

Fair and effective

Putting practitioners and evidence
at the heart of justice reform



Our vision

Since our founding in 2011, the Centre for Justice Innovation's vision has been simple: we seek to build a justice system which everyone believes is fair and effective.



Our experience of working with practitioners, and our commitment to the evidence base, leads us to strive for a justice system which:

Focuses on solving the issues that drive crime and social harm.

Does no harm, and is proportionate in the things it does.



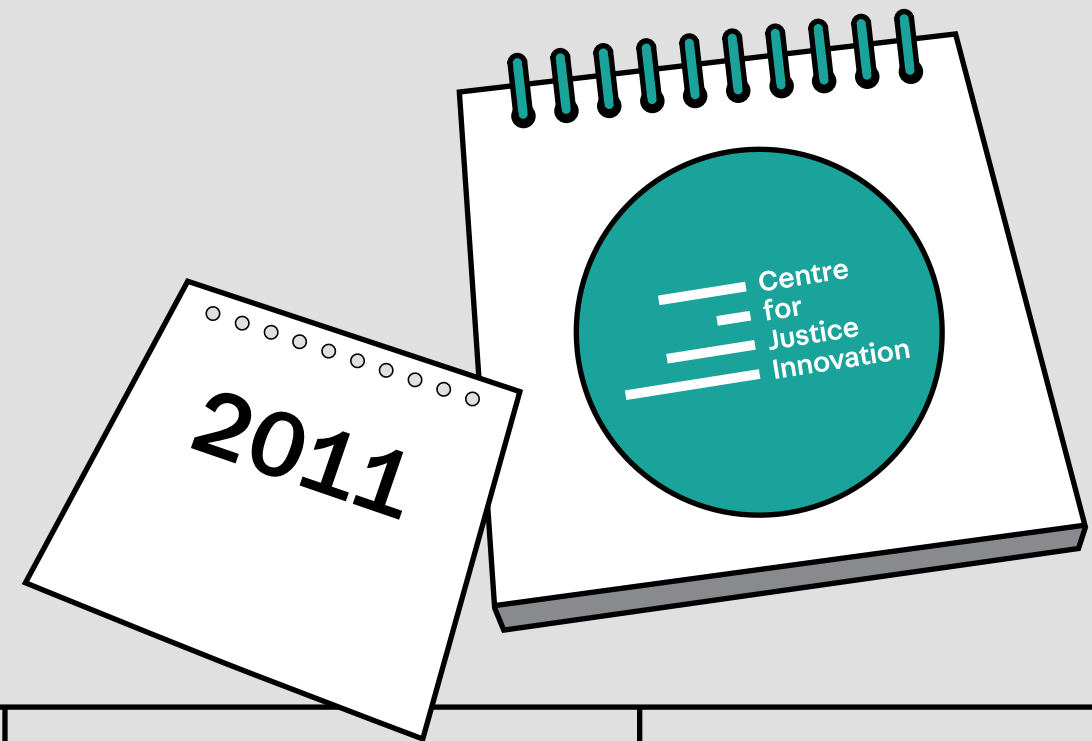
Ensures that it treats people with respect, understanding, neutrality and gives them a voice.

Gives practitioners on the frontline the freedom and support to come up with innovative solutions to the problems their communities face.

Our story so far

The Centre for Justice Innovation was launched in 2011, inspired by our sister organisation, the Center for Court Innovation in New York City.

Since then, we have worked with practitioners, academics, policymakers and people with lived experience across the UK to make our justice system fairer and more effective. During that time, we have been proud to deliver real-world impact, including:



Supporting practitioners to implement evidence-led practice:

- Helping over 30 police force areas implement evidence-led pre-court early interventions.
- Doubling the number of criminal and family problem-solving courts in England and Wales.
- Creating new services to provide advice and support to vulnerable citizens coming into court.

Helping spark and share evidence-led, grassroots innovation:

- Scouring the UK for the best of British justice innovation and sharing it on our map of innovation.
- Providing practitioners with the opportunity to share practice between England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland.

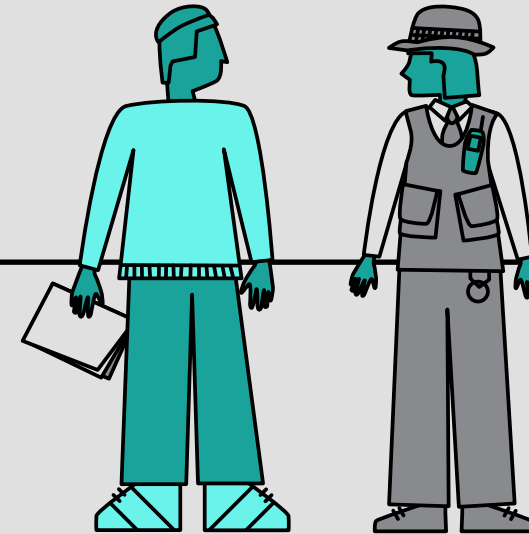
Publishing a range of research to support improved practice and policy:

- Providing practitioners with fresh insights into how young people experience point-of-arrest diversion.
- Exploring ways to improve the working relationship between courts and probation.
- Summarising the evidence on tackling domestic abuse.

