

Standing up for kids

JUST FOR KIDS



# 2016 Impact Report

# Introduction

Just for Kids Law wants every child to be able to have the best childhood and fulfil their potential.

We help young people who may have difficulty with education; have mental health or immigration problems; are denied benefits; are homeless; or have youth justice issues. Children and young people rarely come to us with one problem. We provide holistic support to individual young people backed up with legal services.

We also work more broadly to influence policy and change the law through evidence gathering, strategic litigation, lobbying and youth participation.

We have a number of different strands under the Just for Kids Law umbrella to enable us to do all our different work in a cost effective manner.

Standing up for kids

**JUST FOR KIDS**  LAW

Standing up for kids  
**JUST FOR KIDS**  LAW

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# Costs to Society

Excluded from school



**£15,000** pa for Pupil Referral Unit, vs. £4000 pa for mainstream school

Mental health problems



**One in ten** children and young people aged 5 to 16 has a clinically recognisable mental disorder

Unstable accommodation



**80,000** under 25s become homeless each year  
**£1 billion** spent annually on dealing with homelessness

In care or a care leaver



Estimated **£2.5 billion** was spent on services for looked after children in England in 2013/14

Asylum seeker, refugee or migrant



Many wait 'in limbo' for **5-8 years** for a decision on their application, unable to continue into education  
Estimated **120,000** migrant children have irregular status in the UK

Contact with youth justice system

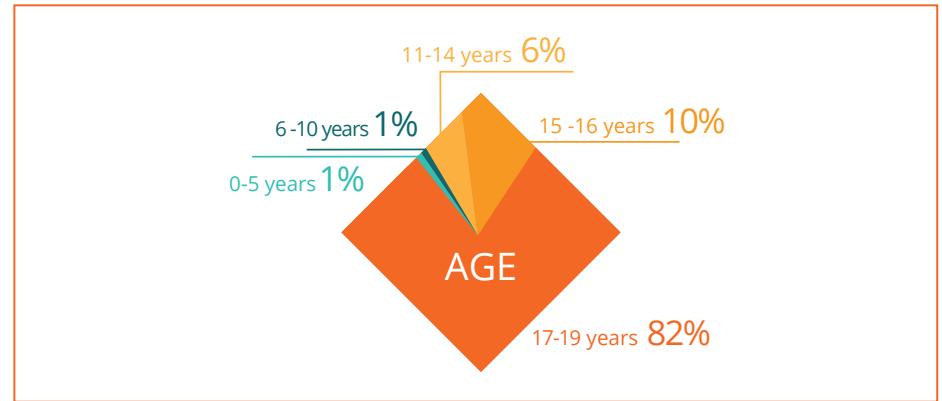


**Costs £19 billion a year**

Early intervention and prevention for 10% of the young people sentenced to prison  
**could save over £100 million annually**

