

## Safer Streets

Everyone has the right to feel safe, whether it be walking to the shops, returning home after work or scrolling online. The Greens believe it's time to transform the justice system by implementing a community-led system of policing focused on education, to tackle the underlying reasons for criminality in our society. Punishment for its own sake is ineffective and for this reason, we would refocus prison sentences towards more restorative justice programmes. Our aim is to reduce the need for state intervention in the criminal justice system by rooting out societal issues and ending the war on drugs. Three important areas of focus are:

### **Investment in local services**

- Money will be invested into community-based policing, education, employment and youth services, which will help turn at-risk children away from crime.
- Evidence has shown that cuts in youth services have increased crime, particularly knife crime. We'd direct investment to youth services tackling knife crime.
- We would integrate police forces more closely with communities by creating new liaison and equality officer positions to improve police relationships in their communities and get more officers on the beat.

### **Short term sentences**

- The Greens would reduce the number of short-term sentences handed out and replace them with restorative justice programmes which have a better record at preventing reoffending.
- We believe punishment for its own sake is ineffective, particularly for imprisoned women. For that reason, we would develop a network of specialist women's centres to reduce the female prison population.
- We would offer better rehabilitation services to long-term prisoners, part of a target to reduce the prison population by half by breaking the vicious cycle of reoffending.

### **End the war on drugs**

- The Greens would end the war on drugs by deprioritising policing on cannabis, allowing resources to be focused on things like organised crime.
- We would invest in education and treat problematic drug use as a health issue, not a crime issue, building on the successful approaches from other countries.
- Prohibiting commercial advertising for alcohol (and all other drugs) and the introduction of minimum unit pricing would help reduce harmful drinking.