

Victims of Youth Crime

Focused on children and young people most at risk, SCRA's fundamental purpose is to:

- Make effective decisions about a need to refer a child/young person to a Children's Hearing
- Prepare for and participate in court proceedings where Statement of Grounds or Hearings findings are appealed, and ensure the wellbeing of children and young people – particularly vulnerable witnesses – are protected throughout the court process
- Support Panel Members (though we are not involved in making Hearing decisions) and ensure fair process in Hearings
- Enable children, young people and families to participate in Hearings
- Disseminate information and data to influence and inform the wider Children's Services community
- Provide premises for Hearings to take place
- Work collaboratively with partners to support and facilitate the Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) agenda

In 2019/20, 2,840 children and young people were referred to SCRA on offence grounds.

Types of offence

Some of the most common types of offences committed by children and young people that involve a victim, are assault, threatening and abusive behaviour and vandalism.

Number of alleged offences in 2019/20, by police crime grouping

Police offence code group	Count
Non-sexual crimes of violence	226
Sexual crimes	479
Crimes of dishonesty	1,953
Fire-raising, vandalism etc	1,769
Other crimes	1,461
Miscellaneous offences	6,370
Motor vehicle offences	299
Total alleged offences	12,557

SCRA's Victim Information Service

People can suffer greatly in the aftermath of crime, regardless of the age of the perpetrator.* SCRA is committed to working with our partner agencies to ensure victims of youth crime receive the most appropriate support and advice.

The principles of SCRA's Victim Information Service are:

- To provide victims of youth crime with access to routine information about the Children's Hearings System.

- To provide information to victims (and others specified, such as insurance companies of victims) about what has happened to the referral to the Reporter, or the child or young person responsible for the offence.
- To protect the right of the child or young person to confidentiality.

The process involves the victim of an offence being identified from the police report when the child or young person is referred to the Reporter. Victim Information Co-ordinators then write to victims at the initial stage of their investigation.

On receiving this initial letter, victims can then opt in to receive further information regarding key stages of the investigation and the final decision. This can be done by phoning the Victim Information Co-ordinators (numbers are available on our website) or by emailing victiminformation@scra.gov.uk

In 2019, 3,200 victims of offences allegedly committed by children were written to by SCRA's Victim Information Co-ordinators.

* Victim's views of SCRA's Victim Information Service (SCRA, 2010)



Ensuring positive futures for children
and young people in Scotland

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