

Managing and Responding to High Risk Young People Conference Report

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March 2017

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1. Introduction

The Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice (CYCJ) hosted the free one-day conference Managing and Responding to High Risk Young People on February 2, 2017 in the Insight Institute at the University of Strathclyde.

The conference consisted of presentations and workshops that addressed how to best manage and respond to high risk behavior in young people, including those who present a risk of harm through their violent and/or sexual harmful behavior.

Speakers included Dr Camille Warrington from the University of Bedfordshire discussing child protection and managing high risk in adolescents, Pat Branigan from NSPCC with Stuart Allardyce from Stop It Now Scotland presenting the NSPCC led HSB framework, Peter Yates from Edinburgh Napier University discussing sibling sexual abuse and Dr Lorraine Johnstone from the Interventions of Vulnerable Youth Project (IVY) delivering a Violence/IVY case study.

Workshops covered assessing and managing risk using CARM, working with parents of young people with harmful sexual behavior, working with under 12s and harmful sexual behavior and working with high risk girls.

2. Evaluation Feedback

Conference attendees were each given evaluation forms to complete in their event packs. In these evaluations attendees were asked to rate four statements from 1-5 relating to whether they strongly agreed or strongly disagreed with the statement provided. The results from this feedback are detailed below.

2.1 Prior Knowledge

Those attending the conference were asked to describe their knowledge on managing and responding to high risk in young people prior to the conference.

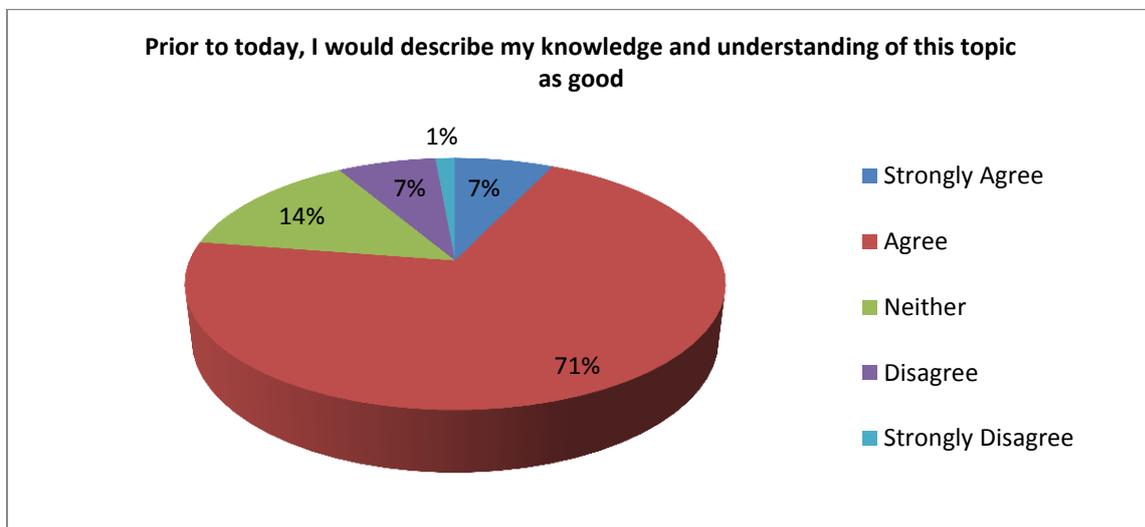


Chart 1, prior knowledge

As shown in the chart above, a large number of attendees to the conference agreed with the statement that their knowledge of managing and responding to high risk in young people was good prior to attending, with a total of 8% responding that they had little or no prior knowledge on the topic before attending.

2.2 Previous Experience

Professionals attending the conference were asked if they had previous experience of managing and responding to high risk in young people. As a large proportion of our audience work with young people in social work or other services, it is as expected that a large proportion of attendees to the conference had previous experience in this area; 90% strongly agreed or agreed. The remaining 10% of attendees that felt they had less previous experience were primarily from third sector organisations.

