
Members' Bulletin

January 2019



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Draft National Standards – AYM Statement

CYPNow recently asked us for a brief statement on the draft National Standards. We reproduce it here for the attention of Members.

Andy Peaden, Chair of AYM said:



“The draft National Standards raised some concerns for AYM. The focus on function rather than process means that they may be interpreted in differing ways across the country, leading to less consistency.

“We need clear standards to ensure that there isn’t justice by geography, and that children remain at the heart of the process, with their voices heard and a joined-up approach across all the services they need to prevent offending.

“So, we welcome the ‘child first, offender second’ principle laid out in the Standards. This needs to be firmly embedded into all agencies and government departments involved in the Youth Justice System. We would encourage an approach which creates specific and accountable National Standards for the whole YJS, not just YOTs and local partners.

“The accountability of Management Boards and other local partnerships needs more focus than this draft provides, and there are other areas of practice needing more detail or inclusion.



“We have been encouraged by our discussions with Charlie Taylor, Colin Allars and Stephanie Roberts-Bibby at the YJ Convention. They joined our Executive meeting and we had a frank and positive discussion about the Standards. We hope that this will assist in strengthening these draft National Standards and in updating the relevant operational guidance, so they support services in ensuring consistent and high-quality practice.

“Finally, we would wish to stress the core aim of the YJS, as laid out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which is “to prevent offending by children and young people”. This aim needs to permeate everything included in the draft National Standards.”

A copy of our full response to the YJB consultation is available to Members by emailing our Editor lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk

ILM7 for YOT Managers – Places Available

We are still planning to run our second ILM7 cohort from March.

This is for the Leadership & Management Certificate for YOT Senior Managers, aimed at YOT Managers.



We need more interested people if we are to run the course, so please get in touch if you or a colleague are interested in exploring it as an option. The course has been well received, and is the only YOT Manager specific course available. The cost is £2,300 per person.

For further information please contact lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk

Work for AYM – Business Support

AYM is seeking additional Business Support for its work.



We are looking for an experienced YOT Admin Officer /Manager interested in extending their hours. It is for one day a week, with flexible working hours to meet the needs of AYM and the person's existing work commitments.

The following is a list of tasks involved:

- + Managing AGM registration, venue booking, seeking nominations etc
- + AYM Conferences administration, invoices etc
- + Setting up Training Programmes
- + Maintaining AYM membership list
- + Invoicing of AYM membership subs
- + Admin Support to AYM Chair / Vice Chair
- + Admin support to YJSLI
- + Updating of AYM website
- + Changes to AYM website structure (if needed)



The salary is £5,300pa for 0.2 FTE.

All expressions of interest or CVs (max 3 pages) need to be submitted by Friday 8th February to lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk
Recruitment will be decided on written application, or possibly by telephone interview.

Please Share!

Please pass this on to anyone in your Local Authority who may be interested.

Ofsted Annual Report 2017/18 and SEND Provision

The Ofsted Annual Report paints a concerning picture of SEND provision across the country. A brief summary is given on page 8, as follows:



“... we have seen a continuing lack of coordinated 0–25 strategies and poor post-19 provision. We have seen a continuing trend of rising exclusions among children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Mental health needs are not being supported sufficiently. The quality of education, health and care (EHC) plans is far too variable. Critically, the gap in performance and outcomes for children with SEND is widening between the best and the worst local areas.”

Given the conclusions of our SEND Project with AFA, that too many children in the YJS are not being recognised as SEND, this is concerning.

The full report is found at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/761606/29523_ofsted_annual_report_2017-18_041218.pdf

The BBC have also reported on the Annual Report from a SEND angle, with the headline “Missing special needs support a ‘national scandal’ ”

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-46400397>

SEND Money Not Enough

Extra government funding announced by the Education Secretary Damian Hinds for SEND is insufficient, according to ADCS. The additional £250m is for additional classroom support for SEND children and young people.



Matt Dunkley of ADCS said the money “is welcome, but the £125m a year on offer falls far short of solving the crisis, let alone the existing and projected funding gap.” He called for bold action by government to address the issues fully.

