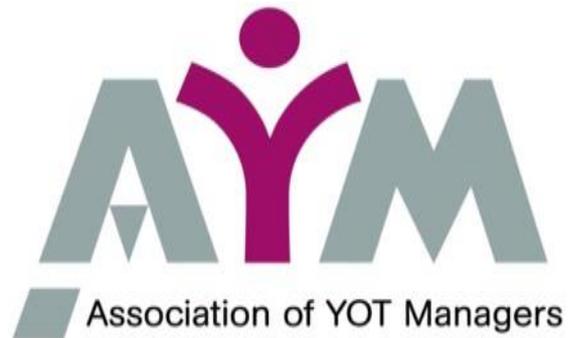

Members' Bulletin

Latest Update from
the Association of
Youth Offending Team Managers Ltd

September 2017



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Innovative Partnership Shortlisted for Award

In recognition of the success of the SEND project, AYM has nominated our partner, AFA, for the Howard League's Community Awards, in the category "Organisation of the Year".



We nominated them for their "exceptional approach to partnership working aimed at improving outcomes for children and young people in youth justice system in who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)".



We are delighted to report that AfA has been shortlisted.

John Hawkins Award 2017

AYM is again promoting best practice with this annual award to be presented at the Youth Justice Convention.

We will be seeking nominations from AYM members who can demonstrate innovation and creativity in youth justice.



It was won last year by Leeds YOS for their BeSMART programme, and previous winners included StreetDoctors and the Skill Mill.

More details and how to apply will be in the October Bulletin....

AYM Joint Conference 25th October



AYM is pleased to announce its autumn conference to be held in Manchester in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU).



The main theme will be the increasing complexity of needs of young people under supervision.

Confirmed speakers are:

- **Leanne Dowse**, Associate Professor University of New South Wales, on young people with complex needs in the criminal justice system.
- **Hannah Smithson**, Professor of Criminology and Youth Justice at MMU, on SEND and youth justice.
- **Marius Frank**, Director of Achievement for All, on the SEND project run with AYM and MMU.
- **Gill Eshleby**, Strategic Manager, and **Sarah Caden**, SCLN Lead, County Durham YOS, on the health needs of young people and ensuring delivery through effective governance.



Lunch will be provided free of charge.

The venue will be the MMU Manchester School of Art, Benzie Building.

Join us for a fascinating day!

To book a place please email jon.obyrne@aym.org.uk



Stay up-to-date on YJ issues

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



follow us on
twitter

YJB Changes 1st September 2017

The planned change of functions for the YJB are happening as we come to press. All YOT Managers will have received a letter with more detail.

Youth custodial provision moves to HMPPS, while the commissioning of services moves to MOJ.

These changes start on 1st September, as reported in the YJ Bulletin no 87.



Colin Allars said: “the YJB of the future will monitor across the youth justice system, retain our current role with youth offending services, provide advice to ministers and share good practice. We have not finalised our future structure and we will continue to seek views on this. We intend to host workshops that will look to define some of our functions in more detail.”



See

<http://youthjusticeboard.newsweaver.co.uk/yots2/2asszcdxqkg17f17wz742t?email=true&a=11&p=52176838>

Sector Led Improvement – now delivered through AYM

As reported in last month’s Newsletter, the next round of training will take place **16 – 18 October 2017** and is open to Heads of Service or equivalent and those in ‘operational manager’ roles. If you or a colleague are interested please contact our Programme Manager, Lee Westlake on 07766 746364 or via lee.westlake@aym.org.uk



Bookings for Peer Reviews from January 2018 are also open - more information from Lee.

NSPCC Impact & Evidence Hub



The NSPCC has developed a useful hub on safeguarding children, bringing together recent evaluation and research. Subjects covered include neglect, sexual abuse, looked-after children, early years and families facing adversity.

