
Members' Bulletin

Latest Update from
the Association of
Youth Offending Team Managers Ltd

July 2017



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Successful AGM & Conference 2017

Around 40 members attended our AGM and Conference in Rugby in June.

We heard from Marius Frank of AFA about SEND (see SEND update below), from Ian Acheson on radicalisation, from Chief Inspector Dean Jones on child neglect and vulnerability, and from Charlie Taylor on his youth justice review.



At the AGM the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Assistant Secretary were re-appointed for the coming year.



The Regional Reps remained constant, with Ben Finley appointed to the Yorkshire and Humberside vacancy.

The new Additional Members for 2017-18 are Matt Bywater, Swindon YOT, and Diz Minnit, Milton Keynes YOT.



For full details of the Exec, including many new photos, please see the website. <http://aym.org.uk/about-us/board-members/>

Next month's Newsletter will include an article on the day.

SEND Project Update



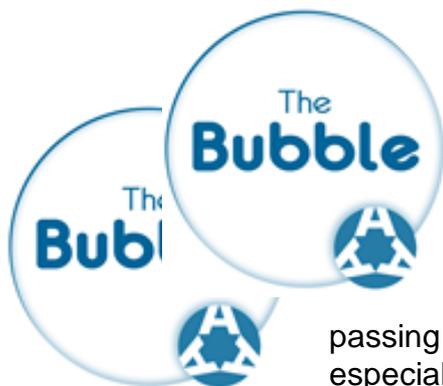
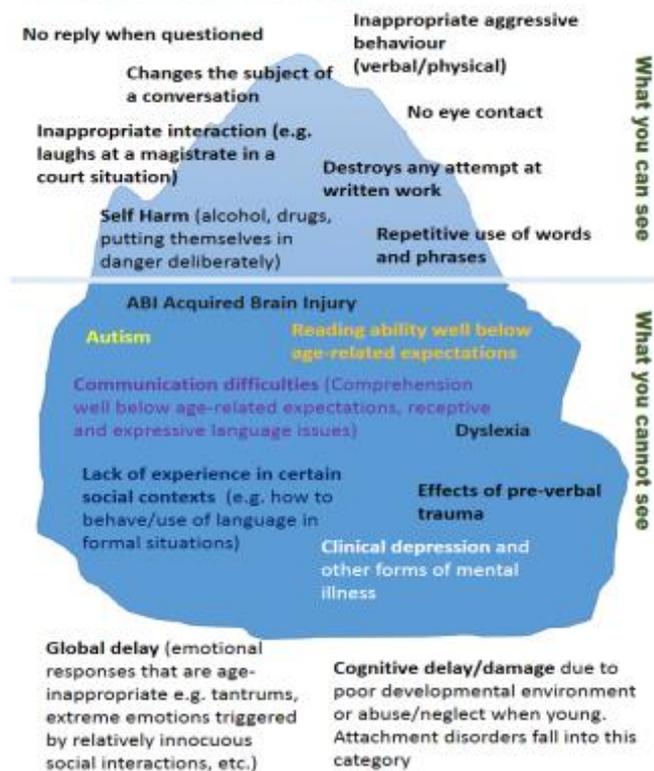
We were delighted to have Marius Frank, Director of Achievement for All (AfA), with us for our AGM. His thoughtful and challenging presentation can be read via the link below. It is well worth looking through, not least for the 'communication iceberg' on this page.

<http://res.afa3as.org.uk/YJBubble/Young Offenders with SEN A New Perspective .pptx>

The **benchmarking** of local areas' current work with young people with SEN is well underway, with over 30 completed. There is some limited capacity available for visits or teleconferences with YOT areas that have not yet responded. Please contact phil.sutton@aym.org.uk

The **research component** of the project, led by Manchester Met University, is also starting. We're looking at the range of information held by local agencies which could be useful to YOTs in their screening and/or assessments for out-of-court disposals.

The Communication Iceberg



“Double the Bubble” campaign launch. Thanks to AfA’s relationship with Microsoft, our on-line training resource, the Youth Justice SEND Bubble, will be improved and relaunched this summer. Our aim is to make it even more widely available, including to panel members, police and magistrates. We aim to double the number of Bubble accounts from the current total of 1,700. You can help by passing on this link to anyone else you think would be interested, especially your local education contacts -

<http://res.afa3as.org.uk/YJBubble/How to open a Bubble Account.pdf>

Aspiring Future Leaders Success

Our third cohort of managers have successfully completed the Solace-run course. It ended last month, having begun in December. The feedback from participants was very positive, with all reporting significant improvements to their skill-base, and looking ahead more confidently to more senior roles.



Members of the programme are pictured at their final session in Rugby together with course leader, Andrew Odgers (4th from right).

What do you think of video court hearings for child defendants?

Transform Justice is researching the impact of video court hearings on vulnerable defendants, including children and young people.