<http://adcs.org.uk/sen/article/adcs-response-to-new-send-announcements>

LAC 13 times more likely to be criminalised

Children in care are 13 times more likely to be criminalised than other young people, research suggests, according to the BBC. The Victoria Derbyshire programme featured the arrests of children in children's homes for minor acts.

For more information see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-46608520>

Reducing the Criminalisation of LAC

The DfE, Home Office and MoJ have jointly issued "The National Protocol on Reducing Unnecessary Criminalisation of Looked-After Children and Care Leavers."

This is a welcome document (given the statistic above), which sets out clear principles for practice. It is aimed at local authorities, police, YOTs, CPS, HMCTS, Youth Panels, and local health services. The starting point is avoiding the prosecution of looked after children and care leavers.



Translating this into practice on the ground is always the difficult part. To assist, implementation is suggested via a model local multi-agency protocol, which is included as an appendix to the report.

Please see

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765082/The_national_protocol_on_reducing_unnecessary_criminalisation_of_looked-after_children_and_care_leavers.pdf

Looked After Children & Custody

The University of Bedfordshire has published a brief review of the relationship between care status and child incarceration, and the implications for service provision.



Written by Tim Bateman, Anne-Marie Day and John Pitts, it aims to identify the pathways of LAC into through and leaving custody and to show how these might differ from children with no care experience. They conclude that LAC children are more likely to be criminalised and imprisoned due to dynamics within the care system, and also that the dynamics of the YJS can amplify these.

The review is found at

https://www.beds.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/592882/Nuffield-Literature-review-final.pdf

Call to End Child Imprisonment

Article 39 and other national organisations have launched a campaign to end child imprisonment.



They aim to:

- ⇒ Press for the closure of England's child prisons and raise awareness of the harms of child imprisonment
- ⇒ Propose a child welfare-based and human rights compliant secure model for the small number of children who cannot be safely looked after and supported in the community
- ⇒ Push for responsibility for detained children to be moved out of the government department that deals with adult imprisonment. At a local level, responsibility for the care and support of detained children must lie with children's social services.
- ⇒ Seek changes to law and practice so that deprivation of liberty is an absolute measure of last resort, leading to substantially fewer children being detained. Remove punishment and deterrence as reasons for locking up children.

For more detail see

<https://article39.org.uk/endchildimprisonment/>

EndChildimprisonment

Or <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/nov/08/child-imprisonment-is-wrong-lets-end-it>

POA Challenge Youth Estate Working Conditions Changes

In December the Prison Officers' Association went to the High Court, as they say working conditions for officers are being changed without negotiation.



The dispute is over the proposals to require all prison officers working in the youth justice custody service to complete a specialist qualification within five years, or be transferred to the adult estate. The POA's case is that this would introduce a 'mobility restriction' for officers between the adult and youth estates.

AYM supports prison staff being suitably qualified to help safeguard children and young people, especially given the negative events in the youth estate in recent years. Staff being required to have specialist child skills has to be positive progress.

We hope this will be resolved soon. See

<http://converseprisonnews.com/poa-122018/>

Ofsted Inspection of Rainsbrook STC

Ofsted have published their latest inspection of Rainsbrook. This shows an overall rating of “Requires Improvement”, with 5 areas requiring improvement and 2 rated good.



They say there have been sustained improvements over the past year at the STC. But more is still needed to ensure children and young people are safeguarded, and that they receive consistent care. The living environment is improved, but violence continues to be high although mostly at a ‘relatively low level’, a phrase that raises concerns. A coherent strategy to manage violence remains outstanding.

So progress has been made, but it is more than 3 years since G4S lost their contract to run the STC following serious safeguarding concerns. Improvement seems to be happening slowly.

The full Ofsted report is found at <https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50040904>

Overall effectiveness	Requires Improvement
The safety of young people	Requires Improvement
Promoting positive behaviour	Requires Improvement
The care of young people	Requires Improvement
The achievement of young people	Good
The resettlement of young people	Good
The health of young people	Requires Improvement
The effectiveness of leaders and managers	Requires Improvement

Financial Education Prevents Youth Homelessness

A pioneering money advice scheme has seen a 64% drop in eviction rates for ‘at risk’ young people.



The project was for 16-25-year olds in care or sheltered housing in deprived parts of London. There was also a £300,000 direct savings to local councils as more tenancies were sustained.