See <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/impact-evidence-evaluation-child-protection/>

Help Us Improve Your YOT Governance

- Do you have examples of good practice to share in relation to the governance of your YOT?
- Perhaps you have developed an induction programme for new YOT board members, or a formal agreement about the level of seniority required of board members, and who can deputise for them?
- Have you found ways of engaging senior representation from NHS England or the education sector?
- Does your board have formal arrangements for engaging with elected local authority members or with magistrates?
- How do you help ensure your board listens to the views of young people, their parents and the victims of their offending?
- Has your board found some new ways to hold the secure estate to account for the quality of its work with young people?



The SEND project team has received approval from DfE to undertake a new piece of work to support YOT governance. This relates particularly to local partnership working for young people with SEND; but given that these young people make up a large proportion of the caseload, we expect that this piece of work will have wider relevance.

Last month we met the Lead Inspector at HMIP who welcomed our initiative and is keen to help us ensure it can support local areas in their preparations for their new inspection framework.

We have developed a draft set of “ten statements of effective governance in YOTs” which mirrors the project’s earlier work on effective practice statements. We now want to develop a knowledge bank of good practice to which we can point local boards who are looking to improve their effectiveness.



**WE NEED
YOUR HELP!**

All offers to phil.sutton@aym.org.uk by the end of October, please.

Criminal Justice Alliance Awards 2017

**Criminal
Justice
Alliance**

The CJA annual awards are open for entries. It would be great to see YOTs gaining recognition for some of our innovative work. The closing date is 22nd September, and further details can be found at <http://criminaljusticealliance.org/cja-awards-2017/>

All Party Parliamentary Group on Knife Crime Launched



The MP for Croydon Central, Sarah Jones (Labour), is holding the first meeting on 12th September. The Group will look at new measures needed, policy recommendations, and focus on prevention and early intervention.

AYM will contribute to their work, with Brendan Finegan from Hackney YJS leading.

There are 16 MPs sitting on the Group, so please check the list below, as YOTs will doubtless want to contact their local MP, given we have an important contribution to make to their work.



- Kate Osamor - Edmonton, Labour
- Steve Reed - Croydon North, Labour
- Karen Buck - Westminster North, Labour
- Marsha de Cordova - Battersea, Labour
- Rushanara Ali - Bethnal Green, Labour
- Eleanor Smith - Wolverhampton South West, Labour
- Joan Ryan - Enfield North, Labour
- Dawn Butler - Brent Central, Labour
- Richard Burden - Birmingham Northfield, Labour
- Jack Dromey - Birmingham Erdington, Labour
- Catherine West - Hornsey and Wood Green, Labour
- Will Quince - Colchester, Conservative
- Ross Thompson - Aberdeen South, Conservative
- Marcus Fysh - Yeovil, Conservative
- David Linden - Glasgow East, SNP

See the Evening Standard coverage at <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/london-mp-sets-up-allparty-group-to-combat-knife-crime-a3616916.html>

NAYJ Briefing on Youth Custody

NAYJ have published “the ‘transformation’ of youth custody, a discussion paper” by Dr Di Hart.



She concludes that the secure estate is too fragmentary (interesting in the light of the YJB changes highlighted above), that government policy does not support the ‘child first, offender second’ approach, but that there are welcome indications that the punitive approach is diminishing.

