

Hear and Now Conference Report 2018

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1. Introduction

Organised by the Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice (CYCJ) as part of the University of Strathclyde's Engage @ Strathclyde programme, this event looked at the challenges young people may face within the youth justice system. It provided an opportunity for young people to express their views, and explored to what extent these views are, and will be, heard by the youth justice system.

Speakers featuring at the event were:

Rosie Moore: a care experienced young person who is currently working as part of the Independent Care Review

Ellen Maloney: a care experienced young person with a particular interest in participation

Simone Smith: a care experienced young person with involvement in a number of participation groups

Paul Sullivan: sector engagement lead at CELCIS.

A total of 21 people attended, although 50 had registered for this in advance of the day. Attendees were primarily from outwith the University, including children's rights organisations, youth groups, Police Scotland and local authorities.

2. Evaluation Feedback

2.1 Prior Knowledge

Attendees were asked to describe their knowledge prior to the conference. The chart shows that the vast majority had prior knowledge before the event. Just 13% felt they had little to no prior knowledge of the subjects being discussed, whilst 74% either agreed or strongly agreed to having prior knowledge.

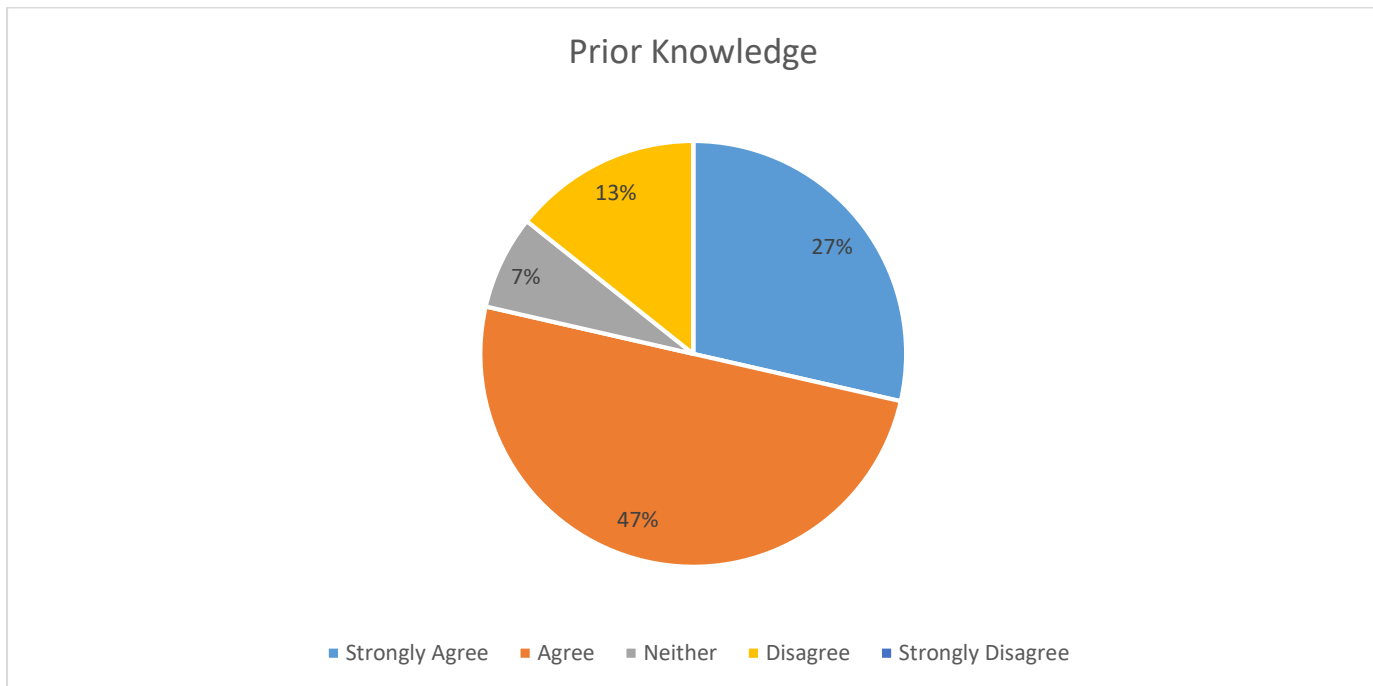


Chart 1: Prior Knowledge

2.2 Previous Experience

Attendees were asked to describe their previous experience before the conference. The chart shows that the vast majority had some prior experience. The majority of attendees (67%) either agreed or strongly agreed they had previous experience, whilst 27% either disagreed or strongly disagreed they had previous experience and 7% commented they had neither.

