

# ANNUAL REPORT

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2025

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# FOREWORD

## Paul Gray and Deborah Jump

CO-DIRECTORS | CENTRE FOR CRIME AND YOUTH JUSTICE RESEARCH

This year marks an important milestone for the Centre for Crime and Youth Justice Research (CCYJR), as we proudly relaunched in November 2025 with renewed purpose, strengthened partnerships, and an ambitious vision for the future. Our mission remains clear: to be a world-leading research centre dedicated to transforming the lives of justice-experienced children and young people through rigorous, evidence-based research.

Over the course of 2025, we have made significant progress in delivering on this mission. Our research portfolio has expanded in both depth and reach, with projects that not only advance academic understanding but also drive tangible change in policy and practice. We have strengthened our reputation as a centre of excellence by producing impactful, methodologically innovative work that foregrounds participation and co-production with children and young people.

A key priority this year has been to foster the next generation of youth justice researchers. We have supported emerging scholars through mentorship, collaboration, and opportunities to engage in high-quality research, ensuring that the field continues to evolve with fresh perspectives and critical insight. We are particularly pleased to have expanded our international links, building meaningful collaborations with partners across Europe and beyond.

These relationships are enabling comparative research, shared learning, and a stronger global voice for child-centred youth justice reform. At the same time, our local partnerships have deepened, reflecting our ongoing commitment to working alongside practitioners, communities, and services to ensure our research remains grounded, relevant, and impactful.

This year also saw the appointment of our new Deputy Director, Dr Anne-Marie Day. Her leadership, expertise, and commitment to the field have already made a significant contribution to the Centre, and we are delighted to welcome her to the leadership team at such a pivotal moment in our development.

As we look ahead, we do so with energy and optimism. The challenges facing justice-experienced children and young people remain significant, but so do the opportunities to influence meaningful change. CCYJR is well-positioned to lead this work through collaboration, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to social justice.

# FAREWELL TO THE MANCHESTER CENTRE FOR YOUTH STUDIES



Over the past decade, the Centre has achieved national and international recognition for its award-winning, world-leading research. As a pioneer in participatory youth practice, the Centre played a foundational role in developing approaches such as the Participatory Youth Practice Framework. Under the leadership of Professor Hannah Smithson, the Centre has championed child-centred, participatory youth justice research, building strong partnerships with Greater Manchester Youth Justice Services and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

The Centre has delivered impactful projects that have shaped youth justice policy and practice both in the UK and globally, while also mentoring and supporting the next generation of researchers.

While we say goodbye to the Manchester Centre for Youth Studies, we do so with pride in its legacy and excitement for what lies ahead.

## WELCOME TO CCYJR!

### → Our Vision

The Centre for Crime and Youth Justice Research (CCYJR) offers expertise in crime and youth justice research, policy, and practice. Grounded in innovative and creative methodologies, our work centres youth voice and lived experiences. We advocate for child-centred policies and practices that promote meaningful change and systemic reform in youth justice systems globally.

### → Strategic Priorities

#### **Leadership**

- To be a global leader in impactful youth justice research.

#### **Innovation**

- To undertake research grounded in participatory and creative methodologies.

#### **Capacity Building**

- To foster the next generation of youth justice researchers.

The Centre for Crime and Youth Justice Research was officially launched at Manchester Metropolitan University in November 2025. The launch event brought together key stakeholders and partners from across the sector, including representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Baroness Anne Longfield, and Deputy Mayor Kate Green.

The event outlined our vision for the future, and we look forward with enthusiasm to the opportunities and impact that 2026 and beyond will bring.



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



## Dr Haridhan Goswami

Reader in Quantitative Sociology

Dr Haridhan Goswami is a Reader in the School of Sociology and Criminology at Manchester Metropolitan University. His research focuses on designing survey instruments for multilingual children and young people across the Global North and South.

Haridhan has developed and validated survey tools to measure children's wellbeing for the Children's Worlds International Survey in Bangladesh (2018, 2020). He has also contributed as Co-Investigator on major European Commission-funded projects, including MYWEB, EUROCOHORT, and COORDINATE, leading work packages and developing harmonised tools for pan-European longitudinal research. He currently leads Bangladesh's contribution to the fifth wave of the Children's Worlds survey and serves on the editorial board of Child Indicators Research.



## Dr Jodie Hodgson

Senior Lecturer in Criminology

Dr Jodie Hodgson is a Senior Lecturer in Criminology at Manchester Metropolitan University. Jodie's research specialisms are situated within gender studies, criminology and youth justice. Jodie is the author of 'Gender Power and Restorative Justice: A feminist critique' and she has published widely in the areas of gender and youth justice.

Her current research focuses on early intervention and prevention work with young women affected by gender-based violence and focuses on designing gender and age-specific early intervention programmes for vulnerable young women. She has implemented a bespoke, gender-sensitive, peer-mentoring model which brings together girls affected by gender-based violence and peer-mentors with lived experience of CSE, through arts-based, participatory workshops.

