

# South Lanarkshire Council – Inclusion as Prevention

[keywords: *children and young people, prevention, diversion*]

## Overview

“Inclusion as prevention” (IAP) has been a five-year project develop and improve services for young people in the area, and shift from acute, crisis-driven interventions once a young person becomes involved in offending, to a focus on early-stage intervention and support with those at risk of offending. The approach brings together four core partner agencies: South Lanarkshire Children & Justice Services; Action for Children; CYCJ; and Dartington Service Design Lab. At the heart of the approach is the involvement of young people in helping to identify unmet needs, and design, develop, and improve, the range of services on offer, to more effectively engage them and help address their needs. While the project itself has come to an end (in 2024) the improvements it has generated will continue, and the project has published a range of reports and resources enabling the learning from it to be shared more widely.

## Its impact

The project has had a profound impact in the South Lanarkshire area, allowing the local authority to take a more responsive, approachable, supportive and child’s-rights based direction, and significantly strengthen and improve its early-stage, diversionary work.

## What’s special about it

The involvement of young people themselves is what makes this special and has been crucial to its positive impact.

## Wider applicability

We believe that the learning from IAP could be of benefit right across Scotland and beyond in improving services for children and young people.

## Further information

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See also: [Inclusion as Prevention](#) (website, including resources)