

Bulletin

May 2020

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News from the AYM Executive Board

Key Messages from the Executive Board Meeting.

The Executive Board met virtually on 3rd April. Prior to COVID-19 most of us would not have thought this type of meeting would become the mainstay of our work – it seems it now is.

As always, a variety of issues were discussed, but of course how YOTs are coping during this crisis was top of the agenda. Appropriate adult provision and the availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) was discussed and it is clear that there are differences in the way this is being managed between police force areas.

Due to COVID-19, **the Executive agreed to re-arrange the AYM Annual General Meeting** due to take place on 10th June; members will be informed of the new date as soon as possible, it is hoped the AYM Autumn Conference will be held on the same day. The 10th June will be used as a virtual meeting of the **Executive who will meet in this way on a monthly basis during the crisis.**

Regional representatives will collate issues resulting from COVID-19 in order to collate and coordinate findings in order to escalate them to the appropriate body. *If you have any issues please raise them with your representative as soon as possible.*



Augusta Itua from Just For Kids Law at the Youth Justice Legal Centre was also able to join the meeting to discuss the work they have been undertaking regarding children in police custody.

Readers will have read in last month's AYM Bulletin that the High Court found in favour of the London Borough of Waltham Forest, in a case brought against them by Just For Kids Law regarding the local authority's failure to provide secure accommodation for children, who are kept overnight in police cells due to a shortage of appropriate accommodation. Just For Kids Law is disappointed with this outcome but continue to campaign to improve the treatment and outcomes for children in police custody.

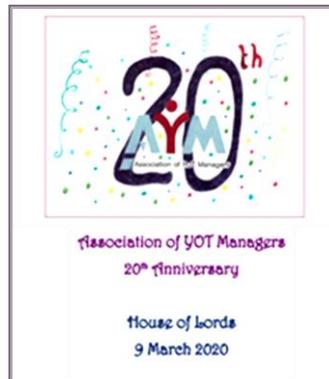
Through their Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust 'Human Rights and Justice Programme', they are developing an early intervention approach to ensure children are treated expeditiously and as a priority at the police station. During 2020 they will be developing policy proposals based on findings from research and will undertake roundtables on various proposals with key stakeholders. A briefing paper will be launched at a parliamentary event.

Just For Kids Law will also be monitoring the treatment of children during the COVID-19 crisis, including the use of tasers and spit-hoods, having raised their concerns at the National Taser reference group on 2nd April 2020.

AYM's 20th Anniversary Event



Following the recent celebration of the AYM's 20th Anniversary at the House of Lords, our outgoing Business Support, Ann Wood has designed a photo album to mark the event.



Thanks goes to Ann (pictured above) for the design and work on this souvenir.

We will be sending a pdf version of the photo album to those that attended the event which we hope you will use as a keepsake.

New Chair of the Youth Justice Board Announced



The Secretary of State has announced the appointment of Keith Fraser as Chair of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB). Keith, formerly a police superintendent commenced his role on 14th April, the appointment is for three years. Of his appointment, Keith said:

Having dedicated my career to creating opportunities for children and working in the justice system, I am honoured to be appointed Chair of the Youth Justice Board. The role will enable me to have a continued focus on improving outcomes for children and I look forward to working closely with Ministers, board members, staff and partners to deliver our vision.

Keith has significant experience of youth offending teams, having chaired the Wolverhampton Youth Offending Management Board and has been a YJB Board since January 2018.

The AYM looks forward to continuing the positive relationship with the YJB and Keith in his new role as YJB Chair. Following a first meeting with our Chair Andy Peaden, Keith Tweeted

"really pleased to meet with the chair of the AYM, we're (the YJB) keen to strengthen links with the youth justice sector through listening, understanding and involving."



Ian Langley retires from Hampshire



Most of our readers will know Ian Langley, AYM Secretary; Ian retired from his role in Hampshire on 30th April but **we are pleased to say that Ian will maintain his role with the AYM.**

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, Ian celebrated his retirement from Hampshire with a 'virtual farewell do' – the upside of this was many people were able to 'attend' the function, regardless of distance!