# Direct Support

We provide direct support to children and young people



## Issues faced by our clients

*On average each client has 2 issues*



17%  
Immigration /  
Nationality



21%  
Housing/  
Homelessness



30%  
Health/  
Community care  
& Family



17%  
Financial/  
Benefits



24%  
Youth  
Justice



52%  
Education/  
Training &  
Employment



## Outcomes - Position Improved



71%  
Immigration /  
Nationality



64%  
Housing/  
Homelessness



60%  
Health/  
Community care  
& Family



74%  
Financial/  
Benefits



90%  
Youth  
Justice



99%  
Education/  
Training &  
Employment

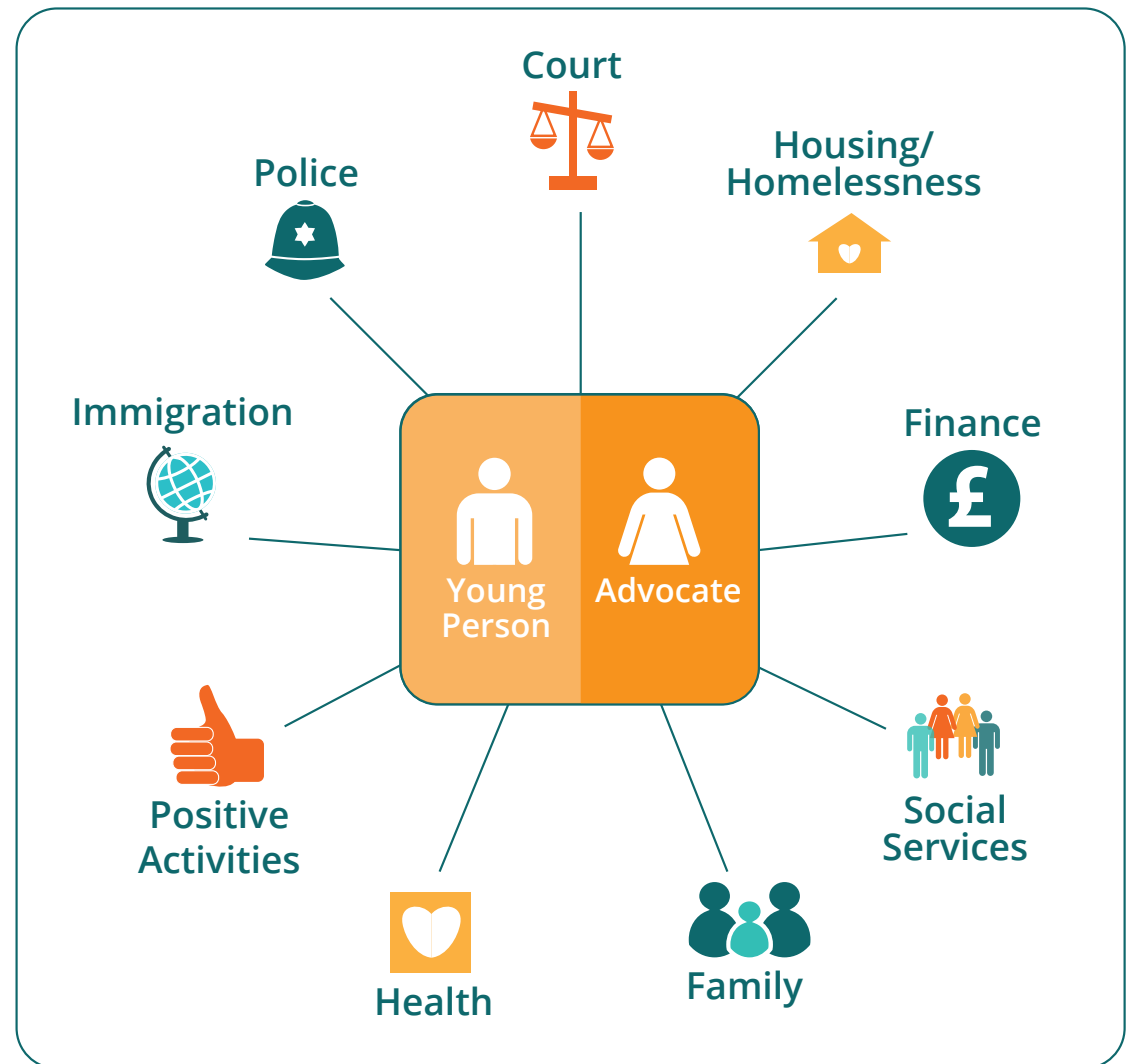
# Holistic Support

Just for Kids Law believes the best way to support young people is to identify and address all of their needs.

Our advocates offer young people tailored, one-to-one support every step of the way. They ensure the voices of the young people are heard and that they get the help they need.

Our advocates work collaboratively with lawyers, providing young people with a wide range of legal expertise and assistance.

We call this 'holistic support'.



# Our Work in 2016

HOLISTIC SUPPORT

**1,426**

CASES



**55%**

INCREASE  
from 2015

**150,000**

YOUNG PEOPLE  
benefitted from just one of our campaigns  
**Still a child at 17**

**74%**

of our work in  
Greater London  
Boroughs

**55** volunteers  
*delivered*



**3200**

hours of support  
to our organisation

**26%**

of our work  
outside London



# What success looks like?



# What our clients say

**96%** positive difference made in the cases we worked on

**99%** said we increased their confidence in facing any future problems

**100%** said they would refer a friend to JFKL

## Before contacting Just for Kids Law

**79%** of young people had a negative view of their lives

## After contacting Just for Kids Law

**86%** of young people felt positive about their lives after working with us

### Our clients say

“JFK is like **my second family**. They have helped me so much.”

“Just for Kids has **completely changed my life.**”

“Without the help of JFK I would **still be homeless.**”

“

”

### Their parents say:

“What Just for Kids Law gave me was justice. I cannot thank Just for Kids Law enough because my son now has the chance to make any path that he wants.”

“No I don't want to go to any other organisation, I have tried all of them. Nothing comes close ... to Just for Kids.”





Youth Justice Legal Centre website ([www.yjlc.uk](http://www.yjlc.uk))

**100,000 hits**

YJLC provided expert legal advice in

**192 cases** in 2016



## TRAINING

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Youth justice training feedback

**96%** ▶ **of participants** said the course was **well organised, practical and relevant** to them

**98%** ▶ **of participants** said the course would **change their practice** as a result of the training relevant to them

### Participants Say

“I now feel very well-equipped for representing children in the criminal justice system and confident that I will do a good job thanks to Just for Kids Law!”

“Participation of young people was brilliant - first hand experience was very insightful.”

### STRATEGIC LITIGATION

**#nochildincells** Campaign challenged 6 local authorities about keeping children in police cells overnight

**R v Jogee** JFKL intervened in the landmark Supreme Court case that changed the way the Courts interpret joint enterprise





# Let Us Learn Campaign

Let Us Learn is a youth-led movement for access to higher education for all young people living in the UK.



