

**stronger  
alliance**





**The National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance (NCJAA) aims to ensure all those in the criminal justice system can engage with arts and culture as a springboard to positive change.**

We do this by providing a network for artists, arts organisations and criminal justice practitioners delivering innovative work across the country.

We aim to influence policy, improve research, encourage effective practice and raise the profile of arts and culture in the criminal justice system.

What we know:

- Art, design and creativity have the power to transform lives – enabling personal development and fostering positive relationships
- Arts and cultural opportunities can help reduce crime by unlocking untapped talent, improving wellbeing and boosting employability
- Exhibitions and performances engage wider communities and challenge negative stereotypes about people with criminal records
- Art produced by diverse and unheard voices enhances art and culture for all.

**National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance**

Clinks, Tavis House, 1-6 Tavistock Square,  
London WC1H 9NA

020 7383 0966

[info@artsincriminaljustice.org.uk](mailto:info@artsincriminaljustice.org.uk)

[@ArtsCJS](https://www.facebook.com/ArtsCJS) [@artsincriminaljustice](https://www.facebook.com/artsincriminaljustice) [vimeo.com/ncjaa](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvimeo.com/ncjaa)

[www.artsincriminaljustice.org.uk](http://www.artsincriminaljustice.org.uk)

# FOREWORDS



**2018-2019 has been an exciting time and together we are building a stronger, braver alliance. We know this work can be risky and challenging, but by championing the creative voice of those most excluded by society we can all continue to learn about ourselves and our communities; driving change, creativity, hope and understanding where it is needed most.**

In 2018 we became an Arts Council England Sector Support Organisation as part of its National Portfolio. This continues to unlock new opportunities to influence policy and develop our network. We welcomed Rebecca Hemmings to the team, who is improving our regional, training and inclusion offer. We've welcomed artists and researchers from across the world, from America to Portugal, expanding our global reach through conferences and film screenings.

This year, as part of our contribution to the Monument Fellowship, we asked our network: how can we create a less violent society? The book, *Curing Violence*, includes contributions that consider how the arts can channel and dissipate violence, whilst also recognising the potential for cultural activity to be exploited and cause harm. We will continue to build on this work, exploring the complexity of creative practice in prison and probation settings to ensure we drive quality and excellence.



**“It is much easier being part of a collective voice when influencing than being a small, lone voice.”**

2018-2019 annual survey



We have had continued high-level governmental support for arts in criminal justice and our collective achievements should be celebrated. However, with continued pressures and new commissioning structures, creative practice in the criminal justice system remains vulnerable. Providing a network to collectively share and build on success feels more crucial than ever.

**Jessica Plant** Director



**The performances, exhibitions, poetry, music, dance and readings in prisons and other criminal justice settings I've seen this year have been rich and diverse.**

**A stand-out, representative moment for me was when, in Clean Break's production of *Inside Bitch*, a play that challenges the representation of women in prison, the audience is directed to "feel" it. This is uncomfortable, right?**

All the creative work I've seen in criminal justice settings has led me to that uncomfortable moment. You can't lock the door on art.

Punishment may be about deprivation of liberty but moving onto a more fulfilling life starts with a moment: a new way of seeing, a turning point, an inspiration. Through promoting arts and culture in

criminal justice settings, the NCJAA reveals people's humanity, allowing them to connect with themselves, their friends, their families and their communities.

In 2018-2019 it was great to see clear support for this from audiences, with only 11% of the general public believing that arts shouldn't be available to people within the criminal justice system.\* These results also back up a key recommendation in our paper published this year, *What does success look like for arts in criminal justice settings?*, that creative work in criminal justice settings should be 'normalised' and central to a holistic approach to all people.

This year, Arts Council England provided further validation and invested in broadening the NCJAA network across the country. The Ministry of Justice has built on evidence in its Justice Data Lab, showing that arts and culture can improve safety in prisons and bring about outcomes associated with desistance from crime.

