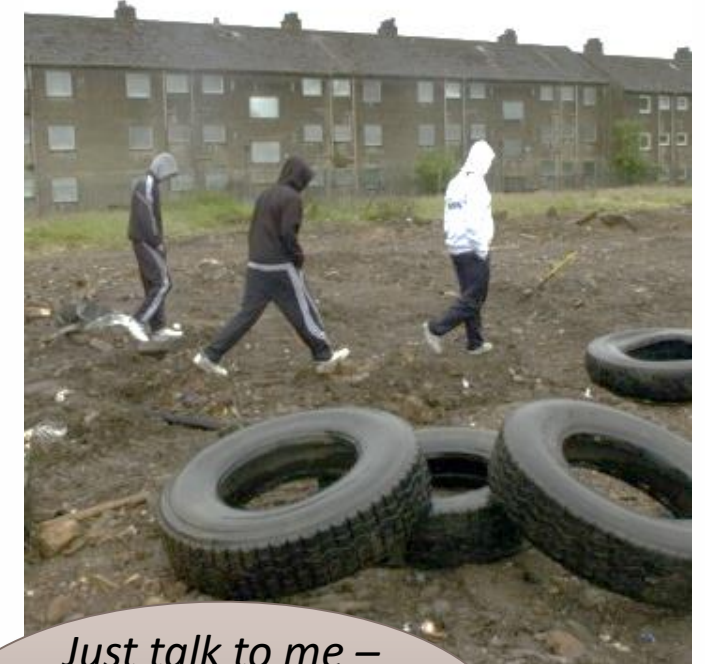
'Teachers should look out for children who are frustrated and angry and find the reason' Amy, Polmont

Sources: ^aCarla Cesaroni (unpublished) Comparative study between young offenders institutions in Scotland and Canada;

^bSPS Prisoner Survey 2013; ^cSPS ;

What do we know about the Young People? Bereavement, Trauma and Adversity?

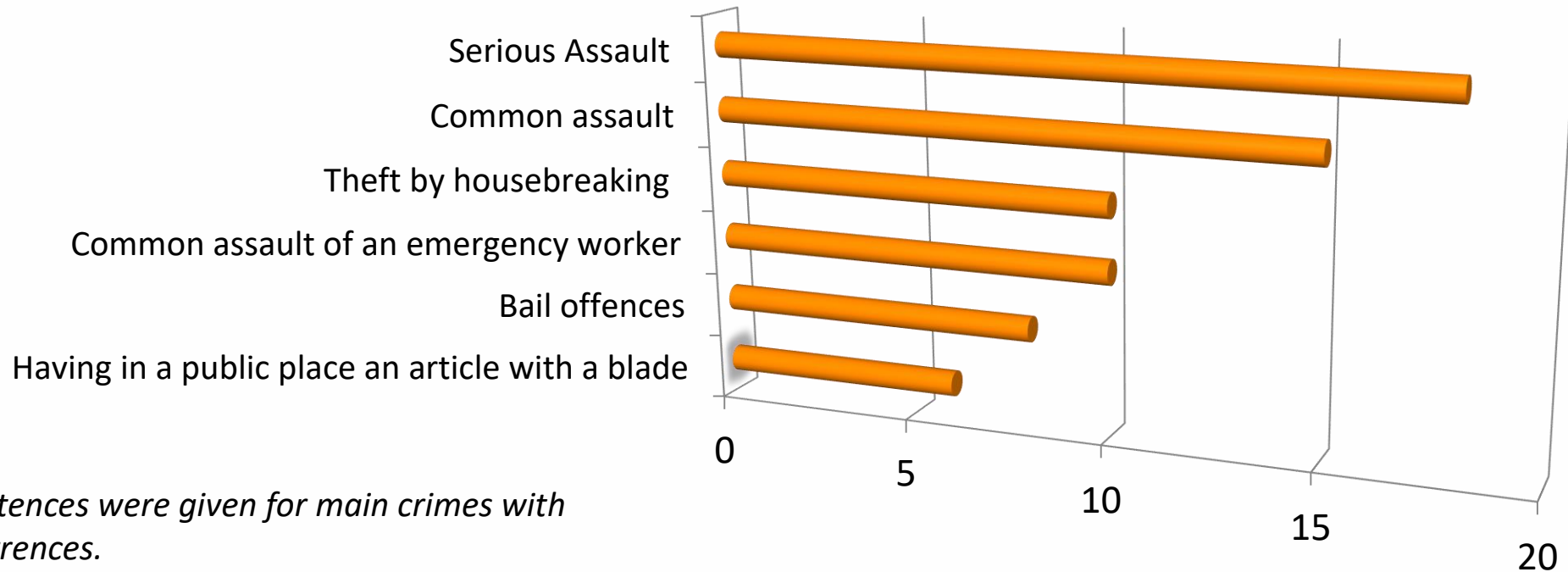
Bereavement	Trauma including predictors of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	
90% of 33 young men interviewed experienced at least one bereavement	Witness serious violence in neighbourhood (fighting, attempts to kill, murders, gang violence, kidnapping)	74% of 103
More than 75% had experienced traumatic bereavements	Fearing that they might be badly hurt or someone close to them badly hurt	58%
Two-thirds had experienced four or more bereavements	Physically assaulted/badly beaten in the community	64%
	Threatened with a weapon	76%
	Upset by seeing a dead body	36%
	Head injury	36%



