Putting the ‘us’ into youth justice

Fiona Dyer
Our vision

The Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice (CYCJ) works towards ensuring that Scotland’s approach to children and young people in conflict with the law is *rights-respecting*, contributing to better outcomes for our children, young people and communities.
What we do

We produce robust internationally ground-breaking work, bringing together children and young people’s contributions, research evidence, practice wisdom and system know-how to operate as a leader for child and youth justice thinking in Scotland and beyond.

We are based within the University of Strathclyde and primarily funded by the Scottish Government.
CYCJ Theory of Change

Children & young people flourish

Practice and policy improvements

Practice Development
Advice, peer support, consultancy support, trying out initiatives, guidance, toolkits, training, supporting change projects

Research
New knowledge, synthesising research evidence, evaluating initiatives, supporting evidence use

Knowledge Exchange
Capturing knowledge, promoting sharing, disseminating, improving access & accessibility, integrating forms of knowledge

Participation
Amplifying the voice of children and young people who have experience of the justice systems, and collaborating with them to affect change

www.cycj.org.uk
What we offer

• Practitioner support service
• Events, forums, training and advice/support
• Post Graduate Certificate on children in conflict with the law
• Reimagining Justice, service design
• Hosting the National Youth Justice Conference
• A Guide to Youth Justice in Scotland
• Information sheets/research papers
• Focus on secure care and restorative justice
• Participation Projects; YJV; STARR; IAP
• Scottish Government Youth Justice Strategy support
• ACR strategy support
• MH taskforce; Trauma informed practice; CCE; NYJAG; SPS
Reimagining Justice with Children and Young People

Building Rights Respecting Services Together

Phase 1 Discovery & Define (no cost)

Discover
- Questionnaires & Workshops

Define
- Consultation workshop
- Policy, practice & legislation
- Focus of Improvement

Phase 2 Develop & Deliver (costed)

Develop
- Improvement Group
- CYCJ Mentor
- Feedback
- Implementation

Deliver
- CYCJ support
- Improvement session & Report
- Sharing learning

Phase 3 Evaluation (costed)

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collaborating for rights-respecting justice
Policy Landscape

• Independent Care Review
• The Promise
• UNCRC
• Youth Justice Standards
• Rights Respecting?
Participation Parables
Participation Pedantry

Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice

Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice

Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice
Lundy model

- **SPACE**: Safe and inclusive opportunity to form and express a view
- **VOICE**: Facilitated to express views freely in medium of choice
- **ARTICLE 12**: The right to have views given due weight
- **AUDIENCE**: The view must be listened to
- **INFLUENCE**: The view must be acted upon as appropriate
Co-producing CYCJ’s Participation Strategy
Young Peoples’ Views

Why did I get involved?
How did we do it?

- Relationships were key
- Space for reflection
- Creative options
- Reimbursement for time
- Coming back together to give feedback
- Closing the feedback loop
What did we say?

- Proactive Inclusion
- Valuing expertise
- Research
- Mutual benefit
- Accessibility
- Trauma responsive
- Transparency
Making participation the norm
Making participation the norm: Ten Top Tips to Totally Triumph
• Driven by young people from the start
• Thanking people for their time, reimbursement and recognition
• Responding to skillsets and interests
• Making sure there is enough time before during and after including closing the feedback loop
• Trauma informed, Safe spaces, opportunity to reflect
• Mutual benefit, challenges power imbalances
• Making sure people have materials needed to take part, breaking down barriers
• Offering choices at every step
• Stickability
• Centring lived experience
What has been achieved so far!

• Employed young people at CYCJ
• Young people on all interview panels
• Voice of lived experience on our EGG
• Launched ‘Just the Right Space’
• Created ‘Reimagining Justice’
• Suite of Rights materials; WSA, flyers
• Assessable version of Youth Justice Standards
• Secure Care Pathways & Standards
• Young People on Scottish Government Groups
• Supported young people to respond to Scottish Government consultations and work as part of ACR; YJ Vision & Action Plan; GIRFEC
It’s not easy

• Barriers
• Challenges
• What have we learned?
Window of Opportunity

• Incorporation of UNCRC and The Promise is an opportunity

• A rights and entitlement-based approach can be seen as the next phase of developing a preventative approach building on the Kilbrandon foundations

what happens next is in our collective hands...
Get in touch

www.cycj.org.uk
_cycj@strath.ac.uk
@CYCJScotland
@cycj_scotland