

# Criminal Justice: Working as a Youth Justice Worker – Session Plan

**Overview:** This workshop is to provide students with the opportunity to develop a plan for a young offender as expected of a youth justice worker. Students will be provided with a brief outlining what is required of them with some examples of what they may wish to consider. It will also be explained to students that a youth justice worker needs to be passionate about helping young people, acting both as a mentor and a figure of authority. That they also need to understand and connect with young people from all backgrounds and situations, including those who have committed serious crimes, grown up in difficult settings or have mental health concerns.

The example students will be given will explain that they are a youth offending mentor and have been assigned to oversee a young male offender who has recently been released from prison. He has experienced a lot of trauma, bullying and rejection. He wants to turn his life around before becoming enmeshed within the criminal justice system. Students will be asked to develop a tailor-made programme of rehabilitation which will influence self-change and help support him. They will need to include a set of realistic and achievable objectives, having weekly meetings with your mentee so will need to discuss what you expect him to do before their next meeting.

**Class Resources Required:** Access to internet-enabled computer and projector.

**Proposed Session Plan:**

Learning Objectives	Learning Activities
<p><b>By the end of the workshop, students will be able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Demonstrate an understanding of Youth Justice Work and the importance of it.</b></li> <li>• <b>Be able to complete an obtainable and realistic programme.</b></li> <li>• <b>Understand the challenges that this kind of work consists of.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Activity 1 – What is youth justice work?</b></p> <p>An introduction and background information will be presented to students.</p> <p>Students to be put in small groups to address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is youth justice work?</li> <li>• How is youth justice work an important aspect of the criminal justice system?</li> <li>• What are the key challenges for both the YJ worker and the clients?</li> <li>• Identify key challenges of youth justice work. For example:</li> <li>• Clients with behavioural issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How do you manage this?</li> <li>○ The importance of looking after your own wellbeing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### **Activity 2 – Creating the brief**

- Students will have already been provided with an employment brief which outlined the work of a youth justice work.
- Students will be asked to create a realistic programme to support their client who is a young offender with challenging behaviours.
- Students will be given some examples such as educational programmes, potential employment, activities, etc.
- What do we mean by 'realistic'?
- What do we mean by challenging behaviours?

### **Activity 3 – Feedback the brief**

- Students will meet with their mentor to discuss the progress of their briefs.
- Each group will decide on whether they want to present a poster or a PowerPoint.
- Students will arrange who is to say what and when and practice.

### **Activity 4 – Presentations**

- Students (in their groups) will present their work in person to the mentor, teaching team and the other groups using PowerPoint slides or posters.

### **Activity 5 – Re-cap & Close**

Recap and review learning in the session and link to objectives / Q&A