

Annual Report

April 2017 to March 2018

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1. Overview

The Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice (CYCJ) has enjoyed an exceptional year in which we have strengthened our connections both within the UK and internationally and are continuing to work towards achieving our three year aims as set out in our [revised strategy for 2017-19](#).

Highlights have included meeting David Lammy, MP for Tottenham, when he visited Glasgow to discuss the Lammy Review, an independent review of the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals in the Criminal Justice System. Together with the Scottish Government and the National Youth Justice Advisory Group, we celebrated our tenth National Youth Justice Conference, looking at the past, present and future of Youth Justice in Scotland. We held our first CYCJ [Associates seminar](#) in April, bringing together practitioners and academics to discuss how our attitudes and social representations shape the way we work with young people who offend.

This year, we have developed and enhanced our communications outputs with the addition of data visualisation which has allowed us to produce reports which are more accessible and understandable to young people, and at the same time provides practitioners with info graphics that visually represent data and information about youth justice statistics which they can use in their own communications. We have also branched out into the world of podcasts and webinars, recording podcasts with IRISS on the implications for practice around the criminalisation of children in residential care, together with residential childcare practitioners from three of the secure care centres in Scotland. We delivered a webinar on offending and residential childcare and one on bereavement and adversity with Kibble Education and Care Centre.

Accompanying all of this, CYCJ has continued to strive to meet the needs of the Scottish youth justice workforce and young people, and positive feedback shows that we are achieving this.

2. Impact and Outreach

Data Visualisation

As part of our drive to make more accessible and visually appealing reports, we produced a [new resource](#) which summarised some of the key messages following the introduction of a new service 'Here and Now' which helps young people at HMYOI Polmont deal with loss and bereavement.

In November, CYCJ launched a new, visually accessible resource to help people better understand youth justice patterns and trends. [A Story of Youth Justice](#) helps to dispel some of the myths and misunderstandings around youth justice and provides a place where people can access accurate and useful information.

Podcasts

In June, CYCJ recorded two [IRISS FM](#) podcasts in which Practice Development Advisor, Debbie Nolan and Research Associate, Kristina Moodie discussed research from their report '[Between a rock and a hard place](#)': Responses to Offending in Residential Childcare'

about criminalisation and residential childcare; and Debbie Nolan and Secure Care National Advisor, Alison Gough discussed the [Secure Care in Scotland: Looking Ahead](#) report with residential childcare practitioners and the implications of these reports for secure care and youth justice practitioners.

Webinars

CYCJ's Research Fellow, Nina Vaswani, in collaboration with Kibble, delivered the centre's [first webinar](#) to around 130 registered attendees. Nina shared research findings on the extent of bereavement and adverse childhood experiences in children and young people in contact with the justice system. The webinar considered how these childhood experiences might shape contact with the justice system and, in turn, the impact that the system might have on children's experiences.

Following the success of the first webinar, Kristina Moodie, Research Associate and Deborah Nolan, Practice Development Advisor delivered a [second webinar](#) which shared their research findings into offending in residential childcare and how to support young people and decision making.

Corporate Parenting Support

We have also continued to provide corporate parenting support to a range of organisations through our involvement with the Scottish Care Leavers Covenant. This has included intensively supporting the Scottish Prison Service with the development of their corporate parenting plan, giving guidance and support to staff, and the development of an About Us document and protocol for the identification of care leavers for legal professionals.

Local Authority Reach

CYCJ continues to support local authorities to develop their practice, including a project that seeks to maximise and enhance the use of Diversion from Prosecution. Whilst work remains ongoing, there appears to be agreement amongst stakeholders that practice by police, procurator fiscals and front line practitioners can be adapted in order to achieve this goal. Diversion from Prosecution has been receiving greater attention on a national level, leading to CYCJ establishing a Practitioners' Forum for those who are involved in this component of the Whole System Approach. The first forum was well attended, offering opportunities to network, share best practice and learn from colleagues. Forums for risk formulation and early and effective intervention were also developed this year to further support practitioners on the ground (see below).