Directly supported

**439**

young people



Engaged with

**30**

schools/colleges



Ran fortnightly **youth campaign meetings** for up to **40** young people

Helped to create **7** new scholarships

## Feedback:

'You guys helped me a lot, because I knew I wasn't alone in this situation and next year I can finally fulfil those dreams. It has been a long road filled with hurt and disappointment but I know there is always light at the end of the tunnel and it showed me never to give up what you believe in.'

'Words cannot explain how shocked I am that student finance have actually given me a loan..... you've made my dream come true'



# Example of One of Our Campaigns

## Timeline on the progress of change - Still a child at 17:

- 2012 Nick Herbert - Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice:** 'Having carefully weighed up the arguments on both sides, I have decided that it would not be appropriate to treat 17 year olds held in police custody as children at the present time. I am sorry if my answer comes as something of a disappointment to you.'
- 2013 Lord Justice Moses in High Court:** 'I conclude that it is inconsistent with the rights of the claimant and his mother, enshrined in Article 8, for the Secretary of State to treat 17 year olds as adults when in detention.'
- October 2014 House of Lords: Lord Ashton on behalf of the Government:** 'This amendment is laudable in its aims but, in our opinion, represents a too-hurried and partial approach to the issue of how we treat young people at the age of 17 at the front end of the criminal justice system.'
- November 2014 House of Lords: Lord Faulks on behalf of the Government:** 'I am pleased to inform the House that the Government have listened to his plea and the passionate collective voice of the families of loved ones who are tragically no longer with us. The Government have now concluded their review and have arrived at a very clear conclusion: the provisions in PACE that relate to the treatment of 17 year olds should be amended as soon as possible so that they are treated as children.'
- May 2015 Queen's Speech:** 'The government is creating legislative consistency within the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) to ensure that 17 year olds are treated as children under all its provisions.'
- October 2015**  
**Definition of a 'juvenile' in police custody includes 17 year old children.**
- 2016 #nochildincells and Policing of Children in London:** Six local authorities challenged over detaining children overnight in police cells. Action on use of tasers, spit hoods and strip searching children.

# Children's Rights Alliance For England



Children's  
Rights Alliance  
for England

**We successfully influenced** the United Nation's examination of the UK on its child rights record and secured a strong report with 180 recommendations for change.

**We supported** children and young people to meet key decision-makers, including two members of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Minister for Children, MPs and the new Mayor of Bristol.

**We published** our flagship report State of Children's Rights in England. Over 70 voluntary organisations and parliamentarians attended the launch. Our hashtag #ChildRights16 reached nearly 95k twitter accounts.

**We submitted** 35 pieces of evidence to Government, parliamentary Select Committees or international bodies, including the United Nations and Council of Europe.

**We met** with 40 decision-makers, including parliamentarians, senior civil servants, the Independent Expert for the UN Global Study on Children in Detention and the Council of Europe Committee Against Torture.

**In 2016 our work was covered extensively in the national, local and specialist press, radio and tv.**



# Advocacy Year



In September Just for Kids Law began piloting a graduate scheme in East London, offering graduates who are considering a career in law a chance to work as community-based Youth Advocates for a year.

Modelled around other professional graduate schemes and with our emphasis on holistic support, Advocacy Year aims to improve the lives of under-supported children and young people in deprived communities, while developing the trainee advocates and equipping them with skills which will be invaluable if they choose a future legal career.

In this highly competitive programme the selected trainee Youth Advocates are provided with 1 month immersive training and then spend 10 months working for young people in their communities.

## By 2018 we will...

...have helped an additional **950 young people**

Improved the **situation of 95% of the young people** we support

Make **90% of the young people we support feel more positive** about their future

Ensure **89% of our clients** know more about their rights and entitlements

Have provided support in a new area: **East London**

Have **independently evaluated** the model

Have begun **developing our model outside London**



*Advocacy Year is a brilliant opportunity for graduates who are considering becoming lawyers."*

**Michael Bowes QC,  
Joint Head of Outer  
Temple Chambers**



# Just for Kids Law The First 10 Years

## Timeline of selected highlights:

**2006**

Just for Kids Law founded by Shauneen Lambe and Aika Stephenson

**2007**

First Just for Kids Law office opens - in West London

**2008**

First youth advocate employed – ‘holistic support’ model developed

**2009**

First education and community care lawyer employed

**2010**

Just for Kids Law wins Legal Aid Organisation of the Year award

**2011**

Second Just for Kids Law office opens – in North London

**2012**

Third Just for Kids Law office opens - in South London

**2013**

‘Still a Child at 17’ campaign changes the law

**2014**

Youth Justice Legal Centre started; Let Us Learn campaign begins

**2015**

Children’s Rights Alliance for England joins Just for Kids Law

**2016**

Fourth Just for Kids Law office opens - East London; Advocacy Year scheme launched