**Transform
Justice**



They would like any YOT officers (or other practitioners) who have observed such hearings to fill in a short anonymous survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/virtualcourts>. The results of this will be used in a report on the subject to be published in September.

The survey closes on 16th July.

SCYJ are Seeking New Board Members

**CALL FOR
BOARD
MEMBERS**

Two or three new Board Members are being sought by SCYJ. We are represented on the Committee by Brendan Finegan, London Rep and Hackney YOT, but it would be great to see a YOT Manager on the Board as well. The closing date is 14th July.



If you are interested see <http://scyj.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/SCYJ-director-JD.pdf>

G4S sells its Children's Homes

CPYNow has reported that G4S have sold their children's homes to Prospects Group, an employee owned company, which offers education, employment and skills services - <http://www.prospects.co.uk>



This involves 18 homes across much of central England being transferred with staff to Prospects. The homes house around 80 young people, many of who are known to YOTs.

This deal does not include Medway or Oakhill STCs, which G4S still owns.

See <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2003769/g4s-completes-sale-of-childrens-homes-for-gbp11m>

Another online article highlights the recent annual general meeting of G4S in London. The organisation 'Open Democracy' attended and reports that the Chair and Chief Exec of G4S were asked questions about performance related pay at Medway STC, the riot last year in HMP Birmingham, suicide rates in custody and more. Open Democracy reports G4S "sidestepped hard questions", although the Chief Exec praised the BBC for their Panorama documentary.



See <https://www.opendemocracy.net/uk/sarah-uncles/G4S-annual-meeting-Reclaim-Justice-Network-Almanza>

Medway STC still 'Inadequate'

On 13th June Ofsted published their most recent inspection of Medway STC. They have rated it as 'Inadequate' once again. Now run by NOMS, having taken over from G4S following the Panorama investigation broadcast in January 2016, the scale of problems at the institution remains high.



You may remember that our Chair, Lesley Tregear, visited Medway in December with Colin Allars to see what is being done to improve the regime. She reported "being alarmed to hear of the behaviours" there previously, so there is clearly still a lot to be done. It is notable that Ofsted's first recommendation relates to safeguarding (page 5 of the report).

For the full report see

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/secure-training-centre-reports/medway/Medway%20STC%20Ofsted%20report%20March%202017.pdf>

‘Child Friendly Youth Justice?’ Conference



This conference is being held on 25th September in Cambridge. It is presented by the Standing Committee for Youth Justice, the National Association for Youth Justice, and the University of Cambridge.



For more information or to book a place please see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/child-friendly-youth-justice-tickets-33586838137>



There is also a call for papers/presentations at <https://form.iotformeuc.com/71213960684357>

HMI Probation Corporate Plan

Chief Inspector of HMIP, Dame Glenys Stacey, has published the corporate plan for 2017-2020.



The ambition for the next three years is an agreed view of good quality youth offending and probation services and how this should be measured, and improved delivery so that the life chances of some of the most challenging and vulnerable people in society are enhanced, and more turn away from crime.

Some YOT themes include:

- “On inspection we find that strong leadership, partnership and governance arrangements are crucial to good performance.” (p8)
- HMIP plan to “develop and test a new Youth Offending Team inspection methodology and approach... and will cover a broader range of the work of Youth Offending Teams.” (p9)
- Thematic inspections will be on public protection & out-of-court disposals (p9).
- “We will select Youth Offending Teams for inspection based predominantly on a targeted, intelligence-led basis, with a small number of others selected at random.” (p11)



It’s an important read for YOT Managers.

See <http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2017/06/HM-Inspectorate-of-Probation-Corporate-Plan-2017-2020.pdf>

Follow us on Twitter to stay up-to-date –

[@AssnYOTmanagers](https://twitter.com/AssnYOTmanagers)



Thematic Reports on 11-15 Year Olds

Public Health England have published three thematic reports analysing recent Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey data on 11-15 year olds, to explore the rising trend in poorer emotional health of young people.



Public Health
England

The series of three reports focus on self-harm, cyberbullying, and emotional wellbeing of adolescent girls. All can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-behaviour-in-school-age-children-hbhc-data-analysis>

These reports examine the data and explore what protective factors may exist in a young person's life which may be linked to their mental health outcomes, ranging from personal attributes, family, school, peer and wider community context. Public Health England has also produced slides from the survey. See <https://www.slideshare.net/PublicHealthEngland/health-behaviour-in-schoolage-children>

Bercow Ten Years On – final surveys

Staff at the Review have developed the final surveys to reach all stakeholders. They now need our help to get to the right audiences.



A survey for children and young people

This is to hear what children and young people think about the support they get. Views can be shared in various ways:

- a survey can be completed online;
- paper versions of the survey can be completed and sent in;
- children and young people can send in a vlog;
- a sorting task can be downloaded for those limited communication skills.



