



## Director's Update

April - June 2022

### Introduction

As I celebrate my fourth anniversary at the CJA, I am excited to report a flying start to our new strategic period. In April we brought together thought leaders and changemakers in a one-day conference to launch [our new strategy](#) 'Reimagine, redesign, rebuild: driving systemic change'. There was a film screening with popcorn, guest speakers from the United States, lots of post-it notes, a roof terrace and even lego!



It was fantastic to see hugs, smiles and swapping of contact details, with new connections being made and old friends reuniting after two years seeing each other only on a computer screen. It highlighted why our new strategy prioritises facilitating collaboration and breaking down silos so we better map and understand the system, identify opportunities and levers, and work more effectively to bring about systemic change together. (Photos credit: Jessica Barnard)

*'There was a great buzz when I arrived at the CJA conference. The sessions were packed - I hopped into a session on anti-racism which was compelling.'*

*'The Restorative Justice stuff was amazing, and really eye opening.'*

*'I really loved the workshops; it was good to break out and deep dive.'*

*'The level of optimism and drive for change in the room. The feeling that this is an ambitious and achievable strategy.'*

In April we also launched [our work plan](#) for 22-23 and committed to report back to our members on progress every quarter.

## 1. Articulating a shared vision for change

**We will articulate and promote the sector's vision of a fair and effective criminal justice system to policy makers, commissioners, and the public.**



### The CJA Vision of a Fair and Effective Criminal Justice System



#### **Pillar 1: Safe**

**Reform of drug policy:** We brought together members to co-produce a response to the Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry setting out our priorities for change including a health-based legislative framework, the expansion of drug diversion schemes and Community Sentence Treatment Requirements. We have also added our support to calls for a change in legislation to enable the piloting of Overdose Prevention Centres.



#### **Pillar 2: Smart**

**Reducing the use of remand:** We worked with our remand expert group to co-produce a response to the Justice Select Committee inquiry making a range of recommendations including a national roll out of court-based bail information services. We continue to contribute to a Ministry of Justice working group on remand to push for change.



#### **Pillar 3: Person-centred**

**Improving support for people leaving prison:** Drawing on the expertise of our members we co-produced [a response](#) to the Children's Commissioners Family Review. We called for the Children's Commissioner to promote and protect the rights of children impacted by parental imprisonment, a statutory process to identify these children and family support services to have adequate and sustainable funding.



## Pillar 4: Restorative

### **Increasing the use of restorative justice; improving access to victim services:**

We submitted [a response](#) to the Justice Select Committee's pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Victims' Bill, met with the shadow justice minister to discuss the Bill and continued to contribute to the Victims' Commissioners Restorative Expert Group.



## Pillar 5: Trusted

**Improving equality monitoring in police and prison custody:** We launched [a report](#) in partnership with the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) called 'Towards Race Equality' which highlighted the shocking levels of racism and discrimination in women's prisons. We have held various events and meetings discussing our recommendations and secured media coverage including on Women's Hour and in The Independent.



## 2. Co-ordinating collaborative working

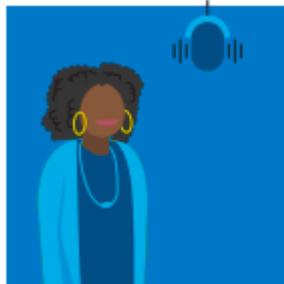
**We will enable greater collaboration, connection and learning. We will build a greater shared understanding of how to achieve systemic change together.**



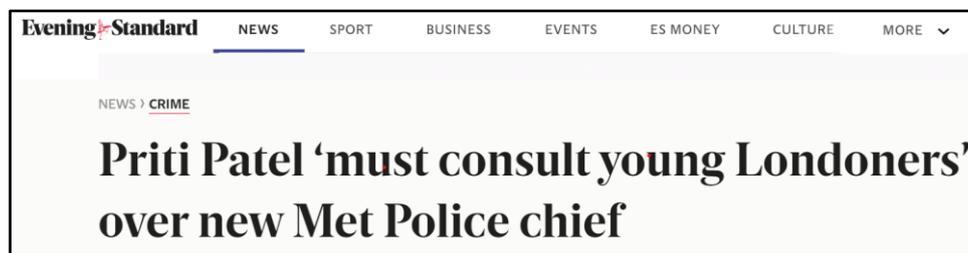
- We have recruited a new Communications and Engagement Officer.
- We ran a one-day conference on systemic change.
- We have started planning our first Research Symposium in partnership with University of Westminster on the theme of a 'trusted' criminal justice system.
- CJA staff visited Utrecht as part of our Erasmus knowledge exchange programme on systemic change in the CJS.