We continue to provide an effective practitioner support service which includes support in relation to individual cases or topics, bespoke work to localities and organisations, and information in relation to best practice and up-to-date research. During 2017-18 there were 680 requests to CYCJ for advice/support with 19 of these specifically in relation to the IVY project. We have supported local authorities and secure care providers to further develop their practice through delivering 20 roadshows to 487 individuals on a wide variety of topics including bereavement, loss and trauma; working with vulnerable girls; managing high risk behaviour; understanding and responding to harmful sexual behaviour; and working with young people: core skills for practice. The range of agencies, services and third sector organisations has included Police Scotland, a number practitioners from various local authorities from across Children & Family and Justice Services, SACRO, Barnardo's, Secure Care Establishments, CHS and others.

The support provided by CYCJ has extended to the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) National Steering Group where we delivered an input on the developmental needs of children who have engaged in behaviours that are harmful to others and the implications of these for risk practice. This input was so well received that it resulted in requests to deliver further inputs to staff involved in MAPPA in various local authority areas at their MAPPA development days.

Youth Justice Stakeholders

CYCJ has produced a [flier](#) and [protocol](#) for the Identification of looked after young people and care leavers to support legal professionals:

“There were no comments fed back to me on the paper itself during peer review other than noting its usefulness for us and how it could be used by our Public Defender Solicitors Office and Civil Legal Assistance network when they are gathering information about their client bases” (Scottish Legal Aid Board)

3. Events and Training

Grey Cells and Prison Cells: Meeting the Neurodevelopmental and Cognitive Needs of Vulnerable Young People took place in March. Given the strong link to offending behaviour, the focus of the event was identifying and working with children and young people who have neurodevelopmental and cognitive needs. Delegates heard from specialists in the field and participated in workshops. Over 90% indicated that they had gained greater understanding and knowledge from the event.

“Enjoyed the whole day and all the presentations. Very informative and useful to improve my work practice”

“A very good worthwhile and informative and practice based day that is transferable to work places... there was a thread and consolidation from speaker to speaker”

CYCJ's first Associates seminar was held jointly with the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research ([SCCJR](#)), in April 2017. Associates Max Rutherford (Criminal Justice Programme Manager at Barrow Cadbury Trust) and [Dr Fernando Fernandes](#) (Community Learning and Development, University of Dundee) gave thought-provoking and informative presentations on challenging stigma, how a young adult court pilot scheme could help young people 'grow out of crime', and why youth justice interventions should be extended to include young people into their twenties.

Organised by CYCJ, the Scottish Government and the National Youth Justice Advisory Group (NYJAG), the **National Youth Justice Conference** is the biggest event of the year for the Scottish youth and criminal justice sector. The theme for 2017 was 'Youth Justice: Past, Present and Future' with talks and workshops reflecting on the last ten years in youth justice since the first National Youth Justice Conference was held, and looking forward to what should and can happen in the next ten years. Practitioners benefitted from learning about the latest youth justice research, networking with their peers and reflecting on progress made by the youth and criminal justice system over the past decade. The conference proved more popular than ever, with a record 240 delegates in attendance - an increase of 40 from the 2016 conference.

On October 31, CYCJ and the Improving Life Chances Implementation Group facilitated the **Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) in Youth Justice: Understanding and addressing the impact** event. While 86% of evaluation respondents reported having previous experience of working with and for young people affected by SLCNs, only a third stated their knowledge and understanding of the topic prior to the event was good, illustrating a real need for this event. An impressive 93% of evaluation respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that they had gained greater understanding of the topic as a result of this event. The write up on the event was also positively received:

“Just reading this brilliant piece of work by @CYCJScotland. I love your report. Thank you for sharing it. Really impressive work”

“The event was really interesting and thought provoking and I’ve managed to utilise and incorporate some of what I learned into work that I’m involved in around consultations on the National Strategy for Autism”