Surveys for commissioners and employers

Those who commission support for SCLN can help on current planning and funding. The views of employers are also sought on the communication skills of young people in the workplace.

The surveys can be accessed [here](http://www.ican.org.uk/bercowsurvey). www.ican.org.uk/bercowsurvey

For more information contact Mandy Grist at mgrist@ican.org.uk.

For up to date information on the review see <http://www.ican.org.uk/en/What-we-do/Bercow.aspx>

Sentencing Council Consultation on Child Cruelty

The SC has published draft guidelines on child cruelty. AYM will be putting together a response in the coming weeks. If you have any contributions or thoughts for this please email jon.obyrne@aym.org.uk



See https://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Child-cruelty-consultation_FINAL_WEB.pdf

Grants Available for Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation Projects



The Centre of Expertise on child sexual abuse is offering grants of up to £25k to statutory and not-for-profit organisations to improve understanding of what works to prevent and tackle child sexual abuse. Organisations need to be providing direct services to children and young people who are at risk of, or are experiencing CSE or CSA.

The closing date is 7th July, and full details are at <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/about-us/evaluation-fund/>

Change of Dates - YJ Convention

In case you missed the change of dates, the Convention is now being held on Tuesday 21st – Wednesday 22nd November at the King Power Stadium in Leicester.



See <http://www.youthjusticeconvention.co.uk>

New Government Appointments at the Ministry of Justice

- Lord Chancellor (paid), and Secretary of State for Justice – Rt Hon David Lidington CBE MP
- Minister of State – Dominic Raab MP
- Parliamentary Under Secretary of State – Sam Gyimah MP
- Parliamentary Under Secretary of State – Phillip Lee MP

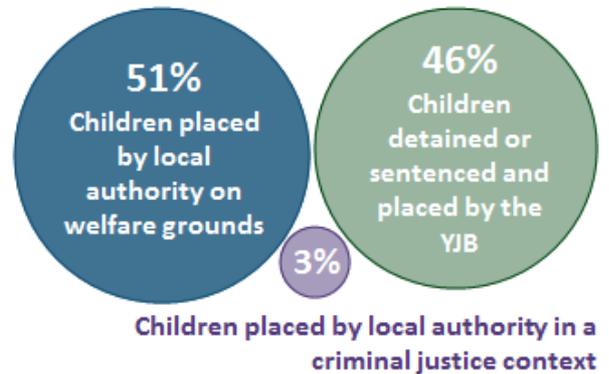


Secure Children's Homes Statistics 2016/17

The Department for Education have released statistics on approved secure children's homes (SCH) placements. The statistics are for England and Wales, at 31 March 2017, listed by placement, gender, age and length of stay.

The key findings include:

- There were 203 children accommodated in SCHs in England and Wales at 31 March 2017, a decrease from 210 last year.
- The number of places contracted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) has decreased, from 138 places at 31 March 2016 to 117 in 2017.
- 46% of children in SCHs on 31 March were detained or sentenced and placed by the YJB, an increase from 42% in 2016. Children placed by local authorities in a criminal justice context decreased to 3%, down from 8% in 2016.



For more details see <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-accommodated-in-secure-childrens-homes-31-march-2017>

Appeal from the Traveller Movement

A briefing by the Traveller Movement focuses on new sentencing guidelines for BAME children and young people, especially those from the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities.



These young people are over-represented in the Youth Justice System, and the Travellers Movement asks all practitioners in the System to promote the new guidelines in sentencing.

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

This follows their research in January about the experiences and over-representation of Gypsy, Traveller and Roma children in the YJS.

<http://travellermovement.org.uk/index.php/newsletter/research-into-gtr-experiences-of-youth-justice/>

Links you may have missed...



Children & Social Work Act 2017 enacted
<http://www.hcpc-uk.co.uk/aboutregistration/socialwork/>

'Child-Friendly' Leeds City Council to support nearby 'inadequate' council

http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2003766/leeds-drafted-in-to-support-inadequate-council?utm_content=&utm_campaign=070617%20SocialCare_JR_MAN_BULL_PR_OMO&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now&utm_medium=adestra_email&utm_term=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2F%2Fcyp%2Fnews%2F2003766%2Fleeds-drafted-in-to-support-inadequate-council

Criminal Justice Alliance briefing on need for an entitlement to RJ

<http://criminaljusticealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/CJA-Need-for-RJ-.pdf>

LGA guidance on Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs)

https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/10.4%20-%20PSPO%20guidance_03_1.pdf

LGA guidance on the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/9.33%20Get%20in%20on%20the%20Act%20-%20Homelessness%20Reduction%20Act_v04_Web.pdf

Rapper 'George the Poet' film clip on hate crime

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/george-poet-and-commission-team-hate-crime-film>



Rt Hon David Lidington speech on being sworn in as Lord Chancellor

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/lord-chancellor-swearing-in-speech-david-lidington>



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