### 3. Changing narratives

**We will promote and amplify constructive criminal justice journalism to shift narratives and build a more conducive environment for positive change.**



- We have worked with Frameworks UK to support the development of their new research into narratives about support for prison leavers.
- Involved two leaders with lived experience in a meeting with organisations from a range of sectors to discuss framing of communications by people with lived experience.
- We have begun planning for the Media Awards 2022 which will be held in person in Birmingham in November.
- We worked with ITV news and a young leader from Voyage Youth to discuss why the recruitment process for the new Met Police Commissioner should involve young people and people from Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities.



### 4. Promoting power sharing

**We will promote informed decision making by supporting lived experience leaders into positions of power and influence and by supporting sector employers to develop inclusive workplace policies, practices and senior leadership teams.**



- We launched ELEVATE CJS, our lived experience leadership programme. The evening included networking, a short film called 'Those closest to the problem' followed by a panel discussion including lived experienced leaders from the UK and special guest Ronald Simpson-Bey, Vice President of Just Leadership USA, the programme which inspired ELEVATE.
- We recruited our ELEVATE CJS Project Manager who has begun to put in place the final plans for the programme and who has met with our lived experience expert group and other potential partners.
- We secured funding to enable us to partner with University of Westminster on the ELEVATE CJS programme.
- Our fifth Longford Trust Intern completed his placement with us and we have begun recruiting our sixth intern to help with this year's CJA Awards.



(Photo credit: Jessica Barnard. ELEVATE Launch event at Ritzy Cinema in Brixton)

## 5. Tackling racial inequality

**We will identify and challenge institutional and structural racism across the CJS and promote adherence to the Public Sector Equality Duty by criminal justice agencies.**



- Our new Equalities Policy Officer has finalised plans for the Tackling Race Equality project focused on improving adherence to the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- We have organised the first meeting of the project expert group, including CJA members, who will help guide the programme, put a tender out for the evaluation, met with our pro bono lawyers and had meetings with officials and other key stakeholders to promote the project.
- We scrutinised the Equality Impact documentation in our response to the draft Victims' Bill and the recently published new EIA for changes made relaxing safeguards around s60 suspicion-less stop and searches.

## Closing

This quarter we are delighted to have welcomed several new staff to the CJA: Natalia Catechis (Communications and Engagement Officer), Nola Sterling (ELEVATE CJS Project Manager) and Louise Tighe (P/T Finance Administrator). You can read more about them on [our staff and trustee page](#).

This quarter we said goodbye to our fifth Longford Trust Intern Ash Rookwood and to one of our trustees Kimberley Lamb. We thank both of them for their work and support of the CJA. Kimberley is stepping down due to her new Director role in policing but she looks forward to keeping in touch with the CJA and supporting our work in other ways going forward. We are in the process of recruiting our sixth Longford Intern to support the 2022 CJA Awards. We also have a new Vice-Chair, CJ Burge, who takes over from Lucy Jaffe. Lucy will remain on the CJA Board and we are grateful for all her passion and support.

I hope you all have a great summer!

Nina Champion (CJA Director)



CJA Team at the launch of ELEVATE: Ash Rookwood (Longford Intern), Nina Champion (Director), Annette So (Deputy Director), CJ Burge (Vice Chair), Nola Sterling (ELEVATE Project Manager), Kenya Lamb (Equalities Policy Officer), Hannah Pittaway (Senior Policy Officer) and Lucie Russell (Trustee). Photo credit: Jessica Barnard.