

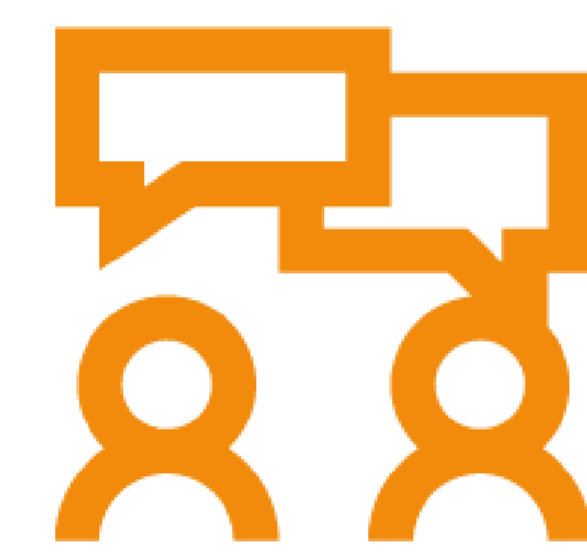


THE PILLARS OF RELATIONSHIPS IDENTIFIED BY THE BOYS



Actively listen

The boys stressed how important it was that they felt listened to. One boy explained that being listened to made him feel like an equal to his YOS worker and disrupted the power imbalances often present in the CJS.



Show interest

The boys noticed when YOS workers exhibited a real interest in them as people. This was often demonstrated by incorporating family welfare within their discussions.



Provide advice

One child admired the honesty and advice that his YOS worker provided. Although he did not always agree and though their conversations were not always easy, he respected his YOS worker.



Be available

Some boys expressed the importance of feeling that their YOS worker was available for them, noting that they could contact them for assistance with an issue they needed support with.



Be flexible

One individual appreciated the flexibility of his YOS worker, booking sessions at a time and location which worked best for the boy (for example, walking around the local area). In addition to making him feel more comfortable, the boy stated that this flexibility helped the YOS worker gain a better understanding of his life.



Be non-judgemental

A number of the boys expressed that their YOS worker understood who they were and never judged them. This allows the boys to feel comfortable about discussing their issues and to continue the conversation.



Be supportive

The boys detailed numerous examples where their YOS worker had supported them to enter education, training or employment with accessible advice, coordinating work experience or advocating on their behalf in school.