“It was a very helpful day, it certainly raised awareness of SLCN of these vulnerable young people and also identified some useful ways forward”

“Really important collaborative report with implications and actions across number of policy areas”

Training

Following the roll-out of CARM training in 2016-2017, a number of local authorities have gone on to develop/revise their CARM policies and procedures. In addition, requests for support and further training around risk practice have increased following this training. As a result, across the year training opportunities have been offered for CARM, Safer Lives, SAVRY, START-AV and PRISM, all with a good uptake. Feedback on the CARM training was positive:

“I feel that I have an understanding of CARM and will use aspects such as CBT and 4P’s outwith. Both facilitators were hugely engaging and there was plenty of discussion and ideas. Booked onto SAVRY which will help with CARM”

“Learning re the START:AV approach has been really informative and I can see application within the workplace”

“More knowledge, understanding of strategies and resources to work within specific areas with sexually harmful behaviours”

In order to improve risk practice and our capacity to deliver training in Scotland, CYCJ organised for a START-AV author to come to Scotland from the United States to deliver a two day training course with plans to develop one or more trainers in Scotland to increase our capacity to deliver this training. We have also been in contact with one of the SAVRY authors and have plans to increase our capacity to deliver SAVRY training in Scotland.

Training inputs have also been delivered to colleagues from Police Scotland, assisting them in developing a deeper understanding of the impact of adverse childhood experiences and the challenges of social work practice.

“And an extra big thank you, for running a workshop at the event yesterday as well. What would we do without you??!”

“I have a hearing for a 14 year old on offence grounds tomorrow and this has helped me to understand him more, think about what questions I need to ask and to approach tomorrow differently”

“I just wanted to drop you a quick line to say thank you so much for putting on the workshop last week. I know how busy you are so we really appreciate you making the time available. People have been talking about it - it seemed to make a big impression”

Fiona Dyer, Deputy Director, and Carole Murphy, Practice Development Advisor, wrote and delivered a two day front line managers training course for the Scottish Prison Service (SPS). This was piloted in March. Feedback was positive, with the SPS looking to roll out the training to all of its front line managers.

4. International Reach

Our reach and reputation appears to be growing, both across the border and around the world!

In addition to delivering inputs to students from several Scottish universities, CYCJ have provided lectures to international students visiting this country through a number of student exchange programmes.

Debbie Nolan, Practice Development Advisor, facilitated and presented at two workshops alongside Dutch Judge Ellen van Kalveen at the CEP international conference on Working with Juveniles and Young Adult Offenders in Barcelona in June 2017, sharing learning from the Whole System Approach.

“On behalf of CEP I would like to thank you for your excellent contributions at the International Conference on working with young adult offenders that took place two weeks ago in Barcelona. All participants were very satisfied with the content and gave very positive feedback. So thanks again and for sure we will be collaborating in other events”

Alison Gough, Secure Care National Advisor, presented a paper focusing on young people’s experiences of secure care in Scotland and agency and participation, at the 11th EU Child’s Rights Forum which took place in Brussels in November 2017.

The Institute for Inspiring Children’s Futures held their inaugural International Advisory Board meeting in March, as part of which CYCJ and CELCIS met with international academics, and

professionals in education, health, politics, children's rights, law, economics, government and social work

At this year's National Youth Justice Conference we welcomed our first international speaker, Jan-Erik Sandlie, from Norway's Correctional Service.

This year we have hosted a visit from an academic colleague from East China University of Political Science and Law (ECUPL), Xu Yang (Marina), which focused on youth justice, secure care and social work. We began exploring the potential for a joint symposium to contrast and compare these issues between colleagues based at the University of Strathclyde and ECUPL.

As a result of contact made at the CEP conference, we also welcomed colleagues from the Latvian Prison Administration, following up on discussing approaches to young people involved in offending:

"Thank you again for having us and giving us an insight into the work that you and your colleagues are doing. We enjoyed our visit very much, it was very interesting and we have a lot of information to go through. Thank you for the presentation!"