# MEET THE TEAM

The Centre brings together a diverse group of scholars, practitioners, and visiting fellows with expertise across youth justice, criminology, sociology, and related disciplines. We are committed to rigorous research, meaningful collaboration, and bridging the gap between theory, policy, and practice.

## Leadership



**Dr Paul Gray**  
Co-Director



**Dr Deborah Jump**  
Co-Director



**Dr Anne-Marie Day**  
Deputy Director

## Core Team



**Dr Nadzriah Ahmad**  
Visiting Fellow



**Dr John Bellamy**  
Senior Lecturer  
in Linguistics



**Dr Samantha Burns**  
Senior Research  
Associate



**Dr Jessica Collier**  
Visiting Fellow



**Dr Anna Leyland**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Century Fellow



**Cedric Foussard**  
Visiting Fellow



**Dr Haridhan Goswami**  
Reader in Quantitative  
Sociology



**Dr Jodie Hodgson**  
Senior Lecturer in  
Criminology



**Andrea Nisbet**  
KTP Associate



**Professor Hannah Smithson**  
Professor in  
Criminology

# DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

**Anuarita Mphwina**

Exploring the lived experiences of racially minoritised children in the youth justice system, subject to Out of Court Disposals  
(ESRC White Rose DTP)

**Clara Paul**

Understanding the experiences of criminally exploited children: reframing the debate  
(ESRC CASE Studentship)

**Hollie Rochfort**

Investigating linguistic prejudice in the Youth Justice System  
(ESRC North West Consortium DTP)

**Vicki Morris**

The role of the appropriate adult in supporting child suspects during police interviews  
(Self-funded)

**Caitlin de Villiers**

Craftification: An inquiry into the use of haptic craft practice to develop explicit skills and tacit prosociality for the promotion of multiphase desistance in justice-experienced children  
(Self-funded)

# FEATURED RESEARCH PROJECTS

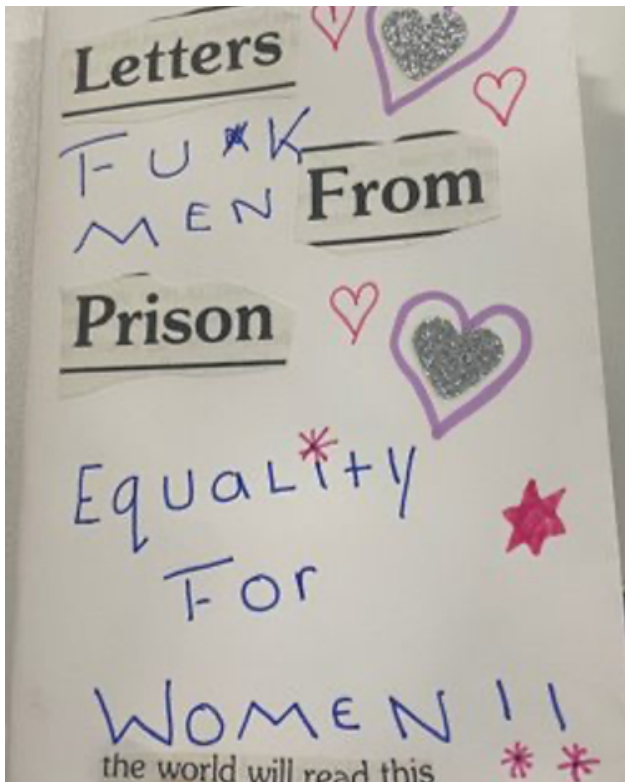


## Justice for Children with Neurodivergence and SEND

Anne-Marie Day joined a working group of Parliamentarians, senior members of the judiciary, lawyers and academics to consider reforms needed across the Youth Justice System for neurodivergent children and children with SEND. They launched the report's findings at an event in the House of Commons on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025.

Project Leader: Dr Anne-Marie Day

The report is based on an independent review into how the current system can fail to prevent children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and neurodivergence from unnecessarily entering into the justice system, how they are dealt with once in the system, what happens when they leave the justice system and how this parlous situation can be cost-effectively dealt with. The group made a range of costed recommendations and continue to work with The Ministry of Justice to ensure they translate into policy.



## Survivor Centred Peer-Mentoring with Girls Affected by Sexual Exploitation in Oldham

The project is the result of a partnership between Manchester Metropolitan University's, Centre for Crime and Youth Justice Research (CCYJR) and The Keeping Our Girls Safe (KOGS). KOGS is a charitable organisation based in the community of Oldham and works with girls and young women at risk of or affected by child sexual exploitation (CSE).

This partnership was established following a successful funding bid awarded by the Ideas Fund which is run by the British Science Association and funded by the Wellcome Trust. The Ideas Fund is unique in the fact that it provides an explorative opportunity for community-led collaboration with researchers to establish a research project in which communities have a leading voice in the way research works and the issues it focuses on.

