

Positive Youth Justice: Children First, Offenders Second Evaluation Report

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1. Introduction

The Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice (CYCJ) and the School of Social Policy and Social Work at the University of Strathclyde hosted the free seminar event 'Positive Youth Justice: Children First, Offenders Second' as part of the School of Social Policy and Social Work Seminar Series 2016/2017 on October 20, 2016 in the Collins Suite at the University of Strathclyde.

The seminar was led by guest speaker [Professor Stephen Case](#) from Loughborough University, discussing the *Children First, Offenders Second* (CFOS) model and how it evolves youth justice beyond its contemporary risk focus and promotes a positive, principled, progressive and practical approach to the treatment of children in the Youth Justice System.

2. Prior Knowledge

Professionals attending the seminar were asked to describe their knowledge on the CFOS model prior to the seminar.

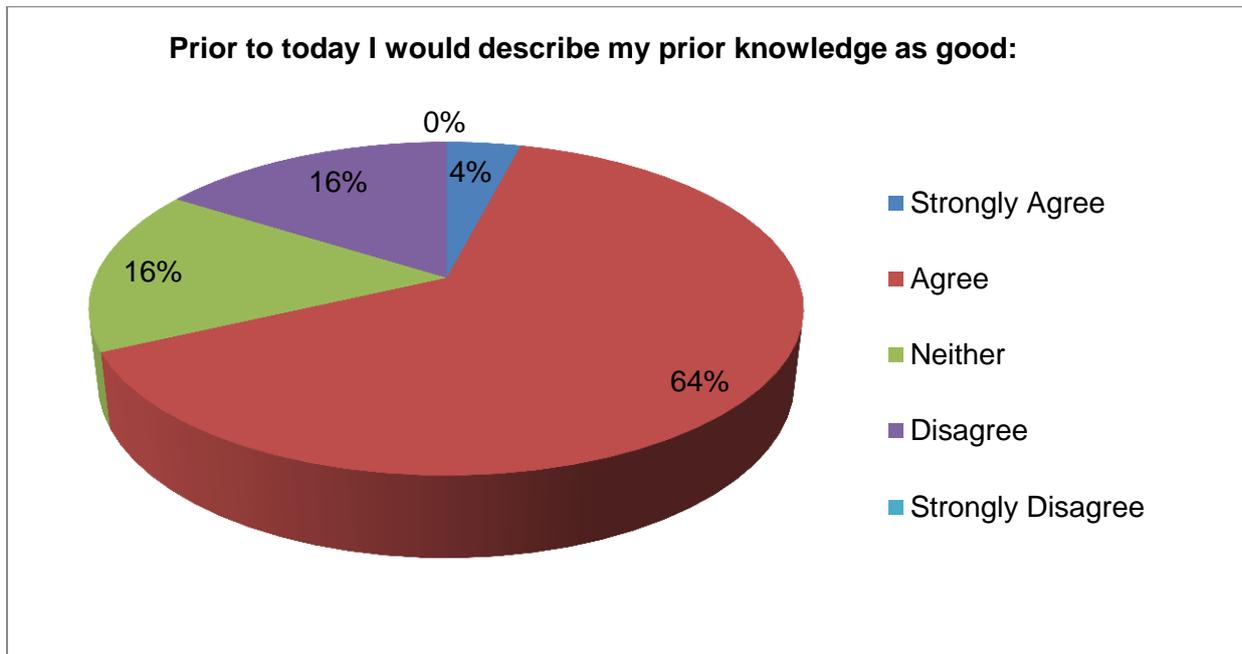


Chart 1, prior knowledge

Over half agreed that their knowledge of the CFOS model was good prior to attending the seminar. 16% percent of attendees did not have much prior knowledge on the CFOS model before attending, whilst 16% felt they neither had good or bad prior knowledge.

3. Previous Experience

Professionals attending the seminar were asked if they had previous experience of working with young people involved in offending.