*Just talk to me –
don't just see me
as bad
Annie, Polmont*

What are the most common main crimes for which 16 & 17 year olds are given custodial sentences?

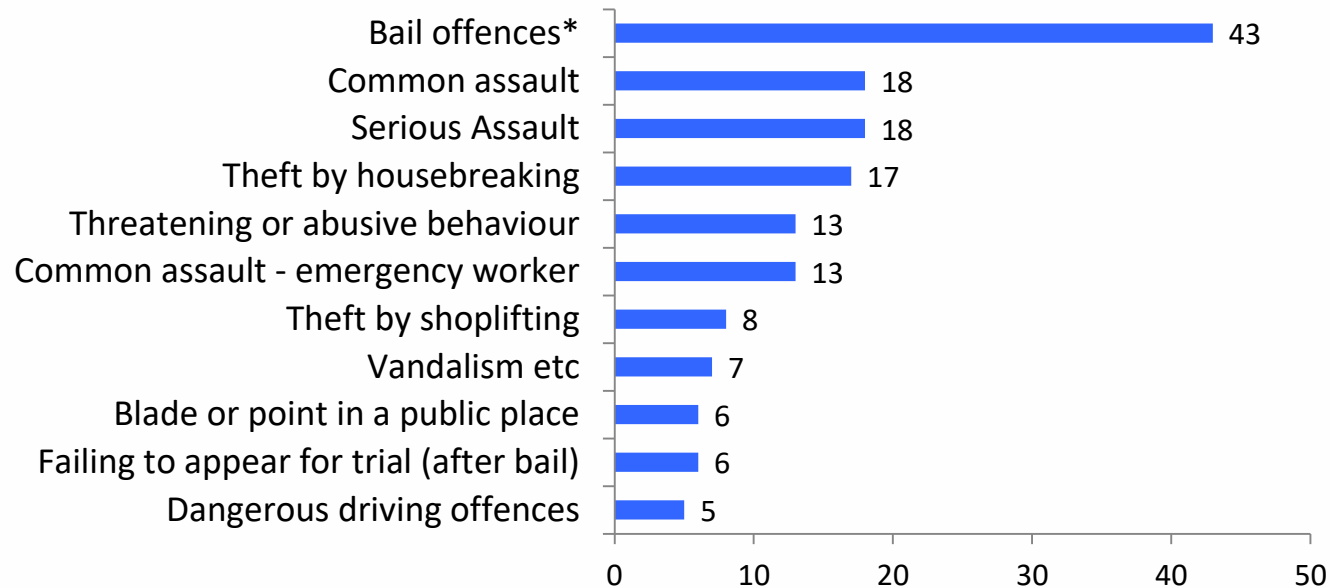
95 individual 16 & 17 year olds were given custodial sentences in 2015-16 for 199 crimes.



In addition, 39 sentences were given for main crimes with fewer than 5 occurrences.

Overall, what crimes were 16 and 17 year olds most commonly given a custodial sentence for?

95 individual 16 & 17 year olds were given custodial sentences in 2015-16.
They were given their sentences for 199 crimes.



