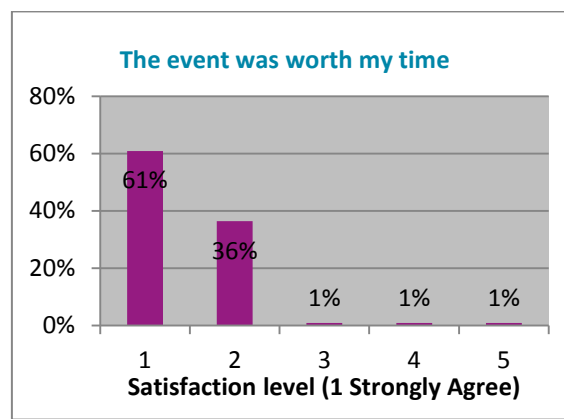


National Youth Justice Practitioners Conference Report 2014

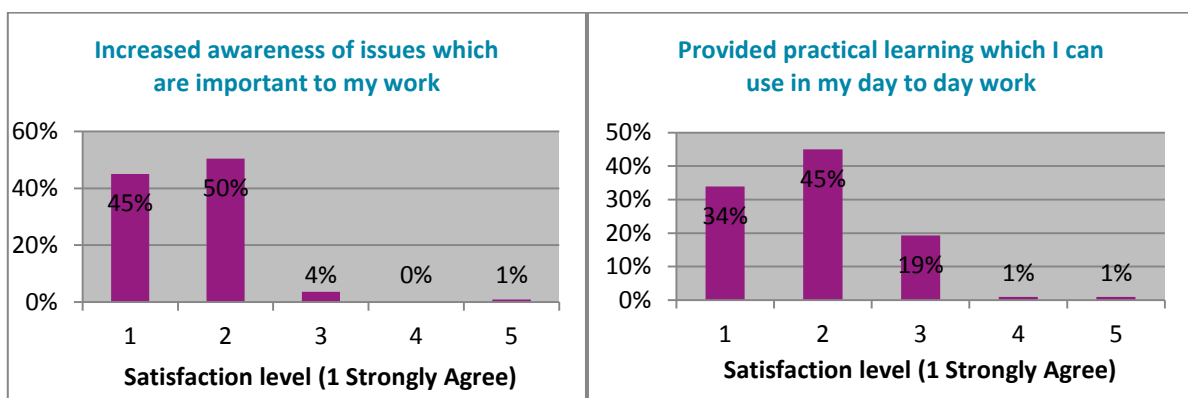
The National Youth Justice Practitioners' Conference, held in Dundee on June 4 and 5, 2014, saw 160 in attendance on both days. Delegates engaged with discussion and debate and heard a range of keynote speakers and workshop presenters focussing on the themes of Whole Systems Approach –a partner's perspective (day 1) and Mental Health (day 2).

By and large delegates enjoyed the two day event with 97% either agreeing or strongly agreeing that it was worth their time attending.



Event content and impact

Overall, delegates expressed that the event increased their awareness of issues that are important to their work and provided them with practical learning. 'The overviews and information was ideal and beneficial'

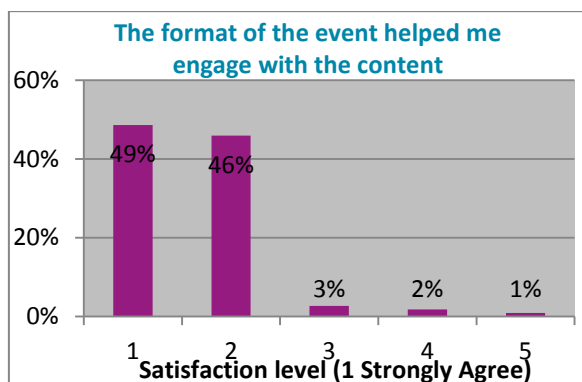


An overwhelming majority of the delegates recounted that the presentations from service users Ashley Cameron and Tony McDonald were 'inspiring and thought provoking' and brought 'realism to the event and put it all into perspective'. Attendees also enjoyed 'seeing the innovative ways people are working with young people' and hearing from organisations such as Vox Liminis.

Attendees commented that they would have benefitted from more interactive workshops, perhaps with more structured networking and participative opportunities and fewer back to back speakers. Several felt that the selection of workshops was good and they would have welcomed the chance to attend two in a day.

Event format

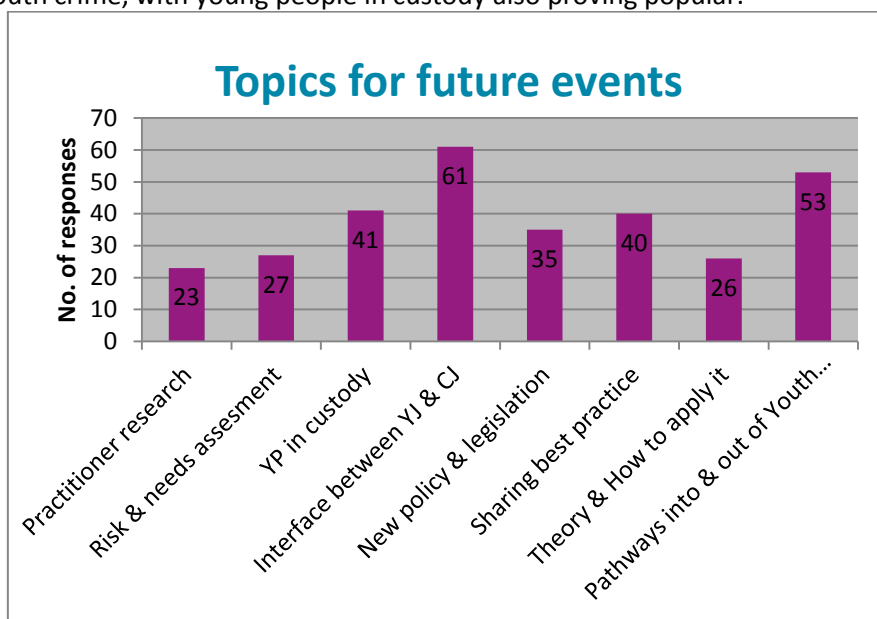
The prevailing feedback was that delegates found the structure of the two days worked well, helping them to engage with the content, with 95% of attendees either strongly agreeing or agreeing.



Delegates stated that the event ‘allowed for excellent networking opportunities’ with a ‘good balance of presentations throughout the two days’. However, some delegates did feel that the morning session of day one was quite long and would have benefitted from more time in working groups and table discussion.

What next?

Delegates were asked what topics they would like CYCJ to focus future events on. The suggested topics were taken from the stakeholder survey carried out in December 2013. Predominantly, people wanted to see events on the interface between youth and adult justice and pathways into and out of youth crime, with young people in custody also proving popular.



CYCJ is funded by the Scottish Government and hosted by the University of Strathclyde.

Delegates were also encouraged to recommend any topics which they felt were not covered by these suggestions. Suggestions included topics such as the adolescent brain, learning and communication difficulties, young women in custody, criminality and sexual exploitation and links to the wider family and the positive impact that has on preventing offending. A full list of these can be provided on request.

Attendees were also asked to list up to three things they intended on doing as a result of the event. Many expressed the importance of relating what they had learned to colleagues and maintaining relationships with new colleagues they had met at the conference. Attendees also claimed they would spend more time listening to and trying to understand young people and would return to their organisations and work 'to improve the EEI process' and 'take further the principles of WSA'. Again, a full list of intentions can be provided on request.