Adrian Quinn (formerly of Solihull, Manchester and Bristol YOTs) shares his thoughts....

I am writing this on the occasion of Ian Langley retiring as Head of Troubled Families in Hampshire, previously manager of the Hants YOT and before that Wessex and Wiltshire; and no doubt for those staff fortunate enough to work with, and for him, over the years, a legend in his own backyard.

But that's not why I'm writing this. This is about the contribution Ian has made to the AYM over the last couple of decades as both secretary to the organisation and as a leading light in the AYM. I have been a member of AYM since its inception and since I retired 6 years ago have had the privilege of being an honorary life member.

The AYM has become the leading voice in youth justice representing managers, and perhaps more importantly the young people that YOTs deal with right across England, to government and associated partners. However in about 2010 due to various complications at the head of the organisation, AYM was about to go under, with only a third of YOT managers signed up as members. Ian, as a member of the AYM Executive, under the new leadership of Gareth Jones, was responsible for pulling the AYM out of that perilous situation for the organisation, along, of course, with all the other exec members at the time.

But it was Ian above all, as AYM secretary, with his considerable social skills and direct personal charisma and charm, that was responsible for the increase in membership that took place over the next couple of years, in the end reaching that critical mass that enabled AYM to be the voice of youth justice over the past decade. AYM should be forever grateful to Ian and his contribution.

Obviously, these are my personal comments but I have little doubt they will echo, and be confirmed by others who've had the pleasure of working with him over the years.

Ian, being Ian, will be continuing with AYM in to the near future and this will be welcome to all; but I thought it important to mark the transition with these comments.

So, Ian, thank you for your friendship and support over the years and bona fortuna in the next phase of your life - and, of course, see you at some hostelry on the A4 when we're allowed to meet again, don't know when, but do know approximately where!!

Changes to the AYM Executive...

Following the resignation of Davie Parks as the AYM North East Regional Representative, the Executive Board are pleased to announce that Miriam Sigsworth of Stockton YOT has been agreed as the new regional representative.



Miriam was able to actively participate as an observer in the recent AYM Executive meeting via video conference and the Executive were pleased to hear a north eastern viewpoint. We are sure that Miriam will be a great asset to the Executive and to the region, raising the concerns of YOTs in that area and representing their views.

Welcome aboard Miriam.

The Executive would also like to thank Davie for his work over the past years in his role as regional representative, and of course wish him all the best with his work with the 'Skill Mill', which has been a winner of the AYM John Hawkins Award.

COVID-19 permitting the Executive is due to meet at Cramlington in Northumberland on the 21st September. As always, the Executive are happy for any AYM members to attend these meetings.



AYM member, Tom Dooks has agreed to take on the AYM portfolio lead for out of court disposals, previously carried out by Ben Finley who resigned his position with the AYM when he left his YOT role. The Executive welcomes Tom in this role and looks forward to working with him.

And Finally...

Difficult times appear to lead to increases in communication scams. It seems a number of people have received e-mails from 'executivesboard27@gmail.com' addressed from our chair but we understand other agencies have been listed as the sender as well.

Please ignore any e-mails from this sender – unless you want to purchase vouchers.....

HMIP Consultation



HM Inspectorate of Probation has issued a consultation document regarding the standards and ratings for inspecting youth offending services.

The AYM welcomes the consultation, and is pleased that the AYM seminars held earlier in the year have contributed to the review of the inspection domain, out of court disposals (OOCd).

The consultation covers the detail of three changes to the YOT inspection methodology – some minor changes to the existing standards and, more significantly, the addition of two new standards and the methodology to be adopted to inspect against them.

The inspectorate is **replacing one of the existing OOCd standards and introducing a new resettlement standard** with a view to improving its oversight of some key areas of YOT work.

Small changes to the wording of other standards are proposed with **key questions and prompts to hone them based on experience and to place an additional emphasis on effectiveness.**

The inspectorate is also consulting on the case sample ratios to ensure that the number of OOCd cases inspected better reflects its proportion of YOT caseloads.

The inspectorate has also updated the language used throughout the framework to better align it with the child-first, offender-second approach, with all references to young people now replaced by child or children.