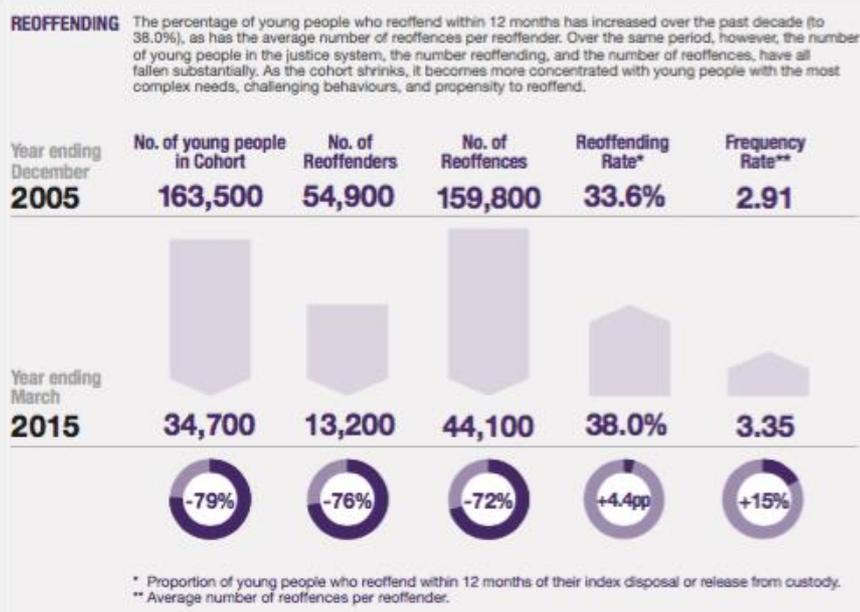
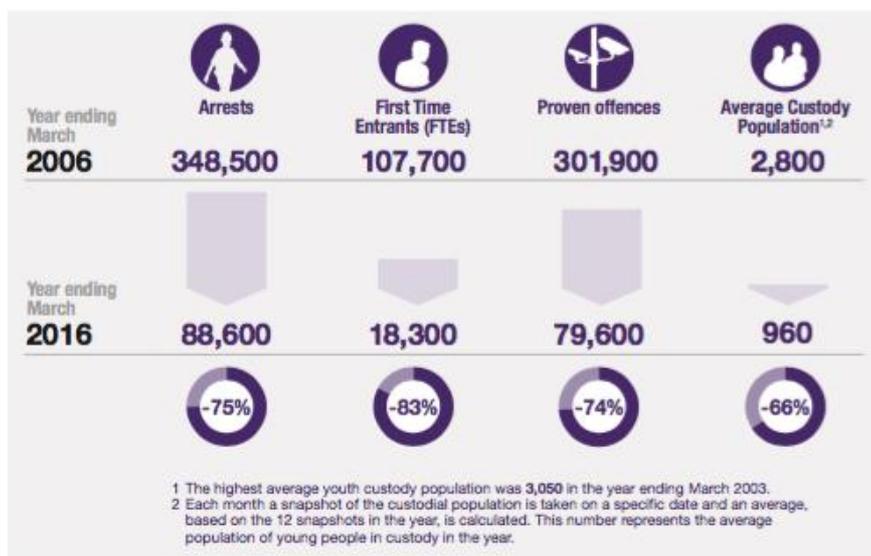
See <http://thenayj.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/NAYJ-Briefing-Transformation-of-Youth-Custody-May17.pdf>

YJB Annual Report & Accounts 2016/17 Published

The YJB's annual report is now available online. It includes some useful facts and figures showing the incredible success of the YJS, which should be of use to YOT Managers, examples of which are shown below. It features performance statistics, details about Board members, and a comprehensive financial statement. It's worth looking through, if a little lengthy at 76 pages.

For the full report see

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/630201/YJB_Annual_Report_and_Accounts_2016-17_Web.pdf



StreetDoctors - New Chair and Knife Crime Initiative

Gareth Jones, our former Chair and current Assistant Secretary, has recently become the Chair of StreetDoctors.

StreetDoctors provides training to young people involved in offending. It was set up in Liverpool in 2008, and has been the recipient of the AYM John Hawkins Award for innovative youth justice practice. They can be contacted via <http://streetdoctors.org/contact-us/>



Violence is the third leading cause of death of young people in Europe. Some of these deaths happen because the people present do not know what to do; they panic and don't call for help. Teaching young people to call 999 and effectively deliver simple first aid can and does save lives. But highlighting the death and significant injury associated with violent crime also helps to discourage young people from carrying weapons in the first place.



One of Gareth's ambitions as Chair is to bring StreetDoctors staff into all youth custody facilities to address the rise in knife crime, and he is in preliminary negotiations with the YJB to bring this about.

Gareth is pictured on the left in this recent photo, with Sean Creaney of NAYJ and Lord McNally.

The full story is reported in CYPNow on this link http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2004097/knife-crime-initiative-aims-for-expansion-into-youth-custody?utm_content=&utm_campaign=240817_YouthJustice&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now&utm_medium=adestra_email&utm_term=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fnews%2F2004097%2Fknife-crime-initiative-aims-for-expansion-into-youth-custody

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to those YOT Managers who have joined us recently, whether new or returning members.