Advocating for evidence-led, practice informed policy change and delivery:

- Supporting police forces to implement a new out-of-court disposal framework in England and Wales.
- Working with Governments across the UK to promote the use of problem-solving courts.

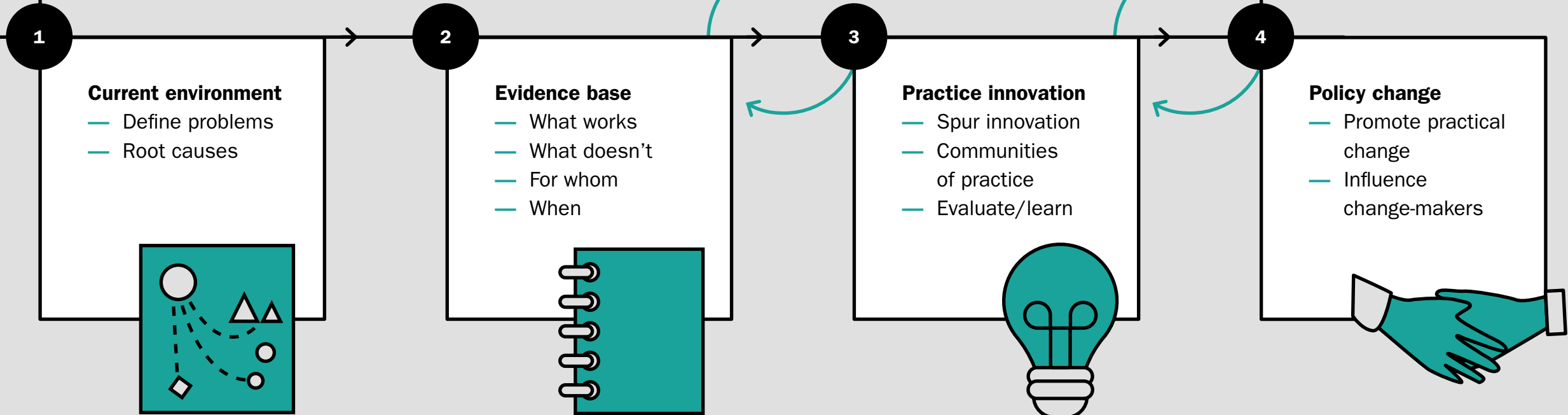
How we deliver change



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A justice system that is fair and effective

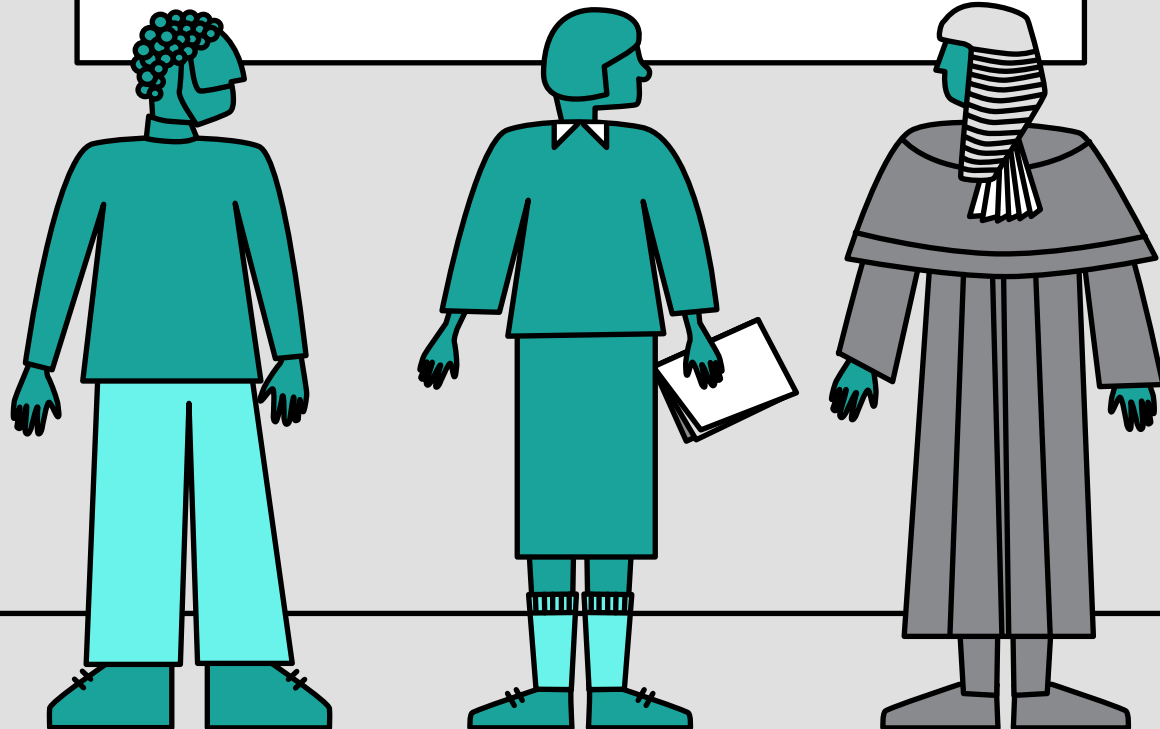
- Solves problems
- Procedurally fair
- Proportionate
- Innovative from the ground up



