



Youth-Led Artist's Commission Call

Artsworld in partnership with the Isle of Wight Youth Justice Service (YJS) and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary, is looking to commission a local professional creative to work in collaboration with children supported by the YJS, to create a mural for the cell at Newport Police Station in which children and vulnerable adults are held.

Up to £3,650 is available for this work, to include the artist's time, materials, installation costs, travel, expenses and VAT. In putting forward their proposal, it is for the artist to determine how the budget is allocated to deliver the proposed project.

Deadline: 10:00 Thursday 9 July 2026

Context

The Young Cultural Changemakers Programme is putting creative place-making power in the hands of young people. Young people across the southeast are empowered to lead on significant creative projects in their local area, transforming their lives and those of their neighbours. Working with local communities and with a range of partners, we are listening to the views, experiences and ideas of children and young people and supporting them to explore creative ways to make change happen in their areas.

Artsworld has collaborated with the Isle of Wight YJS on a number of youth-led projects, in line with Child First principles, focusing on the children's developmental needs, rights and potential, while striving to divert them from the criminal justice system.

In a previous collaboration, children supported by the YJS, co-created a ceiling design for the cell at Newport police station in which children and vulnerable adults are held. That design was ultimately installed elsewhere at Newport Police Station, but Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary recognise the potential benefits of having a mural co-created by children in the cell itself and have generously co-funded this opportunity.

The aims of the project are to support the YJS's work reducing reoffending, by giving the children involved in the project an opportunity to 'give something back' and be proud of



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their achievements, while at the same time learning new skills, acquiring digital badge qualifications and potentially improving employability. By creating a calming and ‘friendly’ space, that feels less hostile, it will also support the vulnerable children and adults going through the system.

Brief

The chosen artist will work with children supported by the YJS at five regular weekly sessions on **Wednesdays 12.30-2pm during the school summer holidays** to develop a design for the cell walls. The design should:

- Engender calm and reduce anxiety
- Be non-triggering
- Be developed in workshop sessions in such a way that the final installation can be completed in a single weekend
- Use design/paints/varnishes that minimise the risk the mural being defaced and can withstand regular cleaning

The chosen artist will work with the children to paint the mural they have co-designed over two days in September 2026 (dates to be confirmed). The mural must be painted in **Dulux Diamond Eggshell**.

Here is an example of a similar project [Children and Young Person Custody Project – Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness YJSs \(December 2025\) - Youth Justice Resource Hub](#)

The artist will support the children to achieve digital badges in areas such as Communication and Teamwork.

Proposed timeline and dates for sessions

10:00 Thursday 9 July 2026	Deadline for applications
Friday 10 July	Successful applicants informed and timeslot to present ideas to children supported by YJS
16:00 – 18:00 Tuesday 14 July	Artist selection panel – the children supported by YJS choose the artist they want to work with
12:30 – 14:00 Wednesday 29 July	First co-creation workshop for children with artist

Other co-creation workshop sessions as follows:



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12:30 – 14:00 Wednesday 5 August

12:30 – 14:00 Wednesday 12 August

12:30 – 14:00 Wednesday 19 August

12:30 – 14:00 Wednesday 26 August

September 2026 - two days for the mural installation (dates tbc).

Intellectual Property

The commission is a co-creation between the creative(s) and the young cultural changemakers. Legal title and ownership of the work is retained by the creative(s) until payment of the final instalment of the fee is made. Once payment has been made, ownership of the work will transfer to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary.

The creative(s) retains the right to be credited in any communications, photographs, film, promotional materials or reproduction in any media. Any reproduction or media is guaranteed for non-commercial purposes.

Contracting

The successful artist(s) will be issued a Contract for the work. Payment will be made in two instalments, one on commencement and one on completion.

Requirements

- The artist will be responsible for their own insurance and must have Public Liability Insurance cover of at least £5million whilst working on the project and for six years after its completion. It is the responsibility of the Artist to ensure that any individual or organisation they work with or who is involved with the installation has Public Liability Insurance cover of at least £5million on the same terms.
- The commissioned artist(s) must hold an up-to-date DBS check. Applicants are advised to obtain basic checks (completed within the last 6 months) and to confirm this is in place as part of their proposal submission. Basic checks can be obtained here: <https://www.gov.uk/request-copy-criminal-record>. A further Enhanced DBS check will be required as part of any Contract for this work.



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- Approval of the final designs will be dependent on the artist's ability to demonstrate that the works meets all health and safety, maintenance, technical and durability considerations
- The proposed design should have a minimum lifespan of 12 years
- Where relevant, materials should be vandal-resistant and cleanable as required by the setting in which the artwork is installed
- As part of this contract and before commencing work with young people for this project, the artist must undertake training in the delivery of Artswork's digital badges that form part of the Young Cultural Changemakers programme.

Artist Specification

We are seeking a creative or creatives who can fulfil the following criteria to demonstrate their ability to engage meaningfully with the process as well as to create an outstanding final piece of design. These criteria will be scored as the basis of awarding the commission:

- A proven track record working with children and young people and in sharing skills with them
- Experience working collaboratively with a broad range of community partners
- A proven track record in substantive community consultation processes resulting in clear community ownership of the finished piece
- Demonstrable experience creating excellent, diverse art works that stimulate engagement with public and community groups especially children and young people
- Experience working in diverse materials and media to respond to the needs of specific places, communities and briefs
- A defined relationship to Isle of Wight. The successful artist will be based in or near the place-making area and be able to complete the work without long distance travel
- Significant track record of delivering commissioned art successfully to time and to budget
- Artist(s) must be available to work with the young people on the dates and at the times set out above (though some amendments may be possible)

- Delivery of at least two Artwork digital badges will be part of this programme

To submit a proposal

To apply please send a short (2p A4 maximum) expression of interest responding to the Artist Specification above and a CV which can include up to 5 images or a link to a website.

Applications must be received by email to petarainford@artwork.org.uk by **10:00 Thursday 9 July 2026**

Applicants will be scored against the criteria above by the selection panel.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to present their ideas to the children, supported by the YJS and Artwork, on:

Tuesday 14 July 16:00 – 18:00 at Riverside Centre, Newport PO30 2QR

Please let us know if we can offer any access support to facilitate your attendance.

Artwork

Artwork is a charity that empowers young people through creativity, so they can build a better future – for themselves and others.

We run programmes and projects that pave the way for work in the creative, cultural and heritage sectors. We give young people the means to make an impact in their communities, amplify their voices and help them find creative solutions. We provide placements and pre-employment training that could unlock creative careers young people and much more.

Artwork aims to engage artists and facilitators that are representative of the communities and children and young people we support. We expect our team and those working on our behalf to commit to our Anti-Discrimination Charter which can be accessed via our website.

<https://artwork.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Anti-discrimination-charter.pdf>

Thank you very much for your interest.

www.artwork.org.uk

Isle of Wight Youth Justice Service

The Youth Justice Service (YJS) is a multi-agency organisation supervising children and young people aged ten to 17 years. YJS aims to reduce offending and re-offending by children and young people. It was set up as a result of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Key service partners include:



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- health
- education
- police
- probation
- children's social care.

YJS supervise children and young people who are subject to out of court resolutions issued by police and those subject to both community and custodial sentences imposed by the courts. Through an ongoing process of assessment, intervention and review the YJS aims to identify and then address the factors which have contributed to a child's offending behaviour.

YJS work with parents of children who have offended. This is to ensure an appropriate level of support and intervention is offered to them alongside any work done with the individual child. Additionally, we provide victim contact and restorative justice services to the victims of youth crime.



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