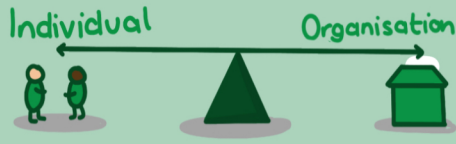




PARTICIPATION & CO-CREATION IN THE YOUTH JUSTICE SECTOR: WHAT OUR RESEARCH REVEALED

Nearly 90% of the Youth Justice Services (YJS) surveyed stated that participatory approaches were mostly utilised on an individual level.



(The individual level being where children are included in decisions when it relates to them or how a service affects them.)



Over 1 in 5 YJS ranked their implementation of participatory approaches as poor or very poor.



More than three-quarters of the YJS surveyed (78.7%) would describe co-creation differently from Peer Power Experts' experience.



Overall, the three most popular methods of participation were:



1. Surveys (84.7%)



2. Consultations (69.3%) and



3. Interview panels (66.7%).

The least used methods were:



1. Children making spending decisions (4.7%)



2. Training (24.7%)



3. Paid meetings (24.7%)

Over half of the surveyed YJS did not evaluate how engagement with children has gone and the impact of involving them.



The three most common barriers or challenges faced by YJS in implementing co-creation are:



1. Lack of resources (50.7%)



2. Children not seeing the value in engaging (46.7%)



3. Lack of budget (36.7%).

Over 3 in 4 of surveyed YJS agreed that power dynamic (how power affects relationships) between a YJS practitioner and a child can affect the level of engagement and participation that takes place.



The majority of YJS (62.7%) agreed with the statement: "I think empathy and co-creation is at the core of what we do and how we work with children."



24% of YJS who engaged with children through youth advisory boards or youth panels selected 'children not seeing value in engaging' as their most stated challenge.



85.3% of the surveyed YJS expressed they need more support for developing participation and co-creation.