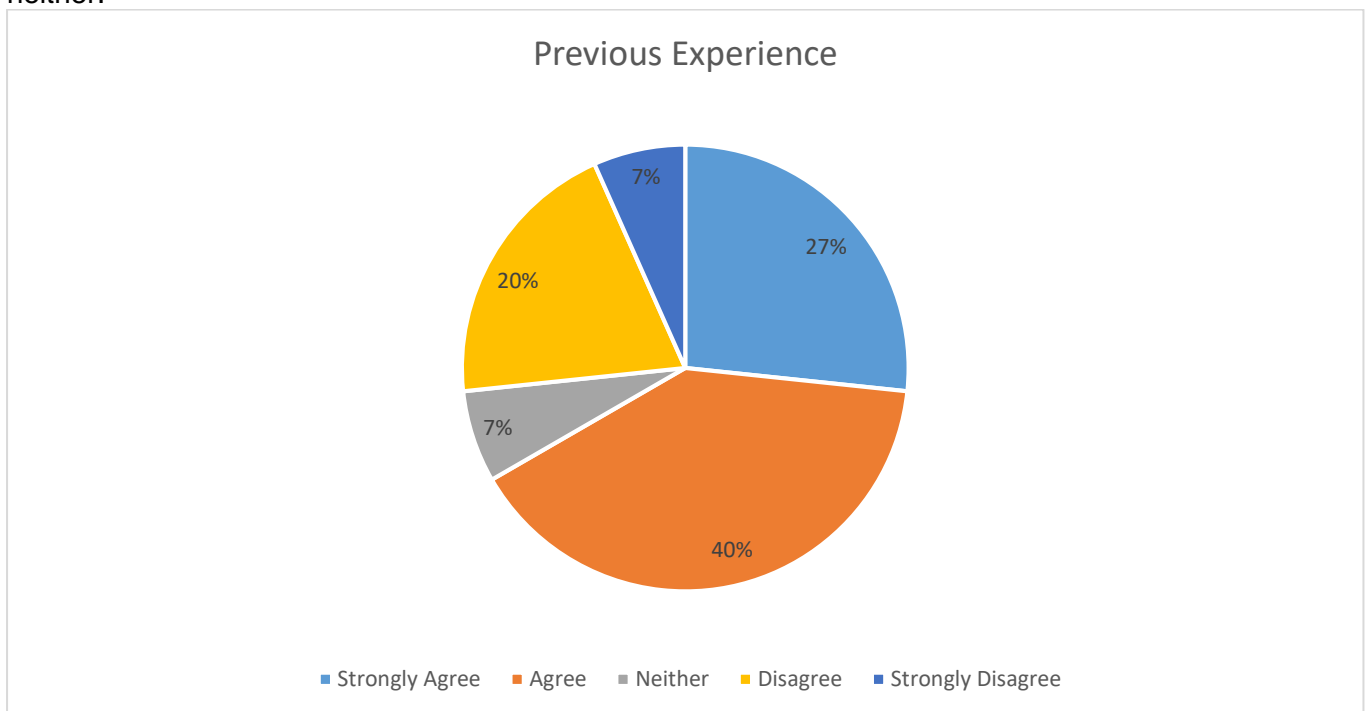


Chart 2: Previous Experience

2.3 Gained Understanding

The chart below illustrates that the vast majority of people did gain understanding from the event. Eighty percent of attendees stated that they either agreed or strongly disagreed they gained understanding.

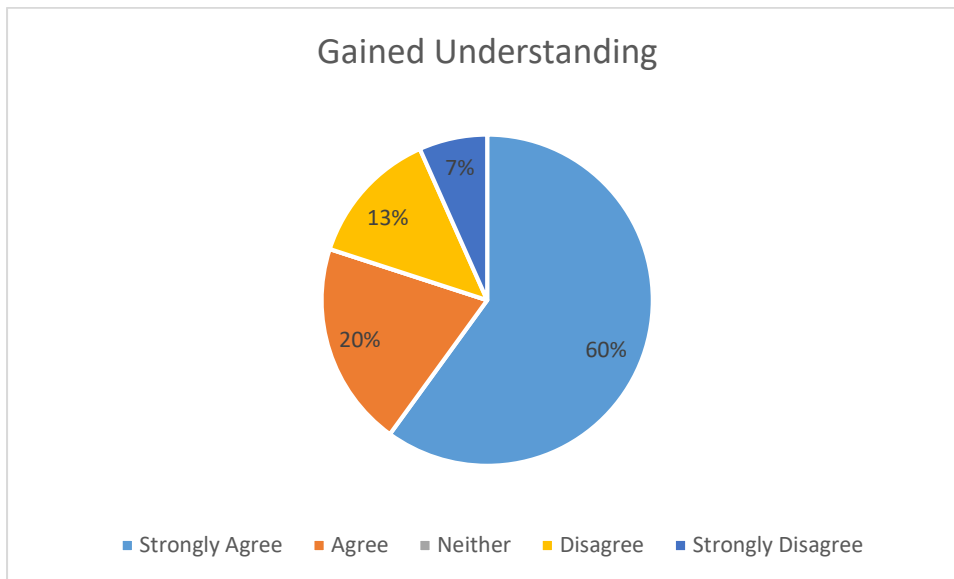


Chart 3: Gained Understanding

2.4 Gained Knowledge

The attendees were asked if they gained any knowledge from the event. The vast majority (80%) either agreed or strongly agreed that they gained knowledge from the event.

