

About Us

Welcome

The Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice (CYCJ) supports improvement in youth and criminal justice, contributing to better lives for individuals and communities.

Our vision is a Scotland where all individuals and communities are safe and flourish; and where Scottish youth justice practice, policy and research are internationally renowned and respected. We contribute to this by developing, supporting and understanding youth and criminal justice practice, policy and research in Scotland, and through seeking and sharing learning internationally.

To keep up to date about our activities please sign up to our monthly e-bulletin:
www.cycj.org.uk/contact-us/stay-informed.

What we do

Our work centres on three key activities: Practice Development; Research; and Knowledge Exchange.

Practice Development

Providing advice and support

Our multi-disciplinary practice development team provide support to those who need it, from advising on individual cases to service and organisational level development. We also run three practitioner forums focusing on Risk Formulation, Diversion from Prosecution, and Early and Effective Intervention.

Events and training

Events and training opportunities are a regular fixture of the CYCJ calendar, ranging from national conferences to skills training and networking opportunities. These include the CYCJ roadshows, which are tailored to meet the local needs of practitioners across Scotland. A range of online training materials are made available for those who may not be able to attend these events.

IVY (Interventions for Vulnerable Youth)

The ground-breaking Interventions for Vulnerable Youth Project (IVY) is funded by the Scottish Government to meet the needs of high risk young people by promoting best practice in mental health and risk assessment/management for this vulnerable group. IVY is a specialised psychology and social work service that supports and contributes to the assessments and interventions detailed in the child's plan. Find out more at www.cycj.org.uk/ivy.

A Guide to Youth Justice in Scotland: policy, practice and legislation

To support those who work with children and young people who offend or who are at risk of offending, CYCJ produces guidance sections to youth justice in Scotland, incorporating the latest legislation and policy changes, which are updated annually. This is valuable for academics, educators, practitioners and anyone else with an interest in youth and criminal justice. Download the current sections at www.cycj.org.uk/youthpracticeguide.

Implementation Groups

The Implementation Groups were set up as part of the Scottish Government's Youth Justice Strategy. Project managed by CYCJ and governed by the Youth Justice Improvement Board, they are on the themes of: Improving Life Chances; Advancing the Whole System Approach; Developing Capacity and Improvement.

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

Research

CYCJ's research work stream undertakes a diverse range of projects. Recent outputs include work on responses to offending behaviour in residential care; loss, bereavement and trauma in the youth justice system; the impact of bereavement support services in young offenders' institutions; and addressing the causes of violent behaviour. The current research programme includes a focus on the role, needs and experiences of families of children involved in the justice system, including the impact of parental separation and family breakdown.

Knowledge Exchange

The latest news, successes and developments from CYCJ and the criminal and youth justice sector are shared via our monthly e-bulletin. Information Sheets, briefing papers and the Raising Youth Justice blog all provide insight into topical issues that are relevant to practitioners. We welcome contributions from guest bloggers, particularly those with lived experience of the justice system, so please get in touch if there's something you'd like to share.

Secure Care

CYCJ was home to the Secure Care National Project (2015 to 2018), which was commissioned by the Scottish Government to undertake an independent, strategic and practice focused review of secure care in Scotland. We are continuing this work alongside the [Independent Care Review](#).

Participation

Young people play a major role in informing and shaping our work, from contributing to research to co-chairing conferences. Recently we embarked upon the Life Changes Trust funded [Participation Project](#) with the Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum (Staf), that will find creative ways to share the voices of young people with experience of both the looked after and the justice systems with policymakers, managers and the Scottish Government. The [Journey through Justice](#), an interactive online resource developed with [Iriss](#) to help children and young people charged with an offence by the police to understand their journey through the youth justice system, was devised and created with the help of young people. We also regularly [share blogs](#) by young people, to help others in similar situations.

How can we support you?

To discuss the support we can provide, please contact Fiona Dyer, Interim Director, on 0141 444 8700 / fiona.dyer@strath.ac.uk. General enquiries can be made to cycj@strath.ac.uk / 0141 444 8622.

Meet the full CYCJ team and find out what they do at www.cycj.org.uk/about-us/meet-the-team/.

www.cycj.org.uk

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