



# Bulletin

## June 2020

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## From the Chair



Colleagues,

I hope that this finds you well and that you are all coping with the demands of remote working, social distancing and having to measure everything within your services with a 2 metre COVID-19 tape!

These certainly are challenging times. It has been great to hear the stories of how YOT staff have demonstrated tenacity and imagination in their use of technology to maintain contact with children under their supervision.

We in the Executive are doing our best to try and flag our concerns around the difficulties YOTs are experiencing with all the various partners. Disappointingly, children in the youth justice system were not classified as vulnerable with regard to the additional access to IT equipment provided by the Government, unless they are looked after children or have an Education, Health and Care Plan. We are particularly concerned about the impact that digital exclusion might have on children within the justice system and that this may result in their being further disadvantaged and the gap widening even further.

I had a good meeting with Keith Fraser the new Chair of the YJB a couple of weeks ago and you can find more details of that conversation in the bulletin.

Next week the AYM is making representation to the Justice Committee and will be flagging concerns around the impact of video hearings in the youth courts which has been pretty chaotic and has had a detrimental impact on some children.

We would normally be looking forward to our AGM in June and meeting up with colleagues from around the country, we do hope to be able to hold this later in the year, but will have to wait to see whether this might be possible or whether we will have to host a virtual AGM

I hope you are able to get a well-deserved break at some point over the next few weeks.

Best wishes and Stay Safe

Andy

## News from the AYM Executive Board



### ***A Meeting of Chairs***

Chair of the AYM Andy Peaden, met with the new Chair of the Youth Justice Board (YJB), Keith Fraser, shortly after his appointment into the role. Both Chair's had a full agenda for discussion, commencing with an acknowledgement of the positive relationship between the AYM and the YJB and a commitment to ensure this continues.

Of course, COVID-19 was on both party's minds and Keith said he was keen to ensure the YJB is aware of the impact of the pandemic on YOTs and their supervision of children. Enforcement was discussed as this poses a real problem for YOTs when they wish to list breach hearings with the courts, which are focussing only on remand cases. Whilst virtual hearings provide some benefits, Andy was keen to point out the difficulties with these in terms of meaningful participation of the child and their parents. The length of remands was also discussed, with adjournments often taking place remotely and excluding YOTs from any assessment of the child's situation.

Andy also raised the issues resulting from staffing pressures, with some local authorities deploying YOT social workers to cover staffing shortages in wider children's services.

The vulnerability of children in the criminal justice system was discussed and the differing assessment of this across local authorities (often based on looked after status or those subject to a EHC plan), and central government, with YOTs unable to access central government funding to acquire laptops for children supervised by the YOT.

Andy reported the positive response of YOTs to the flexibility of the National Standards audit and the annual Youth Justice Plan during COVID-19. He also discussed the conundrum of balancing managing children and using remote methods (and the difficulties of establishing an effective relationship with a child on a new order) and the need to maintain the confidence of the court and the public in the work of YOTs.

Confusion between decisions made centrally, such as the police guidance which states children can attend YOTs for supervision, and those made locally were also discussed. Andy requested that YOTs be more engaged with such considerations in future in order to ensure that policy considers all barriers and supports best practice.

***Going forward*** Keith reinforced the commitment to ongoing engagement with YOTs, including the revision of Case Management Guidance, Keith will also retain his lead for the YJB on disproportionality. Andy suggested the YJB make more rapid progress on refresh of 'Modern YOT Partnerships' for which the AYM has drafted a revision.

***The AYM looks forward to our next meeting the YJB.***



## ***Key Messages from the Executive Board Meeting.***

The Executive Board met virtually again on 7<sup>th</sup> May; it seems this may be the way many meetings of the Executive will take place for some considerable time.

Like most organisations, the meeting first considered the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on youth offending team practice. It is clear from feedback from the regional representatives that the picture across the country is equally difficult but also varied in terms of partner responses and ways of working. The Executive is keen to hear about any initiatives YOTs have been developing to ensure they effectively engage with children under YOT supervision – or work with partners such as the police and the courts. **If you have any examples of innovation or practice that you feel would assist other YOTs, please let your regional representatives know so that the AYM can support sharing of that practice.**

The Executive also shared their concerns about coping with the backlog of cases that have been delayed due to the measures of the course to manage during the COVID-19 difficulties, again if you have any thoughts on how this may affect your YOT, or strategies you are considering to manage this issue, please let your representative know.

