

2021 WORLD CONGRESS ON JUSTICE WITH CHILDREN

15-20 November 2021

“Ensuring access to justice for all children: towards a non-discriminatory and inclusive child justice systems”

Workshop programme

Participation and Co-Creation in Youth Justice Settings (England and Wales)

Date	Friday, 19th November 2021
Timing	12:00 - 13:30 CET
Organiser(s)	Anne-Marie Douglas
Institution	Peer Power Youth
Type of Workshop	Working Group
Topics	Ensuring that the voice of the child is heard in child justice.
Region	International
Language	English

Abstract

The ‘Participation and Co-Creation in Youth Justice Settings (England and Wales)’ project was co-created with young people with lived experience from its inception to conclusion. It involved working in partnership with Youth Justice Services, and the Youth Justice Board in England and Wales to learn about how they are ensuring that the voice of the child is heard in justice systems.

There have been a number of studies around participatory practice in a youth justice context, but we found there was still a need to understand the complex cultural and environmental factors that affect participation and co-creation in practice.

At the workshop, we will share our journey, explore and bring to light some of the tensions, strengths and opportunities that present, and share the coproduced resources from the project including reports, handouts, and short films that can support youth justice services with their participatory practice.

The workshop will be participatory and experiential for participants, and will involve our young partners, the Peer Power Experts, Anne-Marie Douglas (Founder & CEO), and the academic working group, Dr Samantha Burns, Colin Falconer and Dr Sean Creaney

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Peer Power is an empathy-led charity that heals trauma and adversity through caring relationships and transforms youth services and justice systems by supporting our Young Partners to influence and have their voices heard. The children, teenagers and young adults we partner with have described themselves as being ‘abandoned by society’. Our Young Partners have experienced injustice and inequality through a range of social and economic factors, including race, class, poverty and disabilities in addition to childhood adversity and trauma (individual, societal and system trauma). They are passionate about using their experiences in positive and powerful ways to improve social care, justice and health services by voicing issues for and with other young people.

Three key takeaways and one output of the session

By the end of the session you will have:

- debated and refreshed learning around current practice and issues in participatory practice in youth justice settings
- explored issues around power and inclusion in relation to co-creation and participation in youth justice settings
- identified whether you are really co-creating using the Peer Power Participation Continuum

Output: to be able to utilise and share the participation resources produced, to ensure the voice of the child is heard and acted upon in justice services where you are.

Objectives

- Explore participation in a youth justice context, using Peer Power’s Participation Continuum
- Learn from our research and the contentious areas, ensuring that the voice of the child is really heard in child justice systems
- Investigate areas around power, inclusion and work out ‘are you really co-creating?’ using our Participation Continuum and an experiential exercise

Expected outcomes

By the end of the session Delegates will have:

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- reflected upon their participatory practice using the participation continuum
- refreshed learning around current practice and issues in participatory practice in youth justice settings
- explored issues around power and inclusion in relation to co-creation and participation in youth justice settings

Speakers

- **Moderator**

Anne-Marie Douglas

- **Chat moderator**

Ria Perez

- **Panelists**

1. **Anne-Marie Douglas**

Founder and CEO of the charity/NGO Peer Power Youth, and is a champion for lived and learned experience, participation, love and empathy in the transformation of support services for children and young people.

She has worked with secure justice settings and youth justice services across England and Wales, Youth Justice Board and the Ministry of Justice influencing their work on participation and coproduction.

Anne-Marie is a Churchill Fellow having travelled to the USA and Canada to research the role of empathy and lived experience in support services for children and young people.

2. **Dr Samantha Burns**

Lecturer in criminology at the University of Durham, England, and previously a research associate at Newcastle University understanding children and young people's adverse life experiences and co-designing new interventions to improve outcomes for children, young people, and families, to inform policy. Samantha recently completed her PhD at City University of Hong Kong, studying the role and impact of social workers' co-production practices with at-risk young people. She has previously worked on projects focused on children and young people's participation which sparked her research interests in youth justice and rights based, participatory approaches.

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3. Colin Falconer

Director of InspireChilli, an innovation consultancy that specialises in asset-based training, quality assurance and development work for organisations from the UK to Australia. Colin has led various education, health and quality assurance programmes, including 14 years as director of innovation at youth charity The Foyer Federation where he introduced the concept of Advantaged Thinking in the youth sector. Credits include 2011 TEDx performance in Thessaloniki and various published pieces including the ‘Advantaged Thinking Program Framework’ (2019) with BSL, the ‘Strength in Solidarity’ (2020) report for the Listening Fund, ‘Connecting Minds’ (2021) evaluation for States of Mind.

4. Dr Sean Creaney

Senior lecturer in psychosocial analysis of offending behaviour at Edge Hill University. Sean is a founder advisory board member of social justice charity Peer Power. Sean’s primary research interests are youth justice and children’s participation, particularly the promotion of Child First approaches and participatory rights discourses. He is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Safer Communities journal (Emerald).