

I realised I need to change my life around, I'm 18 soon ... if it wasn't for these guys here [at the YJS] I'd still be going down that path now, [YJS practitioner] has really helped me turn my life around
(Boy, Age 17, YJS3)

If you're going to arrest me yeah, talk to me with respect ... like the way they speak to their own kids. Don't speak down to us and listen, speak to us on the level and we'll listen too
(Boy, Age 16, YJS3)

"The pressure in there [court] is bad, so it makes you not want to say anything, because it's so stressful, everyone is looking at you, eyes from all directions, so it makes you feel very uncomfortable." (Boy, Age 15, YJS3)

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Child First Collaboration

**Examining
collaboration in youth
justice decision-
making research
project**

Parents/Carer's Leaflet





What to expect from youth justice services

These are the main messages from our research project with justice-involved children about their perceptions and experiences of their collaboration in decisions affecting them across the Youth Justice System.

Four stages of collaboration

1. Ask children for their opinions
2. Listen to (and hear) children
3. Respect children's views (and respond appropriately)
4. Keep children informed about what is happening

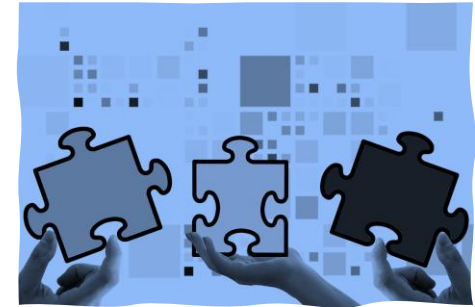
Prioritising children's own life goals should be the basis of all youth justice interventions and activities. Youth justice professionals should...

- ☞ ask children what they want to achieve in life
- ☞ hear and support children's stated aspirations
- ☞ help children to look forward and get on with their lives

Youth justice professionals should build positive relationships with children and show that they care about supporting them

[the plan] should be based around the child, so like for me Health and Social Care is my goal, so they (YJS) organised for me to be on the interview panel for social workers. All the stuff I want to do in the future which made me then want to engage in it because I enjoy it... doing stuff you're interested in

(Girl, Age 17, YJS2)



Youth justice professionals need to recognise and counteract power-dynamics

- ☞ avoid using power and control
- ☞ ensure a welcoming and comfortable environment

Youth justice professionals need to ensure effective interventions and support are developed together with children

- ☞ give children a choice and welcome their contribution to decision-making
- ☞ ensure children's views make a difference to their support and interventions