



## National Youth Justice Conference 2021: Workshops

### Day 1, June 16 (1pm-2pm)

#### Workshop 1

##### **Rights Respecting Approach to Justice for Children and Young People: Scottish Government Vision and Action Plan and Standards (Scottish Government)**

The Scottish Government will provide an overview of the new vision and action plan and revised standards for youth justice in Scotland, as published on June 16. This workshop will be an opportunity to hear from Government about the thinking behind the new priorities and revised standards and to discuss how these will affect you and your organisation. STAF/CYCJ's Youth Just Us Visionaries will also talk about their role in gathering young people's views on what the priorities should be.

#### Workshop 2

##### **The Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) 2019 Act – implications for practice (Scottish Government)**

The intention of the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019 is to protect children from the harmful effects of early criminalisation, while ensuring that incidents of harmful behaviour by children under 12 can be investigated effectively, and responded to appropriately. The Act seeks to create a culture change in the way we view children whose behaviour causes harm and this workshop will outline implementation to date, whilst looking ahead to full commencement in October 2021.

#### Workshop 3

##### **New ways of addressing children's needs? Uniting Bayesian analysis, big data and pro-Article 12 ways of working to support children in conflict with the law (Dr Anthony Charles, Swansea University and Helen Hodges, Cardiff University)**

Traditionally in Criminological research, much emphasis has been placed upon positive methodologies and the use of 'big data' to understand the activities of those who come into conflict with the law. These approaches have led to emphases upon risk, 'recipes' of interventions and a continuation of a case management approach which has, within the literature, been questioned. Arguably, there is a danger that reliance on traditional quantitative analytical approaches can: criminalise children; obscure their personal needs; and cancel out their voices (thereby denying a key element of their right to participate). Yet, in Wales, based upon research undertaken by Dr Helen Hodges to explore how an alternative, Bayesian approach to quantitative analysis could be utilised and mainstreamed within youth justice and Dr Anthony Charles to hear and makes sense of what children 'want' in their youth justice system, a different discourse can be discerned. Within this workshop, Helen and Anthony will share their work and demonstrate how more nuanced and sophisticated Bayesian analysis approaches can be successfully aligned to pro-Article 12 models of engagement, resulting in not just children's voices being heard, but youth justice practitioners



empowered to make decisions which are not merely defensible, but which respect children's autonomy, personal experiences and fundamental rights. Reflections on the potential use of this novel way of working will be offered, and case studies highlighted to show the practical implications of this potential quant-rights interface.

#### **Workshop 4**

##### **Inclusion as Prevention: Shifting focus from crisis response to inclusive and rights-respecting engagement with young people (South Lanarkshire Council and IAP)**

Inclusion as Prevention (IAP) is a five year project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. The project uses a collaborative approach to re-shape the design and delivery of preventative services across one local authority, with children and young people and their families who are at risk of offending. Community engagement combined with co-production, co-design and improvement methodologies ensure the voices of the children and the unique needs of the communities in which they live drive the re-design of early stage services.

The ultimate aim of the IAP project is to *"realise a shift from an acute and crisis driven approach, when a young person becomes involved in offending, to identify and intervene at an earlier point in the lives of children who are at risk of becoming involved in future offending or other negative outcomes, tackling the root cause"*.

This workshop summarises what's been achieved and learned in the first two years of IAP.

#### **Workshop 5**

##### **Getting it right for families affected by imprisonment: Lessons from ten years of research in Scotland (Care Jardine, University of Strathclyde)**

This workshop will launch a Briefing Paper which draws on six research projects conducted in Scotland between 2011 and 2021, all of which explored how imprisonment impacts on families, mothers or children. The Briefing Paper will make accessible a body of high-quality and socially relevant work that has taken place in Scotland on this issue, but has been, so far, largely inaccessible to policy and practice due to much of it remaining solely within academic outputs. The workshop will have an interactive format allowing delegates to work in groups to design a service for families, drawing on the research findings presented, and also their own experiences. This activity will allow delegates to reflect on their own practice, the challenges posed by Covid, the changes that could be made to improve things for families, and how organisations and individuals can evidence the good practice which is already taking place.

#### **Workshop 6**

##### **A 3rd sector perspective on positive outcomes for ALL within Harmful Sexual Behaviour work (Karen Campbell and Susan Rutherford, Barnardo's Scotland)**

In our experience we have found that many universal services tend to adopt a one size fits all risk averse approach when children have been involved in problematic or harmful sexual behaviours which ends up excluding those who are in need. As a third sector organisation working in partnership with LA we work alongside our partners to ensure that there is a balance between



appropriate and proportionate risk management while ensuring that our own and the practice of others endeavours to provide holistic support and limit the impact of shame. This isn't without its challenges, which we can explore within the workshop and also how we ensure that the rights of the child are at the forefront of these discussions.