Making sure arts provision in the criminal justice system becomes the norm now means delivering on our other principles; ensuring access to the benefits of arts for all and building capacity to deliver on this. I look forward to continuing to celebrate the work of all in our network and their audiences who see – and indeed, “feel” – the value of creative practice in criminal justice settings.

**Alison Frater** Chair

\* NatCen Social Research survey, 2018



# KEY OUTPUTS IN FOCUS

BUILDING A  
STRONGER ALLIANCE



## Providing a network and developing sector resilience

*“As a freelance artist the importance of being part of the alliance cannot be understated: it is a single and coherent portal for useful information, training, resources and connections with potential partners and collaborators.”*

2018-2019 annual survey

Our annual survey told us that our most valuable area of work is keeping our network up to date with the latest news and opportunities in the arts and criminal justice sector through our events, meetings and online communications.

In 2018-2019 we partnered with Ikon Gallery, Watts Gallery, the National Theatre and Arts Fund to deliver a rich and varied training and events programme.

All our events showcased artists with lived experience of the criminal justice system. Contributors also included Edward Argar MP, Under Secretary for Justice, and Abid Hussain, Arts Council England Director of Diversity, alongside expert organisations, prison governors, funders, artists, academics and many more.

\* 2018-2019 annual survey



**“We need to move from representing those with lived experience of the criminal justice system to empowering them to be leaders in arts in criminal justice work. This and other important points raised at NCJAA annual meeting.”**

Delegate, 2018 annual meeting, via Twitter

**“Performance was excellent!!  
Excellent event and discussion.”**

Delegate, 2018 Anne Peaker lecture

## Encouraging good practice

**“Being a part of the NCJAA keeps me abreast of developments and offers links with expertise elsewhere.”**

2018-2019 annual survey

We encourage effective practice in the arts and criminal justice sector by producing and disseminating reports, news, blogs and training that showcase our vision and enable sharing and learning opportunities.

In 2018-2019, we awarded bursaries to support artists with lived experience of the criminal justice system and continued to match emerging practitioners with experts in the field in our mentoring scheme.

**“It has provided both of us with new ways of thinking and approaching our creative work. The partnership has been incredibly rewarding and useful.”**

Mentor

This year we launched our ‘Introduction to arts in prisons’ course, developed alongside Sara Lee, the Irene Taylor Trust’s artistic director, and Clinks. It was recommended by 100% of participants and will now be an ongoing part of our training and good practice offer.

**“Excellent session; energising, thought provoking and informative.”**

Course participant

## Supporting research and evidence

**“Resources and evidence are very valuable in supporting our work. Being able to quote the latest figures and evidence is helpful when making funding applications and advocating with partners.”**

2018-2019 annual survey

This year we published academic evaluations and findings from the Irene Taylor Trust, BearFace

Theatre and the London College of Fashion on our online Evidence Library. We were delighted that this year Arts Council England published *Arts and culture in health and wellbeing and in the criminal justice system: A summary of evidence*, which cites nearly 200 sources and credits the Evidence Library as its main source for criminal justice evaluations.

**“The research highlights the strong contribution of the arts as people with convictions seek to develop a new, more positive identity, as well as upon their sense of self-efficacy and agency in the world.”**

John McMahon, Senior Manager, Policy and Research, Arts Council England (*Arts, health and criminal justice – the evidence stacks up*, 2018 blog for Arts Council England)

We continue to network with leading academic partners, such as the University of Cambridge Institute of Criminology (IOC), University of the Arts London and University of Wolverhampton, to support research projects that increase our knowledge and understanding of arts in criminal justice settings.



## Influencing policy-making

***“I had the privilege of serving as Minister for Prisons and Rehabilitation for two years. In that time I came across offenders who painted, sculpted and even sang opera as part of their rehabilitation. And in many cases it worked. We can all benefit from access to the arts and we should all be able to.”***

Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Rt Hon Jeremy Wright MP (2019 speech at Belgrade Theatre, Coventry)

***“There is a role for the arts. It’s a good idea, the creative sector is a big employer, you hear stories of someone involved in a prison production who ends up in the West End as a lighting technician.”***

Secretary of State for Justice, Rt Hon David Gauke MP (2018 interview in The Times)

The NCJAA acts as a conduit between those ‘on the ground’ delivering arts and culture in criminal justice settings and local and national government; an area of work valued by over 90% of our network. We are grateful for the continued support of representatives from the Ministry of Justice and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) at our Arts Forum meetings.

