

Developments and Research Needs in Youth Justice Tuesday 3rd May

PROGRAMME

Chairman: *Lord Carlile*, Chair of the Carlile Inquiry

- 09.45am** **Registration and refreshments**
- 10.15am** **Welcome:** *Sir Ernest Ryder*, Nuffield Foundation Trustee
- 10.30am** **Keynote Address:** *Charlie Taylor*
- 11.00am** **Pre Court**
Assessment and Decision Making
- *Ben Byrne*, Surrey County Council
- *Andy Peadar*, Leeds City Council
- *Caroline Adams*, Sussex Police
The Importance of a Legal Representation
- *Aika Stephenson*, Just for Kids Law
- 11.45am** **Refreshments**
- 12.00pm** **In Court**
Problem Solving Approaches: The Landscape
- *Ben Estep*, Centre for Justice Innovation
Problem Solving Approaches: The Northampton Experience
- *Dominic Goble*, Chairman for Northamptonshire Youth Panel
Problem Solving Approaches: Representative Competence
- *Oliver Hanmer*, Bar Standards Board
A Perspective from the Senior Judiciary
- *Mr Justice William Davis*, Judicial Lead on Youth Justice
- 12.45pm** **Post Court**
Reform of the Criminal Records System
- *Penelope Gibbs*, Chair of the Standing Committee on Youth Justice
Looked After Children
- *John Drew*, Secretary to the Laming Review
- 13.00** **Lunch**
- 14.00** **Round Table Discussions on Recommendations**
- 15.30** **Rapporteurs Feedback**
- 16.00** **Summing Up:** *Lord Carlile*, Chair of the Carlile Inquiry
- 16.30** **End**

Presentations

Keynote Address
Charlie Taylor

Time For Positive Youth Justice?

Ben Byrne, Head of Youth Support, Surrey County Council

Ben will share experiences from Surrey of attempting to develop a positive youth justice based upon a 'child first, offender second' philosophy. These principles have been used to dismantle the YOT architecture in order to provide services to children who offend which are non-siloed and promote opportunities for participation and inclusion alongside other children and young people. Ben will describe the Youth Restorative Intervention, which has played an important part in developing this distinctive positive approach to young people in trouble in Surrey.

The Leeds Approach – a child friendly city

Andy Peaden, Head of Service, Leeds Youth Offending Service

Our ambition is for Leeds to be the best city for all our children and young people to grow up in. Child friendly Leeds is the initiative for everyone who shares this ambition, from enthusiastic individuals to large organisations, every contribution counts and we can all play our part in making a difference. Andy will give an outline to the approach in Leeds and share how this supports the work of the Youth Offending Service.

Is the role of the police officer, enforcer or protector?

Caroline Adams, Staff Officer for National Children & Young Persons Portfolio, Sussex Police

The police are the gatekeepers to the youth justice system and an understanding as to the vulnerabilities and challenges that some young people are experiencing as contributing factors to their offending is essential. The police have traditionally seen themselves as enforcers, is it time to change that?

The Importance of a Legal Representation

Aika Stephenson, Programmes Director, Just For Kids Law

Aika will share three real life examples of police station cases involving children to demonstrate why it is so important Youth specialist lawyers are present at the police station stage.

The Landscape

Ben Estep, Youth Justice Programme Manager, Centre for Justice Innovation

The Northampton Experience

Dominic Goble, Chairman for Northamptonshire Youth Panel

Following publication of the Sieff Foundation paper on the provision of local authority reports to the youth court and Lord Carlile's report into the operation and effectiveness of the youth court, Dominic piloted innovations across Northamptonshire designed to embrace the strong positive influence of youth magistrates. Section 9 of the Children and Young Persons Act was brought back into use to ensure the best information was being laid before the courts and all agencies were properly engaged. Additionally, magistrates from a new panel of specially trained youth court chairmen were invited to observe YOS lead out of court reviews of children on youth rehabilitation orders; the magistrates attended to reinforce the expectations of the court and seek to congratulate, motivate and inspire the young person towards success. An academic evaluation was conducted by Middlesex University.

Advocacy standards within the youth justice system
Oliver Hanmer

A Perspective from the Senior Judiciary
Mr Justice William Davis

Reform of the Criminal Records System

Penelope Gibbs, Chair of the Standing Committee for Youth Justice

In England, we punish anyone who has been convicted twice of shoplifting aged 10, for their whole lifetime – by disclosing these crimes on certain criminal records checks until they die. The Carlile report called for "children who have committed non-serious and non-violent offences, who have stopped offending, should have their criminal record expunged when they turn 18". The Standing Committee for Youth Justice has been working since the publication to develop and expand this proposal, since we agree that the system of keeping and disclosing childhood criminal records is one of the greatest barriers to rehabilitation. We commissioned a study of International approaches which revealed that England and Wales is an outlier in keeping records for longer, and revealing more than any comparable jurisdiction. So we have launched a campaign to change legislation and practice, with the aim of balancing the need to help children move on from childhood crimes, and for public protection. We would like to reduce rehabilitation periods (in which all crimes need to be declared), restrict the information revealed in enhanced criminal records checks, and wipe the slate clean for those who are on the straight and narrow. But we need all your help to build support for these reforms.