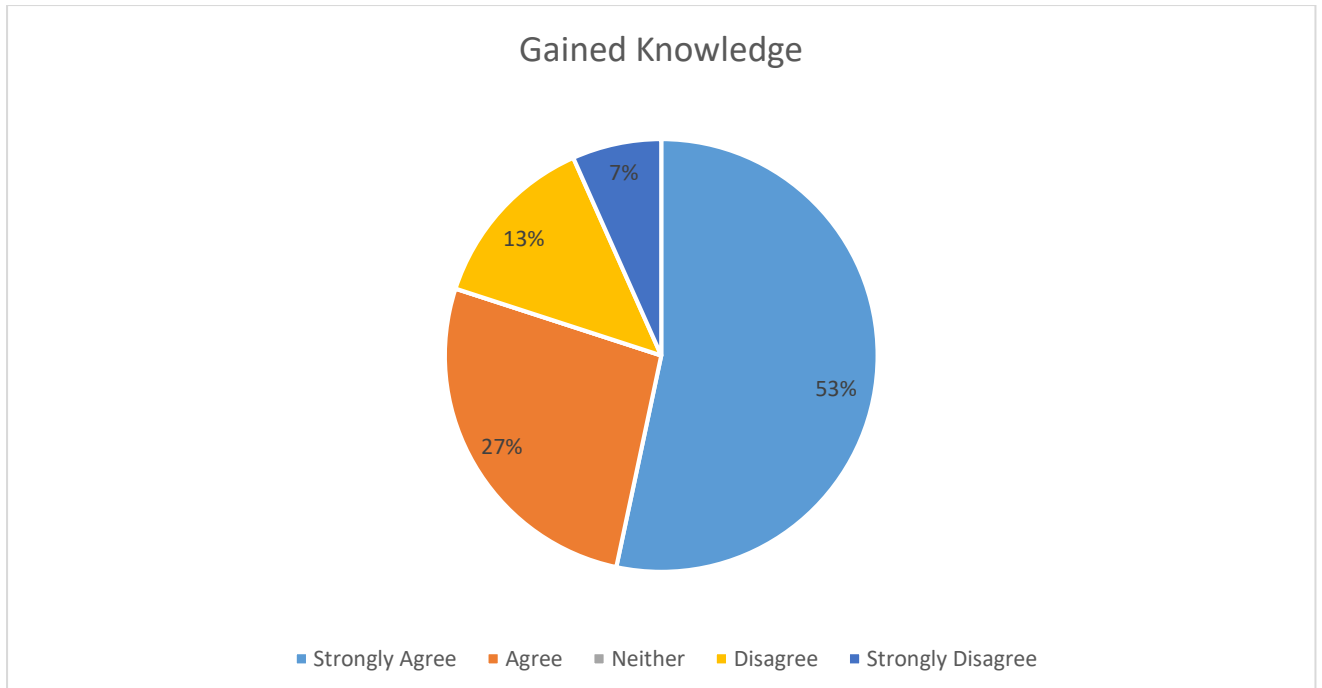


Chart 4: gained knowledge

3. Event Impact and Learning

Feedback forms were returned by 15 people who attended the ‘Hear and Now’ event. The feedback was mostly positive and most people agreed that the range of speakers and the topics discussed were good.

The majority of respondents, when talking about what they had learned from the event, focused on the feedback from the young people:

“The inputs from Ellie, Rosie and Simone were very powerful and although from different perspectives the core messages were so consistent, Paul's input invaluable”

“Discussions concerning the voice/actions of young people in the youth justice system too often lack input from young people themselves - to hear their input today was invaluable”

“There are several positive projects currently running/being set up. Gives me hope”

“Helping to reflect on own organisation's approach, commitment and participation and how we can develop”

“Reinforcing the need for persistence and always asking, what happened to you not what you have done”

The attendees were positive when commenting about what worked well at the event. The fact that people were able to hear the voices of real young people with lived experience seemed to be a theme which worked well. The variety of topics was also received well and attendees commented that this worked well throughout the event. Some of the comments were:

“I enjoyed the testimonies of the young people”

“Great variety of experience, openness & fairly informal approach”

“The young people were the most powerful contribution”

When asked if there could have been any improvements to the event attendees were of the view that there could have been more from the young people themselves. A more challenging experience as professionals was also mentioned, along with the possibility of more open discussions.

“Sharing details of participation network”

“I’m not sure the Q&A worked and maybe more pressure on us as professionals to generate discussions would have been good”

“I would have liked to have heard from young people in custody, although I recognise the difficulties in attracting young people to speak at these events”

“Maybe some space for round table discussions”

4. What next?

When asked what was next, the attendees suggested that further practical participation on the topics and being kept up to date with further developments on the event would be beneficial. The attendees commented:

“Further practical participation tips/advice”

“Getting it right for girls”

“Definitely think the Participation Network will be a really helpful forum - lots of learning from tonight to reflect on! Thank you”

“I would like to be kept up to date on future events to continue my learning etc”