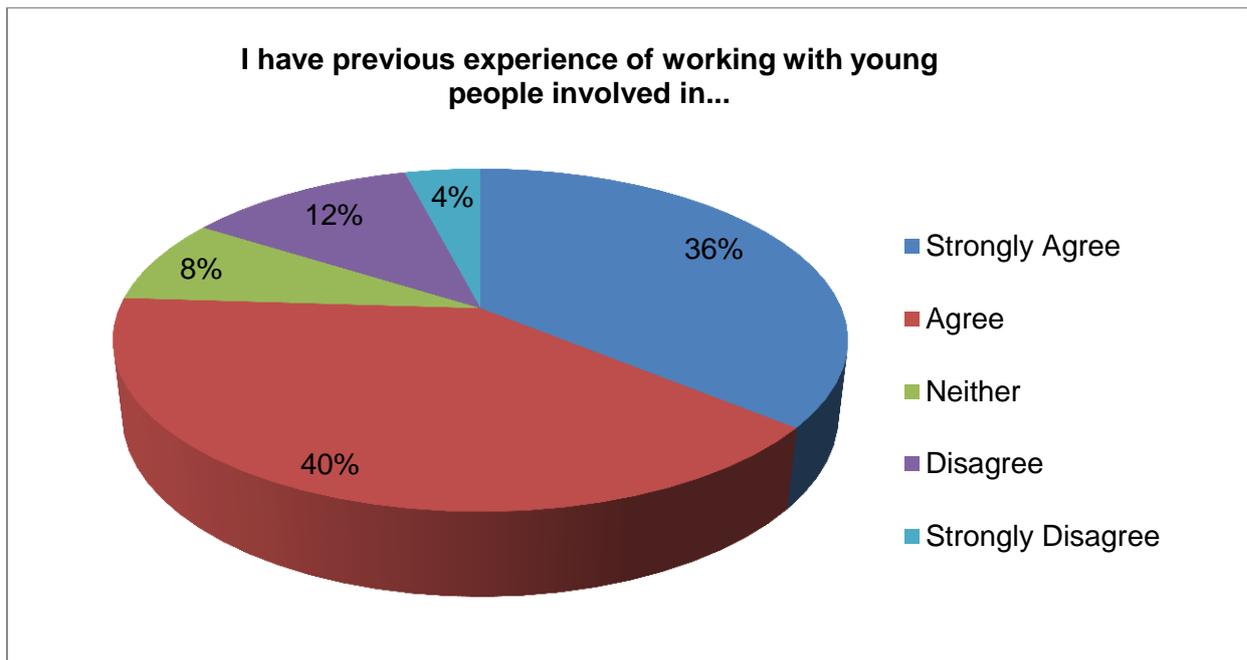


Chart 2, previous experience

As expected a large proportion of attendees to the seminar had previous experience working with young people involved in offending; 76% strongly agreed or agreed.

4. Gained Understanding

Overall attendees were very positive about the understanding they gained about the CFOS model as a result of the seminar, demonstrated in Chart 3 below. 92% of attendees either strongly agreed or agreed that they had gained a greater understanding from the seminar. The 8% remaining felt that they neither gained a greater understanding (4%) or they left the evaluation blank (4%). This means no attendees felt they had gained nothing from the seminar in terms of understanding of CFOS.

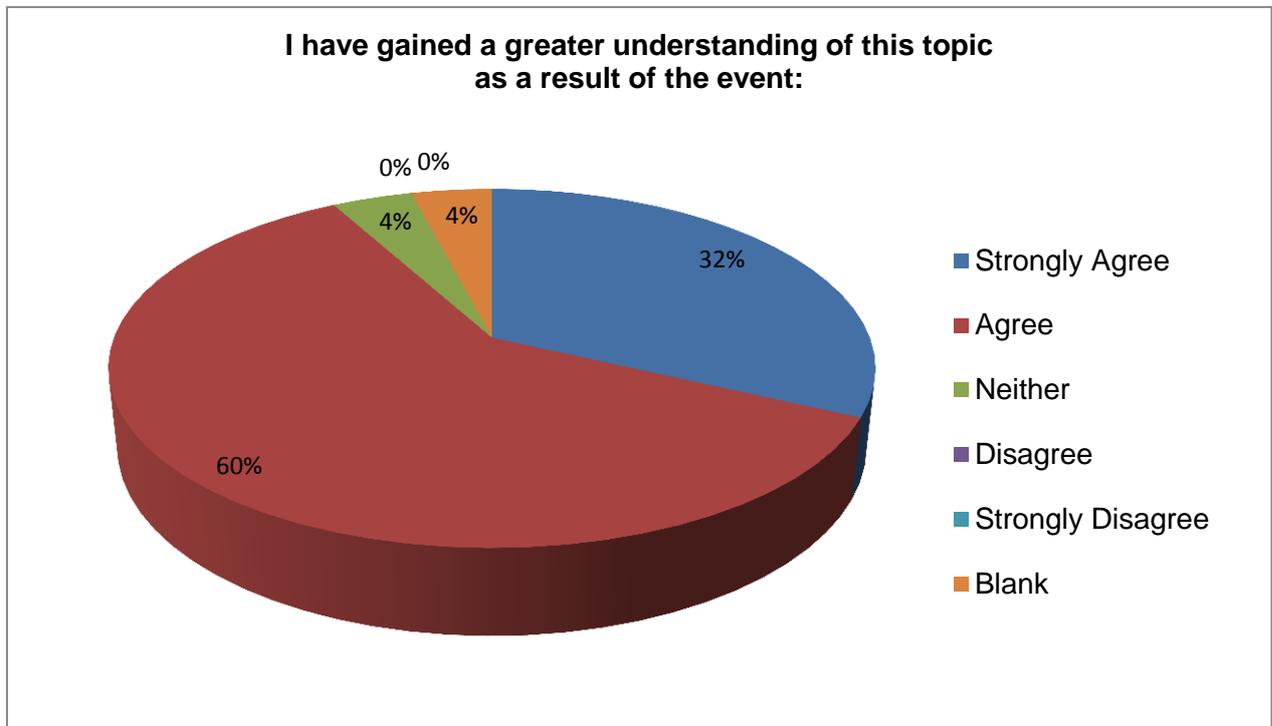


Chart 3, gained understanding

5. Impact on Practice

A majority of attendees felt that the knowledge gained from the seminar would impact on their own practice, as detailed in Chart 4 below. 36% strongly agreed that the knowledge gained on the CFOS model would impact their own practice, whilst 44% agreed. Similarly to Chart 3, no attendees disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement.