Claire Lightowler was invited to deliver the [SACRO](#) annual lecture and used this platform to open discussions on the Rhetoric of Preventing Offending. As a result of the lecture Claire has been engaging with a range of colleagues from England, with presentations delivered to a network of third sector organisations and meetings held with colleagues from the Youth Justice Board and the Ministry of Justice about how Scotland has been responding to children who pose a serious risk of harm to others. Claire also participated in meetings with the Met Commissioner and Deputy Mayor of London reflecting on what can be learnt from the Scottish experience. There is considerable interest in learning from Scotland, given the scale and significance of violent incidents in London.

5. Knowledge Exchange

There was a spike in our website user sessions, with a total of 37,973 during April 2017 to March 2018, compared to 35,575 sessions during April 2016 to March 2017. The top five user countries were the UK, US, Australia, Ireland and Canada. Resources was the most viewed page (5188 views) followed by Events (3923 views) and About Us (3424 views).

Our social media presence continues to expand as we interact with new audiences. Twitter remains our dominant account, with 3,383 followers compared to 2,401 in the previous year. The CYCJ Facebook page has 443 likes, compared to 336 likes in the previous year.

CYCJ have delivered input into a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses across Scotland's universities. These inputs have been warmly received by both students and their lecturers:

"We very much appreciate you taking the time to share your knowledge and experience with us"

“Getting a lot of great feedback on your session last week, so consider yourself ‘booked’ for next year”

“(Practice Development Advisor) made the subject come to life”

“Good to get realistic examples from recent practice”

“Made it easier to understand some of the tools when you use a real person to apply them to”

6. Resources and Outputs

[Just a wee boy not cut out for prison](#) was published in the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Journal](#). This research highlights the experiences of 14 young males aged 16 and 17 in one Scottish Young Offenders Institution (YOI) on their journeys to custody and explores whether the policy intentions of the Whole System Approach (WSA) are being achieved in practice. The article was the second most downloaded article on Strathprints: The University of Strathclyde institutional repository.

CYCJ launched a new resource, [Journey through Justice](#), to assist children and young people in understanding the journey through the youth justice system following being charged with an offence by the police.

The ground-breaking study [‘Chief Social Work Officers and Secure Care’](#) by CYCJ was praised for highlighting the current issues, challenges and opportunities for Chief Social Work Officers and was followed by the publication of [Secure Care in Scotland: Young People’s Voices](#), which features the voices of and calls for action from young people with direct experience of secure care.

[Adverse Childhood Experiences in children at high risk of harm to others: A gendered perspective](#) was an informative paper documenting the prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences in a sample of 130 children who presented high levels of risk, and the impact of childhood bereavement in the lives of young people involved in offending.

[Learning from failure: are practitioner researchers the answer when conducting research on sensitive topics with vulnerable children and young people?](#) was published in the [International Journal of Social Research Methodology](#) (impact factor 2.11). This reflective paper considered the practical, ethical and methodological implications of conducting research with vulnerable children, and outlined several learning points for future research. The paper has helped to inform CYCJ’s ongoing thinking about how to support practitioner research and to increase youth justice research capacity across Scotland.

We revised and published [A Guide to Youth Justice in Scotland](#) (Practice guidance) in June 2017. This involved significant reworking of several sections, taking feedback from a wide range of stakeholders.

We also delivered a comprehensive survey of the workforce in relation to knowledge, understanding, readiness and development needs relating to the change in the age of

criminal responsibility. This paper was delivered in a short space of time, and used to inform the work of the Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill team.

Information Sheets and blogs

We published 11 Information Sheets during the year (with the agreed exception of December). We also delivered 24 blogs on a wide range of subjects. All have been well received with high readership rates, hitting 1008 views for a guest blog on [Negative Youth Justice: creating the youth crime 'problem'](#), by visiting professor from Loughborough University, Stephen Case.