**Excluding absconding or reoffending*

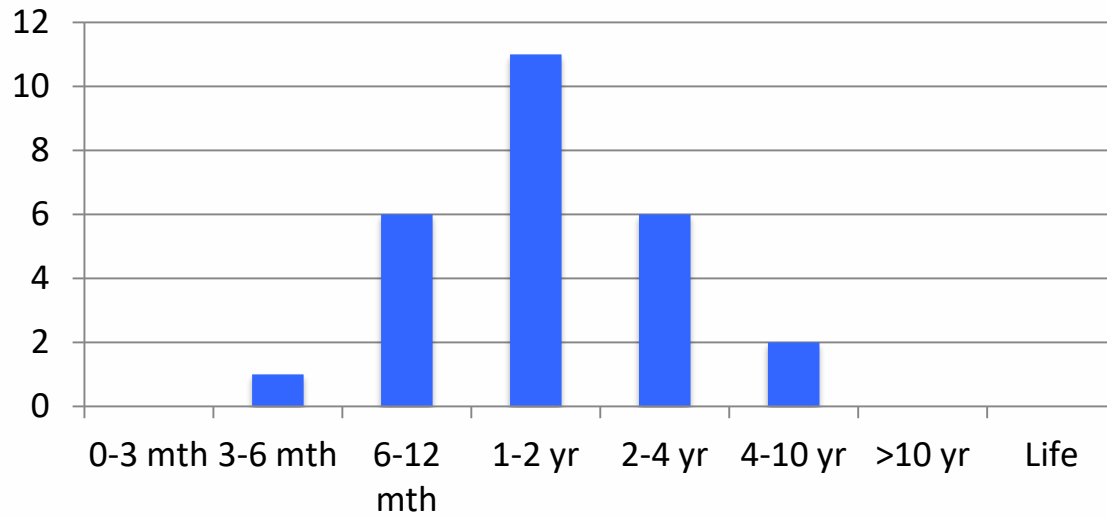
In addition, 45 sentences were given for crimes with fewer than 5 occurrences.

How long are young people's sentences?

This is complex: there may be multiple crimes, and cases in different courts.

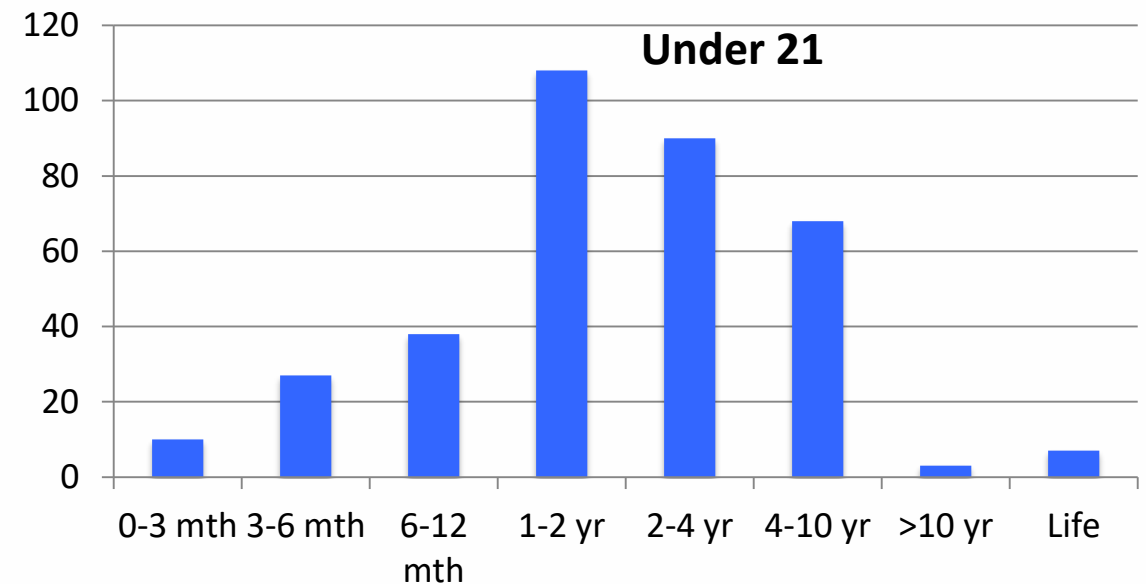
Recent snapshots (April 2017 and June 2016) of sentences as listed in prison records (note that over a full year the proportion of short sentences rises):

16 & 17 year olds



Source: SPS

Under 21



What do we know about the Young People?

Release from custody; Throughcare?

The transition to the community can be traumatic and challenging for these Young People.

Some will not have lived independently or were homeless when they entered custody.

73% of 103 Young Men in Polmont indicated that it was very important for them to receive support for getting a job, 66% to find a proper home or housing and 61% to build a relationship with their family.

In 2015 only 34% of 16 and 17 year olds were liberated because their sentence had expired. Others were liberated from court or on bail.



What happened after custody? Reconviction rates following release

In 2000-01, 40% of young men aged 21 or under leaving custody were given another custodial sentence within 1 year.

For 2012-13 that figure had fallen to 28%.

Of the young people aged 16 to 21 released from custody on 2013-14, **46.7% of young men and 40% of young women were reconvicted within a year** (all disposals).

Within this figure, **23% of the young men with one previous conviction but 70% of those with more than 10 convictions were reconvicted.**

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How will we know if we are making a difference?

Gathering data based on logic model, using the 'SHANARRI' (safe, healthy, etc) indicators and quality indicators