To access the consultation document [click here](#)

The AYM urges all youth offending services to respond to this important consultation. The AYM will be responding as an organisation so if you have something you wish us to add into our response, as well as your own, please contact your regional representative as soon as possible.



The deadline for responses to this consultation is **Sunday 07 June 2020 at 23:59**

Surviving Incarceration



Children in care who are sentenced to custody develop a 'survivor mentality'.

Research conducted by the University of Bedfordshire's Vauxhall Centre for the Study of Crime, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, in partnership with the South and West Yorkshire Resettlement Consortium, estimates that children in care who come into contact with the justice system are seven times more likely to be imprisoned than their peers who are not in care.

The research team, comprising Anne-Marie Day, Tim Bateman and John Pitts, found that pathways into, through and out of custody, can be understood in terms of strategies that disadvantaged and vulnerable children develop in order to survive hostile environments and make recommendations for improvement.

While all those sentenced to custody shared characteristics that included extremely troubled backgrounds, there were differences between children in care and those who were not.

The additional challenges encountered by the former group exacerbated the risk that they would become entangled in the youth justice system and, when sentenced to custody, would experience deprivation of liberty and resettlement as more disruptive. For example, the sample of children in care in this study were predominantly placed in residential care, and many of the features of being in care accelerated this group of children onto the streets at a faster rate, increasing the risk of becoming involved in the youth justice system.

We recommend that local agencies consider how best to support children who adopt a street lifestyle, ensuring they have access to constructive activities and are re-engaged in education or training. The development of a detached youth provision might form an important element of such a strategy. Reducing the number of looked-after children who go missing, and drift towards the street, is an urgent necessity.

These differences also impacted on identities in important ways. All children exhibited strategies for survival at each stage of their journey, but a focus on surviving tended to become an integral part of the identity of children in care. Whilst in custody, all children accepted that to survive this environment, they had to 'keep their head down' or 'fight for who they are'. Children in care experienced additional challenges in custody brought about by lack of informal contact with professionals; less family visits; and difficulties encountered in accessing their money, usually as a result of local authority bureaucracy, to buy basic items such as shampoo (their canteen).

We propose that to address the perceived isolation of looked-after children in custody, professionals prioritise 'informal' contact, including regular visiting, not linked to statutory planning processes, in order to demonstrate what children see as a level of genuine care. The use of free telephone calls for children in their cell to family and professionals should be a right for all children in the custodial estate.

The perceived need for these children to be self-reliant because of what they understood to be a lack of adequate support from adults, meant that they were also more likely than other children to develop, what we term, a 'survivor mentality' that made it harder for them to focus on future ambitions for positive achievement and to leave their offending behind them. Building on the Beyond Youth Custody research (Hazel et al, 2017); making the identity shift from offender to non-offender was more of a challenge for children in care, as the additional challenges that they face on release can leave them stuck in a cycle of survival. And the cycle is not of their own making. Some examples included being resettled away from home areas; a lack of suitable accommodation; limited access to suitable employment and education opportunities on release; a lack of family and wider community support; and being more likely than their peers to be breached on their community order/ licence.

We recommend that local authorities adopt a protocol similar to South and West Yorkshire, whereby, agreed by the Director of Children's Services, that a suitable address is found for children in care at least 2 weeks prior to release. We also recommend that youth offending teams monitor their rates of breach and introduce a presumption against breach for all children in care.

To access the full report and the Executive Summary [click here](#)

The Impact of COVID-19

Childline Reports Increase in Calls from Children

The Children's Counselling Service, 'Childline' reports having carried out 2,200 counselling sessions about coronavirus since late January, with 1700 of these occurring in 3 weeks between 19th March and 8th April.



Childline say it is “*increasingly concerned about the number of children who will experience abuse or neglect due to the impact of coronavirus, with families struggling with lockdown, job losses and school closures.*”

In a bid to support children, parents and carers, the charity has created a 'Coronavirus Advice Hub' which provides tips and advice to support them during the crisis.

To access the hub [click here](#)

Children may be less visible but more vulnerable during lockdown.