7. Youth Justice Partnerships

Youth Justice Improvement Board

[Children and Young People in Custody in Scotland: Looking Behind the Data](#) was produced in partnership by the Scottish Government, the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) and CYCJ at the request of the Youth Justice Improvement Board, set up by the Scottish Government to drive forward the implementation of the Youth Justice Strategy (2015).

Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures

We became a joint partner for the Institute for Inspiring Children's Future, together with CELCIS and the University of Strathclyde. The Institute held its formal launch in June 2017, attended by Deputy First Minister John Swinney. The related [Stigma in Childhood](#) programme began in May 2017 consisting of three seminars bringing together young people and practitioners, delivered in partnership between CYCJ, CELCIS and the Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures. Charlotte Morris of CYCJ led on the comms for this programme. CYCJ was also on the Programme Team for the successful SUll programme, 'Changing the narrative: reframing our responses to the developmental needs of looked after children and those who care for them', which was delivered jointly by CELCIS, University of Stirling, Inspiring Children's Futures and CYCJ across three phases of events. Alison Gough represented CYCJ on the Programme Team and she was in the 'Stable Care' Phase 2 Team, who designed and delivered a one day workshop at Phase 2, at which our Donna McEwan also facilitated.

Youth Justice Strategy: 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: Advancing the Whole System Approach; Developing Capacity and Improvement; Improving Life Chances. The three groups and related sub groups have met throughout the year, sharing actions and outcomes via CYCJ's website and e-bulletin.

Early and Effective Practitioners Forum

The forum provides a platform for all parties involved in EEI to express their views and influence areas of work, identify issues and contribute to the resolution of these issues. In addition it has contributed to the discussion regarding information sharing through

submission of response to the consultation and links into the WSA Implementation Group to ensure practitioner voices are heard.

Subsequently, following submission responses from CYCJ and the EEI Practitioners Forum to the proposed Information Sharing Bill, CYCJ were invited to provide evidence to the Education & Skills Committee providing an opportunity to express the shared views of practitioners and CYCJ.

Risk Formulation Forum

The Risk Formulation Forum was developed to support practitioners working with children and young people to formulate, manage and reduce the risk presented through using risk assessment tools as part of core business.

Diversion from Prosecution Practitioners' Forum

On March 2 CYCJ ran their first forum for practitioners involved in the various stages of Diversion from Prosecution services. Thirty eight people attended, with a further two contributing via Skype. Feedback was positive, with forums subsequently scheduled throughout the remainder of 2018. Issues discussed included the content, style and length of completion reports, the purpose and ambition of Diversion from Prosecution and the challenges involved in operating this element of the Whole System Approach.

8. Secure and Residential Care

Responding to Offending in Residential Childcare - Next steps project

Building upon our previous research into offending and residential childcare "[Between a Rock and a Hard Place](#)": [Responses to Offending in Residential Childcare](#), CYCJ has been working on the [Responding to Offending in Residential Childcare - Next steps](#) project, in partnership with the Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum (Staf). Thus far this work has focused on developing an understanding of, and influencing, local practice in four children's houses from across three geographical areas. This project has worked with approximately 100 practitioners. Feedback from those involved has included:

"During the Next Steps project and subsequently we have worked hard to reduce the criminalisation of children in care and have changed our practice significantly. In the local area we have made strong relationships with Police Scotland and now host regular liaison meetings with key officers. We now have a system whereby we will call the Police if a situation is deemed to be out of control but with the Inspector's help, we now can ask for Police Officers to come and help to restore order. This is a really positive step forward as previously automatically a crime would be recorded, leading to a high likelihood that the child being charged. Having listened to the feedback from staff, we have also begun a programme of work to reduce the impact of violence and aggression in our children's houses. The Next Steps project has given us a stronger and clearer position moving forward"