Criminalisation of childlike behaviour (coughing etc,) which during the pandemic is being taken more seriously, is a worry to us all and it is clear that some YOTs are already having to ensure that they are prepared to provide an assessment to the court on a child brought to court for such behaviours with a view to suggesting or offering a diversion from prosecution.

The Executive will continue with monthly Executive Board meetings during this crisis and will advise members of the date of the AGM once it is arranged – we are hoping to hold a ‘real’ event!

As always, if you have anything you wish the Executive to consider please contact your regional representative so that the item can be included on the agenda.

## ***Providing Evidence to the Justice Committee***

We are pleased to say that the AYM has been invited to give evidence to the Justice Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2020. The Committee will be building on the work it was undertaking last year, prior to the election and has a number of key lines of inquiry which are broad ranging and which the portfolio leads in the AYM will be considering with the rest of the Executive.

The AYM input can be seen on Parliament TV and is scheduled to commence at 15.15hrs

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## ***Response to Consultations***

The Executive has been busy developing responses to a number of consultations and we are always pleased when YOTs help to develop those responses and review our drafts.



Our latest responses can be found on our website.

[www.aym.org.uk](http://www.aym.org.uk)

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## ***And Finally...***



Congratulations go to Hannah Doherty who has been appointed as the Head of Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Croydon. Hannah was formerly an AYM regional representative of the North West, prior to becoming Head of Croydon YOT and taking on a role as Additional Executive Member.



Emma Carter has succeeded Hannah as Croydon YOT's Service Manager (interim). Congratulations and best wishes go to Hannah and we welcome Emma in her role at Croydon YOT.

## Management Oversight Training

*For frontline managers and supervisors*



This training programme, developed by the Youth Justice Sector Improvement Partnership, consists of two workshops separated by a 12-week period of distance learning. It is delivered by serving YOT managers and was successfully trialled in Greater Manchester last year.

Four further courses started in Wales, East Midlands, Yorkshire, and the North West over the winter. These are due to be completed this summer and we are working on arrangements to deliver them in a COVID-secure way.

We have developed a plan to roll out this training to the remaining regions over the next two years and **need to recruit additional trainers**. Trainers should be serving managers who are willing to deliver the programme in their own region and, ideally further afield. Training courses are delivered by trainers working in pairs. Expenses are paid for travel and overnight accommodation where needed.

Subject to the arrangements that may need to be in place for social distancing next year, training for new trainers is pencilled in as a two-day event in the Midlands during Spring 2021.

We are particularly keen to hear from colleagues working in regions where we do not currently have trainers: London, South-East, Eastern, East Midlands, and the North-East.

To find out more and to express your interest in becoming one of our trainers please contact [phil.sutton@aym.org.uk](mailto:phil.sutton@aym.org.uk)

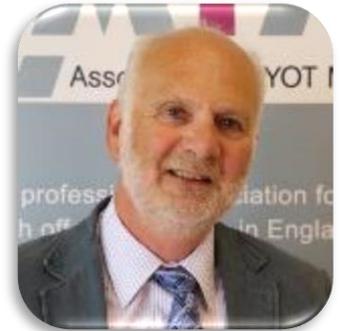


*YJSIP is a partnership between the Association of YOT Managers, the Youth Justice Sector and the Youth Justice Board and is governed through the AYM Executive.*

## Taking Time to Reflect

### **Thoughts from one of the first YOT Managers, Phil Sutton**

The occasion of AYM's celebration of its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday earlier this year got me thinking back to the very beginnings of youth offending teams. I was the project manager for one of the five pilot YOTs in 1998, and then appointed one of the first YOT managers in the country, leading what we called Wessex YOT, serving Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and the cities of Portsmouth and Southampton.



It was a time of great political interest in the youth justice system, with the so-called "PYO (persistent young offender) Pledge"- halving the time-lag between date of arrest and sentence, at the heart of the new government's manifesto. There were regular visits to our YOT by ministers and senior officials. I wonder how many, if any, of the lessons we learned in those early years have any relevance two decades later?