The results suggest that all local authorities should fund similar schemes, both to improve outcomes and to save money.

See <https://www.24housing.co.uk/news/two-year-study-shows-financial-education-prevents-youth-homelessness/>

UNITAS Offering YJ Courses...



Unitas is offering distance learning for recognised qualifications in youth justice.

Their courses help develop professional skills and knowledge, improve outcomes for young people and enhance career prospects. There are no entry requirements and participants can study while working. They provide all learning resources, online or via apps as well as hard copy materials, so study is designed as flexible for individuals to manage around work and personal commitments. One-to-one support is via a learning coach.



The next Unitas Youth Justice Effective Practice Certificate cohort starts in March 2019, and again in October. The cost is £750 +VAT.

Their Foundation Degree in Youth Justice runs in April and October 2019, and costs £4,000 +VAT. For YJEPC holders it is £3,250 +VAT, or £3,500 + VAT for PCEP holders.

Finally, there will be a BA in Youth Justice available in early 2019. Again, this recognises prior learning and qualifications, such as the Foundation Degree.

For more information visit www.unitas.uk.net

They can be contacted via 01603 263201 or contact@unitas.uk.net

...& Seeking Coaches

Unitas is also looking to appoint Distance Learning Coaches, to join their paid associates and freelancers across the country.

Those appointed will be committed to helping students get the most out of their courses, will mark assignments and will provide students with feedback to help them develop their knowledge, understanding and learning skills. They will be the main point of contact for students to offer support and advice by phone, email, text or video call.



Candidates will have a degree or L6 qualification with experience in the youth justice field as well as experience in teaching or staff development.

Further information is available from Jayne Cowley at jayne.cowley@unitas.uk.net

Young People Referred to Prevent

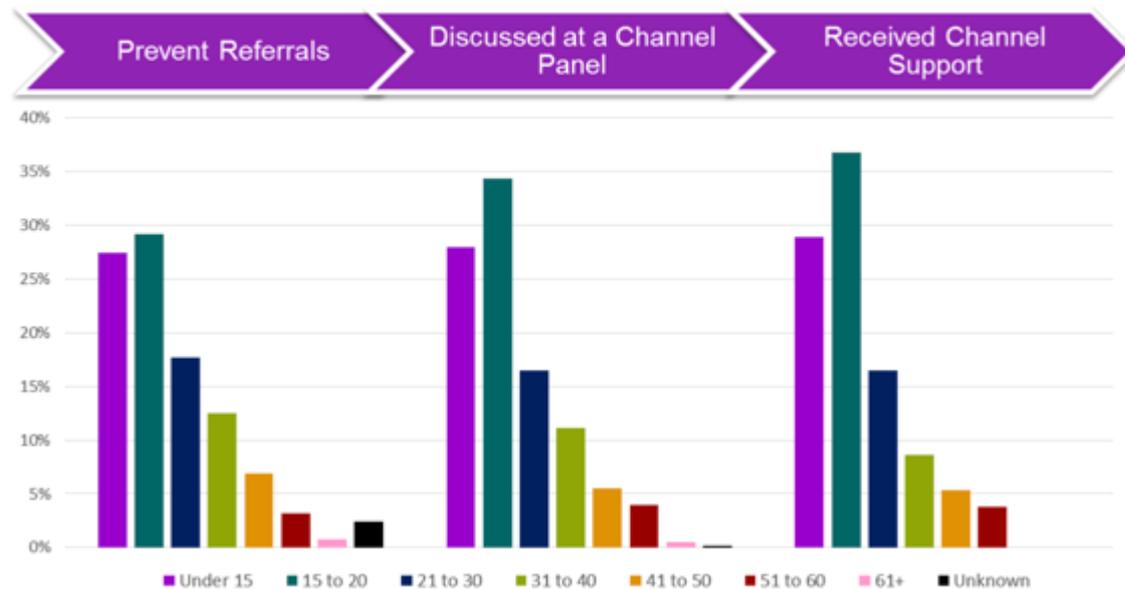
The Home Office have published a statistical bulletin entitled “Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme, April 2017 to March 2018.”



