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# Members' Bulletin

Latest Update from  
the Association of  
Youth Offending Team Managers Ltd

April 2017



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## In this issue:

**AGM**

**HMIP meeting**

**Sport-ASB bid**

**Exclusions  
consultation**

**SEND update**

**Free diversion  
workshops**

**SCYJ  
committee  
update**

**Policing  
Strategy for  
C&YP**

**SC guidance**

**Research  
opportunity**

**And more....**

## AGM 2017 - Your Invitation

Please put the date of your AGM in your diary/calendar. It is being held in Rugby on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017**. The morning will be a conference with some high-profile speakers, while the afternoon will be the AGM. There is a free lunch provided.



Our speakers will be:

- Colin Allars, CEO of the YJB
- DCC Karen Manners, who is the NPCC national lead on vulnerability
- Ian Acheson, who wrote a review on extremism in prison and community settings in 2016

All are welcome, so come along and see how your Association is working for your benefit. Arrivals are from 10.30am, and the venue is:

The Bloxham Centre,  
8 Somers Road,  
Rugby CV22 7DE.



**ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING**

Please book your place with  
[jon.obyrne@aym.org.uk](mailto:jon.obyrne@aym.org.uk)

## HMIP Meeting

AYM representatives recently met with Helen Mercer, HM Assistant Chief Inspector, HMIP (on the right in the photo). We used to meet regularly with Alan MacDonald, and Helen has taken on this task. She is known to us from her time at the YJB, and before that in YOTs.

As always, it was a fruitful meeting. Helen has confirmed that the next Thematic will be on out of court disposals, with fieldwork due to start this summer following preparation and consultation.



The new inspection regime will begin in 2018/19, which has been delayed due to the Charlie Taylor report's recommendation that Ofsted inspect YOTs. This has not been accepted by government, and so HMIP will continue to be our inspectorate. The SQS regime is now complete, and the last FJI was completed in March.

Marius Frank (at left in photo) joined the meeting to present the SEND project we are running in conjunction with him and Ambition for All. He shared the progress so far, including the findings of research with young people at YOTs. One of the points he made was that some young people are only being identified as SEN following contact with YOTs. He quoted our SLCN lead, Diz Minnit, that we should screen young people out of being SEN, rather than screening them in – which would be a welcome fundamental change of emphasis.

The meeting was hosted by our Chair, Lesley Tregear, at the Warwickshire Justice Centre in Leamington Spa. This innovative initiative co-locates court and justice services in a building designed to fit the needs of a wide variety of users and staff.



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## ILM 7 Certificate in Leadership & Management starts soon



The YOT Manager specific ILM 7 course with Solace is starting in May, and will run until October. A small number of places are still available. We will report back on progress later in the year.



## Sport & ASB Bid

AYM is supporting a bid to the Police Transformation Fund to reduce ASB. The bid is being led by Derbyshire PCC, along with the national charity StreetGames.

Hazel Williamson, AYM Regional Representative for West Midlands, is actively involved in the bid on our behalf.

The partnership consists of PCCs, Police Services, Network Rail and British Transport Police, Sport England, the YJB and AYM. It will develop an evidence-based framework to support the management and design of sports-based interventions that are both effective and offer value for money. The Framework aims to demonstrate effective interventions to:



- reduce ASB and low level offending;
- promote a better relationship between the Forces and hard to reach youth and communities;
- contribute to effective early intervention strategies;
- provide opportunities for community referrals to quality assured community sports clubs.

More detail will follow, but if you want information about this work contact [stuart.felce@streetgames.org](mailto:stuart.felce@streetgames.org)

For more detail about the Fund see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-grants-further-police-transformation-funding>

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## Home Office guidance for young people

The government has published guidance for young people on indecent images of children.



This is a welcome initiative, with good information included. However, it is somewhat flat in presentation, thus limiting its ability to impact on young people.

See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/indecent-images-of-children-guidance-for-young-people/indecent-images-of-children-guidance-for-young-people>

## Youth Court Closures

We are still interested in collating the views of members about the continuing closure of courts, and how this is impacting upon young people, their families, and our ability to work effectively with the court systems. If you haven't responded and wish to, please let us know your views by emailing them to [jonobyrne@aym.org.uk](mailto:jonobyrne@aym.org.uk)



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## Exclusions Consultation – AYM needs your views



Department  
for Education

DfE are launching a consultation on revisions to the 2012 statutory guidance on the exclusion of pupils, to make the rules clearer, and to provide greater confidence and clarity for those involved in the exclusion process. The proposed amendments do not change the rights of, or requirements on, schools, children or parents over exclusion.

The 2012 guidance is found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion>

Within the consultation, DfE have made several updates (such as including references to Education, Health and Care plans to reflect the Children and Families Act 2014) and clarifications (such as over the role of the SEN expert at an Independent Review Panel).

This will be an area of interest to YOTs, given the education issues our young people face. Some of the proposed changes relate to SEND, so this is very topical given our work with Ambition for All and Manchester Metropolitan University. AYM is pulling together a response, led by Phil Sutton.