- **We built on strong foundations.** The Chief Constable chaired a lively Chief Officers Group which brought together chief execs of the four first tier local authorities and their directors of social services and education (we had just gone through the creation of two new 'unitaries'), representatives of district councils, probation, and health. There was a determination to run all justice services consistently across the police area, and there was a pre-existing youth justice service, run jointly by probation and social services.
- The new steering group created to oversee the YOT would have a rotating chair, drawn from each of the partners in turn, with no chair serving more than two years. **The chair would be a chief officer and would report to the Chief Officers Group.**
- All managers in the YOT would be board appointments made by an interagency subgroup of the YOT steering group. The posts would be advertised across all partner agencies as either long-term secondments or permanent appointment.
- The partners asked the largest partner to act as the Administering Authority for the partnership and agreed to cover its costs. The Administering Authority would provide office accommodation, commissioning expertise, specialist HR and IT. It would be the default employer of any YOT staff who could not be seconded.
- All partners made a financial contribution towards all of costs of the partnership in addition to paying the salaries and expenses of their seconded staff. The partner contributions were not all equal but were based on a clear formula; the key principal was that all partners contributed towards the cost of the manager, premises, IT etc. with contributions made forming a pooled pot for which the YOT manager was accountable.
- New services would be commissioned from the voluntary sector where possible, and especially where there was no existing expertise in the YOT e.g. restorative justice, remand fostering, bail support, AA volunteer scheme.
- Local managers in the YOT would be locally accountable as well as being part of the strategic leadership team; thus, each of the three unitary authorities and the 11 districts of the county council would have a named YOT Area Manager who was responsible for local delivery.

- Staff in the YOT would be seconded wherever possible and their employing body would ensure they were well connected to their networks and supported by regular meetings. They would be accountable to and line-managed by their local YOT Area Manager.
- All staff in the YOT would be expected to be (or quickly to become) competent to deliver the full range of youth justice services: assessment, planning and delivery of non-specialist interventions, court reports and representing the YOT at court.
- All staff, including those who worked in the old Youth Justice Service, would undertake a newly developed YOT induction programme.

We felt that these principles were a good basis for our partnership although not everything turned out as we might have hoped. Here's a few of my recollections from the early years.

- ***We were knocked sideways by the volume of work coming through the courts*** largely as result of the new final warning scheme which brought an end to police discretion to caution and divert. Experienced staff felt that years of work spent developing effective diversion processes were being thrown away. Caseloads were excessive: 30+ each for full time staff
- With over 200 children in custody at any one time, almost all of them placed more than 50 miles from home, our ***resettlement capability was poor.***
- The YJB was the new kid on the block and tended to regard the pilot YOTs as 'not invented by us', while the Home Office, which was responsible for the pilots, was keen to back off. Consequently, ***there was little sharing of the learning from pilots***
- ***Local health reorganisations were a regular occurrence*** which led to a lack of consistency in their engagement in the work of the steering group and frequent grumbles about why they had to pay into the pooled budget.
- ***Knowledge of effective practice in the youth justice sector was limited.*** In the past most of the effort had been in diverting children from interventions, hence there was limited consensus on how to work effectively with children under supervision.
- The secondment system did not always work well. Staff in the YOT either did not want to leave when their time was up or found that their old job had disappeared, and they had nowhere to go. ***Over time staff lost their connection to their old networks.***
- Despite initial reservations among social workers about working in the same teams as police officers, local teams worked extraordinarily well together and were well supported by YOT Area Managers who came from diverse professional backgrounds.
- ***Relationships with courts were a strength*** and dialogue was kept open and constructive through the attendance of YOT Area Managers at court user groups and bench liaison meetings.
- There were demarcation disputes with social services over the role of the YOT with looked after children and children in need. Some local areas expected the YOT to provide a full social work service on their behalf.
- ***Commissioning services from the voluntary sector was generally not a great success.*** It was difficult for providers to recruit staff with the right level of expertise, and they faced some opposition from YOT staff who believed they could do a better job themselves.

I hope this brief trip down memory lane brings back some memories for our long-standing members, and, more importantly, gets us all thinking about those areas where progress has been strongest or weakest since 2000.

## Recognition for Southampton YOS

### **For Achieving the 'Artsmark' Gold Award**

Southampton YOS (SYOS) has been awarded an Artsmark Gold Award for their work delivering Arts interventions to vulnerable children in the city. Artsmark is the only creative quality standard for organisations such as youth offending teams accredited by Arts Council England. The quality standard aims to develop and celebrate organisations' commitment to arts and cultural education.