This shows that the majority of referrals were aged under 20 years, at 57%. The same age group was 62% of those discussed at Channel panels, and 66% of those receiving Channel support. 13% of referrals were female. Of those referred 44% were for concerns relating to Islamist extremism, and 18% for right-wing extremism.

The chart below shows those under 15 and 15-20 at panels who received support, which clearly shows the input is going to children and young people rather than adults over 20.

Figure 4.1: Age group of those referred, discussed at a Channel panel and who received Channel support, 2017/18



Source: Table D.01, Home Office

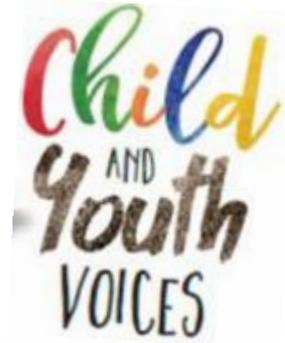
The full report is found at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/763254/individuals-referred-supported-prevent-programme-apr2017-mar2018-hosb3118.pdf

Voices of Young People - HMIP

HMIP have published “The voices of young people under supervision (findings from the HMI Probation eSurvey)”.

They have used the 14,542 responses to their eSurvey from 2014-17 as the basis of the report. Overall the conclusion is that “the survey presents a positive picture of the work undertaken by English and Welsh youth offending services” (p18).



Children and young people reported that their views had been taken seriously (96%), that they had been treated fairly (95%), and that the service had been good (95%). Nearly nine in ten (87%) reported that they were now less likely to reoffend, especially if they also felt the quality of the YOT work had been good, that their views had been taken seriously and they had been treated fairly

Results were a little less positive around BAME, high end orders, and disability.

For the full report please see

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2018/11/eSurvey-Bulletin-Nov-18-final.pdf>

Can You Recommend a Trainer in Unconscious Bias?

Sandwell YOS are looking for recommendations for providers of training on unconscious bias as it relates to youth justice, and specifically over-representation of BAME young people.



They are seeking providers who can pitch at two levels:

- ⇒ Board level, to help Board members explore and understand how behaviour in their own organisations might directly or indirectly contribute to the over-representation of BAME young people in the YJS
- ⇒ Team Manager and Practitioner to help explore how bias can find its way in to practice.

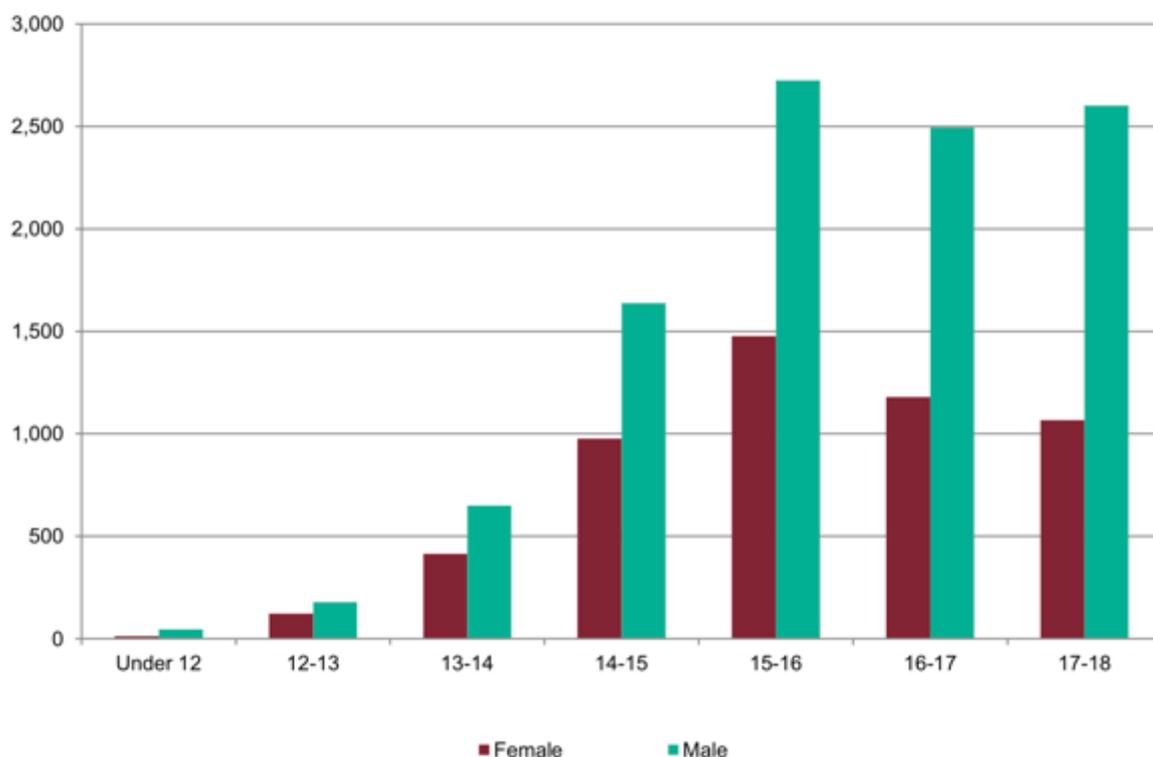
Sandwell are also interested in a train the trainer approach if other YOTs are interested.