This year, our work was praised in parliament during a DCMS select committee session on the social impact of participation in culture and sport, and our *Re-Imagining Futures* report (2013) was recognised in the House of Lords.

We convened a roundtable with the Secretary of State for Justice, Rt Hon David Gauke MP, the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Rt Hon Jeremy Wright MP, sector experts and prominent cultural organisations; to discuss how arts activities can support people in the criminal justice system to gain skills and find employment in the thriving creative industries.

***“Thank you for being a national advocate and for informing funders and policy-makers.”***

2018-2019 annual survey

## The West Midlands and young people

Our new Regional Development Officer is building relationships in the West Midlands and increasing black, Asian and minority ethnic representation across the network. This year we welcomed new organisations such as Recre8, First Class Legacy and Blue Whale Training, who all deliver arts and culture programmes to young people who may be considered at risk of coming in to contact with the criminal justice system.

In February 2019, we hosted our sold-out annual conference in Birmingham, focusing specifically on young people in the criminal justice system. The young people who contributed made the need for effective diversion services in the community starkly apparent. We will continue to



advocate for transformative creative programmes to be available to all, rather than a lucky few.

***“What do young people want? What I needed to support me was the arts - it can be theatre or poetry - to engage in my emotion.”***

Panellist, 2019 annual conference

***“Great event and opportunity for me to connect to people for collaboration and potential work opportunities.”***

Delegate, 2019 annual conference, via Twitter

In 2019-2020 we will be exploring the opportunities and challenges for arts and criminal justice organisations and practitioners based in North West England.



## Construction of a criminal

**By Talia Jay, written and performed at  
NCJAA annual conference, January 2019**

Child first offender second  
But that's been overlooked  
Commit the crime you do the time  
No justice for a crook.  
Express yourself no limitations  
They label that as art  
Violent rhymes explicit truth,  
revealing all my fears  
Reveals the haters behind the papers  
making sure my "art" disappears.  
Because the truth is we've  
been fighting deception  
Then painting an image of this false perfection  
Cause life gets hard when you aren't accepted  
But trust me when I say that  
they learnt their lesson.  
The construction of a young criminal  
Invest in the youth and build our dreams  
Don't let our talent go to waste  
Trust in us and we'll trust in you  
Let's all be something great.



**stronger  
alliance**



# OUR NETWORK

## WHO WE REPRESENT

Despite ongoing challenges in the sector, over half of the artists and organisations that responded to our annual survey reported expanding their services in the past year.

***“Two months in to being introduced to the NCJAA and I could not be more impressed or more hopeful about my prospect of working in this area.”***

2018-2019 annual survey

***“Through the NCJAA we have benefited from being part of a network of similar minded organisations doing some fantastic work in the sector.”***

2018-2019 annual survey





## What art forms do those in our network cover?



0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35% 40% 45% 50% 55%

**Drama/theatre** 53%

**Creative writing** 53%

**Visual arts** (including painting, drawing and sculpture) 51%

**Music** 34%

**Film** 32%

**Craft** 28%

**Other visual arts** 19%

**Multimedia** 18%

**Dance** 16%

**Other** 13%

**Web and social media** 9%

**Storytelling** 2%

**Design** 1%

## Where does our network deliver its services?

0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35% 40% 45% 50% 55% 60% 65% 70%