In awarding Southampton Gold standard, Artsmark noted that:



*“SYOS has established a strong commitment to the Arts as a mode of assisting delivery of provision designed to lower rates of reoffending, underpinned by Desistance Theory. Your approach has mobilised art in an attempt to deliver more holistic interventions with the children you work with. Consequently, young people have been actively engaged with a number of arts activities, like photography, sculpture and graphics whilst working toward their Arts Award. Your approach seems to be working since over the last two years overall reoffending rates have reduced by 8.1%. New staff joining SYOS have done so*

*knowing how important culture and the Arts is to your mission and values; in this way you are improving your capacity to deliver. New staff received Arts Award training in January 2019 and now co-facilitate Friday morning art sessions with In Focus. They also actively link with other teams to promote Arts Awards for hard to engage, vulnerable children.*

*Youth voice elements of your work are very strong. Children have a seat on your quarterly steering group and feedback on efficacy of service delivery and barriers to engagement. Most recently they have influenced the design and use of learning spaces at SYOS offices, ensuring that your ethos plays out in the creative use of space, and settings that are conducive to arts development. You are also working in ways that may serve the long-term interests of your arts-rich delivery, linking with the LCEP and incrementally helping to build positive and effective relationships between stakeholders that connect arts provision with vulnerable groups of young people.”*



*Photos provided by Southampton YOS*

**Congratulations go to Southampton YOS, well done!**

To read more about Artsmark and the award please [click here](#)

## Perspectives on Youth Justice Policy

Howard League for Penal Reform

### **From the Professionals**

The Howard League for Penal Reform has published an early view of a new publication ‘*Professional Perspectives of Youth Justice Policy Implementation: Contextual and Coalface Challenges*’, co-authored by a number of individuals known to youth justice, including **Gareth Jones, Head of Cheshire Youth Justice Services and former Chair of the AYM.**

*“This study pioneered an innovative co-produced methodology by involving the research participants with the process of producing the written output, through an iterative discussion on the construction and interpretation of arising themes.”*

Noting the importance of policy making in influencing and shaping youth justice, the publication considers the context of policy making and the link between policy and implementation in practice, with subjective perspectives from key stakeholders to consider the drivers for policy making and the contradictions and contentions that influence implementation.

The article considers the factors that affect policy making and implementation in practice and how interactions between the *macro* (e.g. socio-structural, political, conceptual, strategic), *meso* (e.g., relational, organisational) and the *micro* (e.g. occupational, individual) impact and influence and impact on outcomes.

The study interrogates

*“how professionals make sense and meaning of policy in the real world and how professional perspectives drive and shape their contributions to policy implementation nationally and locally. Contemporaneously, these analyses enable us to critically examine the caricatures, stereotypes, and assumptions that can (mis)inform common constructions, representations, and understandings of youth justice policy trajectories, including those relating to contextual stability, conceptual clarity, robust evidence bases, and purported foundations in stakeholder consensus.”*

There are some insightful reflections in the articles from stakeholders, in particular the AYM and the YJB which consider the journey both have taken in developing a respectful yet challenging relationship based on the desire to improve outcomes for children in conflict with the law.

The article concludes by noting that “differences and contradictions can be perceived as shared ‘challenges’, with different stakeholder groups committed to collaborating in their resolution, noting the success of this approach has resulted in the reductions in first time entrants and resultant cost of crime to society.

To read an early view of this publication [click here](#)

## Young Adult Advisors on Criminal Justice

### ***'Leaders Unlocked' report on work and findings from their Advisors.***

Over a 12-month period, Leaders Unlocked Young Adult Advisors conducted peer research across England with over 500 young adults between the ages of 14 and 25 years, in a range of settings including prisons, youth offending institutions (YOIs), youth offending teams (YOTs), and voluntary/community organisations connected to the criminal justice system.



The Young Adult Advisors chose to focus on the following 5 priorities:

- Racial Disproportionality
- Sentencing Young Adults
- The Care System
- Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System
- Employment and Life after Prison

The findings of the advisors for each of these priority areas are clearly articulated in terms of the experience of young people in conflict with the law and the approach of professionals in the system. Policy changes, recruitment strategies, training and development of staff across the sector and the development of mentors are amongst the recommendations made.