If you can help please contact Mike Botham, YOT Manager in Sandwell at michael_botham@sandwellchildrenstrust.org

NDTMS Statistics

Public Health England have published their “Young People’s Statistics from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS)”. These provide information about children and young people under 18 who received specialist substance treatment in England from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018.

Figure 3.1.1 Age and gender distribution of all young people in treatment 2017-18



There was a 5% decrease in numbers, building on the 35% decrease since 2008-09. But they warn that numbers using drugs are increasing, especially the use of Class A drugs. Cannabis remains the most commonly used substance.

School exclusions for drug and alcohol use have increased substantially, with fixed-term exclusions up 34% since 2012-13, and permanent exclusions up by 95% since 2010-11.

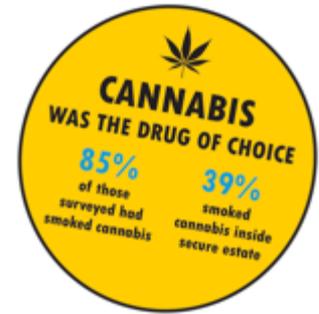
For more detail please see

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/762446/YPStatisticsFromNDTMS2017to2018.pdf

“Nitty Drugs and Broken Trust”

User Voice has published a report into “Nitty Drugs and Broken Trust: young people talk spice and the secure estate.”

This is a visual and well-presented piece of research which involved speaking to children and young people in SCHs, STCs, and YOIs.

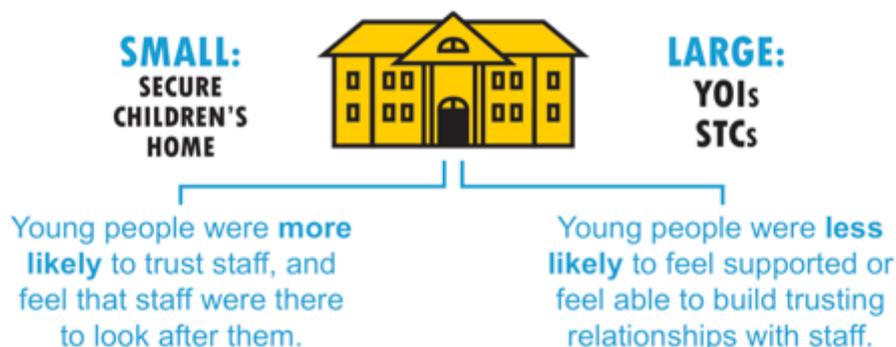


The main conclusions are found in the sub-title of the report – children and young people in the secure estate still turn to drugs to cope although not favouring nitty spice, and a worrying and enduring mistrust of professionals and services (‘nitty’ spice is one considered dirty or cheap, and also used as a name for someone addicted to drugs).



The solutions of children and young people to this include early intervention, first impressions count, trust, transparency, consistency, staff who have experienced drugs themselves, support not punitive, and a positive approach.

There was also a finding that smaller units produced more trust and support – this links with the AYM position statement on custody, that small local units are required. So here is more research suggesting that secure schools will not be successful.

