

Youth Justice

Venue

- Baker McKenzie LLP (100 New Bridge Street)

Format

- Registration
- Panel Presentation and discussions
- Q&A
- Drinks Reception

Speakers

- **Mel Stooks** – Supervising solicitor in the youth criminal defence department at GT Stewart Solicitors
- **Shauneen Lambe** – Barrister and executive director of Just for Kids Law
- **Frances Crook** – Chief Executive of the Howard League for Penal Reform
- **Chief Constable Olivia Pinkey** – lead for the National Police Chiefs Council on young people’s issues
- **Kate Aubrey-Johnson** – Criminal Barrister and Director of the Youth Justice Legal Centre
- **Lord Carlile of Berriew QC** – Carlile Inquiry Chair (Parliamentary inquiry into the effectiveness of the Youth Justice System)
- **Lord McNally** – Chair of the Youth Justice Board
- **Fiona Abbott JP** – Chairman of the Magistrates Association Youth Court Committee

Topics

- This would be a comprehensive panel event covering various areas of youth justice:
 - o The drop in the number of young people dealt with in the criminal justice system.
 - It is envisaged that Chief Constable Pinkey would highlight the efforts of the police to find other ways to deal with young offenders.
 - This would be a good juncture for Shauneen Lambe to discuss the work of Just for Kids’ No child in cells campaign following which the government acted to confirm that local authorities must provide safe beds for arrested children.
 - o The fact that youth court practice is a differentiated field from other criminal work which requires specialist training.
 - It is proposed that Lord Carlile would discuss the findings of the review published in 2014 which he chaired which found that youth court work requires special skills.
 - Lord McNally could discuss the increased vulnerability of young people in the justice system and the range of increasingly complex and challenging needs this gives rise to.

Hannah Cheesebrough – HRLA – YLC – Event Proposal

- Kate Aubrey-Johnson could discuss the problem of young people routinely being represented by the least experience and least well paid representatives.
- Mel Stooks and Fiona Abbott could then offer practical examples from their work in the youth court.
- How inclusion in the Justice System does not stop a child being a child.
 - It is proposed that Frances Crook could discuss the work of the Howard League for Penal Reform – specifically the Children Act Case in which the Howard League took the government to court and won arguing that the Children Act 1989 ought to apply to children in custody too.