

2021 WORLD CONGRESS ON JUSTICE WITH CHILDREN

15-20 November 2021

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

Workshop Programme

Putting the 'us' into Youth Justice

Date	Wednesday, 17th November 2021	
Timing	14:00 - 15:30 Geneva	13:00-14:30 London
Organiser(s)	Fiona Dyer	
Institution	Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice	
Type of Workshop	Training	
Topics	Ensuring that the voice of the child is heard in child justice systems.	
Region	Europe	
Language	English	

Abstract

Scotland’s Independent Care Review has shown that an approach which puts the voice, views and perspectives of children at its heart can lead to innovative, bold and novel responses to wicked issues affecting children who come into conflict with the law. At the same time Scotland is fast approaching the implementation of UNCRC into Scots’ Law, bringing with it an even greater urgency to ensure that the views of children are borne in mind when decisions are made which affect them.

This interactive session will look at the role participation has played in responding to these developments, and how it is helping to shape the future of youth justice policy and practice. Attendees will hear how coproduction (as a form of participation) has played an important role in shaping recent policy documents, and can help organisations to meet recommendations of the Independent Care Review and to embed the UNCRC into practice. Citing examples from CYCJ’s participation projects, the presentation will also seek to highlight the barriers to meaningful participation as well as the opportunities it brings. Content and input will be provided by those delivering participation projects, as well as young people who themselves are showing leadership by helping to reshape their world. Audio and visual content will be utilised to supplement presentations from the speakers.

Objectives

- Highlighting the role that the voice of children and young people played in the creation of The Promise

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- Specific reference to participation within the UNCRC, and how that is changing practice in Scotland
- Refer to examples of participation work in the youth justice settings, and point to early successes in shaping policy and practice
- Demonstrate opportunities and barriers to participation

Expected outcomes

- At the conclusion of this workshop, attendees will have been educated on the role of participation in shaping and improving the youth justice landscape in Scotland and be provided with the tools and knowledge to transfer this learning. They may also be inspired to adapt practice in their own location, and to develop cross-border, and cross-discipline relationships.

Speakers/trainers

- **Moderator**

Fiona Dyer, Ms

As Director, Fiona leads CYCJ in its work to improve children’s lives through improving policy, practice, participation and research. This involves supporting professionals from all disciplines who work with children and young people on the cusp of or involved in offending by promoting best practice based on up-to-date evidence and research. Before joining CYCJ Fiona was seconded to the Scottish Government youth justice team for three years, and prior to this worked for ten years as a social worker and social work manager within the fields of youth and criminal justice.

- **Chat moderator**

Julia Swann, Ms

- **Panelists**

1. **Ross Gibson, Mr**

After qualifying from the University of Strathclyde in 2009, Ross worked within a Youth Justice in Glasgow before moving to CYCJ in July 2017. In his role as Practice Development Advisor he focuses on Diversion, Secure Care, Participation, and meeting the conclusions of The Promise. Ross is also

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undertaking a part time PhD at the University of Strathclyde.

2. Marie Gibson, Ms

Marie is a final year Community Education student at the University of Dundee, currently on an internship at CYCJ where she is undertaking various pieces of work including supporting Youth Justice Voices, contributing to policy, reimagining the social work system and promotion Participation. She is also carrying out research on the impact of Participation within the Youth Justice landscape.

Marie has a keen interest in co-production and participation, as well as driving forward meaningful change in the Youth Justice system. She hopes to move forward as a Community Education practitioner in this area following graduation.

3. Ruth Kerracher, Ms

Ruth is a Participation Worker within the Youth Justice Voices projects; a jointly run project between Staf and CYCJ, funded by the Life Changes Trust. This project supports young people aged 16-25 to influence change and amplify the voice of care-experienced young people within the justice system. Ruth makes connections, links and relationships with young people, supports them to participate in decision-making fora, and uses what she has learned to influence policy and practice across Scotland. The project includes ‘Youth Just Us’ in the community, and ‘Inside Out’ in HMP&YOI Polmont (a prison for 16-21 year olds).