

Next Steps for Restorative Justice in Scotland:

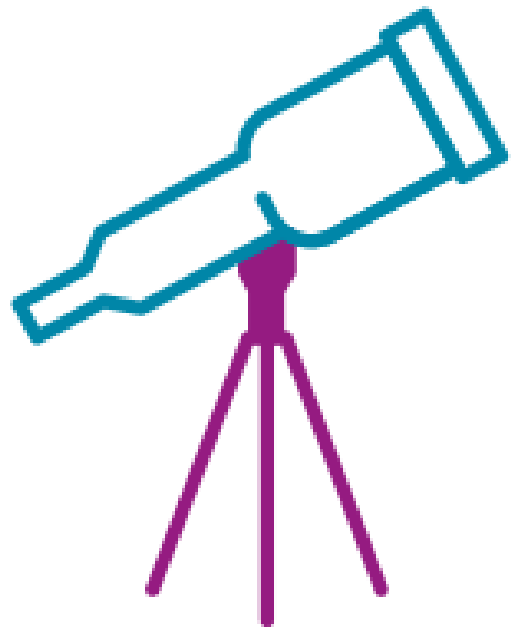
Stakeholder Insights & Pathways Forward

➤ Lauren Emmerson
Pamela Morrison

Practice Development Advisor
CYCJ Webinar
27 August 2026



Vision statement



CYCJ works towards ensuring that Scotland's approach to children and young people is rights-respecting, contributing to safer communities and better outcomes for our children, young people and families



RJ national team

- CYCJ, Community Justice Scotland and the Scottish Government Victims and Witnesses Team
- Supporting delivery of the Scottish Government's vision
- Ongoing engagement with stakeholders
- RJ options appraisal



- *Restorative Justice in Scotland: A Day of Reflection, Learning and Action, with a focus on children and young people*, took place in Glasgow on Tuesday 18 November 2025
- Invited 80 leaders, policy makers, experienced restorative justice (RJ) practitioners, and academics from a broad range of statutory and third sector organisations
- **Work together** to co-produce next steps for overcoming barriers to ensuring RJ is available to all.



JUNE 2026



Next Steps for Restorative Justice in Scotland: Stakeholder Insights and Pathways Forward

Lauren Emmerson and Pamela Morrison

Collaborating for rights-respecting justice
cycj.org.uk | cycj@strath.ac.uk

Participating Stakeholders

- 18 local authorities
- 7 Statutory agencies
- 11 Support organisations (including VAWG)
- RJ Experts



Programme

- Opened with message from Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs
- Series of inputs from current research, learning, and policy & legislative landscape
- Round table discussions hosted by facilitators
- Activities built on co-design principles adopted throughout the Scottish Approach to Service Design and based on Promise Design Tools



Questions

What are the key messages from children and young people, and what are the unique opportunities of RJ with children and young people?

How do we maximise opportunities to use RJ as a tool to support Scotland's response to harm caused by (and to) children?

What are the current barriers to a national RJ service/provision and how do we overcome those barriers (i.e. solutions)?

How do we develop a more co-ordinated approach to promote the benefits of and access to RJ with relevant groups and the wider public?



Service design





Recommendations (1)

1. Develop a co-ordinated awareness raising campaign through promotion of real-life stories, which communicates clear and consistent messages, promotes restorative justice as an option available to those impacted by harm, and highlights the financial benefits of RJ.
2. Produce high quality, accessible resources, which consider the needs of specialist and diverse groups.
3. Create conditions for collaborative buy-in from all relevant leaders and agencies to support a robust partnership approach to embedding RJ at a local and national level.



Recommendations (2)

4. Consideration to be given to creating a requirement to deliver or a duty to report on the provision of RJ services within local areas. This could support access for service users and provide a framework for sustainable funding of services.

5. Map out relevant policy, legislative and government-departmental landscape to ensure a coordinated approach to maximising opportunities for RJ throughout.

6. Ensure delivery models in Scotland promote improved access to RJ which are flexible to the needs of the people and case involved.



Recommendations (3)

7. Information about and opportunities to access RJ could be incorporated within the 'Care Card' provided by Police Scotland at the point a crime is reported.
8. Create a national funding framework supported by robust reporting requirements.
9. Test for change and pilot funding should be supported by follow on funds that enable learning to become embedded.
10. Evaluation should be embedded culturally and financially in RJ services.



Recommendations (4)

11. Develop a strategic RJ training plan for Scotland which accounts for specialisms.
12. Develop a formal process of practitioner and supervisor accreditation and registration.
13. Identify data gaps and fund research to address these. Examples suggested by delegates included exploring views and experience of girls and children of colour and Scotland-specific research into RJ within the context of harm associated with sexual and domestic violence.



Recommendations (5)

14. Develop a framework of evaluation that measures successful delivery of RJ, including learning from what is not working.
15. Key agencies need to work together to create lawful data-sharing protocols to remove barriers to accessing RJ.
16. Consider restorative justice as a whole family approach and develop greater understanding of parent and carers' needs to support their children to access RJ
17. A national satisfaction survey to understand public opinion and community confidence, and any changes in attitudes to restorative justice.



Questions?



E-Bulletin Sign Up

CYCJ produces a monthly E-Bulletin highlighting events, publications, and news and views from CYCJ and around Scotland.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list please scan here.





University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow



Children and Young People's
Centre for Justice

E-Learning Platform



More info!

Postgraduate Certificate Children and Young People in Conflict with the Law

"If you are currently working with children and young people in conflict with the law I consider this course essential... it will change the way you champion their rights being upheld and see the difference framing this makes in how you work with other professionals. This has completely changed my approach and I proudly see myself as a right-respecting practitioner thanks to what I have learned from this course and what I know is right for children based on the research and resources it has made available to me."

Sean, PG Certificate Children & Young People in Conflict with the Law programme graduate

January start date

12 months part-time distance learning



Contact us for more information:

cycj-pgcert@strath.ac.uk

Scan the QR code to visit the dedicated webpage



Please follow us and stay updated



[@cycjscotland.bsky.social](#)



[@cycjyouthjustice](#)



[@cycjscotland](#)



[@cycj_scotland](#)



[@cycjscotland](#)

