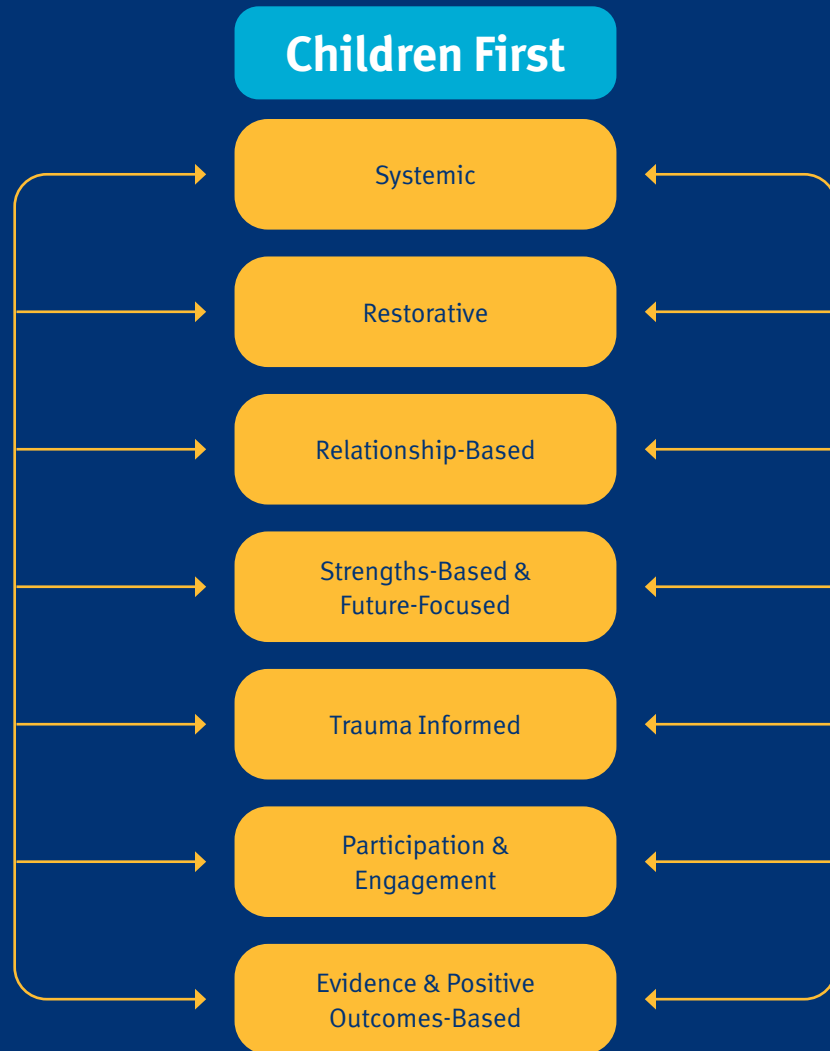


## MOP Component Approaches:



For further information please contact the Youth Justice Agency at:

 [info@yjani.gov.uk](mailto:info@yjani.gov.uk)

 Follow us on Twitter: [@Y\\_J\\_Agency](https://twitter.com/Y_J_Agency)



**Youth Justice  
Agency**

An Ghníomhaireacht um Cheartas i leith an Aosa Óig

Agentrie für Young-Yins Fang'It wi tha Laa

# Positive and Progressive Youth Justice: Children First

Youth Justice Agency Model of Practice

**“Making communities safer by helping  
children to stop offending”**

**The YJA Model of Practice (MOP) is a framework which sets out the principles, theories and models which inform how the Youth Justice Agency delivers services to children, families and victims. This framework has an overarching “Children First” philosophy. This Children First approach encompasses all that we do and reflects the importance we place on achieving better outcomes for children, families and victims.**

### **YJA Children First Practice Principles:**

- ▶ We ensure that the rights of children are respected and that children are treated as children
- ▶ We deliver services in a child-friendly and child-appropriate manner
- ▶ We recognise, build on and celebrate children’s positive behaviours, strengths, resilience and their positive contribution to society
- ▶ We consider the needs and developmental stage of children
- ▶ We consider, assess and address the broader context and underlying causes of offending by children
- ▶ We recognise the responsibility of society and adults to help children to avoid conflict with the law
- ▶ We promote Earlier Stage Intervention in maximising opportunities for prevention and diversion ensuring the minimal necessary intervention

## **MOP Component Approaches:**

### **i. Systemic**

This means Children’s offending behaviour is understood from within its broader social context; work is undertaken by YJA and its partners to address both offending behaviour and its underlying causes.

### **ii. Restorative**

Children are encouraged to make amends for the harm caused by their offending behaviour. Restorative processes are used to “restore” children, families and victims and to promote the inclusive reintegration of children within their communities and wider society.

### **iii. Relationship-Based**

YJA interventions are delivered within the context of positive working relationships. These relationships are based on meaningful engagement, empowerment, respect, honesty, trust and optimism.

### **iv. Strengths-Based and Future-Focused**

YJA focus is on recognising and celebrating the existing strengths and resilience of children and their families/carers. We aim to nurture and sustain hope, personal agency and to strengthen social networks. Our interventions promote and support positive change.

### **v. Trauma-Informed**

Multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma may contribute to offending behaviour by children and/or make it more difficult for them to address it. All YJA staff are ACE-aware and practice in a trauma-informed way.

### **vi. Participation and Engagement**

YJA is committed to continuing to develop and deliver services in partnership with service users. Children and family engagement in service design is crucial.

### **vii. Evidence and Positive Outcomes-Based**

YJA practice is informed by holistic research and is evidence based. YJA measures the impact of its services both on a population and individual basis.