**Objective**

The REPPP Action Research Project (ARP) explored the contribution of Youth Diversion Projects (YDPs) to youth crime reduction in Ireland by examining relationships as a core intervention. YDPs are state-funded initiatives that address pre-identified offending risk factors through personal development and informal education programmes with targeted young people. One hundred YDPs operate across Ireland and are typically managed by voluntary youth work organisations or other independent community-based organisations.

The research team collaborated with sixteen case study sites to examine the features and enabling conditions of effective relationships between youth justice practitioners and young people. The research expanded on a systematic review of international evidence (1) to co-design and implement an evidence-informed relationship-building model to guide effective practice. The relationship model identifies the foundational and core elements of relationship building and seven skills, attributes, and practices that help develop effective relationships with young people.

**Methods**

The next phase of the relationship study involves scaling out and implementing the relationship model across the national YDP network. The scale-out will be achieved through a series of discrete implementation strategies. These strategies, which involve awareness-raising and capacity development initiatives, will be coordinated by a designated Research and Development Team. The strategies include tailored dissemination events, bespoke events for project managers, engaging practitioners in developing materials, distributing resources, a Mastery group to provide expert advice to improve implementation efforts, and ongoing support from the Research and Development Team.

Nominated YDPs will test three data-gathering methods to track and document progress in the phased implementation process. The research team will maintain open lines of communication with the broader network of YDPs to share information, resources, and regular updates. This ongoing support and communication is designed to keep everyone involved and reassured about progress and developments.

A PhD study conducted a scoping review to examine the characteristics and determinants of effective co-creation. The review findings will be synthesised with findings from a cross-case analysis of YDPs’ implementation experiences during the ARP. The study will offer additional insight into implementing new practices in youth justice settings.

1. Fullerton D, Bamber J, Redmond S. Developing effective relationships between youth justice workers and young people: a synthesis of the evidence.: REPPP Review, University of Limerick; 2021.