**Prisons** 70%

**Arts/culture setting**  
(gallery, theatre, museum, library) 51%

**Other community setting/groups** 50%

**Academic settings** 45%

**Youth offending teams** 20%

**Community Rehabilitation Companies** 20%

**Health settings** 20%

**Internationally** 16%

**Faith settings** 13%

**Commercial buildings** 13%

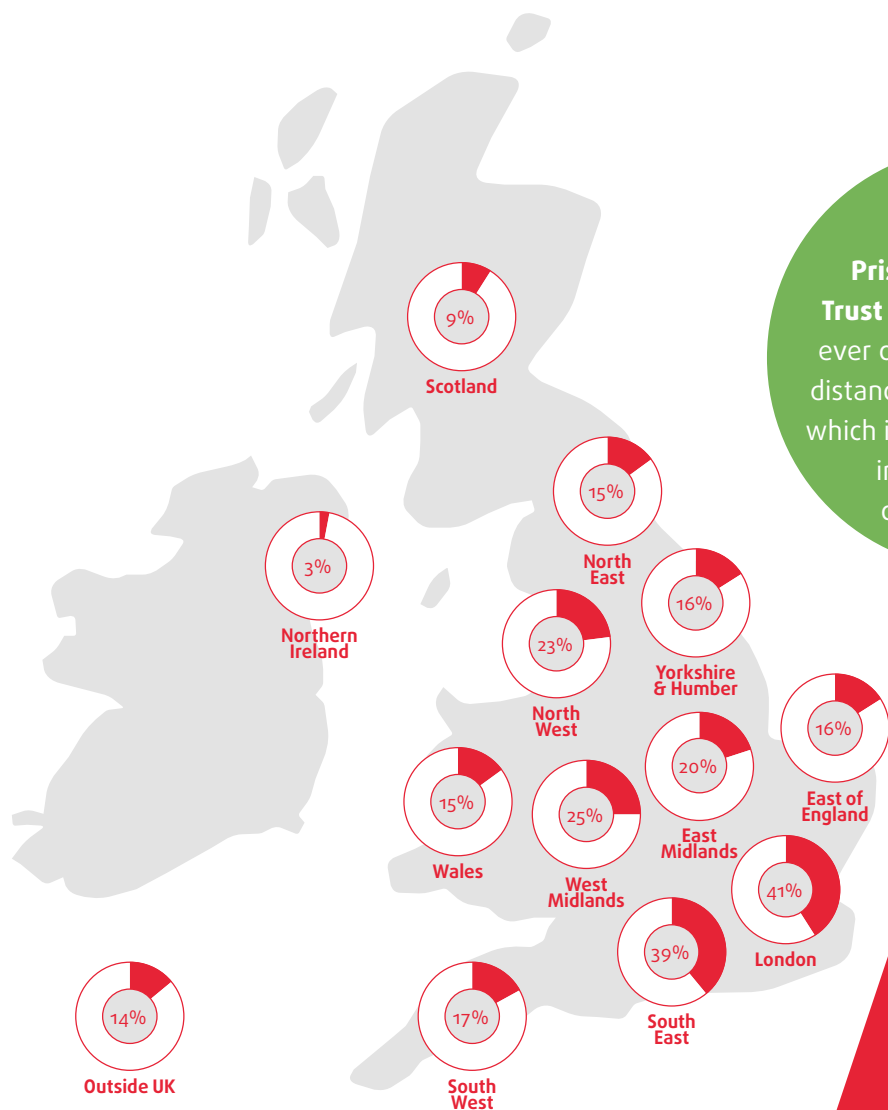
**National Probation Service** 13%

**Other** 12%

**Detention centres** 1%



## In which locations does our network deliver its services?



## Here are just some of our network's achievements and impressive milestones reached in 2018-2019...

**April  
2018**

**Prisoners' Education Trust** publishes its biggest ever curriculum for funded distance learning in prisons, which includes qualifications in visual arts and creative writing.

**May  
2018**

**Geese Theatre Company** turns **30 years** old and holds a series of events to showcase its catalogue of arts practice in secure and community settings.

**August  
2018**

**Kestrel Theatre Company's** Broken Dreams, a play devised and performed by men on license from HMP Springhill, showcases at the Royal Court.