### **Workshop 7**

#### **Upholding children's rights whilst managing risk of serious harm (Donna McEwan and Carole Murphy, CYCJ)**

The pending incorporation of UNCRC into law in Scotland presses us to consider how we respond to children where parts of their behaviour pose a risk of serious harm to themselves or others. These children have the same rights as every other child and consideration is required as to how we ensure these are upheld. This workshop will provide opportunities to consider and discuss pertinent issues. Information on the revised Framework for Risk Assessment Management and Evaluation with children aged 12-17 years will be provided, with a focus on the principles of risk reduction and the operational requirements of implementing formal Care and Risk Management processes. Resources to support the upholding of children's rights whilst applying the principles and processes in practice will be highlighted.

### **Workshop 8**

#### **Diversion from Prosecution: Who, What, Where, Why and How? (Gemma Fraser, Community Justice Scotland)**

The changes to the Lord Advocate's guidance and the introduction of revised guidance has changed Scotland's approach to Diversion from Prosecution. This workshop will summarise these changes, and outline who can receive diversion, what it looks like, where it is taking place, why it is beneficial and how to go about it.

### **Workshop 9**

#### **Rossie, A Rights Respecting School (Shauni Crighton and Jan Philip, Rossie Young People's Trust)**

This workshop will give an overview of Rossie's journey towards becoming a Gold Award Rights Respecting School. It will discuss how Rossie introduced UNCRC to its young people, and how young people have taken the lead in implementing the UNCRC across a multidisciplinary organisation. This includes young person led training to the Board, CEO, SLMT and all staff about the UNCRC and their responsibilities, and how the Youth Just Us group have been involved in discussion around how to implement the UNCRC in to schools across the country - including a young person's experience of this journey.

### **Workshop 10**

#### **'Tensions in Children's Rights?' Working with Young People who Present a Risk of Harm to Others (Stuart Allardyce, Stop it Now! Scotland and Peter Yates, Napier University)**

This interactive workshop will focus on young people who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour. Many incidents involving sexual abuse perpetrated by children and young people are serious crimes, and proportionate management of the genuine risks that these individuals present will be necessary.



However those under the age of eighteen who display this behaviour need to be also seen as children first and foremost. This workshop will explore ethical issues raised in our current approaches to working with young people who present a risk of harm to others, and look at how responses can better support a children's rights approach.

### **Day 2, June 17 (11.30am-12.30pm)**

#### **Workshop 11**

##### **The Interventions for Vulnerable Youth project (Helen Bratton and Stephen Evans, IVY)**

This workshop gives an overview of the IVY project and its role in promoting a trauma-informed and integrated theoretical understanding of young people's risk-related behaviours within a risk management framework. Highlighting the on-going research projects being undertaken by IVY.

It will discuss how the IVY can offer ongoing support to services and where there are likely to be service deficits in Scotland and thoughts on how these needs could be met in the future in line with best practise.

#### **Workshop 12**

##### **"Can Scotland be brave? Incorporating UNCRC Article 12 in Practice" (Margo Mackay and Fiona Taylor, Talking Mats)**

Effective communication is vital in delivering good quality public services. This is especially the case in youth justice services where 60% of young people have low language skills. The recent decision to incorporate UNCRC into Scottish law requires services to review their practices to ensure that the rights of young people are being understood and implemented. In this workshop Margo Mackay, Talking Mats Director, will briefly share the findings of her recently published report "Can Scotland be brave?" which demonstrates the value of the Laura Lundy model of participation in helping services to understand their obligations. Fiona Taylor, Speech and Language Therapy Lead for Children's services in Salford including Greater Manchester Youth Justice Service will share her experience of implementing training and development for the workforce at a Universal Level and will demonstrate their new Talking Mats Youth Justice resource.

#### **Workshop 13**

##### **Sentencing and the Rights of Children and Young People (Scottish Sentencing Council)**

Children and young people are an area of focus for the Scottish Sentencing Council. Featuring a panel discussion and interactive Q&A, this workshop will discuss the work of the Council and how it relates to the rights of children and young people, in the context of sentencing and guidelines for the courts. This includes guidelines on: sentencing young people (nearing completion); guidelines on sentencing for sexual offences; and a potential guideline on sentencing for domestic abuse offences. There will also be a chance to discuss a Youth Court pilot in Glasgow which is due to launch in early June. Much thought, research and public consultation has gone into considering who is a young person in the context of sentencing; this includes hearing the perspectives of young people themselves.