RCSLT and Criminal Justice

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists has concluded its 2017 review and consolidation of its Justice Evidence Base.



The report provides a useful breakdown of the evidence base for SLCN in the Criminal Justice System. It covers the prevalence of SCLN, the implications for people, identification and assessment, and suitable provision to address need.

Hackney YJS and Lambeth YOS were involved in the research, as was Feltham YOI.

For more information see

<https://www.rcslt.org/speech-and-language-therapy/slt-work-settings/justice-slcni-justice-evidence-base2017>

Court Closures – a brief update

Judge says court closures will have a negative impact on Youth Justice

<https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/law/court-closures-judge-warns-of-impact-on-youth-justice-/5061975.article>

MOJ response to the 2015 consultation on the provision of the court and tribunal estate.

The outcome is stated as: *“Having considered carefully all responses to the consultation, we have made a decision to close 86 court and tribunals and retain 5. 64 sites will close as proposed in the consultation, with a further 22 closures taking place but with changes to the original proposals. These changes, many suggested by respondents, include the establishment of suitable alternative venues, such as the use of local civic buildings; or different venues in the HMCTS estate to those originally proposed.”*



https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/499518/national-consultation-document.pdf

Free SCLN Resources & Support for YOTs

The Communication Trust is a coalition of more than 50 not-for-profit organisations. Working together, they support everyone who works with children and young people in England to promote speech, language and communication development.

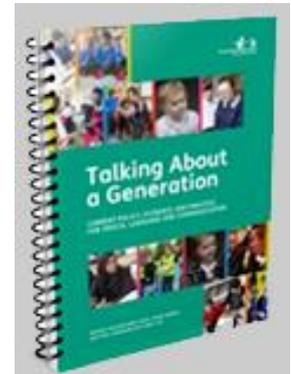


They offer a range of information, tools and resources to enable practitioners to improve their practice, many of which are free to download. To access all their resources and find out more about their work please see <https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/>

Practitioners will also find a series of short online, universal level activities for quick and easy on-the-spot learning. You can register for the SLCF for free at www.slcframework.org.uk

Two of their initiatives to highlight are:

- ❖ Their Speech, Language and Communication Framework. This is a free online self-evaluation tool which sets out the skills and knowledge that everyone working with children and young people needs to know and be able to do in order to support the speech, language and communication development of those they work with.
- ❖ They have published a new report entitled “Talking About a Generation”. This explores the development of speech, language and communication skills in children and young people, especially those who struggle to communicate. It reviews recent developments in policy and practice affecting these children and young people, examining the impact of SLCN on health and wellbeing, educational progress and employability beyond school. To download a copy of the report, go to www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/talkingaboutageneration



For more information about any of these areas please contact Rosie Alouat at ralouat@thecommunicationtrust.org.uk

YJ Convention 2017

This year's YJ Convention is being held in Leicester, a venue that has been used previously.



The YJB have been consulting various stakeholders to ensure that the Convention is as effective and relevant as possible. This has included some input from AYM to ensure the needs of YOT Managers are included.



The two days are split into four themes, with Day 1 focusing on YJ reforms, and the exploitation of children; and Day 2 addressing complex behaviours, and the risks to and behaviours of young people online.

As usual, the John Hawkins Award will be presented during the Convention by our AYM Chair, Lesley Tregear.

The draft agenda for Day 1 is available at <http://www.youthjusticeconvention.co.uk/agenda>

Previous Bulletins and Newsletters Available Online

Member Bulletins and Newsletters for 2017 are now available on our website, and unlike most magazine back issues they are free!

See <http://aym.org.uk/publications/newsletters-and-other-documents/>



Ofsted Publishes Inspection of Rainsbrook STC

The results of the inspection are far from impressive, but do show some improvement since the last report.

Overall effectiveness is shown as requires improvement. Promoting positive behaviour and the effectiveness of leaders and managers were inadequate, with all other categories being requires improvement.



