



Impact Report 2017



Introduction

Every child deserves to have the best childhood and to fulfil their potential.

At Just for Kids Law our frontline staff and in-house lawyers work directly with young people to help them navigate their way through challenging times: whether they are facing difficulties at school, mental health, immigration or criminal justice issues, are being denied benefits, or are homeless.

Children and young people rarely come to us with just one problem. Reflecting their individuality and the variety of challenges they face we provide holistic help tailored to their individual needs, backed up by legal support.

We work more broadly to influence policy and change the law through evidence gathering, strategic litigation, lobbying and by involving young people as advocates for change.

Under the Just for Kids Law umbrella there are several different strands of our work: Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE); Youth Justice Legal Centre (YJLC); Advocacy Year and Let Us Learn.

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Costs to Society

Excluded
from school



£15,000 per year for Pupil Referral Unit, vs. £4000 per year 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

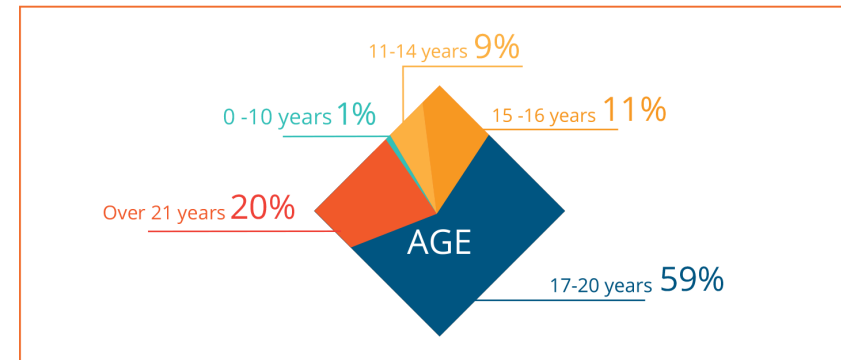


Costs £19 billion a year

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

Most clients have more than one issue



24%

Immigration /
Nationality



19%

Housing/
Homelessness



54%

Health/
Community care
& Family



18%

Financial/
Benefits



32%

Youth
Justice



54%

Education/
Training &
Employment



Outcomes - Position Improved



62%

Immigration /
Nationality



96%

Housing/
Homelessness



53%

Health/
Community care
& Family



79%

Financial/
Benefits



69%

Youth
Justice



83%

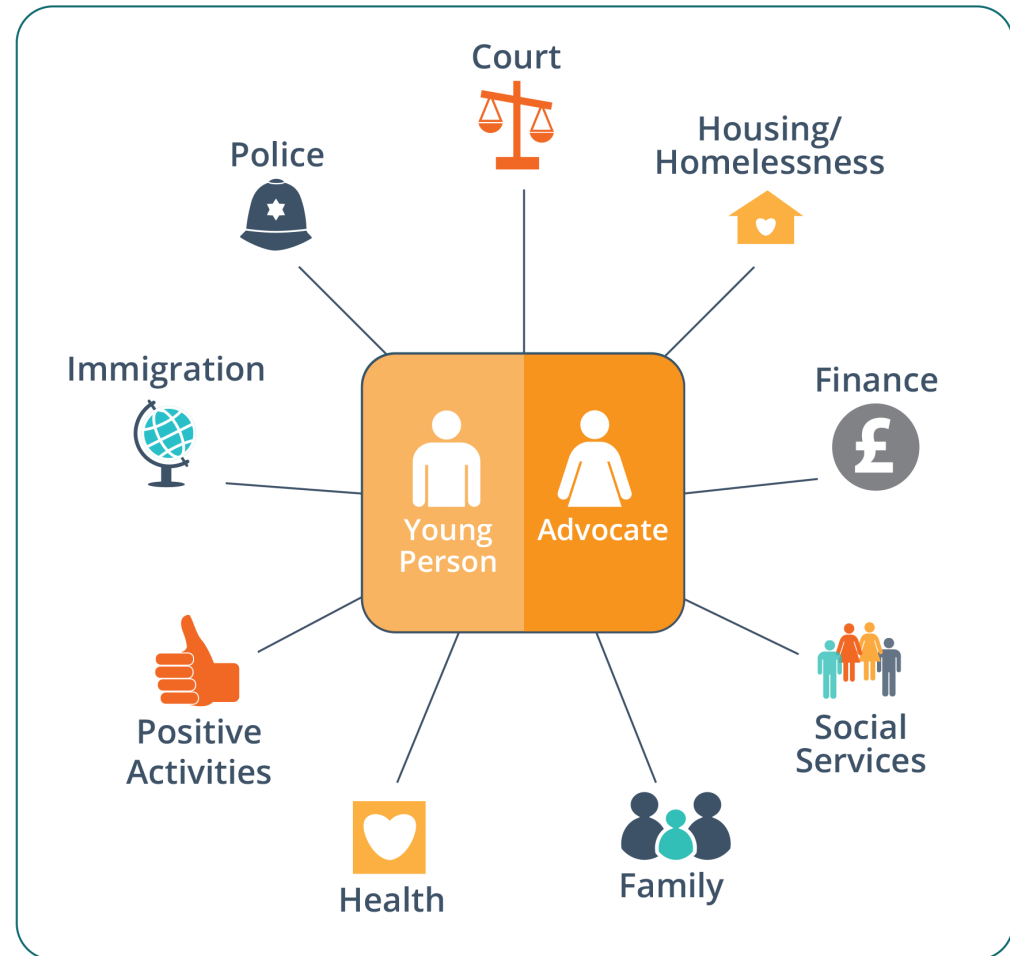
Education/
Training &
Employment

Holistic Support

We believe that the best way to support young people to reach their potential is to identify and work on all of their needs.

We have a team of advocates who work with young people everyday. An advocate supports a young person to make sure their views and wishes are heard and respected. Our advocates offer tailored, one-to-one support every step of the way. This often includes working collaboratively with lawyers to provide young people with a wide range of legal expertise and assistance. This 'holistic support' ensures young people get all the help they need.

We then support young people to move towards independence through our Youth Opportunities programme, helping them develop personal skills and enter education, employment and training.



Our Work in 2017

HOLISTIC SUPPORT

2209

CASES



55%

INCREASE
from 2016

78%