Throughout the report the importance of YOT-style services are recommended, providing young people with support to desist from offending and help them resettle from custody.

It is clear that the Young Adult Advisors felt that young adults in the criminal justice system would benefit from a YOT-style service which is strength based, trauma informed and supportive of their needs.

The Young Adult Advisors write that as a result of their research they are:

*“designing a guide that addresses typical concerns and worries (such as what to wear); producing a ‘who’s who’ poster; and reviewing their guidance to ensure that language is easy to understand and information is clear. However, some larger-scale changes, inspired by the invaluable insights of the young people who contributed to our research, should also be implemented if procedural fairness is to be achieved.”*



**Tweets from some Young Adult Advisors following publication of this report say how important and empowering this research has been for them, and signposting professionals to the report.**

To access the report [click here](#)

## Young People's Voices on Youth Court

The Centre for Justice Innovation and the Institute for Crime and Justice Policy Research has published a briefing paper, a prelude to their forthcoming report *'Time to get it right: Enhancing problem-solving practice in the Youth Court'*. The briefing is the result of multi-year research examining, through conversations with children, how existing youth court practice meets their needs. The feedback from the children mostly related to ideas around procedural fairness –

*“a model which emphasises the importance of feeling fairly treated in determining future trust in and compliance with the law.”*

The authors of the briefing state that belief in the legitimacy of the system is achieved only when the public perceive the criminal justice system as operating fairly. Such belief in the legitimacy of the system increases the likely compliance with court orders and potentially reduces the likelihood of reoffending. The four drivers of procedural fairness are:

- understanding the process that is taking place;
- having a voice in the process;
- feeling that you have been treated with respect; and
- trusting the neutrality of the process.

Whilst the experience of children attending youth courts was better than that of attendance at crown court and the support of YOT officers was valued, those interviewed for the research reported not understanding what was happening to them.

The experiences of children in court is mixed in terms of feeling heard with examples of good practice amongst the judiciary and the magistracy, and examples of poor practice highlighted. The authors *argue* “*Simply speaking to young people directly, asking their side of the story and actively listening to them can go a long way to improving young people's experiences and perceptions of the court process.*”. The authors also argue this also encourages a sense of fairness.

Many of the interviewees reported feeling respected and the researchers found “*even minor instances of courteous or helpful treatment were noticed and appreciated.*”

Many of the children interviewed trusted the sentence they received, although some questioned the appropriateness of disposals such as fines, calling for sentences involving contact with the YOT. However, as the authors state, the court process, even in youth courts are adversarial “*where interests do not necessarily align*”.

To access the briefing [click here](#)

## Lockdown and County Lines



### ***New report considers – ‘a new threat?’***

Crest Advisory a UK consultancy dedicated to crime and justice has published an article ‘County Lines after COVID – a new threat?’ which considers the media view that lockdown has reduced the threat of county lines and gangs, arguing that ***“the gangs who operate county lines have always proven highly versatile and adaptable, and they are now embracing new tactics to protect a lucrative business.”***

As reported in this Bulletin last month, a report from the Children’s Commissioner stated that:

*“the initial signs are that lockdown requirements have led to a drop-off in gang related activity, there is a real risk that gangs will be finding new ways to operate and exploit children which we do not yet know about. Many of the early warning systems – such as schools noticing changes in children’s behaviour – are now closed.”*

The author of Crest’s report Joe Caluori, Head of Policy at Crest and a former Cabinet Member with responsibility for youth crime at the London Borough of Islington, argues that *“lower volume does not necessarily mean lower vulnerability”* and cites evidence from the MOPAC funded ‘Rescue Response’ which shows that whilst incidences of missing episodes of children may have decreased, the length of those episodes has increased, with professionals, and considers whether this *is “young people transported to trap houses are having to stay there for longer due to increased demand and lockdown restrictions.”*

Crest has also found in their research for the Hadley Trust that the focus for ‘recruitment’ by organized crime groups (OCGs) and gangs may no longer be on those children who are looked after children and those living in semi-independent accommodation, but on children who live locally to the dealing base, rather than children living in their urban bases who are then trafficked to the dealing bases.