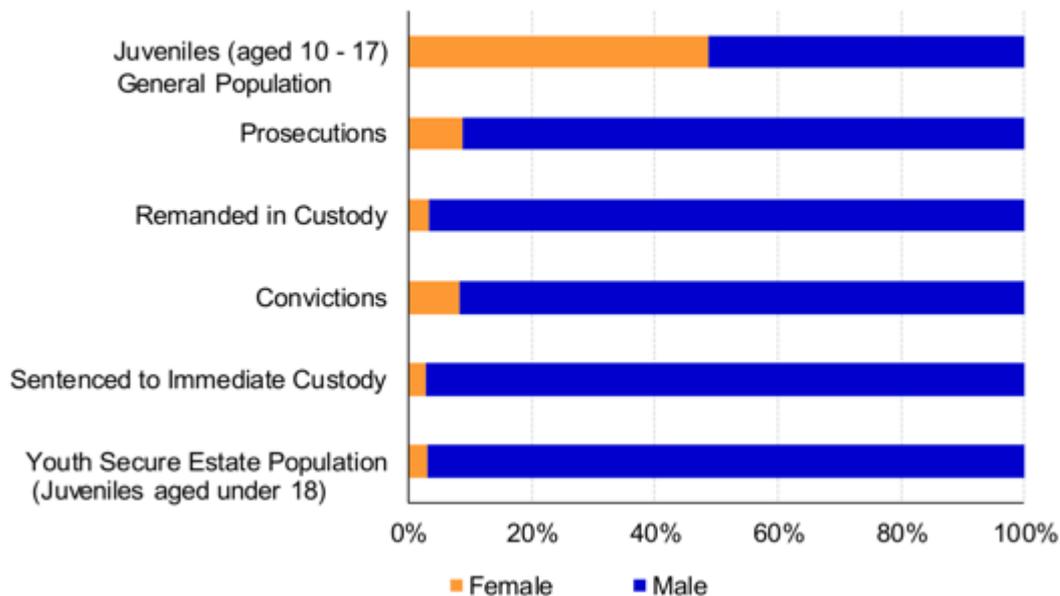


The full report is found at http://www.uservice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Young_spice_report_v12-screen-pages.pdf

Women & Girls in the CJS

The MoJ have published the 2017 statistics on women in the CJS. This includes a section on girls aged 10-17 years (p97). Some headline statistics are also in the chart below – girls in yellow, boys in blue.

Figure 7.04: Proportion of children and young people in the Criminal Justice System, by sex, England and Wales, 2017



The full report is at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759770/women-criminal-justice-system-2017..pdf

YJ Advocacy by Barristers

The Inns of Court College of Advocacy has produced guidance for barristers representing children in the YJS, which sit alongside the Bar Standard Board's 'youth proceedings competencies.'

Their guides cover first hearings in the youth court, bail, remand, sentencing and more. More detail is found via the link below.

<https://www.icca.ac.uk/youth-justice-advocacy>



Court Statistics Briefing

The House of Commons Library has published its latest briefing on court statistics.

It contains some useful information for YOTs, including numbers of courts which have closed in England and Wales, see box at right.

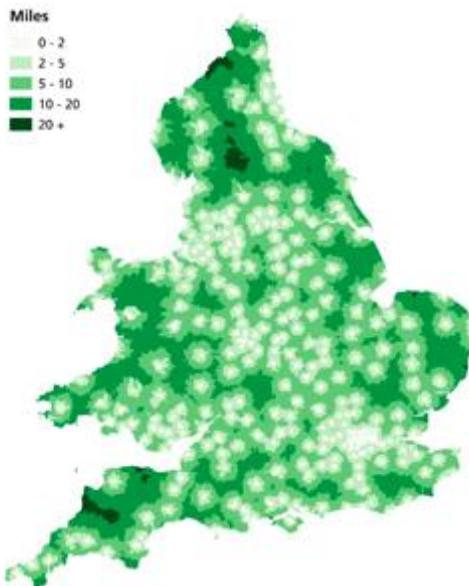
It also shows maps demonstrating how far people have to travel to access courts following the closures. The two maps below show this, and are found on p18 and p20 of the briefing. The darker colours show further distance from courts.