of our work in
Greater London
Boroughs

30 volunteers
delivered



3570

hours of support
to our organisation

Youth Opportunities Programme

35

young people

have accessed employment
opportunities within the
Metropolitan Police, NHS,
WHSmith, bar work and
various retail outlets

9

young people

completed structured
work experience
placements at Just for Kids Law



What Success Looks Like



What Our Clients Say

77% of our clients felt positive or very positive about their futures after contacting us

After contacting Just for Kids Law

94%

knew more about their rights

Our clients say

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

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

“Just for Kids Law **made me realise I am not alone**”

“ ”

95% said they would refer a friend to JFKL

After working with Just for Kids Law

99%

of our clients are happy with our support

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.”

Our Legal Work

Around 10% of our clients require direct legal representation in their cases.

Our in-house lawyers work with young people with legal challenges in...



Immigration

57
cases



Education

50
cases



Community
Care

44
cases



Youth
Justice

140
cases

91%

of clients who received our legal support felt it was important they could access it within one organisation.



Strategic Litigation

The strategic litigation team takes on legal challenges which we hope will bring about wider changes in law and policy to improve the lives of children and young people, particularly within the criminal justice system but also more broadly.

We challenge public bodies such as central government, local authorities and the police through lobbying, complaints and litigation. We also take challenges in the high court, court of appeal, supreme court and the European court of human rights. We also intervene in relevant cases or provide witness statements to support others' litigation.

We use strategic litigation alongside campaigning as tools for social change. This approach has proved very successful in challenging and changing the law.



#nochildincells

Campaign challenged 6 local authorities about keeping children in police cells overnight and gained extensive national media coverage.

The government has now acted to confirm that local authorities must provide safe beds for arrested children.

#senseaboutsexting


Supported 25 families.

Litigated 6 new cases.

Extensive national media coverage.

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.

2017 Home Office Concordat on Children in Custody published 30 October 2017.
The government has now acted to confirm that local authorities must provide safe beds for arrested children.



