

Information for members

The Criminal Justice Alliance (CJA) is a coalition of over 100 organisations - including campaigning charities, voluntary sector service providers, research institutions and staff associations – involved in policy and practice across the criminal justice system.

Work with members

The CJA provides the focal point of a network for members. It disseminates information, organises meetings, and supports its members to work together. These activities include:

- **Quarterly meetings:** Key decision-makers from across the criminal justice system are invited to speak on a topical issue, giving CJA member organisations an opportunity directly to influence the development of policy and practice. Recent speakers have included Lord Neuberger, President of the Supreme Court, Sara Thornton, Chair of the National Police Chiefs Council and Director of Public Prosecutions Alison Saunders. These meetings are also an opportunity to exchange information with other members and to input into the work of the CJA.
- **Information bulletin:** A fortnightly round-up of all the latest events, press coverage, Government announcements, policy updates and member news is circulated by email to representatives of all member organisations.
- **Briefings:** The CJA provides written briefings for members on legislation and new policy announcements, summarising the contents and assessing their implications. The CJA also responds to Government consultations, where appropriate, after consulting with member organisations.
- **Promoting members' work:** The CJA promotes the work of its members, both to other member organisations and more broadly to politicians and other policy makers.

Influencing work

The CJA campaigns – on behalf of and with its members – for a fairer and more effective criminal justice system. To achieve this, we work across the whole criminal justice pathway, from policing to probation. In order to achieve its aims, the CJA carries out a comprehensive programme of campaigning work, which primarily focuses on:

- **Research and policy analysis:** The CJA produces, publishes and promotes relevant research and policy analysis to address gaps in the evidential case for reform. Examples of this are available on our website.
- **Direct lobbying:** The CJA works to put direct pressure on key policy-makers, including the Government, parliamentarians and civil servants, to achieve our aims.
- **Proactive work with the media:** The CJA uses the media as another route to influencing politicians and other policy-makers by seeking positive coverage in the national, local and specialist press for its campaign goals.

Policy development

The CJA has an agreed direction for its work – to reduce the use of prison and engagement with the criminal justice system as a whole. Where possible the CJA develops policy positions reflecting the consensus of our members on key issues. We have procedures to ensure that members are consulted about new policy positions. All CJA outputs carry a clear disclaimer that they may not represent the views of every individual member organisation.

Governance

Our Director, Ben Summerskill, leads the work of the organisation and is supported by a Policy & Campaigns Officer, Stephen Moffatt, and a Member Support Officer, Peter Keeling. The work of the staff is overseen by the Board, predominantly made up of representatives of member organisations.