For full details see

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/secure-training-centre-reports/rainsbrook/Rainsbrook%20STC%20Ofsted%20report%20June%202017%20%28PDF%29.pdf>

Job Opportunities – Milton Keynes & St Helens

Milton Keynes YOT are advertising for a Youth Offending Team Officer. The closing date is 22nd September, with an interview date of 9th October.



For more detail see <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/jobs-careers>

For an informal discussion about the role please call 01908 391000 and speak to Diz Minnitt or Anita Johnston.

St Helens Borough Council are recruiting to two YJ posts.

Firstly, a Safer Communities Service Manager to manage its Youth Offending and Community Safety Services. The successful candidate will lead on effective and efficient delivery, and on strategic development of services.

Secondly, an operational Manager to join a dedicated team with responsibility for operational services to children, families and victims. This is a fixed term post to April 2019, within the YJS.



For more information please visit the St Helens Borough Council website at <https://secure.sthelens.net/website/cccvacancies.nsf> or call Jason Pickett, Assistant Director, on 01744 671810.

Some links you may have missed

Understanding suicide warning signs in children

<https://www.mgmentalhealth.org/research/profiles/understanding-suicide-warning-signs-in-children>

Lord Ramsbotham Bill on criminal records

<http://www.unlock.org.uk/criminal-records-bill-receives-first-reading-house-lords/>

Rise in long term NEETs

<http://www.impetus-pef.org.uk/policy-initiatives/youth-jobs-index/>



DfE publish research into safeguarding and radicalisation

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/635262/Safeguarding_and_Radicalisation.pdf

Ofsted reported as dropping separate social care annual report

http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2004051/ofsted-ditches-separate-social-care-annual-report?utm_content=&utm_campaign=080817_DailyNews%20&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now&utm_medium=adestra_email&utm_term=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fnews%2F2004051%2Fofsted-ditches-separate-social-care-annual-report

Inquest calls for STCs to be closed and for reinvestment in community-based child focused therapeutic alternatives.

https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/aug/17/britain-is-failing-young-people-in-custody?CMP=share_btn_tw

CYPNow reports government criticised for excluding social workers and other professionals from mental health plans

http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2004085/government-criticised-for-excluding-social-workers-from-mental-health-plans?utm_content=&utm_campaign=210817_YouthWorkNews&utm_source=Children%20%26%20Young%20People%20Now&utm_medium=adestra_email&utm_term=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cypnow.co.uk%2Fnews%2F2004085%2Fgovernment-criticised-for-excluding-social-workers-from-mental-health-plans

Report on policing changes needed for the digital age

<http://www.reform.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Bobbies-on-the-net.pdf>

Private Members Bill

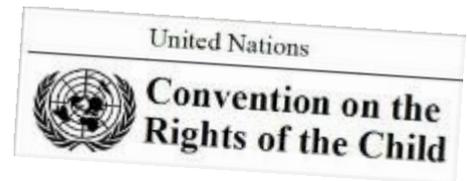
The Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill is a private member's bill introduced by Lord Dholakia (Liberal Democrat). The Bill received its first reading in the House of Lords on 26 June 2017 and is scheduled to have its second reading on 8 September 2017. It has just one clause to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12.



Lord Dholakia introduced substantially identical bills in the 2013–14 and 2015–16 session, which did not progress beyond second reading, and the 2016–17 session, which did not progress beyond first reading.

AYM's position statement on this issue is "we believe the age of criminal responsibility at 10 years of age is too low and should be raised to at least 12." See <http://aym.org.uk/about-us/where-we-stand/>

Whilst this bill is unlikely to come into law, it is encouraging to see pressure being maintained. Our law is not in tune with the UNCRC, which considers a criminal age of responsibility below 12 as 'not internationally acceptable'. Most EU countries pitch this at 12 or older.



For more detail see <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/ageofcriminalresponsibility/stages.html>

Please note: The AYM Bulletin shares items which we feel may be of interest to members, but this should not be taken as endorsement of individuals, organisations or their products. The views expressed in this Bulletin do not necessarily represent those of AYM or its membership.