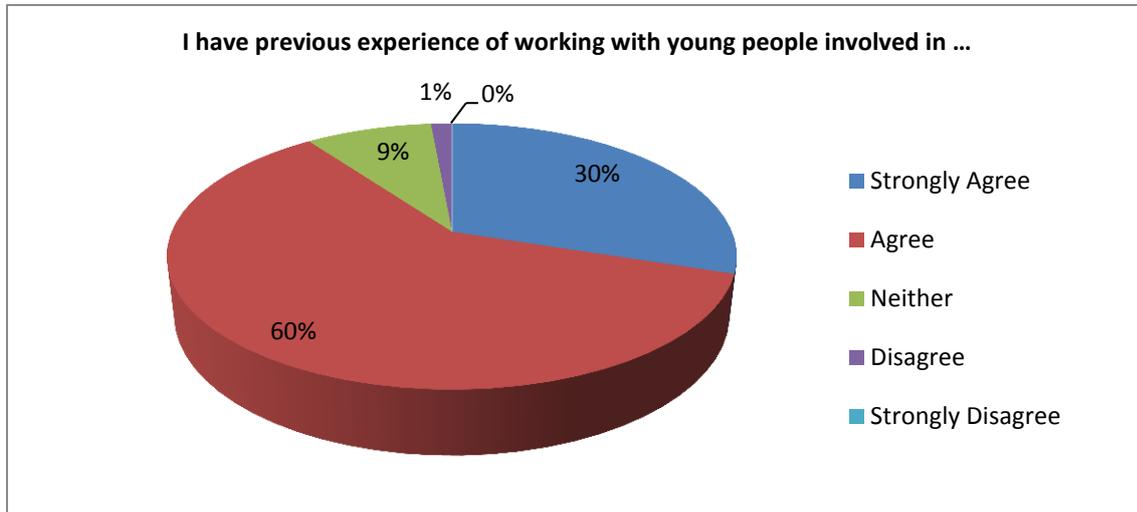


Chart 2, previous experience

2.3 Gained Understanding

Overall attendees were very positive about the understanding they gained about managing and responding to high risk in young people as a result of the conference, demonstrated in Chart 3 below. 86% of attendees either strongly agreed or agreed that they had gained a greater understanding from the seminar. 10% of attendees felt they neither gained a greater understanding whilst 4% of attendees felt they had not gained a greater understanding on the topic.

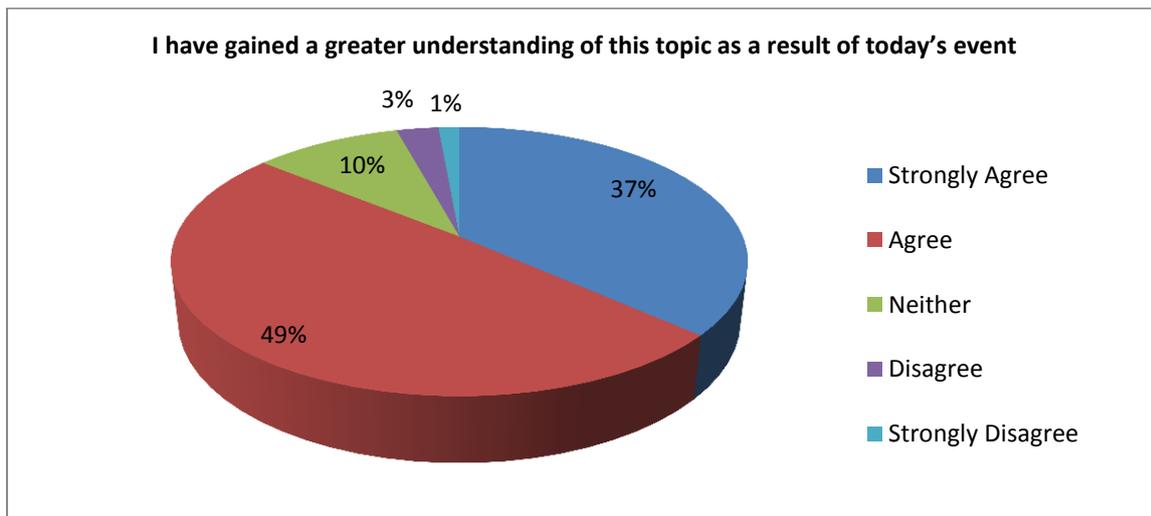


Chart 3, gained understanding

2.4 Impact on Practice

A majority of attendees felt that the knowledge gained from the conference would impact on their own practice, as detailed in Chart 4 below. 86% strongly agreed or agreed that the knowledge gained on managing and responding to high risk in young people would impact their own practice, in line with those who stated that they had gained a greater understanding on the topic. Only 1% of attendees strongly disagreed with this statement.

