

Stephen Herbert
Clerk
Education, Children and Young People Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

4 April 2022

Dear Stephen Herbert

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans wrote to the Conveners of the Education, Children and Young People; Covid-19 Recovery Committee; and Criminal Justice Committee on 31 March setting out the action that the Scottish Government is taking to reduce offending by children and young people and safeguarding them within the youth justice system with a view to keeping under 18s out of YOIs (Young Offender Institutions).

The Cabinet Secretary referred in his letter to the work of the Short-Life Group established by the Covid-19 Children and Families Collective Leadership Group to deliver improvements for and reduce the number of under-18s in custody.

I chaired the Short-Life Group and am pleased to provide the Group's full report and recommendations for the information of the Covid-19 Recovery Committee. As the Cabinet Secretary indicated in his letter, the recommendations will be taken forward through legislative and other action including the forthcoming Children's Care and Justice Bill and work to Keep The Promise.

Kind Regards

JOANNA MACDONALD
Deputy Chief Social Work Advisor