Looked After Children

Professor John Drew C.B.E, Secretary to the Laming Review

Summing Up

Lord Carlile, Chair of the Carlile Inquiry

Speaker Biographies

Ben Byrne has worked as a practitioner and manager in criminal justice and children's services since qualifying with a Masters degree and professional diploma in social worker in 1997. He became Head of Youth Justice in Surrey in 2009 and has led the integrated Youth Support Service since 2012. Prominent in Ben's work has been a long-standing commitment to preventative and restorative approaches, which have contributed to multiple national awards for the Youth Support Service and the lowest rate of entrants to the youth justice system of any local authority in England and Wales. He has led on the South East protocol to reduce criminalisation of children in care and is a member of the Prison Reform Trust's Care Review chaired by Lord Laming. Ben has undertaken research on responses to vulnerable young people and youth justice and has been published by Research in Practice, the Howard League for Penal reform, and the Safer Communities Journal. He is currently leading Surrey's Transforming Justice Programme for young people and adults.

Andy Peaden started his career working as a volunteer with Northumberland Probation Service in 1987. He became an Intermediate Treatment worker with Blyth Valley Juvenile Justice team in 1988 and qualified as a Probation Officer in 1991 working in a range of different locations for both Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire Probation services. He became Sheffield YOT manager in 2005 and Assistant Director for Youth Services in Sheffield 2010. In 2011 Andy was seconded into Sheffield Futures (an independent charity delivering Youth Services and Connexions) as Chief Executive where he remains a trustee. He moved to Leeds to take up his present position in 2012.

Caroline Adams is the staff officer to Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney who is the National Police Chief Lead for the policing of children and young people. They are working on a national strategy encouraging forces to implement and use the keep principals within the strategy to inform their local practice.

Aika Stephenson founded Just for Kids Law with Shauneen in 2006. She is a solicitor who specialises in representing young people in criminal proceedings and particularly those with Special Educational Needs. Aika worked for nine years as a youth specialist at a busy West London firm before joining Hodge Jones & Allen solicitors in 2014. Aika runs their youth team as well as heading up programs at Just for Kids Law. Her background was at Westminster Youth Offending Team and working for The Children's Society at Feltham Young Offenders Institute as a child advocate. In recognition of her work in the legal community, Aika was awarded Young Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year in June 2007. In 2014 Aika was named as one of Britain's top 50 part-time executives in the Timewise Power List.

Ben Estep is the Youth Justice Programme Manager at the Centre for Justice innovation. Ben was a researcher with NEF's Valuing What Matters team, contributing to NEF's work on innovations in criminal justice policy, including early intervention and diversion of young people, and problem-solving in courts. Previously, he worked on policy and sociological research at the Center for Economic Progress and at the Sloan Center on Parents, Children & Work, both in Chicago. He has a BA in Sociology from the University of Chicago and an MSc in Philosophy and Public Policy from the London School of Economics. He also enjoys running, walking and baking.

Dominic Goble is Chairman of the Northamptonshire County Youth Panel and sits on the Magistrates' Association Youth Courts Committee.

Oliver Hamner is Director of Supervision at the Bar Standards Board with a broad range of regulatory responsibilities including assuring standards of advocacy. He has held a number of senior positions within legal regulation and has developed a particular interest in youth justice and consumer vulnerability and engagement. He has experience of the voluntary sector both through his professional commitments but also in his role as a governor at a local primary school.

Mr Justice William Davis

After pupillage in London, Sir William Davis practised at the Bar in Birmingham between 1976 and 2008. His practice consisted primarily of criminal and personal injury work. He was appointed an Assistant Recorder in 1992, a Recorder in 1995 and QC in 1998. He was head of St Philips Chambers from 2004 to 2008. He was appointed to the Circuit Bench in 2008. In 2009 he was appointed a Deputy High Court Judge (QBD and Admin) and he also became a Senior Circuit Judge and Recorder of Birmingham. He was a member of the Sentencing Council from 2012 to 2015. He was appointed to the High Court Bench in May 2014. He is the Director of Criminal Training for the Judicial College and the Judicial Lead on Youth Justice.

Penelope Gibbs is the current Chair of SCYJ. Penelope is currently Director of Transform Justice. Prior to this she was Director of the Out of Trouble programme for the Prison Reform Trust. This five-year programme, funded by The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, seeks to reduce the number of children and young people imprisoned in the UK. Penelope worked for the Prison Reform Trust for five years. Previously Penelope worked for the charity TimeBank and for the BBC, and sat as a magistrate.

Professor John Drew C.B.E has been leading an Independent Review into the handling of child sexual exploitation by South Yorkshire Police. The Review was commissioned by South Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Dr. Alan Billings, in September 2015 and follows on from the earlier reviews and inspections of Rotherham Council by Professor Alexis Jay and then by Louise Casey respectively. John was Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales from 2009 to 2013 and prior to that had spent a decade as a Director of Social Services and Housing in the east London borough of Redbridge. Since retiring in 2013, John has taken on a number of non-executive and part-time roles. Principal amongst these are that he is a Visiting Professor at the University of Bedfordshire, and chairs the Medway Safeguarding Children's Board. John is also Secretary to the Laming Inquiry into children in care and the criminal justice system.

Lord Carlile

Lord (Alex) Carlile of Berriew was appointed in July 2015 as a Member of the Independent Commission on Freedom of Information. He was the Liberal/Liberal Democrat MP for Montgomeryshire from 1983 to 1997. Lord Carlile was a founding member of the All-Party War Crimes Group. He chaired the Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament on mental health legislation. He was appointed a Life Peer in 1999 and was awarded the CBE in 2012 for services to national security. Lord Carlile was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1970 and became a Queen's Counsel in 1984. He is a member of the boards of numerous charities including the Royal Medical Foundation of Epsom College and The White Ensign Association. He was a co-founder of the Welsh charity Rekindle. He is chairman of the not-for-profit company Design for Homes and is a founding director of SC Strategy Ltd, a strategy and public policy consultancy.

