

PRESS RELEASE



STANDING COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH JUSTICE www.scyj.org.uk

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday 22 January 2010:

Children's organisations oppose naming of Edlington brothers

A committee of youth justice experts and organisations working with children today expressed concern at the application to lift the anonymity of the Edlington brothers, whose sentencing hearing is taking place this week at Sheffield Crown Court. An application by media organisations to allow them to be identified in the media will be heard after sentencing takes place.

Child defendants in criminal cases usually remain anonymous under the Children and Young Persons Act 1933. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which the UK is a signatory, also guarantees privacy to child defendants at all stages of criminal proceedings.

Sally Ireland, Chair of the Standing Committee for Youth Justice, said:

The priority should be to protect the public by ensuring that these very young boys do not offend again in this way as they grow older. Naming them at this stage may compromise effective work to change their behaviour and may result in a lifelong anonymity order being made for them at a later date.

Notes to editors:

The SCYJ (www.scyj.org.uk) is a membership body which:

- a) Provides a forum for organisations, primarily in the non-statutory sector, working to promote the welfare of children who become engaged in the youth justice system; and
- b) Advocates a child-focussed youth justice system that promotes the integration of such children into society and thus serves the best interests of the children themselves and the community at large.

Membership:

Action for Children, Association of YOT Managers, Barnardo's, Catch22, The Children's Society, Children's Rights Alliance for England, Council for Disabled Children, The Howard League for Penal Reform, Just for Kids Law, JUSTICE, Nacro, National Youth Agency (NYA), National Association for Youth Justice (NAYJ), NCB, NSPCC, The Prince's Trust, Prison Reform Trust, Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, Secure Accommodation Network, SOVA, TACT and VOICE.

The contents of this press release do not necessarily reflect the views of all member organisations.