Based on the available information, between 2010 and 2018,

- 162 Magistrates' courts have closed, out of 323,
- 90 County courts have closed, out of 240,
- 18 dedicated tribunal buildings have closed, out of 83,
- 17 family courts have closed, out of 185,
- 8 Crown courts have closed, out of 92.

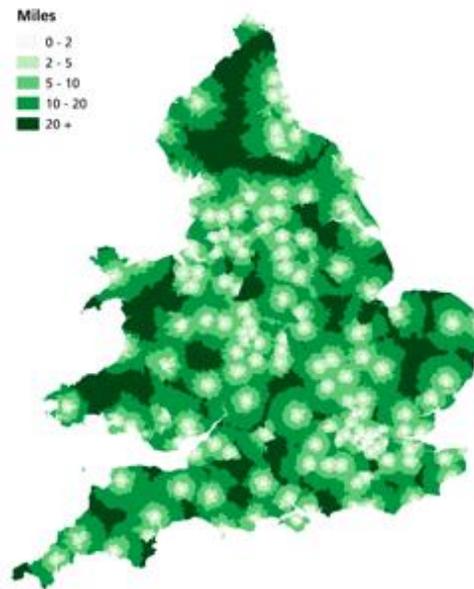
There also appears to be no mention whatsoever of Youth Courts within the briefing, which is of concern. On that basis the accuracy of the distance children and young people with no income have to travel to court is questionable. It also means that the needs of children and young people are potentially missed from the briefing.

Distance from output area to nearest Magistrates' courts, England and Wales: 2010.



Source: List of courts from HM Courts & tribunals service HMCTS Court Finder and from information supplied by HMCTS. Distance calculations from centre ONS Output Areas to nearest Magistrates' court.
Note: Distances are in straight lines between the two points, so may not reflect the distance by road or rail.

Distance from output area to nearest Magistrates' courts, England and Wales: 2018.



Source: List of courts from HM Courts & tribunals service HMCTS Court Finder and from information supplied by HMCTS. Distance calculations from centre ONS Output Areas to nearest Magistrates' court.
Note: Distances are in straight lines between the two points, so may not reflect the distance by road or rail.

The full briefing is found at

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8372>

First Director at SCYJ

SCYJ has announced that Pippa Goodfellow has been appointed as Director of SCYJ, as of 1st February. She has a wealth of YJ experience, including as Programme Manager for Beyond Youth Custody, and Senior Lecturer at Nottingham Trent University.

Pippa also tweeted her joy at being appointed.



Pippa Goodfellow @pgoodfellow_ · 20h

Delighted that I will be joining the Standing Committee for Youth Justice as their first Director at the start of Feb! Very much looking forward to working with @theSCYJ team, member organisations & partners to improve policy & practice for children in trouble #youthjustice



17

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Essex YOS rated Outstanding by HMIP

HMIP have published their report on Essex YOS, with its highest rating of 'outstanding'. Dame Glenys Stacey said the YOS was working at "an incredibly high standard."

Congratulations to Tanya Gillett and her colleagues.



<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/inspections/an-inspection-of-youth-offending-services-in-essex/>

Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill

Lord Dholakia's private members Bill reached the committee stage in December. As previously reported, it aims to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12.

<https://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/ageofcriminalresponsibility.html>



Children Affected by Parental Substance Misuse



Public Health England has published guidance on “safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children affected by parental alcohol and drug abuse: a guide for local authorities”.

It is available at <https://3bx16p38bchl32s0e12di03h-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Nacro-Policy-Briefing-ID.pdf>

Social Worker Sacked for 20-Year Old Convictions

This story is in a blog by Christopher Stacey of the charity Unlock. He says that the social worker was sacked following appointment, although she had fully declared her convictions during the recruitment process.

The worrying part of the blog is the assertion that she was sacked due to the reputational risk to East Sussex County Council, not because she presents a risk to anyone else.

East Sussex council dismisses social worker with drug conviction – despite knowing about it when employing her

This is a complicated and worrying case, as she maintains her innocence and says she was groomed as a young woman, as her convictions can be found online, as the offences took place abroad, and as the Council felt service users could use her convictions against her. She was also sacked during her probationary period, so has no right of appeal.

There is more detail in the links below.