The panel, as presently advised, will comprise:

- Lady Dorrian, Scotland's first female Lord Justice Clerk (the second most senior judicial office in Scotland) and chair of the Council
- Sheriff Principal Craig Turnbull, of the sheriffdom of Glasgow and Strathkelvin, who is a judicial member of the Council
- Summary Sheriff Paul Brown, of the sheriffdom of Glasgow and Strathkelvin, who is a judicial member of the Council
- Lesley Weber, who is currently Head of Effective Practice at the Risk Management Authority (RMA), a qualified social worker, and the Council's victims expert member

#### **Workshop 14**

##### **Restorative Justice in Scotland (Pamela Morrison, CYCJ and Rachael Moss, Community Justice Scotland)**

Scottish Government Restorative Justice Action Plan aims to have restorative justice services available across Scotland by 2023 ensuring approaches are consistent, evidence-led and trauma informed. CJS and CYCJ are working closely with the Scottish Government to support this work. At almost half way through delivery, it is a chance to reflect on what has been achieved and explore what priorities lay ahead.

Throughout the delivery of the action plan we have worked to incorporate the voices of those using services to shape how Restorative Justice will look in Scotland. This includes those who have been harmed and also those who have caused harm.

As we incorporate UNCRC into Scots law we will ensure that children involved in restorative justice have their rights respected and upheld throughout, including their right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters that affect them.

#### **Workshop 15**

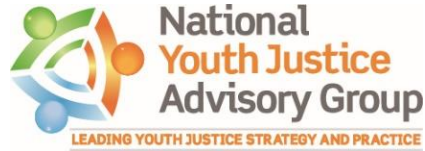
##### **Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathways (Sabrina Galella, A Way Home Scotland/Rock Trust)**

A Way Home Scotland has just launched the Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathway for all young people. The pathway offers guidance and support to all those involved in the lives of young people, with a specific section on young people in conflict with the law. The pathways recognises that homelessness is the result of structural, systemic and cultural failures, caused by relationships breakdown and exacerbated by poverty. This workshop will explore how youth homelessness links in with other issues, such as offending behaviour, and how other organisations are addressing it.

#### **Workshop 16**

##### **Co-producing a participation strategy: ten top tips to totally triumph! (Ross Gibson, CYCJ)**

This workshop will highlight some of the challenges and solutions involved in co-producing a participation strategy. Young people who helped to create the new CYCJ participation strategy will offer advice and ideas on how to go about this task, and attendees will be encouraged to think about how they could adopt a similar approach in their organisation.



Link to register via [Eventbrite here](#).

### **Workshop 17**

#### **Young people's experiences of bail and remand (Ursula Kilkelly, University College Cork and Oberstown and Nina Vaswani, CYCJ)**

Research shows that children and young people's experiences of bail, remand and court are overwhelmingly negative. Facing the justice system for the first time can be scary, confusing and overwhelming - and lack of understanding, motivation and support, plus long delays between arrest and sentencing, can lead to bail being breached. Furthermore, many children and young people in conflict with the law have complex needs and have suffered trauma. There is also complexity involved in decision-making about the use of bail and remand for children, with a multitude of factors to be balanced and deliberated, often hindered by the lack of information available and the short time-frames in which to make these decisions.

This workshop will present on findings from consultations and research with young people on their experiences and perspectives of court and remand in the Oberstown Children Detention Campus, Ireland. It will also look at work undertaken by CYCJ on the use and impact of bail and remand with children and young people in Scotland - and an exclusive first look at how CYCJ is ensuring this is accessible to a wider audience.

### **Workshop 18**

#### **Supporting Care Experienced in Policing (Colin Convery, Police Scotland)**

This interactive workshop will be led by CI Colin Convery, supported by PI Jane Donaldson and PS Danny Clark. The team represent Police Scotland's Children & Young People policy team and lead on the organisations delivery of Youth Justice, Corporate Parenting & The Promise, and the incorporation of the UNCRC in Scotland.

This workshop will focus on our approach to incorporating UNCRC in our practices and policies and will also involve an overview of our approach to children's rights including existing measures which have been taken, in particular with our Corporate Parenting plan. We will share our vision and progress to support children's rights through lived experience in a policing context.

**#YJconf21**