
Members' Bulletin

Latest Update from
the Association of
Youth Offending Team Managers Ltd

June 2017



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AGM 2017 – last minute bookings

There is still time to book a space at our AGM and Conference on 6th June in Rugby.

The speakers will be Charlie Taylor of the YJB, Chief Insp Dean Jones of NPCC, Ian Acheson on extremism, and Marius Frank of AFA.



We are pleased to welcome Charlie Taylor, who has stepped in as Colin Allars is regrettably unable to join us.

Contact jon.obyrne@aym.org.uk to book a place.



AYM Membership Costs Remain the same for 2017

The Executive has decided to keep the subscription at current rates for another year. This means that they have not increased for 7 years, despite the increased activity and contribution we make to many agendas.

For current rates see:
<http://aym.org.uk/membership/application/>



AYM Joins YJB Youth Court Issues Group



We are pleased to have been asked to become a standing member of the YJB's Youth Court Issues Group (YCIG). This is useful, as the group provides feedback and input to magistrates nationally via the Magistrates Association. It also allows us to join other national youth court partner agencies and ensure our YOT Manager voice is heard, especially to share our knowledge of practice, young people, and our value base.

Our Chair, Lesley Tregear, will be representing us, and will provide feedback in due course. She has also recently met with Charlie Taylor, and discussed our court concerns with him.



It is critical that Lesley receives your views on current youth court practices, so she can influence national policy and system reform. Please email your views to jonobyne@aym.org.uk

Schools and Sexualised Behaviours

We are seeking your views on your experience of how schools are dealing with sexualised behaviours.



We understand that some schools are automatically referring such cases to the police or YOTs, which is of concern given that schools are already able to deal with physical/violent behaviours. We are concerned that this approach does not safeguard children effectively, and can potentially escalate the harmful sexual behaviour.

Please email your views to jon.obyrne@aym.org.uk for collation.

ILM5 and ILM 7 Courses Update

Our third Aspiring Future Leaders Course (ILM5) will end in June. The feedback so far has been very positive. More feedback will follow.



The ILM7 Certificate in Leadership and Management with Solace began last month and will run until October. The first session went very well with all involved reporting useful learning.

SEND - Year 2



Following on from the update in the May Newsletter, 53 YOTs have indicated an interest in working with the project over the remainder of this year. Given that the contract managers (DfE/ YJB/ MoJ) set us a target of working with 35 areas, this is a fantastic response from members. We anticipate being able to work with all 53, offering a graduated level of support. We are currently working with clusters of YOTs on a baselining exercise to that we can better understand the support that areas would find most helpful.



Colleagues from our third partner, Manchester Metropolitan University, are making contact with the five areas which are taking part in further research into early prevention of offending by young people with SEND.

The overarching aim of the project is to "Improve Outcomes for Young People in the Youth Justice System who have SEND". Benchmarking activity has already been completed with nineteen YOTs, and early feedback has been gratifying:

- *"We are feeling more confident about our work to date as a result of the benchmark activity. This will help us to move to the next stage of where we want to be."* – a NW YOT Manager
- *"We have made significant changes to our processes and practice since attending the regional workshops. It's great to see this reflected in our Ten Key Statement ratings!"* – a London YOT Manager

The project team looks forward to continuing to work with the membership in the months ahead. Marius will be giving a presentation and be available for informal consultation at the AYM AGM, as will Phil.

For further details contact:

Phil Sutton, AYM Project Officer (SEND) phil.sutton@aym.org.uk
Marius Frank, Director AfA Marius.frank@afaeducation.org

AYM Autumn Conference –date for your diary



We are in the planning stage for our autumn conference. It will be hosted by Manchester Metropolitan University in their School of Art on **25th October 2017**. More details will follow in the next Bulletin.



Valuing Youth Diversion: Practice Sharing Workshops

During May the Centre for Justice Innovation (CJI), in collaboration with AYM, has run three successful workshops on youth diversion for over 40 practitioners.