Changes in the way drugs are marketed and distributed are also changing as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions and the report considers whether

*“With a cohort of young people isolated, bored and impoverished by lockdown, there is a danger that as restrictions start to lift, gangs will find a new generation of recruits for a new, professionalised local franchise model of county lines”*

The author asks ***“Can law enforcement and protective services for children respond to rapidly evolving models of exploitation through county lines?”***

To access the article [click here](#)

## Other News in Brief



### HMIP to Undertake Virtual YOT Inspections

HM Chief Inspector of Probation Justin Russell has announced that the Inspectorate will conduct a number of thematic inspections over the remainder of 2020, examining:

- how youth offending services have coped during this period (under Exceptional Delivery Model arrangements); and
- how well they implement their recovery plans as services start to return to normal, and

Until we judge that it is safe to undertake face-to-face interviews are deemed safe, the inspectorate will conduct the fieldwork for these inspections remotely using video conferencing technology for interviews and focus groups.

These same remote inspection techniques will be used to inspect a number of small youth offending teams between August and October of this year, drawing case samples from work that was completed before the COVID-19 lockdown was implemented.

Congratulations go to Camden Youth Offending Service on their recent inspection rating of 'outstanding' and Oxford Youth Justice Service for its rating of 'good'.

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### First Corporate Strategy of Social Work England Published



Social Work England was established in 2019 and took over the regulatory function of social workers from the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). Its first Corporate Strategy and three year Business Plan was developed in collaboration with a number of partners, social workers and people with 'lived experience' of social work.

Social Work England hopes the strategy will 'mark a new era for the profession', aiming to deliver radically different regulation, raise standards and improve confidence in the sector.

To access the strategy and Social Work England's 'Plan on a Page' [click here](#)

## Justice responses to COVID-19



Virtual courts in New York and 1/7th of prisoners released in Northern Ireland - across the world justice systems are adapting to the COVID 19 outbreak in unprecedented ways.

The Centre for Justice Innovation is releasing a weekly tracker of these responses in jurisdictions around the world in the following areas:

- Criminal courts
- Family courts
- Youth justice

As this picture is evolving rapidly, please get in touch with CJI via [info@justiceinnovation.org](mailto:info@justiceinnovation.org) if you have **new data**, or if **the data is out of date**.

The tracker can be viewed by [clicking here](#)

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## The Importance of 'Reachable Moments'

The recent serious case review in respect Jaden Moodie a 14yr old boy pulled from his moped and stabbed to death in January 2019, highlights the importance of maximising and acting on the 'reachable moment', a time in a child's life when they are most responsive to support and change. Reachable moments though brief offer professionals the opportunity to develop insightful interventions which can result in more effective safeguards for the child.



John Drew, former Chief Executive of the YJB and life member of the AYM, is the author of the Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children Board's serious case review, and cites poor communication between agencies and a lack of a co-ordinated approach across the country to children involved in county lines as factors in this missed opportunity. He argues the 'County Lines Exploitation guidance' developed by the Ministry of Justice whilst considered best practice, means:

*"There can be no continuing relationship between the child and the returning officers after this journey and so no potential to capitalise on any reachable moment during what will often be a long journey with plenty of time for reflection."*

John argues in his report that there should be a demand for services, similar to that of the Mayor of London's pan-London scheme 'Rescue and Respond' that aims to exploit that reachable moment and engage children in exploring their vulnerabilities.

To read the serious case review [click here](#)

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## Experimental Statistics Published



Ministry  
of Justice

The Ministry of Justice has published statistics gathered from AssetPlus data for sentenced children which shows the complexity of concerns identified by YOTs during the assessment of children. The statistics also demonstrate that those receiving custodial sentences have been assessed as presenting with a greater number of concerns.

The statistics show that 29% of children were assessed as having a rating of High or Very High Risk of Serious Harm, and 42% were assessed as having a High or Very High Safety and Wellbeing rating.

Children from a BAME background were found to have more concerns with 'Local Issues' and white children had been assessed as having more mental health concerns than children from BAME backgrounds.

To access the statistics [click here](#)

If you have any feedback for the analysts please contact them on:

[informationandanalysis@yjb.gov.uk](mailto:informationandanalysis@yjb.gov.uk)

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Ministry  
of Justice

## Video Calling to be Rolled out across YOIs



HM Prison &  
Probation Service

The Ministry of Justice and HM Prison and Probation Service have announced the rollout of secure video calling to YOIs (and adult prisons), in order to 'mitigate against the loss of face to face visits' and to help 'maintain vital family contact'.