"We cannot continue to be involved in the project due to other organisational commitments but we remain committed to continuing efforts to reduce the criminalisation of children in our care. This project has helped to identify how we can do so"

“Great to work with you both and we look forward to taking this learning forward. It has been really useful to give staff the time and opportunity to reflect on practice and to think about how we as an organisation can more effectively create the conditions to improve practice to improve outcomes for our kids”

More widely, creative methods of sharing this learning to reach a wider range of practitioners have been utilised. For example, a podcast was developed as part of Residential Childcare Week for IRISS FM and a webinar was completed with Kibble, alongside formal publications including ‘The Duality of the Corporate Parenting Role: A Delicate Balancing Act’ published in the Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care. This has been supplemented with the provision of a range of inputs on this topic at events and roadshows. The learning has also been shared with the Howard League in England and Wales who are undertaking a similar piece of work. It is difficult to estimate how many people these wider knowledge exchange activities have reached.

In terms of formal inputs and direct contact, it is estimated we have engaged with over 300 practitioners, although it is likely many more have accessed reports, articles, podcasts etc. In one local authority following the facilitation of a multi-agency event, a short life working group has been established to develop and take forward actions to support practice improvement, which CYCJ will continue to support. Similarly, following the sharing of learning from this project in a further local authority, who are already running an improvement project, the remit of the project has been expanded to include tests of change in relation to responses to children in residential childcare.

Secure Care National Project

The Secure Care National Project was initially funded for a fixed term from August 2015 to March 2017, but the Scottish Government grant funded the extension of the project for Q1, Q2 and Q3 of 2017/18, against set objectives mostly relating to taking forward the recommendations made in ‘Secure Care in Scotland: Looking Ahead’ (CYCJ, 2916).

The first Secure Care Strategic Board was held in October 2017. The Board was tasked with leading the development of a strategic approach to responses to children and young people who are in, or regarded as being on the edges of, secure care in Scotland, and to achieve a vision of the purpose, principles and approach. Several work streams have been established to progress this work:

- Participation Advisory Group (now known as the STARR group)
- Vision and purpose
- Pathways and standards
- Evidence and research advisory group
- Commissioning

April 2017 saw the start of a new full year Scottish Government grant awarded to CYCJ for the Secure Care National Advisor role to support the establishment of this new Secure Care Strategic Board and fulfil the Scottish Government’s published commitments to keeping young people’s voice central in driving transformational change, and developing National Standards to improve outcomes and experiences for young people in and on the edges of secure care.

In June 2017, CYCJ published a report from a new study, setting out findings and recommendations from in-depth qualitative research exploring the role of Chief Social Work Officers and secure care in Scotland. This included how the CSWO role is fulfilled area by area; CSWO perceptions; and CSWO and local authority approaches to use of secure care and alternative and complementary services. The study asked research questions about policies, processes and practices and the identification of vulnerable young people at the edges of secure care; how their needs are responded to; and how (where they are secured) their journey through a secure placement and beyond is supported. The fieldwork involved individual interviews with Chief Social Work Officers across Scotland and 21 of the 32 local authority areas participated with that process and several more engaged with a focused group discussion. The report and the recommendations it set out formed a key part of the briefing and background evidence and information for incoming board members.

In September, the Secure Care National Project initiated and facilitated a bringing together of the secure care sector with all the agencies who took up membership of the new Board, giving them an opportunity to explore hopes and anxieties, and from there to consider a series of Commitments to be a 'different kind of Board' as they prepared for the first formal board meeting. To coincide with this, in October we published [Secure Care in Scotland: Young People's Voices](#), the full report of the focused conversations held with 60 secure care experienced people undertaken in 2015 and 2016. Young people's voices were of course central to the whole secure care project and at the heart of the recommendations put forward in 2016, but this fuller report deliberately coincided with the first formal Board meeting. The intention was to amplify the voices, and seek to improve compassion, empathy and understanding, of young people who report they still experience stigma as a result of having been in secure care. The Calls for Action gathered during the work with young people and set out in the report, are core to the remit the Board set itself.

