

## Worksheet 3.8b: Youth crime role play

In your group, decide who is going to be which character and then answer questions A–F as that character.

**AHMED (24):** I grew up committing crime, then decided to change. I work on a youth offending team. My foster mum helped boost my confidence. That's what I try to do for young offenders.

**CHELSEY (14):** I keep reading stuff online about people my age doing awful illegal things. They should be treated really harshly, otherwise they'll just keep getting away with it. They're out of order!

**AMANDIP (75):** I used to think young offenders came from 'bad families'. Then my own granddaughter got caught shoplifting. I worked out it was a cry for help, due to her dyslexia. She didn't go to court, but I wish she had. It might have scared her – in a good way.

**DANNY (51):** I'm a nurse. I feel so angry about the way newspapers show so many photos of teenagers who've broken the law. Most teenagers respect the law, yet newspapers only report on the small group who make the odd wrong decision! It's discrimination.

**PIERRE (43):** I work for the police. Most young offenders are polite and truly sorry for their actions! They need help, not judgement, so I get involved with their teachers to encourage them. I must admit though, my brother was injured by a teenage drunk-driver two years ago. For a while, I really judged the boy who hurt him.

- A. Does your age affect your opinions on the youth justice system?
- B. Should young offenders be pitied, or punished?
- C. Have you had any personal involvement in the youth justice system?
- D. What influences your views about how young offenders should be treated?
- E. What should happen if a young person commits a serious crime, like murder?
- F. Do you think the media affects your attitude towards youth crime?