



## PRESS RELEASE

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Young people in Scotland are sharing their stories of the justice world in a new podcast series.

One teenager talks about how they coped when their dad was sent to prison, another reveals his experience of the care and justice system as a child and a third shares details of his traumatic childhood, mental health struggles and ending up before a judge in court.

But all the young people also talk in the podcast *Our Justice*, about how they overcame the difficulties and want to share their experiences to help others.

The pioneering project is co-produced by the three youngsters who learned podcasting skills and interviewed people connected to meaningful parts of their life stories for other episodes.

The aim of the podcast is to empower the young people to share their real-life experience of the Scottish justice system to help increase understanding and make Scotland better and safer for everyone.

*Our Justice*: a series of true stories and conversations co-produced by young people with experience of the Scottish justice system features six episodes.

Community Justice Scotland has teamed up on the project with internationally-acclaimed organisation The Empathy Museum - which runs a series of participatory projects dedicated to helping people look at the world through the eyes of others.

It's produced by Boldface, whose team members worked with the young people to create the podcast series.

Maria Croce, senior communications manager at Community Justice Scotland, said: “We wanted to give young people who’d been in contact with the justice system the opportunity to tell their stories in the way they wanted to tell them, to promote understanding and also perhaps give hope to others that it is possible to overcome difficult experiences and go on to live a happy, fulfilled life.”

Reece, 25, from Glasgow, who took part in the project and is studying towards a social work degree, said: “Learning new skills through taking part in the podcast has been a great experience. It’s made me think about getting involved in documentary making as well as podcasts. In the future I’d like to help people tell their stories in a creative way.

“I hope the podcast will raise awareness not just about criminal justice but also help people understand the impact trauma can have on people’s lives.”

\* Link to listen: <http://www.empathymuseum.com/podcast/our-justice/>

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