

Representing care experienced children & young people in police custody: A good practice guide

Speaker biographies

Irina Beaton, Scottish Child Law Centre

Irina is the Director at the Scottish Child Law Centre and is a qualified solicitor in Russian and Scots law. She is an accredited specialist in child law with the Law Society of Scotland. Irina has extensive experience of working with and assisting clients on issues related to child and family law, private client work, employment law and medical negligence work, as well as clients with diagnosed mental health problems and their carers. She is also a tutor to first year law students at the University of Edinburgh, Law School on Family Law, a curator *ad litem* for the Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland and a Safeguarder to children and young people within the Children's Hearings proceeding.

Fiona Dyer, CYCJ

As Director (Interim), Fiona leads CYCJ in its work to improve children's lives through improving policy, practice, participation and research. This involves supporting professionals from all disciplines who work with children and young people on the cusp of or involved in offending by promoting best practice based on up-to-date evidence and research. Prior to joining CYCJ Fiona was seconded to the Scottish Government youth justice team for three years, and has a decade's experience of being a social worker and social work manager within the fields of youth and criminal justice.

Beth-Anne Logan, STARR group

Beth-Anne is currently a non-executive director for Children's Hearings Scotland and at the time of her appointment is the youngest person ever appointed to a non-departmental public body. Beth-Anne works for North Lanarkshire Council as a Promise Development worker, helping to embed The Promise across North Lanarkshire. She is the current founder and chair of the STARR group, Scotland's only curated space for secure care experienced people, and works as a consultant to CYCJ. Beth-Anne was also a co-chair of The Best Place in The World workgroup at the Independent Care Review. She has a fierce passion for ensuring Scotland's children and their families have everything they need to grow up loved, safe and respected – and is working tirelessly across the sector to ensure the vision of The Promise becomes a reality.

Gillian Mawdsley

Gillian is a Scottish qualified practising solicitor, with a range of policy and practical experience from the Scottish criminal justice organisations including COPFS, SLAB, and SCTS and secondment to the Scottish Government. She also teaches in a variety of legal subjects at under and postgraduate level at various UK universities including Strathclyde, Edinburgh and the Open University.

Claire Sands, Howard League for Penal Reform

Claire Sands is Policy and Research Manager for the Howard League for Penal Reform. For the past six years, she has been working on the Howard League's programme to end the unnecessary criminalisation of children in residential care in England and Wales, which won the CYP Now Youth Justice Award in 2018.