Please email Phil with anything you would like included, or with any suggestions you have, at [phil.sutton@aym.org.uk](mailto:phil.sutton@aym.org.uk)

The consultation document and response form can be found [here](https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-absence-and-exclusions-team/statutory-exclusion-guidance/), or at <https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-absence-and-exclusions-team/statutory-exclusion-guidance/>.



The deadline for direct replies is 25 April, but **Phil will need your views for the AYM response by 18<sup>th</sup> April.**

## SEND Year 1 Success & Year 2 Planning

Over the last few weeks the project team have been working towards an agreement with DfE, YJB and MoJ on the priority activities for the second year of the project.



They plan to:

- Work with around 35 YOTs and local authorities to support improvements in practice using the project's Ten Key Statements of Effective Practice in SEND, and the Peer Improvement Process piloted by Leeds and Cheshire.
- Deliver initial training at each of the youth justice secure establishments (YOIs, STCs and SCHs).
- Continue to develop the Youth Justice SEND Bubble (e-learning) and open it up to a wider audience including police, magistrates and panel members. See <https://yjresourcehub.uk>
- Work with 5 YOTs and local authorities on a research project exploring how information collected by schools, local authorities and others can be used more effectively to help prevent young people entering the youth justice system.
- Run an additional workshop in Birmingham as a sweep up session for colleagues who could make one of the earlier dates. Places are available via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/youth-justice-send-workshop-tickets-2775234501>

Central Government is keen for the project to target YOTs/ LAs in areas of high deprivation and/or high volume of first time entrants to make best use of its limited funding. AYM will be in contact with YOTs over the next month to discuss their engagement in this phase of the project.

Over 130 YOTs in England have engaged with the project over the first year, and our roadshows were attended by around 400 colleagues. The project team are grateful for this fantastic level of interest, and for the great support from our Advisory Group which has representatives from YOTs in Cornwall, Essex, Milton Keynes, Kirklees, Buckinghamshire, Leeds and NE Lincs.



The project director, Marius Frank from Achievement for All, will be at the AYM AGM in June to talk about the work of the project in 2017/8.

The roadshows covered all of England, as shown by the photo of Marius presenting Phil with an “achievement roadshow t-shirt”, and Phil modelling it. For the list of places covered see p10.

To register to receive the project's newsletter, the link is <http://afaeducation.us6.list-manage2.com/subscribe?u=86ed797fe5240bb8ea0fa4fa3&id=b7fc57442f>

For further information about the project contact our Projects Officer, [phil.sutton@aym.org.uk](mailto:phil.sutton@aym.org.uk)

## Free Workshops for Point-of-Arrest Diversion Schemes



Ben Estep of the Centre for Justice Innovation (CJI) has been working with AYM for some years in promoting diversion schemes. The current landscape is financially precarious for prevention services, and so CJI highlight the evidence and help make the case for investment.

See <http://justiceinnovation.org/portfolio/supporting-youth-diversion/>

In May 2017, the CJI is holding three workshops for practitioners involved in, or considering creating, point-of-arrest diversion schemes. These free workshops will be an opportunity to increase your knowledge of effective youth diversion practice, share experiences with colleagues, and hear how you can communicate the benefits of your work.

The workshops are also CPD-certified, and will be held in:

- Winchester 16<sup>th</sup> May
- Rugby 18<sup>th</sup> May
- Leeds 25<sup>th</sup> May



To register, see: <http://justiceinnovation.org/portfolio/youth-diversion-practice/>

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## AYM Feedback from SCYJ Committee Meeting

Our AYM Secretary, Ian Langley, attended the SCYJ Committee Meeting this month.

Laura Beaumont, Deputy Director of the Youth Justice Unit at the MoJ spoke of the MoJ response to the Taylor report.

This sparked considerable debate about the Prison and Courts Bill, especially HMCTS seeking reforms in court appearances. Increasing the use of video court hearings for young people was strongly opposed by the Committee, as was entering pleas online. This approach misses the communication needs of young people and their ability to receive justice. SCYJ are preparing a briefing on the Bill, to be published soon. AYM would welcome hearing your views – please email them to [jon.obyrne@aym.org.uk](mailto:jon.obyrne@aym.org.uk)

The Committee also heard from Patrick Kinsella of the Traveller Movement about their work, including their recent success in improving ethnic monitoring for the Gypsy and Irish Traveller and Roma communities.



## Policing Strategy for Children & Young People



The National Police Chiefs' Council has published its "National Strategy for the Policing of Children and Young People". The four priority areas are:

- Stop and search
- Looked after children
- Detention, custody and criminalisation of children and young people
- The relationship between young people and the police



Olivia Pinkney, Chief Constable for Hampshire and lead on CYP, says in the Strategy, "children and young people are not 'mini-adults' and the better our policing for them is now, the less they may need us in the future".