The roll out will be across 10 establishments to begin with, including Werrington and Wetherby YOIs.

Safeguards will be in place to prevent misuse with all participants vetted in advance and calls monitored by prison staff. The calls will be time-limited and restrictions have been built into the software to ensure safe use.

To read more about this initiative please [click here](#)

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## Items of Interest



### Calendar of events for AYM 2020

Title	Date	Venue
Executive Board meeting	10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2020	Virtual meeting
AYM AGM	Postponed from 10 <sup>th</sup> June due to COVID -19 crisis. New date to coincide with the Autumn Conference.	To be confirmed
Executive Board meeting	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2020,	Cramlington, Northumberland (subject to COVID-19)
Autumn Conference	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Executive Board meeting	17 <sup>th</sup> November	Youth Justice Convention

***Please contact your regional representative (see below) if you wish the Executive Board to consider a particular issue, or if you have an item you would like to bring to their attention at one of their meetings.***

***To keep up to date with this calendar, please look at our website:***

**[aym.org.uk](http://aym.org.uk)**

## Children and Young People Now Awards



Recognizing the importance of celebrating the hard work and dedication of those working in youth justice sector, CYP Now have delayed, rather than cancelled, this year's awards. The deadline for entries to this year's award is now:



**25th September 2020**

The Awards Ceremony as a result has also been rescheduled and will now take place:

**18th March 2021**

at the Hurlingham Club in London

For more information on the awards and how to enter [click here](#)

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## Howard League for Penal Reform

### **Community Awards**

The Howard League for Penal Reform is taking nominations for their annual awards for community projects that encourage desistance from crime by providing alternatives which are proportionate and effective in diverting and reducing the likelihood of reoffending.



The awards have a number of categories including:

- Women
- Policing and adults
- Policing and children
- Restorative approaches
- Liaison and diversion
- Children in care and care leavers
- Criminal Justice Champion
- Organisation of the year.

**The deadline for nominations is 5pm Tuesday 21 July 2020**

For more information about the awards and to make a nomination [click here](#)

Winners of the awards will be announced on the 20th October, 2020.

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## Butler Trust Awards

### **Nominations now open for 2020-21**



Do you have someone in your organisation that you consider has gone above and beyond their work in youth justice? If so, why not nominate them for a Butler Trust Award.

HRH The Princess Royal, Patron to the Trust presents these awards annually and visits many of the winners at their places of work.

For more information about the awards and to make a nomination visit the website by [clicking here](#)

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## Chair of Trustees Required

### **Just for Kids Law**



Just For Kids Law is a growing UK charity that exists to help children and young people overcome difficulties they face, from problems at school and issues with immigration status to trouble with the police or being in the care system. The charity works *with and for children and young people* to hold those with power to account, and fight for, wider reform.

**Deadline for applications is 21st June, 2020.**

For more information and to apply for this position please [click here](#)

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## Standing Committee for Youth Justice

### **Members' Meeting**



The next meeting for members will take place on:

**15th July, 2020**

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions, members will be advised prior to this date whether this will be a virtual meeting or a face to face event.

*SCYJ members are also asked to contact SCYJ if they are interested in participating in a 'Zoom' meeting in June (date to be advised shortly).*

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## Children and Young People Now Conferences

### ***Safeguarding Children in the Digital Age***

#### ***New Date Announced***



The 4th national 'Safeguarding Children in the Digital Age' conference, has once again been rescheduled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, will now take place on:

**13<sup>th</sup> January, 2021,**

**at 10 Union Street, London**

Providing essential learning for the entire children's workforce, it brings together leading online safety experts and safeguarding professionals to equip practitioners with the understanding, skills and confidence to ensure children and young people stay safe in the digital age, in a series of high quality CPD-certified keynote talks and seminars

For more information and to book a place [click here](#)

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### ***Youth Work in the 2020s: Policy, Practice & Opportunities***



Children & Young People Now (CYP Now), together with the National Youth Agency aims to bring together key figures and leading practitioners to support practitioners in providing high quality, effective services and support to all young people.