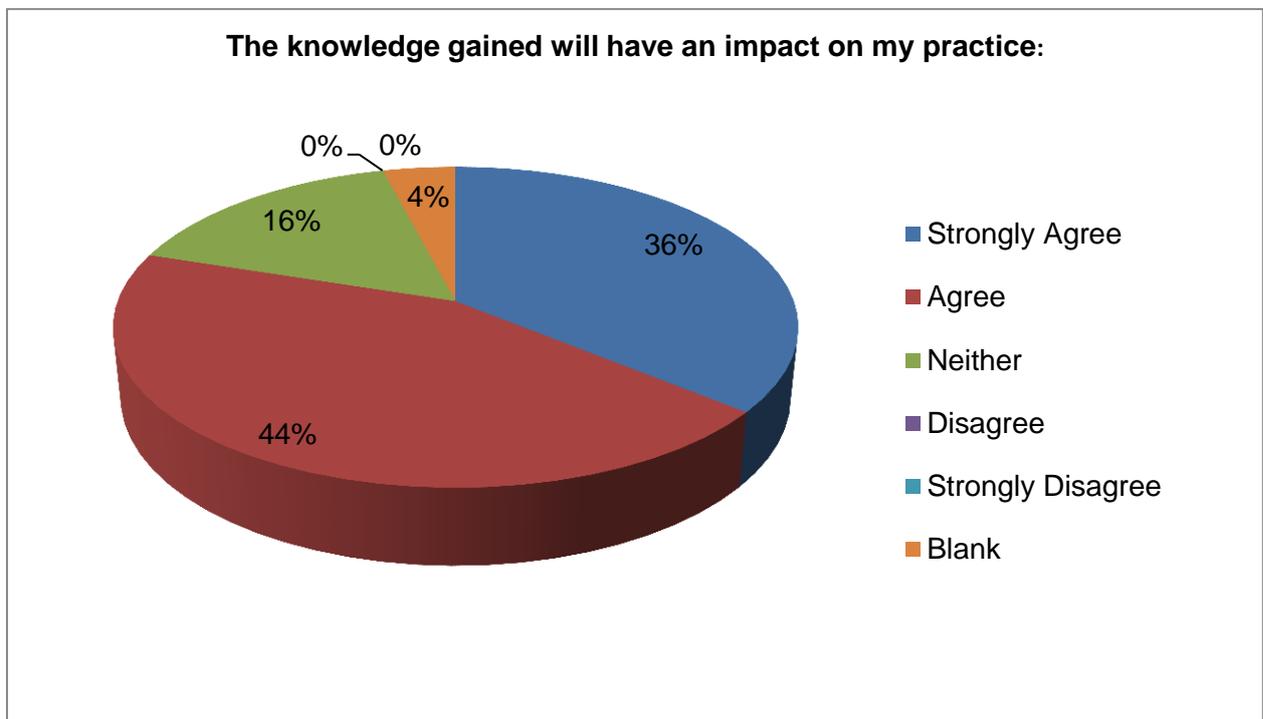


Chart 4, impact on practice

6. Event Impact and Learning

Feedback from the respondents was extremely positive with some commenting they 'value an opportunity such as this, thank you' whilst others were 'excited to hear about the child first model and think about how it might be applied.'

When asked what they felt was the most important thing they had learned as a result of the event, responses included 'the importance of recognising that we are working with children and that assessing potential risk is not the way forward in supporting children move away from offending behaviour' and another attendee also felt they learned 'the potential for a new way of working, based on relationships and based on partnerships.'

Respondents felt that the event was well-run, reporting that they particularly 'liked the pre-seminar blog and... post-seminar blog.' Other comments included that the 'whole event was engaging and interesting' and was 'delivered with personality and comprehensive.'

There were some suggestions for improvement on the seminar which included providing more detail on 'how the children's hearing in Scotland could be adapted and improved as a legal process.' Many attendees also voiced that the seminar 'would have benefitted more from linking to Scotland.'

7. What next?

When asked if there were any actions that they would take as a result of the event, respondents stated that they would be 'writing more child-centred assessments' and would 'explore potential ways of how to evidence work being delivered.'

One attendee in particular thought that it would be interesting to have a follow up event on Positive Youth Justice 'to see if the positive approach has been embraced and its impact on children entering the criminal justice service.'