

***Ending the overnight detention of children in police custody:
Where are we now and what needs to change?***

Chaired by the Baroness Sater JP

**21st February 2022, 14.30 – 16.00 GMT
Via Teams Webinar**

Agenda

- 14:30 – 14:35 Attendees joining webinar
 - 14:35 – 14:40 **Welcome from the Chair and outlining purpose of the event – Baroness Sater JP**
 - 14:40 – 14:45 **Louise King, Director of policy and campaigns:** Background and context to the project
 - 14:45 – 15:00 **Augusta Itua, Youth Justice Lawyer and Policy Officer:** Research findings and recommendations
 - 15:00 – 15:10 **Dr Miranda Bevan (Lecturer in law, specialising in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice at Goldsmiths, University of London):** Latest research findings on the impact of police detention on children
 - 15:10 – 15:20 **Jacqui Belfield-Smith (Head of Youth Justice, Serious Violence Reduction & Targeted Youth Support Services, Stockport Council):** On the significant work that has taken place in partnership across Greater Manchester, between the Police, Youth Justice, Children’s Services and the Combined Authority, to reduce the overnight detention of children in police custody locally.
 - 15:20 – 15:30 **Alison Renouf (Manager, London Safeguarding Children Partnership & Principal Policy and Projects Officer (Children’s Services), London Councils):** On the work of the London Safeguarding Children Partnership and pan-London Children and Custody Group on reducing the overnight detention of children in police custody locally
 - 15:30 – 15:55 **Questions and answers with the speakers.**
-

Speakers

Louise King, Director of Policy and Campaigns and Director of the Children's Rights Alliance for England, Just for Kids Law

Louise King is the Director of Policy and Campaigns at Just for Kids Law and the Director of the Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE) which is also hosted by the charity. Louise has over 20 years' experience working in policy and public affairs, specialising in children's rights. She has also facilitated numerous participatory workshops for children to learn about their rights and supported children and young people to advocate for the realisation of their rights across many policy areas, including protection from violence, immigration, homelessness, and reform of the Children's Commissioner for England. Louise has worked at Save the Children and the British Youth Council and has also been Vice President of Euronet, the European Children's Network.

Augusta Itua, Youth Justice Lawyer and Policy Officer at Just for Kids Law

Augusta is a Youth Justice Lawyer and Policy Officer at Just for Kids Law, including the Youth Justice Legal Centre (YJLC) and CRAE. She works to effect nationwide systemic change in the youth justice system through policy influencing and public affairs work. Augusta splits her time between policy and legal casework. She represents children and young adults at the police station and at youth and adults' magistrates' court. She is also responsible for providing legally accurate information, advice and guidance on youth justice law and practice, through the YJLC free national legal advice line, to children and young people, their families, legal and non-legal professionals, and in particular Youth Offending Teams. Augusta joined Just for Kids Law in 2016 and has worked at Become Charity and Advocates for International Development. She previously volunteered at the Kent Law Clinic, the Free Representation Unit and Toynbee Hall Free Legal Advice Clinic.

Dr Miranda Bevan, Lecturer in law, specialising in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice at Goldsmiths, University of London

Miranda is a lecturer in law at Goldsmiths', University of London. Before moving into academia, she practised as a criminal barrister (2000-2012). She also spent two years at the Law Commission as lawyer with responsibility for the Unfitness to Plead Report and has worked as a policy associate at the Howard League for Penal Reform. Her research focuses on vulnerable suspects and defendants, police custody, effective participation and unfitness to plead.

Miranda's doctoral research explored the experience of children and young people detained as suspects in the police station in England and Wales. Her work broke new ground as the first substantial empirical study in England and Wales focusing on the child's perspective of police detention. Her most recent publication, 'The pains of police custody for children: a recipe for injustice and exclusion?', on which her presentation draws, can be accessed [here](#).

Jacqui Belfield-Smith, Head of Youth Justice, Serious Violence Reduction & Targeted Youth Support Services, Stockport Council

Jacqui has significant management and leadership experience in Youth Justice having worked in the field since 1999 and she has been Head of Youth Justice, Serious Violence Reduction & Targeted Youth Support Services for Stockport Council (one of the Greater Manchester authorities) since 2005. The post involves close collaboration across the 10 GM authorities, including leading on the GM Policing & 'Children in Police Custody' workstreams and acting as the lead commissioner for the GM Appropriate Adult contract.

Jacqui's work on the GM Children in Police Custody workstream has ensured close collaboration over many years with Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and the GM Directors of Children's Services, to ensure that there is an operational joint GM (PACE) Protocol in place, a unified GM Appropriate Adult contract with one provider for

children and adults, a commissioned s.38 bed and good links with the GM Integrated Healthcare Service in custody (which includes Liaison & Diversion). Monthly scrutiny functions to review cases aims to create a learning culture that equips custody suite staff and out of hours colleagues to make effective frontline decisions.

Alison Renouf, Manager, London Safeguarding Children Partnership & Principal Policy and Projects Officer (Children's Services), London Councils

Alison has more than 25 years' experience in the housing and social care sector, including more than 7 years as a manager and area manager and 13 years in strategy and development roles in children and young people's services. She is a registered social worker and has been manager of the London Safeguarding Children Partnership for nearly 8 years.

Alison drafted the London Protocol for the Provision of Local Authority Accommodation for Children held in Police Custody, which compliments the Home Office Concordat on Children in Custody and is operational across London. She is also a member of the London Children and Custody Group, a pan-London custody group who are looking at issues for children held in custody overnight across London and charged with trying to address this issue about lack of provision, and were involved setting up Operation Harbinger. More information on Operation Harbinger on the children in custody golden hour information exchange, which her presentation will touch on, can be found [here](#).



*If you would like any further information,
or if you no longer wish to hear about events from us,
please don't hesitate to get in touch with Lily Bayrock
at Events@JustforKidsLaw.org or 020 8175 9707.*