**June  
2018**

**Warwick University** hosts a week-long programme at Tate Exchange, titled The Production of Truth, Justice and History, featuring organisations such as **Safe Ground** and **FACT Liverpool**.

**July  
2018**

**Watts Gallery** holds a sold-out seminar on museums and criminal justice, presented in partnership with NCJAA, to coincide with its Art for All Exhibition. It marks **10 years** of the gallery's work with prisons, young offender institutions and community groups.

**stronger  
alliance**

**September**  
2018

**Alli Black**, HMP Kirkham's deputy governor, co-edits the first ever special arts edition of HM Prison Service's peer reviewed Prison Service Journal. It features **Stretch Digital**, **Irene Taylor Trust**, **Good Vibrations**, **Ikon Gallery** and more.

**October**  
2018

**Professor Laura Caulfield** makes her inaugural lecture at the University of Wolverhampton, exploring the role of the arts in rehabilitation.

**November**  
2018

**Open Clasp Theatre Company** celebrates its **20 year** anniversary and produces the sequel to its award winning play *Key Change*. Entitled *Don't Forget The Birds*, it tells the true story of what happened to one of the characters after she left the prison gates.

**December**  
2018

**National Prison Radio** finds that a record 45% of people in prison tune in every single day and nearly 7,000 letters and requests were made to its studios at HMP Brixton and HMP Styal over the year.

**January**  
2019

**Snape Maltings** reaches **20 years** of successful collaboration with HMP Warren Hill. The classical music centre empowers residents with practical and social skills through creative activity and performance.

**February**  
2019

**RideOut** follows up on the success of its Past Time prison theatre and food project with three more performing arts residencies and public performances at HMP Stafford.

**March**  
2019

**The Koestler Trust's** first South East exhibition, *We Made This*, brings 70 Koestler artworks to Margate's Turner Contemporary. **"I have never been so moved by an exhibition. This is why prisons should rehabilitate."**

**We would like to extend our endless thanks to our steering group for their invaluable expertise.**

- Alison Frater, Independent (Chair)
- Andy Watson MBE, Geese Theatre Company (Vice-chair)
- Carlotta Allum, Stretch Charity
- Esther Baker, Synergy Theatre Project
- Alli Black, HMP Kirkham
- Dan Boyden, Change Collective CIC (stepping down)
- Michelle Bynoe, independent
- Francesca Cooney, Prisoners' Education Trust
- Sarah Colvin, University of Cambridge
- Nikki Crane, independent
- Erika Flowers, independent
- Katy Haigh, Good Vibrations
- Russ Haynes, Teach a Friend to Read
- Anna Herrmann, Clean Break Theatre Company
- Sara Lee, Irene Taylor Trust
- Sally Taylor, Koestler Arts
- Rebecca Friel, Odd Arts
- Abdul Shayek, Fio.

**Thank you to our funders in 2018-2019 for their generous support.**

- Arts Council England
- The Monument Trust
- Ministry of Justice / Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service.



## **National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance**

Clinks, Tavis House, 1-6 Tavistock  
Square, London WC1H 9NA

020 7383 0966

[info@artsincriminaljustice.org.uk](mailto:info@artsincriminaljustice.org.uk)

[@ArtsCJS](https://twitter.com/ArtsCJS) [@artsincriminaljustice](https://facebook.com/artsincriminaljustice) [vimeo.com/ncjaa](https://vimeo.com/ncjaa)

[www.artsincriminaljustice.org.uk](http://www.artsincriminaljustice.org.uk)

### **Image credits**

Front cover, pages 4 and 8: © Elijah Thompson  
Pages 2/3 (Jess Plant/Alison Frater): © Ian Cuthbert  
Pages 2/3 (main image): Courtesy of London School of Mosaic  
Page 6: Courtesy of Erika Flowers, Recorded in Art  
Page 7: Courtesy of Hampshire Cultural Trust and BearFace Theatre  
Page 10-11: © Natalie Willatt, courtesy of Rideout