The Children's Commissioner has published the report 'We're all in this together' providing local area profiles of child vulnerability to highlight to local authorities the groups of children likely to be at risk under lockdown, and how many children in their area fall into those groups.



The report highlights many vulnerable groups of children falling into four groups:

- Families under increased pressure as a result of reduced support, social isolation, financial concerns, and issues such as mental ill health or learning needs,
- Children at risk of suffering, including those requiring child protection, those exposed to domestic abuse and children who are exploited. The report states:

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.

- Children in care, particularly those living in unregulated settings, who will not be able to have face to face contact with their family,
- Children who are falling behind in their education, perhaps due to living in poverty, lack of internet access and/or those living in poor housing conditions for whom home schooling may be a challenge.

To read the full report [click here](#)

ADCS Warns of High Demand on Children's Services – Post Lockdown.



In her 'virtual inauguration speech', the president of the Association of Directors of Children's Services, Jenny Coles, warned that although demand on children's services has dropped significantly since social isolation measures were introduced, she expected that a backlog of new care applications is probable as a result of children and their families being drawn into poverty as a result of the economic fallout from Covid-19.

Testing Available for Key Workers

The Health Secretary, Matt Hancock, has announced testing for Covid-19 will now be available for all key workers, including social workers, teachers, health visitors and childcare practitioners, and their families from the 24th April.

Essential workers who have been self-isolating can now apply for testing for themselves and members of their household. If the test result turns out to be negative, the individuals can safely return to work, as long as:

- they are well enough
- they have not had a high temperature for 48 hours
- anyone they live with also tests negative.

Access to this testing is available through an [Government digital portal](#) where you can choose between visiting a drive through test centre, or requesting a home test kit.

Death of Social Worker Reported

The news of testing for key workers comes amongst news that three social workers have died to date as a result of COVID-19.

The British Association of Social Workers has expressed sympathy for the recent death of a social worker, Muhammad Islam who worked for Birmingham Children's Trust in the Care Leaving Service, who died as a result of the virus.

Ruth Allen, Chief Executive Officer of BASW said:

"Social workers form a tight knit community and this tragic news has hugely affected us. We send our heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Muhammad."

Advice, Guidance and Support for COVID-19 Developed with young people



The National Youth Agency has developed a resource with young people to support their understanding of COVID-19 and providing guidance and support to help young people manage during the pandemic. This resource also provides advice, guidance support and tools for youth workers and agencies working with children.

You will be able to find resources to help you and young people keep calm, stay connected and be safe. Each area (above) has downloadable resources and links to other useful sites. Tools include webinars on subjects such as young people and substance misuse during lockdown

To access the website [click here](#). The website is continually developing and updating its resources, if you have resources to share or suggestions for new ideas then please get in touch at AbbeeM@nya.org.uk or Movement@ukyouth.org

Former Medway Secure Training Centre to be Annex for HMP/YOI Rochester

To support reduced contact for prisoners during COVID-19, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has announced that Medway Secure Training Centre will be used as temporary accommodation for adult male prisoners.

Medway as a secure training centre, which was closed on 31 March 2020 and is due to be developed into the first secure school, to be run by Oasis. However, the MoJ has advised that this temporary measure to help manage during this national emergency does not effect plans for the secure school which it says, both *the MoJ and the Youth Custody Service remain committed to delivering*'.

The charity Oasis, contracted to develop and run the secure school are said by the MoJ to be *fully supportive of this temporary measure*'.

The secure school is due to be opened later this year and Oasis are said by the MoJ to be continuing to lay the groundwork for refurbishment of the site.

Secure schools were part of the recommendations resulting from the Review of the youth justice system by Charlie Taylor who has recently completed his tenure as Chair of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.

Howard League Publish Advice Briefings

Howard League for Penal Reform

The Howard League for Penal Reform has published two recent briefings with a view to reducing the number of children incarcerated during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to advise of the issues facing children already detained in custody.

Briefing Note On Children in Custody

Concerned about the 'severely restricted regime' children in custody are currently experiencing as a result of COVID-19, the Howard League have issued a briefing note for professionals and others outlining some of the issues.