Ben Estep of CJI says:

“Youth diversion generates better outcomes for young people and their communities. But despite the strong evidence that it can reduce reoffending as well as costs, current diversionary provision is piecemeal and often precariously funded, with schemes requiring support to continue. The workshops were designed in response to this, giving practitioners across the country the much-welcomed opportunity to increase their knowledge of effective practice, share experiences with colleagues, and hear how to best communicate the financial benefits of diversion.”



“Special thanks go to the guest speakers, a highlight of the workshops. These were Anna Mullen (Restorative Practices Team Manager, Surrey Family Services) on Surrey’s Youth Restorative Intervention (YRI), and Simon Bramford (Operations Manager, Suffolk YOS) and Darren Oxbrow (Police Sergeant, Suffolk Constabulary) on Suffolk’s Enhanced Triage. Thanks also to Hampshire, Warwickshire and Leeds for hosting the workshops, and to AYM for their help in making them happen.”



For more information on the Centre for Justice Innovation’s youth diversion work and to download ‘Valuing Youth Diversion: A toolkit for practitioners’, please visit www.justiceinnovation.org.

BAFTA Award for BBC Panorama

The Panorama programme into abuse at Medway STC in 2016 has received a BAFTA under the category of ‘current affairs’.



While we are far more concerned about the welfare of the children in the secure estate than awards, this recognition reflects the need to keep highlighting youth custody in the public arena. Transparency is critical.



<http://www.kentnews.co.uk/news/bafta-for-documentary-into-abuse-at-medway-secure-training-centre-1-5017568>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-39563665>

AYM Feedback from SCYJ Committee Meeting

The most recent SCYJ meeting was attended by Brendan Finegan, Hackney YOT Head of Service, and London AYM Rep. The following topics were discussed:



- Professor Hazel Neal gave feedback on the work of Beyond Youth Custody over the past 5 years. They have identified much best practice which can be found at <http://www.beyondyouthcustody.net>
- Self-harm in YOIs has been the focus of a PhD by Poppy Harrison. She explained her findings to date, including that custody is more damaging for low risk, low harm children. Members may remember that a year ago she gave evidence to the Justice Select Committee along with Hannah Doughty of AYM.
- The election featured in discussions about likely scenarios post 8th June.
- There was also some debate about lawyers asking for changes to the location of serious crime hearings in the Crown Courts, and how they relate to the findings of Lord Carlile's report a couple of years ago.
- Finally, Brendan gave an update on the work of AYM and YOTs, including the second year of the SEND project via DfE, and his recent meeting with the London Deputy Mayor for Policing.

Free Webinar on SCLN and Looked After Children

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and National Association of Virtual School Heads is running a joint webinar on Thursday, 13 July between 1pm-1.45pm.



This will cover:

- The role of Virtual School Heads in promoting the educational achievement of looked after children
- The often unidentified speech, language and communication needs of looked after children and their impact
- How speech and language therapists support the identification and appropriate response to those needs
- Local good practice of speech and language therapy services working with their Virtual School head in Hackney



To register please see

https://www.rcslt.org/news/webinars/giving_voice_looked_after_children

For further information contact Peter Just at peter.just@rcslt.org

Autism Research – YOT staff asked to contribute

Experienced YOT staff are invited to take part in a research study exploring how youth offending teams prepare young people diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Condition for the transition to adult criminal justice services.



The aim of the study is to explore the experience of the transition from YOTs to adult criminal justice services for young people diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) from the perspective of YOT workers. The research aims to gain an understanding of how YOT workers support young people with ASC and how the approach of adult criminal justice services might compare to this.



The researcher is looking to recruit individuals working within YOTs, who have experience of working with young people diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Condition. Participants will be asked to take part in an interview lasting no more than one hour, by phone, at your office, or at the University of Manchester.



For further information please contact: joanna.curry@student.manchester.ac.uk

Conference - “Child Friendly Youth Justice?”

A conference is being held on 25th September 2017 in Cambridge. It is Jointly presented by SCYJ, NAYJ and the Centre for Community Gender and Social Justice at the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge.



The conference will bring together academics, practitioners and policy makers to discuss the latest research, practice and policy thinking concerning child friendly youth justice.



