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.
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
- 30% Health/ Community care & Family
- 24% Youth Justice
- 21% Housing/ Homelessness
- 17% Financial/ Benefits
- 52% Education/ Training & Employment

Outcomes - Position Improved

- 71% Immigration / Nationality
- 60% Health/ Community care & Family
- 90% Youth Justice
- 64% Housing/ Homelessness
- 74% Financial/ Benefits
- 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

3,200 hours of support to our organisation

26% of our work outside London
What success looks like?

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

INDEPENDENCE

POSITIVE ACTIVITIES

STABILITY

CRISIS
What our clients say

96% said they would refer a friend to JFKL
99% said we increased their confidence in facing any future problems
99% positive difference made in the cases we worked on

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)
100,000 hits

YJLC provided expert legal advice in 192 cases in 2016

TRAINING
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

#nochilincells 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 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.

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.

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

Michael Bowes QC, Joint Head of Outer Temple Chambers

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
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