

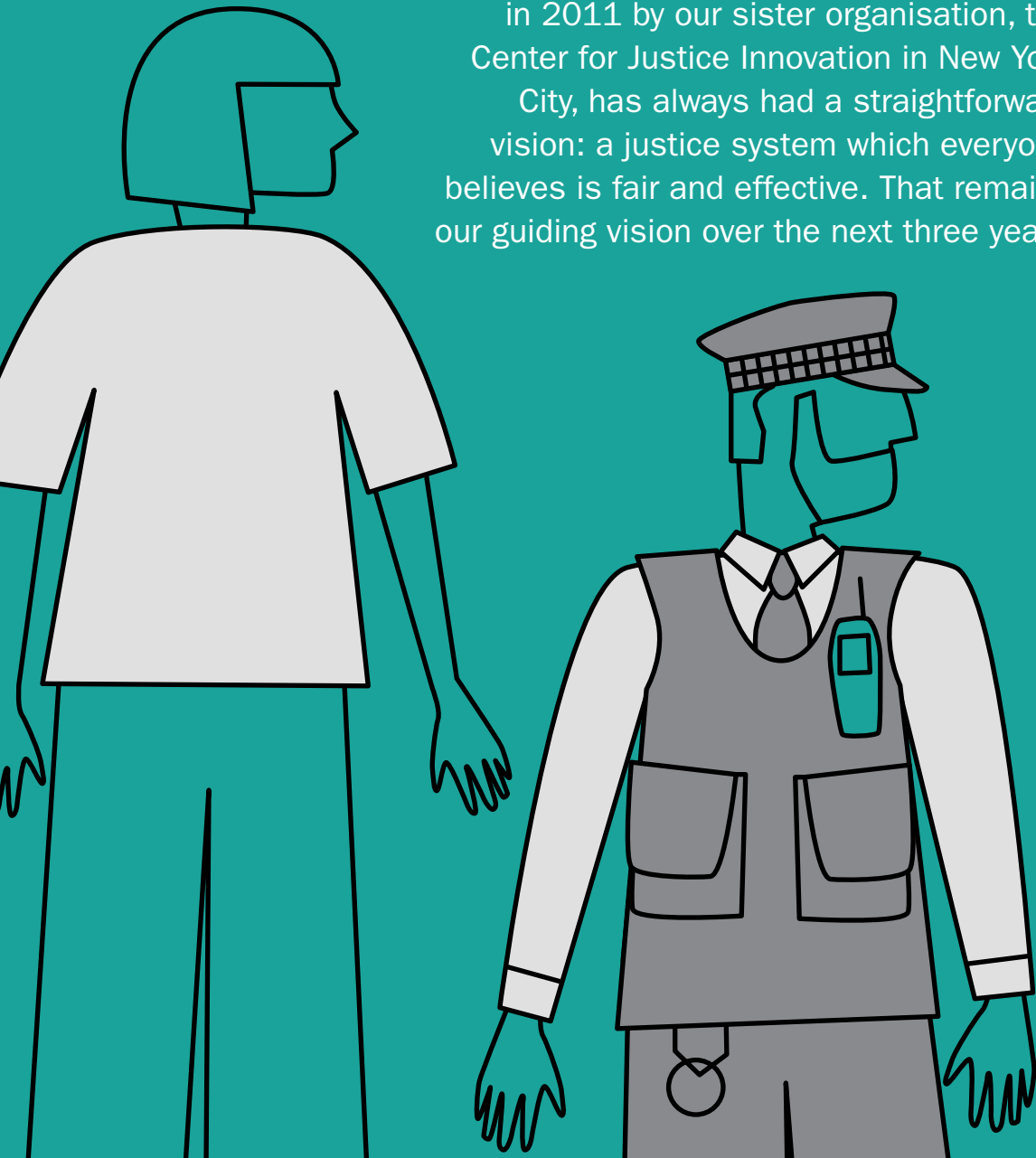
# Fair and effective

Putting practitioners and evidence  
at the heart of justice reform

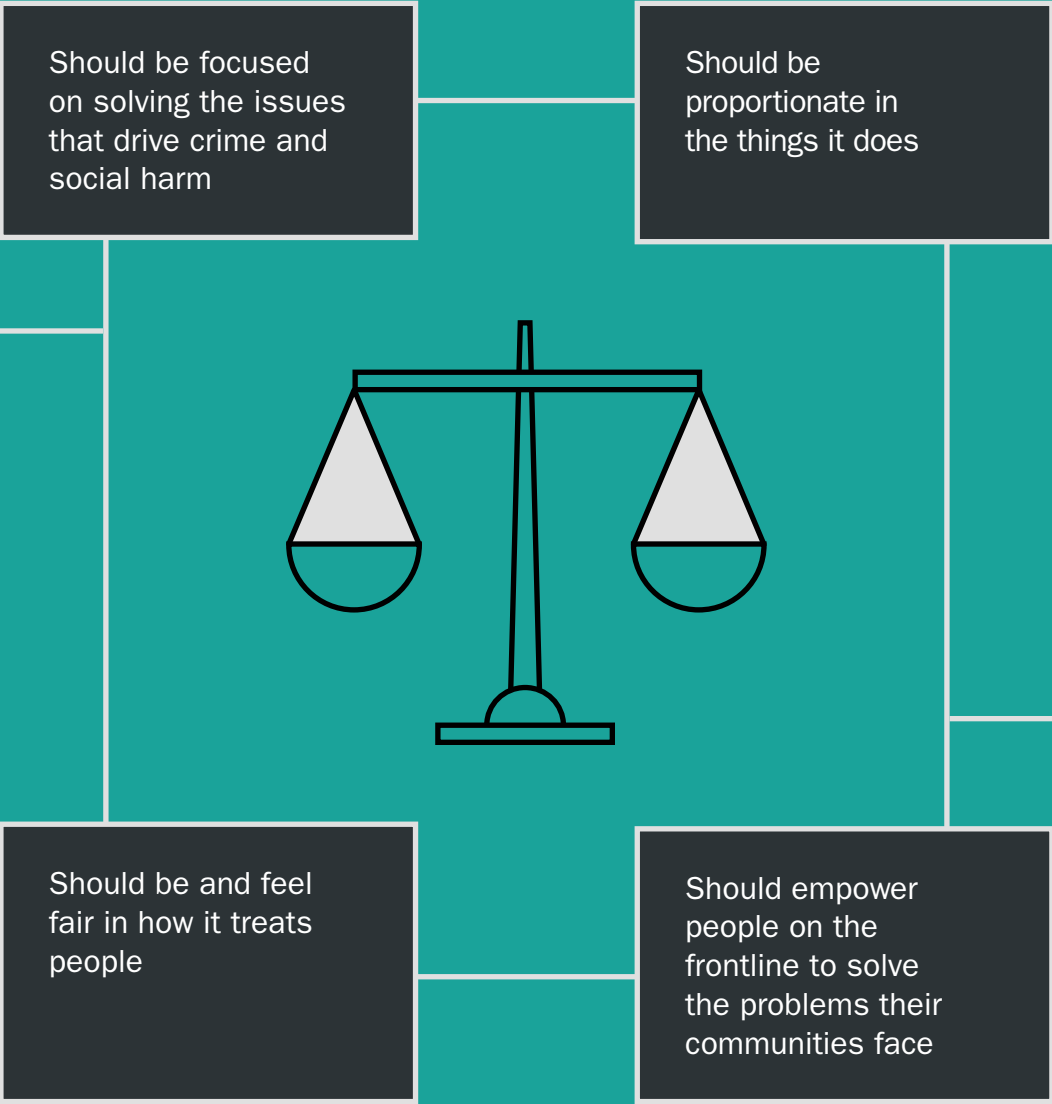


# Our vision

The Centre for Justice Innovation, founded in 2011 by our sister organisation, the Center for Justice Innovation in New York City, has always had a straightforward vision: a justice system which everyone believes is fair and effective. That remains our guiding vision over the next three years.