Alison Gough, the Secure Care National Advisor, worked in partnership from the start of the board alongside the secure care experienced Board members, respecting their role as Board members whilst also providing support in recognition of their unique contribution. In November the Secure Care National Advisor presented at the 11th EU Child Rights Forum in Brussels in relation to young people's accounts of agency and participation in secure care in Scotland as part of a [panel presentation event](#).

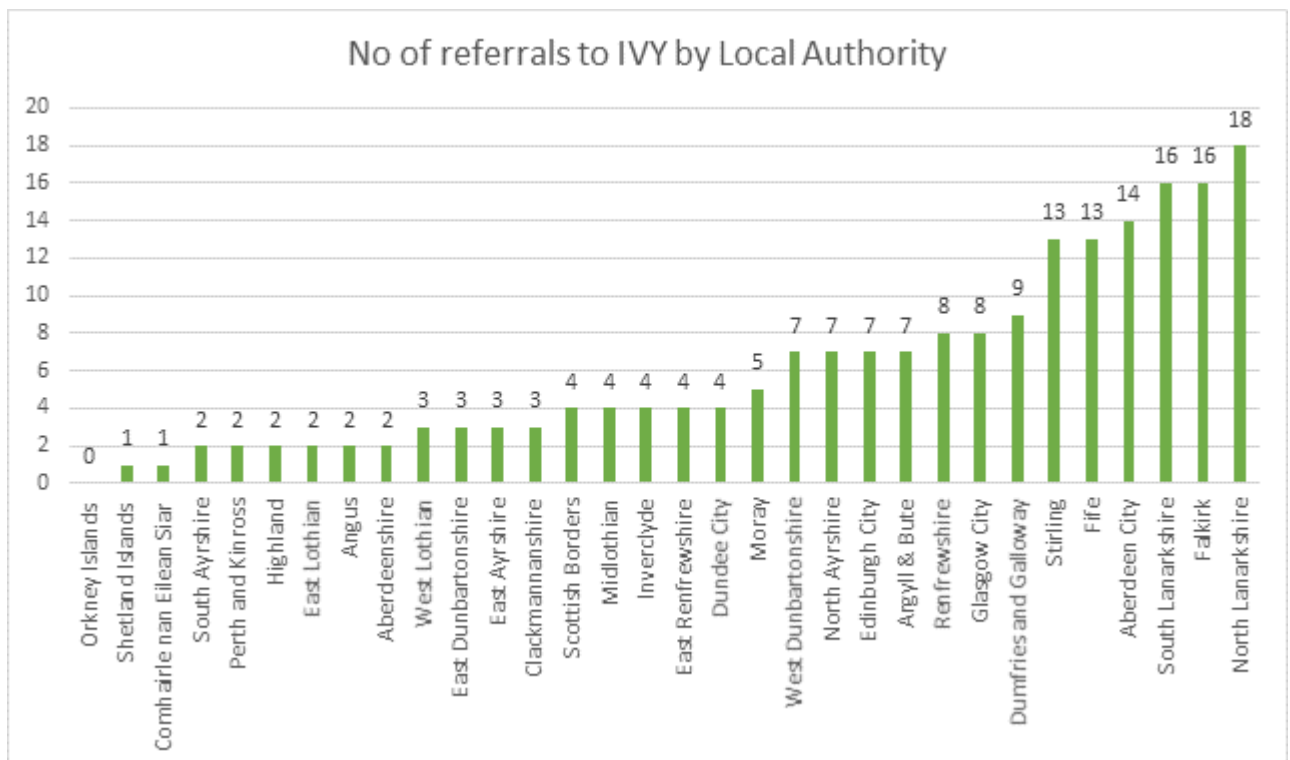
And by December, the secure care experienced board members and Secure Care National Project were working together to build proposals to put forward to the second meeting of the board in January 2018, in relation to amplifying voice. The secure care experienced board members presented their evidenced proposal at the January Board meeting, which was well received, supported and endorsed. In March 2018, a STARR was born! People with lived experience of secure care met together and named this curated space as the STARR group, to which CYCJ provides the secretariat support. The STARR group produced a report from this first ever gathering, setting out its vision for transformational change.