Keynote speakers will include: Charlie Taylor, Chair of the YJB, Professor Lesley McAra of the University of Edinburgh, and Professor Jo Phoenix of Durham University.



For further details see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/child-friendly-youth-justice-tickets-33586838137>

MOJ Youth Custody Data – March 2017



There were just 858 children in custody in March, 5 fewer than in February, and 23 fewer than the previous year. Of these, 42 were aged 10-14 whilst 816 were aged 15-17.

See <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-custody-data>

Another MOJ link shows that the number of children in the CJS has decreased by 72% between 2006-2016, a resounding endorsement for the successful work of YOT multi-agency partnerships.

See <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-justice-system-statistics-quarterly-december-2016>

General Election 2017 Manifestos

Should you wish to check out how youth justice featured in the election, these links are to the manifestos of the main political parties in England, in alphabetical order.

Conservative: <https://www.conservatives.com/manifesto>

Green Party: <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/green-guarantee/>

Labour: <http://www.labour.org.uk/index.php/manifesto2017>

Liberal Democrats: <http://www.libdems.org.uk/manifesto>

UK Independence Party: <http://www.ukip.org/manifesto2017>

As we are an English Association, the manifestos for Plaid Cymru and the SNP are not listed, but are available online.

manifesto
man·i·fes·to \,ma-nə-'fes-(,)tō
noun
a written statement declaring publicly the intentions, motives, or views of its issuer.



Stop & Search Guide

Stop-Watch have published a guide on stop and search for children and parents at <http://www.stop-watch.org/uploads/documents/SW-Guide-May-2017-online-version.pdf>

YJLC Regional Seminars



As previously featured in this Bulletin, YJLC has a dedicated website containing comprehensive information and legal resources on youth justice law and a team of youth justice lawyers who provide free specialist advice on youth justice legal issues to all YOTs. To access their service please email info@yjlc.uk or see their website at www.yjlc.uk

YJLC is planning a series of seminars across the UK in response to the challenges faced by YOT workers across the country, and help practitioners to keep their understanding of the law accurate and current. These training sessions will cover topics including out of court disposals, bail and remand options, and sentencing with focus on the latest changes to the law and what they mean in practice.

They plan to deliver tailored, accessible and affordable training to YOTs to achieve this aim. So, they are planning to hold regional seminars enabling joint commissioning of their training by clusters of Local Authorities. If your Local Authority would be interested to speak to them about arranging a seminar in your area, please get in touch with alicemillest@justforkidslaw.org.



YJ Convention 2017

AYM is joining the planning group for the YJ Convention this year, following an invitation by the YJB. More details will follow soon.



Children's Homes Review

A charity, the Social Care Institute of Excellence, has been commissioned by the Independent Children's Homes Association to produce a national review of participation in children's homes.



For details see http://www.scie.org.uk/consultancy/co-production/?utm_campaign=8166280_SCIE%20e%20bulletin%2028%20April%202017&utm_medium=email&utm_source=SCIE&utm_sfid=0030f00002kaj8mAAA&utm_role=Manager&dm_i=4O5,4V154,P54SQU,IDRYD,1#icha-part-rev

Links you may have missed...



Children's Commissioner for England – Business Plan 2017-18

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publications?field_publicaton_category_tid=5

Government has released draft sentencing guideline on breach

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmjust/1105/110502.htm>

YJB guidance on YOTs working with Universities

<https://yjresourcehub.uk/our-community/resources-for-sharing/item/424-yot-academic-partnership-working-guide.html%20>

Children's Services funding crisis

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/envers-insights-blog/2003670/it's-time-to-shout-about-children's-services-funding-crisis>

Jon Collins of the RJC moving to become CEO of the Magistrates Association

<https://www.magistrates-association.org.uk/news/restorative-justice-council-chief-executive-joins-magistrates-association>

New partnership between Edge Hill University and Cheshire Youth Justice Services

<https://www.magistrates-association.org.uk/news/restorative-justice-council-chief-executive-joins-magistrates-association>



RSQM award for St Helens Youth Justice Service

<https://www.restorativejustice.org.uk/news/st-helens-youth-justice-service-awarded-rsgm>

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