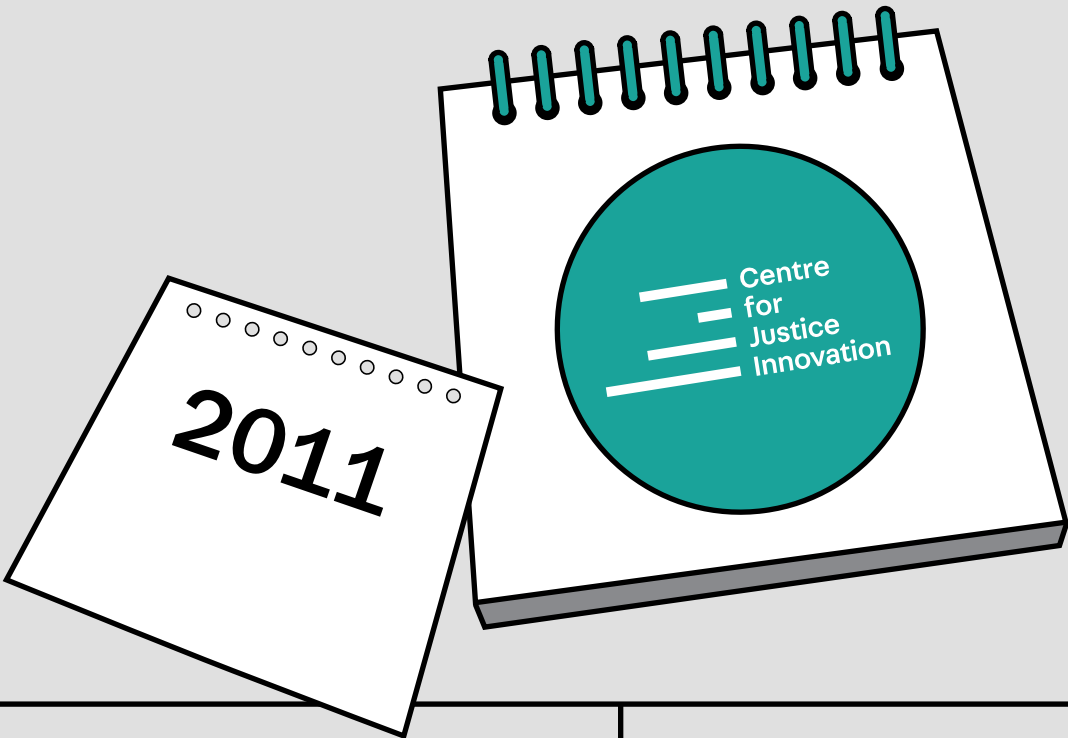
We believe that the justice system:



# 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.

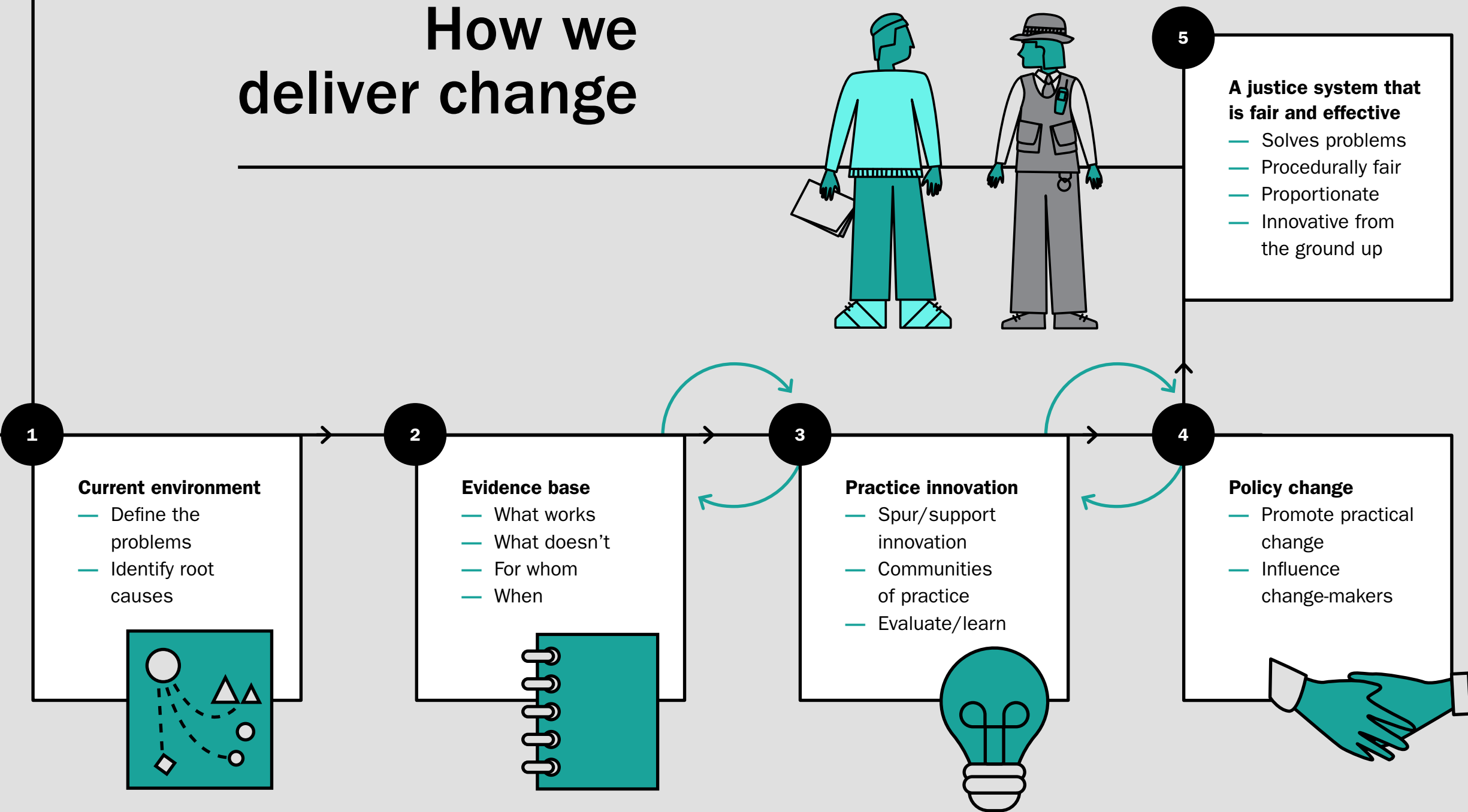
**Publishing a range of research to support improved practice and policy:**