Alison Gough also provided secretariat support to the two active work streams of the board (Vision and Purpose and Pathways and Standards) which met on several occasions between December 2017 and March 2018. The Pathways and Standards work stream mapped young people's journey through secure care by setting out young people's calls for action gathered during the Secure Care National Project and their experiences and recommendations for change, against existing law and guidance, to form the framework for drafting national standards for secure care.

During 2017/18, Alison began to contribute a monthly ‘Spotlight on Secure Care’ on the CYCJ website to ensure that practitioners and managers across the sector are kept involved and informed about progress and outcomes of the Secure Care Strategic Board.

9. Interventions for Vulnerable Youth (IVY) Project

The IVY Project continues to be a source of support for high risk young people referred by a variety of agencies. The majority of referrals come from Social Work but referrals have also been made directly from education, Police Scotland, CAMHS and the Third Sector. There have been 30 referrals since last year (April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018). Every local authority in Scotland has now accessed the IVY service apart from the Orkney Islands. The chart below shows the number of referrals by local authority:



From July 2017 Level 2 (direct assessment) and Level 3 (one to one psychological support) have not been offered for new cases as the volume and complexity of cases has increased to an unsustainable level given the limited resources we have.

Attendees at IVY Clinics gave positive feedback including these comments:

“It was great to have a reflective safe space to openly discuss how [YP] needs/risk have been managed to date and have thorough discussion around how we best meet [YP] future needs longer term”

“Today has been extremely reassuring, and a range of actions have been agreed in order to move forward and manage risk in an informed and honest manner for [YP]. Thank you”

“It is good to have an external resource to evaluate a case study and to offer support and guidance”

“The service was very professional and focused on the outcomes I had hoped. The staff listened very well and offered a clear direction for future discussions that made real sense. Excellent”

IVY’s Clinical Psychologist delivers lectures to Masters students in Psychology at Glasgow University.

IVY staff, in collaboration with staff from CYCJ, have developed a Risk Formulation Forum for practitioners to support risk assessment, formulation and risk management. The group meets every three months and is co-facilitated by IVY and CYCJ staff.

10. Children’s Rights

This year we have met with the Director of Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights) which promotes and monitors the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) across Scotland. Following valuable discussions we agreed to work in partnership to write an additional chapter for our Practice Guide on children’s rights.

CYCJ’s ongoing research and knowledge exchange programme, along with partners from the Scottish Prison Service and Barnardo’s Scotland, looking at trauma, bereavement and loss among people at HMPYOI Polmont was highlighted in Together Scotland’s latest State of Children’s Rights report as an example of how to improve the rights of children who have broken the law. Specifically, Article 40 of the UNCRC states that every child who is recognised as having broken the law should be treated in a way which promotes their dignity and worth. CYCJ’s research not only helped refocus service provision and workforce development in HMPYOI Polmont, but has also helped to demonstrate the positive impact and success of the service on young people and staff. A young person’s research output has also been produced, ensuring that the research findings are more accessible.

CYCJ has sought to support partners in the development and creation of various participation projects, namely Our Hearing Our Voices at SCRA and Amplifying the Voice of Young People facilitated by Positive Prison? Positive Future. This work aims to realise children’s rights through providing opportunities to participate in decision making processes, to have their views and wishes heard and for adults in positions of power to give an audience to these opinions.

Since January children and young people’s views have been published on the CYCJ website as a means of celebrating the Year of Young People. These insightful and thought provoking

pieces have led to significant positive feedback and comment on social media, covering issues including children's rights, the Children's Hearing System and foster care.