In order to apply social distancing, the secure establishments have restricted activities for children outside their cells. In YOIs, children are '**spending 23 or more hours a day alone in their cells.**' Children tell the Howard League they are getting around half an hour of fresh air a day in small groups of three or four.

Restrictions on contact with the outside world and difficulties in release planning: Children's access to the outside world is severely restricted with cancellation of all visits and release planning is made difficult.

To access the briefing note [click here](#)

Guide to making bail applications for children, under Covid-19

Howard League for Penal Reform

Garden Court Chambers and the Howard League have together issued guidance for practitioners, which may also be relevant to judges and magistrates.



The guide highlights that ***any decision to remand a child to custody should be subject to anxious scrutiny in light of the virus.*** Children should not be remanded unless there are wholly exceptional circumstances. Such anxious scrutiny is in line with the welfare principle that underpins the youth justice system (Children and Young Persons Act 1933, s44(1)) which is mirrored in the best interest principles of the UN Convention on Rights of the Child.

[Click here](#) to access the guide.



Please let your AYM Regional Representative know if you have any cases where children are detained where alternatives were provided.

Standing Committee for Youth Justice Trial Virtual Meeting

Board members were pleased to see so many in attendance



The first virtual member's meeting of the Standing Committee saw more than 50 participants. Members shared their concerns and issues regarding the care of children during the COVID-19 crisis and ways in which they are coping and managing to continue to deliver services.



AYM's Chair, Andy Peaden presented the issues current to youth offending services and the children in their care, and advised that only ten children had been identified as eligible for early release.

The Howard League reported being particularly concerned about the low numbers of children being released and have approached the Secretary of State as the 'exceptional circumstances' for use of home detention curfews to support release they argue, is being applied too narrowly.

Howard League for Penal Reform

Keir Irwin-Rogers and Gary Trowsdale from the Youth Violence Commission, were the main speakers at the event and gave an outline of their Final Report which is to be published shortly. This cross party Commission was launched in 2017 following a debate in Parliament, to examine the root causes of youth violence in England, Scotland and Wales. In order to complete this work, the Commission consulted 2,200 young people as well as considering expert evidence from practitioners, academics and the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). An interim report was published in July 2018.

Keir and Gary reported that the findings demonstrate the need to increase diversion and prevention in order to help reduce violent offending and expressed concern about the introduction of knife crime prevention orders which may inadvertently increase criminalisation of children.

Reporting that the cost of serious violent offending has been £1 billion per annum for the past 3 years, they call for a long-term investment in VRUs which they argue would be cost effective with only a 0.4% reduction in violence. They also called for professionals to be actively involved in these locally to make best use of them

Director of the SCYJ, Pippa Goodfellow contributed to this report as author a reflection on the findings 'Rethinking 'Justice' for Young People.

For more information on the Standing Committee for Youth Justice, or to apply for membership of this organisation please [click here](#)



Other News in Brief



West Berkshire YOT Receive 'Outstanding' Rating

Inspected prior to the recent cessation of HMI Probation YOT inspections due to COVID-19, West Berkshire YOT has received a rating of 'outstanding' for their work, scoring 34 out of a possible 36 against the inspection standards.



Well done West Berkshire YOT, excellent news to receive in such difficult times!

Joint Interview Protocol Published

The Law Society, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the National Police Chiefs' Council have developed a coronavirus (COVID-19) interview protocol. This protocol aims to assist investigators and prosecutors in deciding whether suspects should be interviewed as part of a police investigation during the coronavirus pandemic.

First published on 1st April, it is to be reviewed monthly, however has already been revised following feedback from police, defence practitioners, the Home Office and the National Appropriate Adult Network, and a new version was published on 24th April.

The amendments include:

- provision for defence practitioners to "attend" police interviews by telephone in certain circumstances, and
- adding that special care should be taken in deciding whether, and how, an interview of a child or vulnerable adult should proceed. **When an appropriate adult is required for a suspect, they must be physically present with the suspect in interview and should be involved in any discussion about interview arrangements**

To access the protocol [click here](#)

Sector Respond to Relaxation of Duties to Children



Children and Young People Now has reported the concern amongst child care agencies regarding the Government's decision to relax local authority statutory duties to vulnerable children which came into force on the 24th April.