Youth Justice Legal
Centre website
(www.yjlc.uk)

**Over 200,000
hits**



YJLC provided expert
legal advice in

250 cases
a 30% increase
from 2016



We delivered
**9 Training
sessions** in 2017

We hosted our first ever youth justice summit

Our Summit included speeches from the Judicial Lead for Youth Justice in England and Wales, Mr Justice William Davis and other senior legal figures.

- **100% of attendees who gave feedback said they'd recommend the Summit to others**
- "Well that was totally brilliant! I'm feeling fired up and motivated!"
- "Inspiring and very informative"
- "The energy and passion about this important subject was palpable from the moment I arrived."
- "Excellent programme and speakers"

The Summit also received media coverage in the legal press

Key Summit Outcomes

- The Summit was sold out
- We raised sponsorship from 12 sector sponsors
- We secured 27 speakers and benefitted from the help of 7 volunteers.





Let Us Learn Campaign

Let Us Learn is a youth-led campaign working to ensure equal access to higher education and promoting the conditions by which young migrants can fully contribute to British society.



Directly supported

400

young people



25 volunteer members of core campaign team

50

young people engaged in 2 public actions



Helped to create over **15 new scholarships** this year



9 young people graduated from our 6 month Leadership Programme



First ever **strategy weekend away** attended by **20 young people**

Media coverage - Let Us Learn singled out in the Guardian as one of 'an inspiring new wave of campaigns making a real difference to people's lives'

Feedback:

"I called them yesterday and I managed to get it sorted out thanks to you. Thank you very much for the help from you and your team you made the impossible a reality and I'm legit very grateful."

"I take being part of the Let Us Learn Campaign so seriously. I feel as if I am a part of something big. Everyone is so focused and the opportunity to speak out on this platform has really helped my confidence."



Children's Rights Alliance for England



Children's
Rights Alliance
for England

We successfully influenced the UN Human Rights Council's examination of the UK under Universal Periodic Review (UPR), including being one of only six UK organisations to be invited to give an oral statement at the UN as part of the process. 25% of the 226 recommendations made under UPR concerned children's rights issues.

We worked with the Department for Education to establish a new Child Rights Action Group to assist the Government to comply with its child rights obligations. The group is co-chaired by our Director and a senior civil servant.

We supported children and young people to meet with a wide range of key decision-makers to talk about our Change it! campaign and their experiences of poor temporary accommodation for homeless families with children. These included MPs and peers, at our children's parliamentary lobbying event, as well as councillors, members of the London Assembly, the London Mayor's Office and the Mayor of Bristol. The campaign film we co-produced with children and young people has had nearly eight thousand views since its launch in October.

We published our annual flagship report State of Children's Rights 2018. The launch, hosted by Siobhain McDonagh MP, was attended by over 40 colleagues from across the voluntary sector and the Shadow Minister for Children and included a video message from the Minister for Children and Families welcoming the report.

Our child-friendly versions of the UN's verdict on the UK's child rights record have been widely welcomed - the Head of the Children's Rights Division at the Council of Europe said of them: "I want to congratulate you on a really excellent job! Developing child friendly information on complex issues is not easy and I really feel that you got it right!"

We successfully influenced the National Police Chief Council's (NPCC) new national strategy on police custody to include a commitment to use custody for children as a last resort. Working with others we helped establish the National Reference Group on Taser to take forward changes that CRAE have been calling for over many years on the use of Taser on children. In 2017 our work was extensively covered in the national, local and specialist press.



Advocacy Year

One year graduate scheme, offering those considering a career in law a chance to work as community-based Youth Advocates.

In year one, we...

Provided support in
497 Cases

96% of clients **situations improved**

89% of clients felt **more positive**

91% knew more about **their rights**

Engaged with
45 community organisations

Conducted
24 workshops & training sessions

Testaments

"It was an amazing feeling to know there was someone fighting my corner," Client

"I would like to see the service expanded,"
Community Organisation



LOTTERY FUNDED

CLIFFORD
CHANCE

John Ellerman
Foundation



Where we worked ■



Simmons & Simmons