<https://medium.com/christopher-stacey/council-sacks-a-woman-with-a-criminal-record-that-is-nearly-two-decades-old-f000990a61ca>

<https://www.hastingsobserver.co.uk/news/east-sussex-council-dismisses-social-worker-with-drug-conviction-despite-knowing-about-it-when-employing-her-1-8747914>

Other Useful Links

CLINKS – trends for the voluntary sector in the CJS

<https://www.clinks.org/sites/default/files/2018-11/Clinks%20State%20of%20the%20sector%202018%20Website%20download.pdf>

First dedicated service for children who have experienced sexual abuse opens, as a pilot for 5 London boroughs

<https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/lighthouse-offers-support-all-under-one-roof>



NACRO briefing on barriers to effective resettlement, with a particular focus on everyone being released having ID

<https://3bx16p38bchl32s0e12di03h-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Nacro-Policy-Briefing-ID.pdf>

The Skill Mill was a finalist for Environmental Social Impact, and for International Impact, in the Social Enterprise Awards

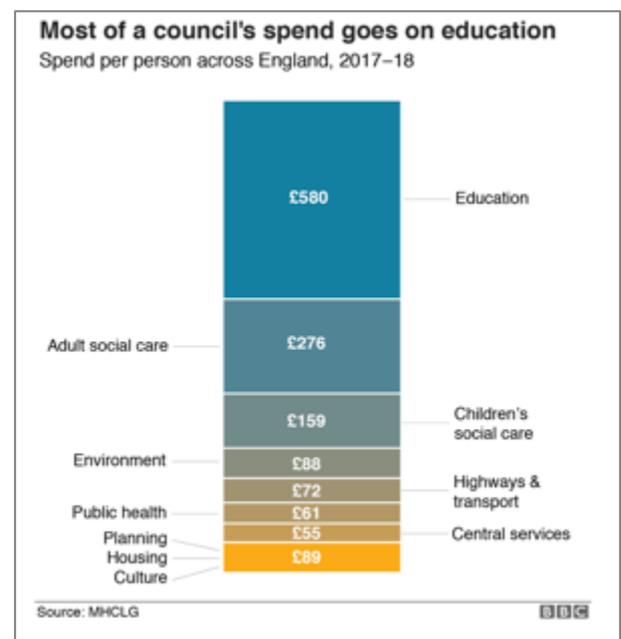
<https://www.theskillmill.org/single-post/2018/12/05/Social-Enterprise-Awards-2018>

Police funding increases by £970m

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/police-to-get-largest-funding-increase-since-2010>

BBC show 7 charts on cuts to local authority spending (one at right)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-46443700>



Research on young people, violence and knives – public health or criminal justice?

<https://www.crimeandjustice.org.uk/sites/crimeandjustice.org.uk/files/Knife%20crime.%20November.pdf>

Which YOT is Best at Floss Dancing?

Floss dancing is the latest craze across the world.

There is a great video clip on Twitter, of Leeds YOS staff relaxing in the run up to Christmas as they demonstrate how to floss dance.

Can your YOT post a better floss dance? We'd love to see it.



Have a look at the clip online at

<https://mobile.twitter.com/LeedsYOS/status/1073611711914098690>



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.



In particular, please do not try floss dancing without a full risk assessment!

Pre-Trial Detention of Children

Transform Justice have published a report called “Path of little resistance: is pre-trial detention of children really a last resort?”



Most children who go to trial and who are on remand are either found not guilty or are given a non-custodial sentence. TJ feel this brings into question the use of imprisonment for children accused of crimes. There are many difficulties with court appearances of such children, and TJ have made a number of recommendations for change to reduce the remand population from 21% of the total custody population to 5%.

The full report is found at http://www.transformjustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/TJ-December-2018-PRINT_V2-December.pdf

RJ & Supervision Manager Advert



North Somerset YOT and Prevention Service are advertising for a Restorative Justice and Supervision Manager, based within their Avon and Somerset Young Victims' Service.



The salary starts at £39k, and the closing date is 4th February.

For more information contact Mike Rees, Service Leader, on 01275 888360.

The advert is found at https://jobs.n-somerset.gov.uk/itlive_webrecruitment/wrd/run/ETREC105GF?USESSION=9C751D35AD664024A63E408D544A7B08&WVID=1620961qVG&LANG=USA