

Crest Advisory research crime and justice topics. The Youth Justice Board asked Crest to find out how children and teenagers feel about their youth justice service and how can it be improved. Crest did a survey with children and teenagers and this is what they found.

‘As Children’

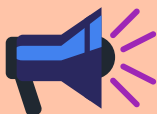
What is that?



‘As Children’ is part of the **Child First framework** which tells us the best way to work with children and teenagers. It means recognising the individual needs of children and teenagers and respecting their rights.

Crest asked 53 children and teenagers...

whether they felt listened to and understood by adults at their youth justice service.



What did they say?

Most children and teenagers said that their caseworker understood what was happening in their lives. Most children and teenagers also said they had been able to talk about their life experiences with their caseworker.



Why is this important?

This matters because it shows that the background and experiences of each child and teenager are taken into account by youth justice services, so that everyone can get the right support.



What did Crest recommend?

To make sure that youth justice services across England and Wales are listening to and supporting children and teenagers, the Youth Justice Board should continue to share ideas and information on how to do this well.



Have you heard about...

AssetPlus?

AssetPlus is a tool used by caseworkers in youth justice services to understand children’s and teenagers’ needs and strengths. It helps children and teenagers to talk about what’s going on and be part of making a plan that works for them. This means children and teenagers can feel more involved, take control of their progress, and get the support that really helps them.

To read Crest’s report...

SCAN ME



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‘Building pro-social identity’

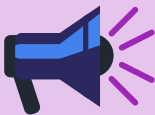
What is that?



‘Building pro-social identity’ is part of the Child First framework which tells us the best way to work with children and teenagers. It means helping children and teenagers to build relationships so they can fulfil their potential and contribute positively to society.

Crest asked 53 children and teenagers...

whether they felt supported to develop skills, make positive progress and felt part of a community.



What did they say?



Most children and teenagers felt supported by adults in the youth justice service and had the chance to develop new skills. However, some children and teenagers said they don't feel like they are part of their community.

Why is this important?

This matters because when children and teenagers are supported to develop skills and work on the things that they're good at as part of their community, they can have more positive futures.



What did Crest recommend?



The Youth Justice Board should share Crest's survey results and encourage youth justice services to work with local partners like sports or arts clubs to help children and teenagers feel connected to their communities.

Have you heard about... restorative approaches?

Restorative approaches can support children and teenagers in the youth justice system to repair the harm caused to others and find a positive way forward. In some cases, this might involve a meeting between the victim of the crime and the person responsible.

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‘Collaborating with children’

What is that?



‘Collaborating with children’ is part of the Child First framework which tells us the best way to work with children and teenagers. It means asking children for their views on any programmes that involve them, as well as how to improve the youth justice service.

Crest asked 53 children and teenagers...

whether they felt included in planning their time at the youth justice service and if they had the chance to take part in decision making about the things that affect them.



What did they say?

Most children and teenagers said they felt listened to and included in planning and decision making about their progress.

Why is this important?

This matters because when youth justice services listen to children’s and teenager’s views and include them in decisions about their progress, they can get better at helping children and teenagers build positive futures for themselves.



What did Crest recommend?

Youth justice services should ask for feedback from children and teenagers regularly, using a ‘you said, we did’ template to show children and teenagers how their feedback is making a difference.

Have you heard about...

creative approaches?

Creative activities - like art - have been used to help children and teenagers involved in the youth justice system by making them feel more confident and learning new skills. Creative activities have also helped children and teenagers to build relationships, and have improved wellbeing and plans for the future.

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‘Diverting from stigma’

What is that?



‘Diverting from stigma’ is part of the **Child First framework** which tells us the best way to work with children and teenagers. It means stopping children from being labelled just because they’ve been in trouble, and trying to keep them away from the criminal justice system (such as prison) whenever possible.



Crest asked 53 children and teenagers...

whether they felt supported to plan their future and if they felt judged by adults at the youth justice service.



What did they say?

Most children and teenagers felt positive about their future, although some were unsure. Most children and teenagers did not feel judged by adults at the youth justice service.

Why is this important?

This matters because creating a non-judgemental, supportive environment is important to reducing stigma and helping children and teenagers feel positive about their future.



What did Crest recommend?

Youth justice services should explore how they can further support children and teenagers to plan for the future - including how they talk to children and teenagers about other things like education, careers and finances.



Have you heard about... peer support navigators?

Peer support navigators are people with previous lived experience of the youth justice system who are trained to support children and teenagers who are currently working with youth justice services. Peer support navigators have helped children and teenagers to feel better, stay on track, and find jobs.

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