

# Roadmap to Zero Youth Detention

## OBJECTIVES

### 1 OBJECTIVE 1: Lead with Racial Equity

King County will  
eliminate racial  
disproportionality  
in secure  
detention

### 2 OBJECTIVE 2: Prevent

Keep youth out of the  
legal system.

### 4 OBJECTIVE 4: Effective

Reduce the  
recurrence of legal  
system involvement  
and increase healthy  
outcomes for youth.

### 3 OBJECTIVE 3: Divert

Divert youth from  
all points in the  
legal system  
towards  
community-based\*



\*Use of diversion options, including diversion from detention are determined by prosecutorial and judicial discretion. In many instances, judicial decisions are driven by statutory requirements.

# Objective 1: LEAD WITH RACIAL EQUITY

*Eliminate racial disproportionality in secure detention*

Equity is central to well-being. Every young person has the right to be well and the opportunity to succeed, regardless of who they are or where they live. In King County, white youth are less likely to be arrested while youth of color are overrepresented at every phase of the legal system, including secure detention.

## Strategy A

Identify and  
eliminate policies  
that result in racial  
disproportionality

## Strategy B

Invest in the workforce  
by recruiting culturally  
reflective staff and  
expanding training in  
cultural  
responsiveness

# Objective 2: PREVENT

*Keep youth out of the legal system*

Strong communities keep the public safe, hold youth accountable, and help youth and their families succeed. The response to young people in crisis is to often refer them to the legal system and to remove youth from their homes. Incarceration is a harmful, ineffective, and expensive response to youth in crisis.

## Strategy A

Support the development of restorative policies and practices to keep youth engaged in school

## Strategy B

Communities, including youth, families, and victims will have access to high quality, community led services  
How can we improve in a sustainable manner?

## Strategy C

Support community based responses to youth and families in crisis so that legal system involvement is rare and last resort

# Objective 3: DIVERT

*Divert youth from all points in the legal system towards community-based responses\**

Fortifying community capacity and resources provides benefits from which everyone gains. Strong communities are equipped to safely meet the diverse and complex needs of young people who need help. Having a continuum of community based responses for youth in crisis who are involved with the legal system enables strength based solutions to safely keep youth in homes and communities.

## Strategy A

Divert youth from law enforcement citation and/or arrest

## Strategy B

Divert youth from referral, case filing, and adjudication

## Strategy C

Divert youth from secure detention

\*Use of diversion options, including diversion from detention are determined by prosecutorial and judicial discretion. In many instances, judicial decisions are driven by statutory requirements.

# OBJECTIVE 4: Effective

*Reduce the recurrence of legal system involvement and increase healthy outcomes for youth.*

Ensuring that the County's services, programs, and resources help meet the needs of youth within their family and community context enhance community safety and stability, promote youth and family wellbeing and positive youth development so that youth can thrive.

## Strategy A

Expand family engagement and connections

## Strategy B

Reengage youth from detention into community

## Strategy C

Ensure arrested and detained youth receive trauma informed, culturally reflective, and developmentally appropriate care and services

## Strategy D

Align systems (legal, health, human services, schools, law enforcement) through partnership, common goals, outcomes and indicators

## Strategy E

Utilize data and technology to optimize connections between legal, community, and services systems

## Strategy F

Support policy reform that improve the lives of youth, children, and families and reduces legal system involvement