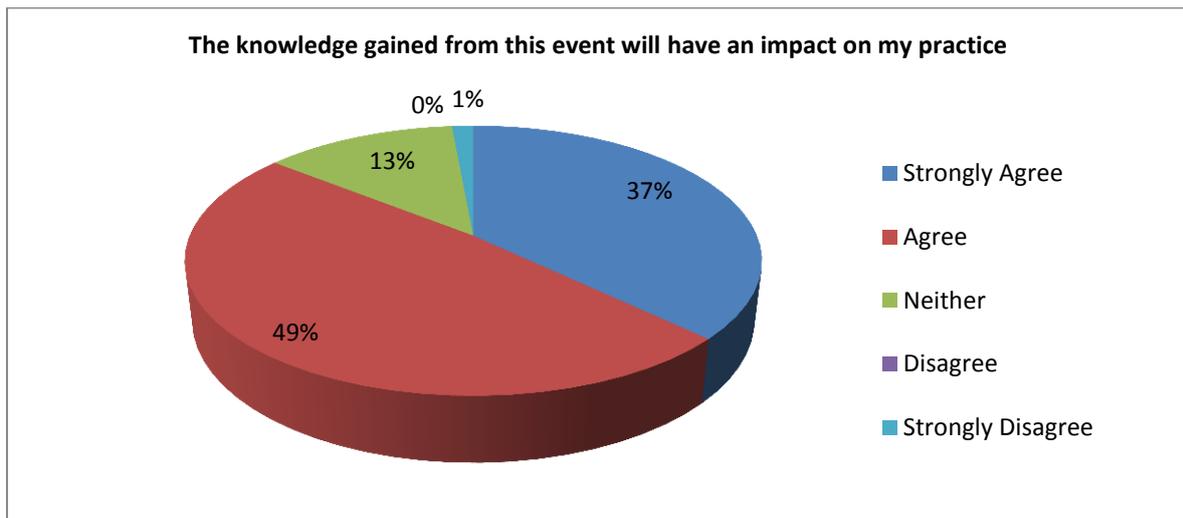


Chart 4, impact on practice

6. Event Impact and Learning

Overall feedback from the respondents was extremely positive. The majority of written feedback outlined that most attendees found the day to be very interesting, informative and that the speaker's presentations were relevant and knowledgeable. The workshops were an area which some respondents felt could be improved to be more relevant to the topic of the conference. Many respondents feedback stated that the event was well-run, reporting that they found the Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice staff to be particularly helpful and were impressed with the smooth running time of both presentations and workshops.

The three presentations were very informative and delivered with passion and commitment. – Attendee feedback

When asked what they felt was the most important thing they had learned as a result of the event, there were varying topics provided as answers from all respondents. The most common reoccurrences included a fresh perspective on the young person's views, improved insight into developing practice and the risks around HSB and CSE.

Fresh perspective on the YP's views and how they experience intervention - this has provided food for thought in terms of how I work with young people and really keeping child focused. Also has given ideas and thoughts on new ways of approaching partnership working. – Attendee feedback

There were some suggestions for improvement on the conference, and as mentioned previously most of this pertained to the workshops. Some attendees felt that the workshops could be improved by providing more detailed information and enhanced explanations about what the context of each workshop is and what the workshop entails. The feedback also indicated that attendees were keen to participate in small group work during the workshop, rather than working in a large group or being presented to by the workshop lead. Another suggestion for improvement related to how best to ensure people are comfortable to participate in Q&A's

Perhaps we could find a way to help support people to ask questions - quite hard sometimes to ask questions in front of so many people. Some brief discussion on tables and conversation group i.e. questions as a group? - Attendee feedback

7. What next?

Attendees were asked if there were any actions that they would take as a result of the event or any further training they would like to see. The majority of responses outlined that they would like to have more training and information provided on risk assessment tools and interventions, with CARM training being predominantly mentioned. One conference attendee stated that as a result of the conference they would be conducting further research with regards to adverse childhood experiences. Another respondent was looking forward to the reading that had come from the event and there were also a number of feedback forms that mentioned ensuring attendance to future CYCJ events.