How we work

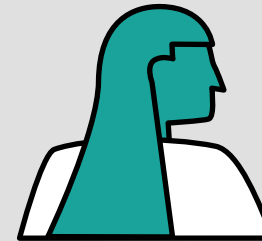
To deliver our vision of a fairer and more effective justice system, we:

- Provide hands-on support to practitioners in the justice system to help them develop and share innovative and effective practice;
- Conduct research into how things work right now and how they could work better;
- Promote evidence-based, innovative justice policy reforms;
- Share lessons between the jurisdictions of the UK and with our sister organisation in New York City, the Center for Court Innovation, who are at the forefront of justice innovation in the USA.



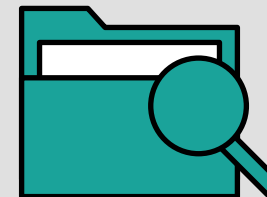
Our values

Our work is underpinned by our values:



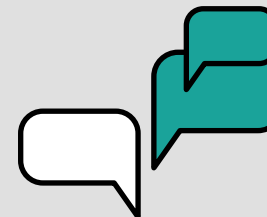
Innovation designed by practitioners and users

Effective practice innovation and policy is designed with the participation of those who deliver or are affected by it, including staff, service users and victims.



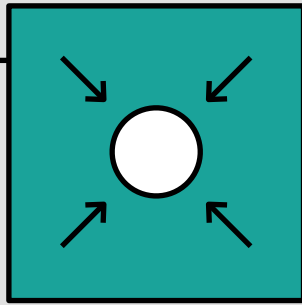
Innovation informed by evidence

Practice innovation and policy need to be based on the evidence. Where direct evidence is lacking, credible proposals should use evidence-informed theories of change.



Innovation that is learnt and shared

Effective practice innovation and policy relies on regular reflection on progress and an openness to learning and sharing what is working and what isn't.



Current areas of focus

Pre-court disposals

To keep our communities safer while minimising the collateral consequences of prosecution on people's future life chances, we work to improve the use and effectiveness of pre-court disposals. Pre-court disposals are an evidence-based way of addressing low-level criminal behaviour, especially for children and young people, those from minoritised communities, and for women who offend.

Court reform

The challenges of rising demand, long waiting times, and technological change requires our court systems to innovate. We promote evidence-based innovation, such as improving procedural fairness in court, more creative ways to hear the court cases of children and young people, and champion Community Advice services, which signpost people to services to help them with issues like debt and mental health needs.

Problem-solving courts

We champion and support evidence-based problem-solving courts to test new approaches to difficult cases where social, human, and legal problems intersect. In public family law, we help practitioners implement evidence-led problem-solving such as Family Drug and Alcohol Courts, which support families to overcome the substance misuse, mental health and domestic abuse problems which lead to their children being at risk of serious harm.

Smarter sentencing

Utilising the best evidence-based practice from across the UK and further afield, we work to make our sentencing smarter—where crime is proportionately punished, where the harm caused by crime is repaired, where victims feel listened to and protected, where we tackle systemic racial disparities, and where people who have offended are given the chance to turn around their lives.

Women in justice

Women in our justice system often have different and more complex needs than men. We work to implement gender-specific responses for women in the justice system, especially around violence against women and girls. This includes supporting practitioners to deliver gender-responsive interventions and victim services, championing trauma-informed practice and ensuring policy change recognises the distinct needs of women and girls.

The best of British justice innovation

We work to promote the best of Britain's innovative justice practice using our cross-jurisdictional networks in Northern Ireland, Scotland and beyond. We seek to explore emerging trends in innovation, such as the use of new technology in the justice system, so we can ensure that our justice system keeps pace with the changing world around it.



Get in touch

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- ✉️ info@justiceinnovation.org
- 🐦 [@CJInnovation](https://twitter.com/CJInnovation)

We are always keen to hear from anyone who is delivering innovative practice in the justice system or wants to improve their practice. If you are interested in building a fairer and more effective justice system, please get in touch and we will see if we can help.

