

## **Spotlight on Manchester Youth Justice**

*Manchester Youth Justice was the winner of the 2018 Youth Justice Award at the Shine a Light Awards.*

In the field of youth justice, Manchester Youth Justice stands out for the breadth of support they offer, particularly to young people who have been disengaged from education for a long time, or who are experiencing learning difficulties.

With its team of trained staff, including speech and language therapists (SLTs), this government-funded organisation gives reading and linguistic help to young people referred for its services, as well as providing assessments and court reports.

They aim to identify and support all young people who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), offering assistance in the form of programmes such as That Reading Thing (TRT) and drama therapy. Manchester Youth Justice also gives advice to practitioners on how to communicate with young people.

Working in close partnership with an education psychologist – an important positive, highlighted by the Shine a Light judges – Manchester Youth Justice shares good links with the Statutory Education Department, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), and the British Dyslexia Association, to ensure that the needs of young service users are properly met.

Elsewhere in the local community, Manchester Youth Justice has forged a close relationship with Manchester College. Together they help young people over the age of 16 years to access adult provisions suited to their needs, with specialist courses including those designed for students who find it difficult to engage in education.

The Shine a Light judges greatly approved of Manchester Youth Justice's community links, describing the team as a credit to both the youth justice system and the local area.

**For further information about the 2018 Shine a Light Awards visit [www.shinealightawards.co.uk](http://www.shinealightawards.co.uk) and follow us on Twitter #awards\_SAL**