In the article, sector leaders criticise proposals to “*speed up the adoption process and emergency foster care placements as well as the removal of care plans for kinship carers and a reduction of the expected standards of care in residential settings including children's homes.*”

Many of those commenting are concerned that the proposals could well become permanent after the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

To read the full article [click here](#)

Consultation into Unregulated Provision for Children in Care and Care Leavers



The Department of Education (DfE) has extended this consultation, first published on 12th February.



The DfE is seeking views on the proposed reforms for independent and semi-independent accommodation for children's social care with the intention of ensuring all placements are good quality.

Proposals include:

- banning using this provision for under 16s
- introducing national quality standards
- ensuring independent reviewing officers represent young people's interests
- requiring local authorities and police forces to cooperate with each other
- new legal powers for Ofsted to take action against illegal providers



To access the consultation and respond [click here](#)

The deadline for responses is now 3rd June 2020 at 10.30pm.



Training on Intermediaries

For those wanting to know more about the role of intermediaries, established as a role in 2004, in supporting vulnerable people in the justice system, Intermediaries for Justice has released two films to help.



Available for vulnerable witnesses, intermediaries can also be appointed by judges to support vulnerable defendants.

'Introduction to the Intermediary Role', gives background to this valuable profession and shows the way in which intermediaries support vulnerable people.

'A Voice for the Voiceless' is a training film

To access the films, which are also available on YouTube, [click here](#)

Social Action by Young People



National 'Stephen Lawrence Day' (22nd April) this year, saw the publication of a resource pack created by 'Peer Power Experts (PPEs)' for other young people who have a desire to create positive change in their community.

The resource 'We all have the power to make a difference': a guide to social action by young people for young people' calls for young people to actively engage in social action and provides advice on how to start a social action project.

The resource is beautifully illustrated by one of the PPEs, Parishma Patani.

To access the guide [click here](#)



Items of Interest



Calendar of events for AYM 2020

Title	Date	Venue
Executive Board meeting	7 th May, 2020	Virtual meeting
Executive Board meeting	10 th June, 2020	Virtual meeting
AYM AGM	Postponed from 10 th June due to COVID -19 crisis. New date to coincide with the Autumn Conference.	To be confirmed
Executive Board meeting	21 st September 2020,	Cramlington, Northumberland (subject to COVID-19)
Autumn Conference	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Executive Board meeting	17 th 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

Kirklees Youth Offending Team Recruiting a Service Manager



Kirklees Council is recruiting to the role of Service Manager, calling for a “passionate and committed” person to lead and manage their Youth Offending Team.

The successful candidate will manage the Youth Offending Team and develop to conclusion a Youth Engagement Service, designed to provide support for all young people identified at risk of all forms of exploitation, gang affiliation and criminal influences.

Kirklees is looking for an experienced manager with a proven track record in managing employees, budgets and performance and with a strong understanding of what best practice looks like.

Applicants must hold a HCPC recognised Social Work Qualification and be registered with the HCPC.

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

Youth Justice Summit 2020

‘Locked Up: Reducing the detention of children



This fourth annual summit of the Youth Justice Legal Centre at Just for Kids Law, due to take place on 5th June 2020

has been postponed

For more information [click here](#)

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 whether this will be a virtual meeting or a face to face event, this prior to the date.

Children and Young People Now Conferences

Safeguarding Children in the Digital Age



The 4th national 'Safeguarding Children in the Digital Age' conference, rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will now take place on:

30th September,

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](#)

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 will be holding its Executive Board meeting at the end of day 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.



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>



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

This AYM Newsletter shares items which we feel may be of interest to members and other interested parties, but this should not be taken as endorsement of individuals, organisations or their products.



The views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent those of AYM or its membership.

If you do not wish to receive this Bulletin, please email lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk and you will be removed from our records. Non-Member email addresses are only used for circulating this newsletter.



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.

East	Pat Jennings Bedfordshire YOS				
Pat.jennings@bedford.gov.uk					
East Midlands	Shelley Nicholls Nottingham City YOS		West Midlands	Pali Obhi Solihull YOS	
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