- 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.

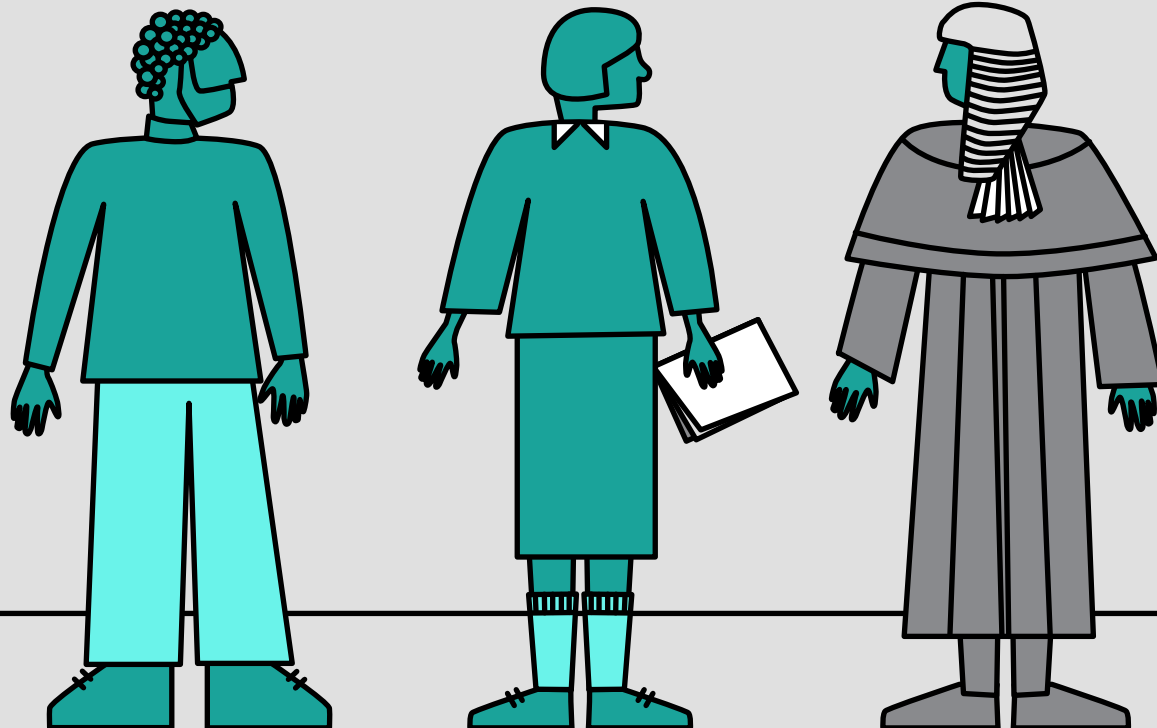
# How we deliver change



# How we work

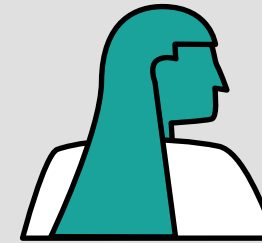
To deliver our vision of a fairer and more effective justice system, we:

- 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 policy reforms;
- Share lessons between the jurisdictions of the United Kingdom, and others, especially via our sister organisation in the United States.