**23rd October, 2020**

**at America Square Conference Centre, London**

For more information and to book a place [click here](#).



## Youth Justice Convention 2020



The Youth Justice Board's annual Youth Justice Convention will take place on:

**17th -18th November 2020**

at **Birmingham NEC**

As 2020 is the twentieth anniversary of youth offending teams, the theme of this year's event will be looking back and looking forward.

A wide range of managers, practitioners, experts and opinion formers across all sectors and types of provision will provide information and debate on topical issues in youth justice.

For more information [click here](#)

### ***Don't forget too, the AYM's John Hawkin's Award...***

For YOTs who can demonstrate creativity and innovation in their work with children in the youth justice system. Start gathering your ideas now and see if you can be the 2020 winner!



*The AYM holds its Executive Board meeting at the end of day one of the Convention which we hope the Chair and the Chief Executive of the YJB and a representative of the Youth Custody Service will attend.*

***The YJC Planning Group is currently considering this year's convention, in light of COVID-19 restrictions. Following consultation with AYM members through the regional representatives, Jacqui Belfield-Smith, the AYM representative on this group, has recommended delaying the convention until 2021, rather than cancelling it or holding it virtually, to allow for greater participation by YOTs and other stakeholders***

***2021 will of course be the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the YJB and YOTs!***



## Want to stay up to date with YJ issues?

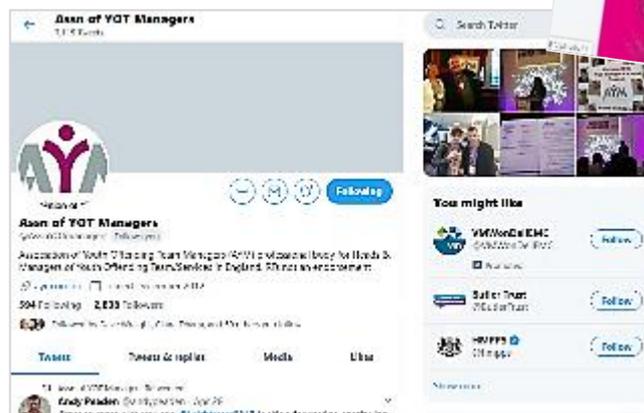
Then follow AYM on Twitter.....

**We have more than 2,800 followers** who receive frequent updates on issues relating to youth justice and YOT Managers.

It's easy to sign up - our username is **@AssnYOTmanagers**



See also the **'latest news'** section at <http://aym.org.uk>



Youth Offending Teams make a difference



Via our website <http://aym.org.uk/about-us/contact-us>

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

Email our Editor [lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk](mailto:lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk)

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## AYM Regional Representatives

Below is the list of regional representatives across the country, with email addresses. Please contact your regional representative if there are issues you want to raise. We welcome your input.

[Click here](#) for details of all Executive Board members.

<b>East</b>	<b>Pat Jennings</b> <i>Bedfordshire YOS</i>				
<b><i>Pat.jennings@bedford.gov.uk</i></b>					
<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>Shelley Nicholls</b> <i>Nottingham City YOS</i>		<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>Pali Obhi</b> <i>Solihull YOS</i>	
<b><i>shelley.nicholls@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</i></b>			<b><i>Pali.obhi@solihull.gov.uk</i></b>		
<b>South East</b>	<b>Jon Gardner</b> <i>Southampton YOS</i>		<b>South West</b>	<b>Mike Rees</b> <i>North Somerset YOT</i>	
<b><i>jon.gardner@southampton.gov.uk</i></b>			<b><i>mike.rees@n-somerset.gov.uk</i></b>		
<b>North East</b>	<b>Miriam Sigsworth</b> <i>Stockton-on-Tees YOT</i>		<b>North West</b>	<b>Jacqui Belfield-Smith</b> <i>Stockport YOS</i>	
<b><i>miriam.sigsworth@stockton.gov.uk</i></b>			<b><i>jacqui.belfield-smith@stockport.gov.uk</i></b>		
<b>London</b>	<b>Brendan Finegan</b> <i>Hackney YOT</i>		<b>Yorkshire &amp; Humberside</b>	<b>Samantha Matthews</b>	
<b><i>brendan.finegan@hackney.gov.uk</i></b>			<b><i>Samantha.T.Matthews@eastriding.gov.uk</i></b>		