The Strategy is found at

<http://www.npcc.police.uk/documents/edhr/2015/CYP%20Strategy%202015%202017%20August%202015.pdf>

There is also a chart showing linkages for the Strategy, which is found at

<https://yjresourcehub.uk/yjb-effective-practice/youth-justice-kits/item/347-child-centred-policing-national-police-chiefs-council-national-strategy-for-the-policing-of-children-young-people.html>

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## Sentencing Council publishes new guidance

The Sentencing Council has published its definitive guidance for children and young people, which includes new offence specific guidelines on robbery and sexual offences.

It aims to provide up-to-date, comprehensive and accessible guidance on the general principles to be applied when sentencing children and young people. It takes the form of a new overarching principles guideline and new offence specific guidelines on robbery and sexual offences.



Sentencing  
Council

The guidelines have been produced following a process of research, analysis and public consultation. AYM contributed to the consultation, stressing the need for young people to be dealt with as children, with emphasis on communication needs.

The guidelines will come into force on 1 June 2017.

See: <http://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/publications/item/sentencing-children-and-young-people-definitive-guideline/>

## Research Opportunity - Women and Girls in the CJS

Would you like to contribute to practice and policy debates about women offenders by undertaking your own pioneering research?

The Griffins Society promotes effective practice in working with women and girls who are in prison or subject to criminal justice interventions in the community.



Griffins Research Fellows carry out their year-long research projects alongside their employment; they receive support from the Society and from the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge; the Society provides a modest research grant and travel bursary and helps to promote findings at the end of the Fellowship.

Previous research experience or a degree is not necessary, although applicants must be capable of studying and writing at or near degree level.

Six Fellowships are available for 2017-18, five of which can be on any aspect of the treatment of women or girls in the criminal justice system. The other is being offered in conjunction with the Barrow Cadbury Trust which is an independent, charitable foundation committed to bringing about a more just and equal society. For this fellowship, they are seeking proposals relating specifically to the treatment of young adult women (those aged between 18 and 25, which may include the transition between youth and adult systems).



For more information contact Chris Leeson at [chris.leeson@thegriffinsociety.org](mailto:chris.leeson@thegriffinsociety.org)

The closing date for applications is noon on Monday 12th June 2017.

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## SCLN Update from Giving Voice

An update on current SCLN issues is available at <https://www.stammering.org/speaking-out/article/giving-voice-join-speech-and-language-therapy-campaign>



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## YJLC Conference

The Youth Justice Legal Centre is holding a Youth Justice conference on 12<sup>th</sup> May in London. They have a range of national speakers booked. For further details see <http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=00ff1c103a99a8f2654eb6828&id=c8b9b19755&e=31a63a6870>





## Links you may have missed...



Prisons and Courts Reform Bill – second reading

[https://www.rcslt.org/governments/docs/prisons\\_and\\_courts\\_bill\\_2017](https://www.rcslt.org/governments/docs/prisons_and_courts_bill_2017)

RJC research report into RJ and black, Asian and minority ethnic children in the YJS. It contains many recommendations for the YJB, YOTs and YJ practitioners.

[http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/files/BAME\\_Research%20Report\\_Final%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/files/BAME_Research%20Report_Final%20(1).pdf)

Home Secretary announces data collection of police use of force, including Tasers and the age of those force deployed against, including Tasers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-transparency-measures-for-taser-use-announced-by-home-secretary>

Gypsy, Traveller and Roma children in the YJS – a report by the Traveller Movement

<http://travellermovement.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Sentencing-Gypsy-Traveller-and-Roma-children.pdf>

National Crime Agency publish missing persons data for 2015/16 (adults and children). 60% are children, mostly aged 12-17

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/783-missing-persons-data-report-2015-16/file>

John Drew blames reduced funding levels for youth custody problems

[http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2003346/former-yjb-chief-blames-funding-levels-for-youth-custody-problems?utm\\_content=&utm\\_campaign=140317\\_DailyNews%20&utm\\_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now&utm\\_medium=adestra\\_email&utm\\_term=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fnews%2F2003346%2Fformer-yjb-chief-blames-funding-levels-for-youth-custody-problems](http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2003346/former-yjb-chief-blames-funding-levels-for-youth-custody-problems?utm_content=&utm_campaign=140317_DailyNews%20&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now&utm_medium=adestra_email&utm_term=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fnews%2F2003346%2Fformer-yjb-chief-blames-funding-levels-for-youth-custody-problems)

MOJ RJ Action Plan (two links)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/596359/rj-progress-report-nov-2014-oct-2016.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/596359/rj-progress-report-nov-2014-oct-2016.pdf)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/596354/rj-action-plan-to-march-2018.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/596354/rj-action-plan-to-march-2018.pdf)

## Phil's Mug-Shot



### Apology

Some of the links in the last Bulletin did not work properly. This has been resolved for this issue, but if in difficulty please 'Google' the text above the link, or contact [jon.obyrne@aym.org.uk](mailto:jon.obyrne@aym.org.uk)

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