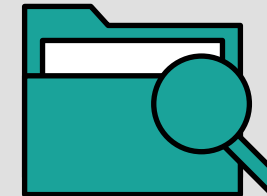


# Our values

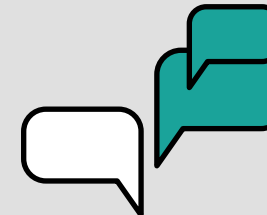
Our work is underpinned by our values:



**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 practitioners, people with lived experience 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.



# Our achievements: 2022 to 2024

Over the past three years, we have had the privilege of working with a wide range of practitioners, organisations and committed individuals to deliver real change. Here are some of the highlights:

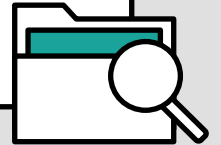
## Practice support

- We have worked with youth justice services and police forces across England and Wales to improve prevention and diversion, contributing to overall decreases in offending by children.
- Our support to evidence based Family Drug and Alcohol Courts has seen them spread over more local authorities and offer services to more family courts than ever before.
- We provided training and support to a range of trailblazing initiatives, including the Pathfinder pilot in private family law and the new Intensive Supervision Courts in magistrates' and Crown Court.



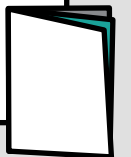
## Research

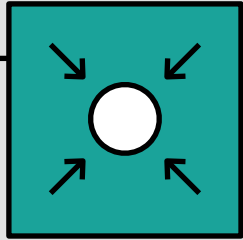
- We published the first original piece of research on court fines, the most widely used criminal court sentence in England and Wales, in thirty years.
- Our research into substance use services for women has influenced changes to how these services are better commissioned in the future.
- Our data collection and expertise has been crucial to growing the evidence base on the efficacy and cost effectiveness of Family Drug and Alcohol Courts.



## Policy

- Our research and practice expertise has led to our involvement in Government policy making, including advising on changes to what is expected of youth justice services in delivering prevention and diversion.
- Our policy work has played a significant role in making the case for the expansion of problem-solving courts, across the justice systems of the United Kingdom.
- We have provided extensive evidence into Parliamentary and Government inquiries, including appearing before Parliamentary Committees regularly.





# Our areas of focus: 2025 to 2027

## Out of court resolutions

To keep our communities safer, we work to improve the use and effectiveness of out of court resolutions. Out of court resolutions, including diversion and deferred prosecutions, are an evidence-based way of addressing lower harm criminal and anti-social behaviour, ensuring that people are given a proportionate intervention, and victims are given swifter justice. Better use of out of court resolutions can create better long term outcomes, especially for children and young people, those from minoritised communities, and for women who offend.

## Family justice reform

We work to ensure that our family justice system works in the best interests of children and families and the communities they live in. For example, we support the spread of problem-solving in our family courts, helping practitioners implement evidence-led approaches which support parents to overcome the substance use, mental health and domestic abuse problems which lead to their children being at risk of serious harm.

## Women in justice

Women make up a small proportion of our justice system but report higher needs related to mental health, substance use, debt, housing, and trauma, including domestic and sexual abuse. 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, trauma-informed practice and ensuring policy change recognises the distinct needs of women and girls.

## 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.

## Expert voices

We work to promote the voices of people with a stake in our justice system, whether they are people with lived experience, victims and survivors, practitioners, researchers or policymakers. We want to encourage the sharing of ideas and good practice to realise our vision of a fair and effective justice system. By using our cross-jurisdictional networks in the UK, the Republic of Ireland and our unique relationships in the USA, we can compare and contrast innovative practice and evidence-based reform.

## Court innovation

We work to encourage court innovation and policy reform that goes beyond the efficient processing of court cases and that instead seeks to solve the problems that bring people to court in the first place. We champion and support evidence-based specialist and problem-solving courts to test new approaches to difficult cases where social, human, and legal problems intersect, such as Intensive Supervision Courts and improved youth court operations.



We provide hands-on assistance to practitioners who work in the justice system across the UK. We also are keen to explore avenues of new, cutting-edge research and crucially to get a better understanding of the realities of justice delivery from practitioners and those in the system. We are always keen to hear from anyone working in the justice system who is delivering, or wants to develop their practice, and, with backing from our funders, can sometimes provide support free at the point of use. We are always keen to expand our network of partners and would invite anyone who is interested in building a fairer and more effective justice system to get in touch.

## Get in touch

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