

**Table 1 Summary of treatment alternatives to conviction or punishment, including their advantages and disadvantages**

	Police referral	Regular court or probation-based services	Drug courts	Aftercare
<b>Point of intervention</b>	Pre-arrest, pre-booking, or pre-court appearance	Pre-plea/pre-trial, post-plea/post-trial, or post-sentence	Pre-plea/pre-trial, post-plea/post-trial, or post-sentence	Post imprisonment/early release
<b>Key features: who initiates the process?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Police refer participant to education, assessment or treatment. It can either be based on police discretion or be a standard procedure that first arrest gets plan A, second arrest gets plan B, third arrest gets plan C.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participant is referred to treatment by court or probation service. The process is initiated by key criminal justice persons (magistrate, judge, court worker, prosecution, defence lawyer)</li> <li>- Court oversight is generally limited to reports from the treatment sector, although the participant is required to appear in court for specific events such as treatment non-compliance or sentencing</li> <li>- Health and justice have clearly defined and separate roles</li> <li>- Communication between teams may be provided by a coordinator</li> <li>- Court may pay for treatment, if necessary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Judge/magistrate with specialist knowledge is the leader of a multidisciplinary drug treatment service</li> <li>- Participants are required to appear in court regularly</li> <li>- Standardized regimens of treatment are commonly used and frequent urine testing may be required</li> <li>- Rewards for compliance with programme conditions &amp; sanctions for non-compliance to effect behavioural change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Services assess individual needs of participants prior to release from prison and provide access to a variety of medical and psychosocial services within the community, including ongoing drug treatment</li> </ul>
<b>Advantages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Time and cost savings on criminal justice processing</li> <li>- Police in a good position to coordinate referral to appropriate services</li> <li>- The offender presents at a time of crisis when motivated to enter treatment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Time and cost savings on criminal justice processing</li> <li>- Large volume of participants processed</li> <li>- Regular courts can process individuals</li> <li>- Participants chose their own treatment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Judge-led multidisciplinary decision-making</li> <li>- Authority figure of judge instrumental in therapeutic change</li> <li>- Close supervision of participants</li> <li>- Swift application of sanctions for non-compliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitates reintegration into the community</li> </ul>
<b>Disadvantages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Police discretion may be open to misuse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Objectives of justice and treatment services may diverge</li> <li>- Judicial oversight may be limited</li> <li>- Communication between justice and health services may be limited</li> <li>- Rewards for compliance or sanctions for non-compliance may be delayed or inadequate</li> <li>- Judicial discretion may be open to misuse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Judges may lack specialist expertise in clinical decision-making</li> <li>- There may be blurring of distinctions between criminal justice and treatment</li> <li>- Resource intensive and potentially costly to establish</li> <li>- Relatively few offenders processed</li> <li>- Participants have less choice in the treatment method</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordination is required to ensure individualized treatment and rehabilitation needs are met and maintained over time</li> <li>- Not a complete alternative to conviction or punishment</li> </ul>