KOGS and CCYJR designed and developed a gender-sensitive, peer-mentoring programme in which non-recent, adult female victims, of child sexual abuse are trained in peer-mentoring skills and become volunteers supporting young female service users engaged With KOGS. One of the outcomes of this partnership is a bespoke, gender-sensitive, peer-mentoring model which brings together girls affected by CSE and peer-mentors with lived experience of CSE, through arts-based, participatory workshops. To emphasise, the peer-mentoring project is a collaborative one and underpinned by a participatory and co-production approach.



# EVENTS & ENGAGEMENT

## Programme Feature in Germany

Deborah Jump featured on German ZDF TV discussing links between bare-knuckle boxing and male violence



### Dr John Bellamy



Tackling challenges for language and communication in youth justice: Satellite Event as part of the 5th World Congress on Justice With Children, co-organised with Rekindle



## Visit to University of Sydney

Paul Gray and Deborah Jump developed partnerships with the Justice Collaboration, the Brain and Mind Centre and the Matilda Centre



## CYCJ Collaboration Event

In June, Samantha Burns arranged for members of the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) to visit, as a way to support networking and collaboration between both centres across England and Scotland.

The event not only facilitated knowledge exchange but also laid the groundwork for future joint activity, including potential research collaborations, shared learning events, and ongoing practitioner engagement

### Dr Anna Leyland



Safeguarding Futures report launch (ADR UK)  
Presented at ADR UK Conference  
Organised the ADR Community Catalyst Webinar

### Dr Haridhan Goswami



Presented at:  
Technische Universität Berlin (July 2025)  
ISA Forum, Rabat, Morocco (July 2025)

## Dr Jodie Hodgson



Presented at Youth Justice Board North-West Practice Forum (Oct 2025)

presentation for the RaPIC Network (Sept 2025)

Present at Complex Safeguarding Conference (Nov 2025)



## Parliamentary Roundtable on Youth Justice Transformation

In April 2025, Professor Hannah Smithson hosted a Parliamentary roundtable in partnership with the Centre for Young Lives and chaired by Baroness Anne Longfield, focusing on the Transformation of the Youth Justice System



## Justice for Children with SEND and Neurodivergence Report Launch

Anne-Marie Day organised and launched Sieff Report 'Justice for Children with SEND and Neurodivergence' at Parliamentary event in House of Commons Committee Room attended by MPs, Senior Stakeholders and Ministers, including the Youth Justice Minister (April 2025)

## Dr Anne-Marie Day



The over-representation and experiences of care-experienced children in custody at National Children in Care Conference (Feb 2025)

Ministry of Justice Roundtable event on reducing racial disparities in the Youth Justice System (April 2025)

House of Lords event discussing reform of the Youth Justice System (April 2025)

Presented at the British Society of Criminology Conference on 'Exploring Racial Disparity in Youth Justice Diversion' (July 2025)

Catch22 webinar on reducing racial disparities in youth justice diversion (Sept 2025)

Presented neurodiverse children's experiences in the English Youth Justice System at the University of Arizona (November 2025)

## Professor Hannah Smithson



Workshop at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Justice with Children Madrid on Working with Practitioners to reduce youth violence (June 2025)

Invited as a Salzburg Global fellow to attend the Global Innovations on Youth Violence, Safety and Justice Programme in Salzburg, Austria (December 2025)



## Child Centred Youth Justice Network

Samantha Burns and Hannah Smithson have established the Child-Centred Youth Justice Network (CCYJ) as a strategic response to challenges in embedding children's rights and participation within youth justice systems. It brings together academics, practitioners, policymakers, and organisations to form a collective voice advocating for child-centred practice, particularly where children's perspectives have historically been marginalised.

The network already has over 100 members, and a core Steering Group to drive forward the ambition to promote children's participation rights across all areas of the Youth Justice System.

For further details about the mission and purpose of the CCYJ network, you can visit the centre website and follow the [Linkedin Page](#).

## Dr Samantha Burns



Delivered workshop on children's participation in multi-agency high-risk panels at the Scottish Youth Justice Conference (June 2025)

Presented at: the RaPic Network on children's participation in multi-agency high-risk panels (July 2025)

Presented on Youth Justice Abolition at the Contextual Safeguarding Conference in Durham (September 2025).

Presented at the English Youth Justice Conference on the harms experienced by girls in custody, drawing on a briefing paper written for NAYJ (September 2025), and co-hosted a related NAYJ event with Susannah Hancock on the panel.

# PUBLICATIONS

**For full publication lists,  
Please visit individual ORCID profiles**

**Professor Hannah Smithson | 0000-0003-4096-0172**

**Dr Paul Gray | 0000-0002-1546-9333**

**Dr Deborah Jump | 0000-0001-5525-6693**

**Dr John Bellamy | 0000-0003-1617-1309**

**Dr Jodie Hodgson | 0000-0002-7443-451X**

**Dr Haridhan Goswami | 0000-0002-7045-7407**

**Dr Anne-Marie Day | 0000-0001-8525-770X**

**Dr Samantha Burns | 0000-0002-9439-8472**

**Dr Anna Leyland | 0000-0001-8593-773X**

# KEEP IN TOUCH

## Visit our Website

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→ [CCYJR Linkedin Homepage](#)

