

# Bulletin

## August 2020

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## News from the AYM Executive Board

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

The Executive Board met virtually again on 15<sup>th</sup> July and one of the priorities of the agenda was agreeing the date for the AGM. The meeting normally takes place in June each year but was delayed due to the restrictions resulting from the outbreak of COVID-19.



The second consideration was the format of the meeting. Whilst restrictions to manage the pandemic have been relaxed recently the Executive believe that most members would prefer a virtual meeting at the moment and that this is unlikely to change much in the near future.

As a result, **the AGM will be held at 11am on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020** and members are invited to join the meeting which will be held using Zoom.

The logo for the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The letters 'AGM' are large and colorful (A is yellow, G is green, M is purple). Below them, the text 'Annual General Meeting' is written in a smaller, blue font.

To join the AGM [click here](#) You will be prompted for the:

- Meeting ID: 860 4446 4068
- Password: 335518

Our secretary Ian Langley will send out papers to members prior to the meeting.

We are pleased to say that Keith Fraser, Chair of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) has agreed to speak at this event and we are sure that members will not only be keen to hear from Keith but also to raise questions to him about the direction of the YJB for the future.

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### ***Expert Seminar on Girls and Young Women in the Criminal Justice System***

SCYJ and Agenda, the Alliance for Women and Girls at Risk, hosted the Young Women's Justice Project – Transitions Seminar, on the 30th July. The seminar

The seminar explored the theme of transitions of girls into young adulthood, while in contact with the criminal justice system. Issues, concerns and aspirations for improved processes and practices were shared.



AYM portfolio lead for girls and young women, Sam Matthews, participated in the seminar. If you have any issues you wish the project to consider, please get in touch with Sam Matthews at [Samantha.T.Matthews@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:Samantha.T.Matthews@eastriding.gov.uk)

## **AYM Provides Further Evidence to the Justice Committee**

Following the meeting of the Justice Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> June at which both the AYM Chair, Andy Peadar, and the Vice Chair Hazel Williamson gave evidence, the AYM held a Zoom meeting with members to identify how we can best support members in dealing with the issues of racism and disproportionality present within the youth justice system.



As a result of this meeting a number of suggestions and proposals were made highlighting the issues children from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds experience when in contact with the criminal justice system. As agreed, the Executive has used the information gathered from members at this meeting and the suggestions made, to help develop additional evidence for submission to the Justice Committee.



In this evidence the AYM highlights the important role youth offending services and the AYM have to play in highlighting and challenging inequality and injustice where we see it within the criminal justice system and within our day to day work. The evidence states the commitment of the AYM to the concept of ‘explain or reform’ proposed in the Lammy report.

The evidence points out that *“a multi-agency approach that tackles the root causes of serious violent crime is essential and we are committed to working with partners to ensure that children at risk of involvement in serious violence are supported and prevented from entering the criminal justice system”*.



The Justice Committee was also advised that the AYM has held a dedicated meeting with sector colleagues following the Justice Committee’s questions and raised a number of issues regarding disproportionality with suggestions for consideration by the committee.

To read the full submission of evidence to the Justice Committee [click here](#)

## Youth Justice Improvement Partnership Update

Despite these challenging times the members of the Youth Justice Improvement Partnership Board are determined to develop new ways of working to ensure the delivery of sector led improvements.



In the Autumn the following training opportunities are still available:

- **Operational Managers Training:** Katie Hewitt and Trevor Woodhouse have adapted this training which will be delivered virtually by ZOOM
- **Peer Reviewers Training:** This remains booked at the Warwick Conference Centre (November) however discussions are taking place to adapt this to a virtual training event if required
- **Coaching Training:** This training will be delivered virtually by the training provider Portfolio.



Those already registered on these events will be contacted about the joining arrangements. There are a small number of spaces available at each event, so if you are interested in finding out more or booking a place please contact [jon.bradnum@yjb.gov.uk](mailto:jon.bradnum@yjb.gov.uk)

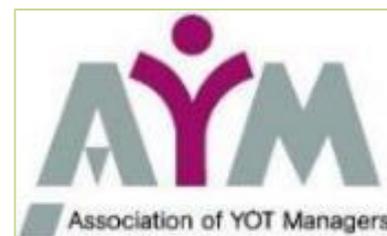
Those services where peer reviews have been postponed will be contacted to discuss future arrangements along with those services who have submitted recent applications.

If you want to find out more about the work of the YJSIP Board, or would like to represent your area, there are always opportunities and we currently have a vacancy. Please get in touch with your local representative, or one of the YISP Board members, Kay Davidson or Tania Riedel (co-chairs), Jon Bradnum (YJB) or Jacqui Belfield-Smith (AYM).

Region	Local Representatives
East	andy.cook@lincolnshire.gov.uk, jennifer.meade@suffolk.gov.uk
London	angie.fuller@lbdd.gov.uk, brendan.finegan@hackney.gov.uk
Midlands	tonybegley@warwickshire.gov.uk
<b>North East</b>	<b>CURRENT VACANCY</b>
North West	kay.davidson@salford.gov.uk, jacqui.belfield-smith@stockport.gov.uk
South East	tania.riedel@brighton-hove.gov.uk
South West	sally_churchyard@bathnes.gov.uk
Yorkshire & Humberside	katie.hewitt@sheffield.gov.uk, andy.peaden@leeds.gov.uk
Wales	pbarnett@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, James.Warr@flintshire.gov.uk, lesley.p.jones@powys.gov.uk

## ***New Posts to Review Diversionary Work***

The work of youth offending services in delivering diversionary and preventative work has resulted in a significant reduction in children entering the formal criminal justice system over a number of years.



Following the work of the National Probation Service Young Offenders Governance Board of which the AYM are members, it has been agreed that the National Probation Service (NPS) will resource:



**HM Prison &  
Probation Service**

- one senior probation officer (SPO) equivalent, and
- one probation service officer (PSO) equivalent.

These posts equate to a Band 5 project lead/manager, with operational experience and a Band 3 project officer. The work of these posts will be **to undertake a review of diversionary/preventative work**; considered necessary due to the local nature and definition of diversion and prevention work across the sector.

Expressions of interest are invited from across youth offending teams (YOTs) and the NPS and the successful applicants will be seconded to the YJB for the duration of the 2-year project.



If you are interested in applying for one of these posts for the information about the **Band 3 post** [click here](#) and for information about the **Band 5 post** [click here](#).

**The closing date for applications for these positions is 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2020.**

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## ***ILM7 Certificate in Leadership & Management Course***



Due to the COVID-19 restrictions the Executive has decided to offer the ILM7 Development Programme as a virtual course using Zoom for workshops and tutorials. As a result, we have been able to reduce the cost of the course for 2020.

This course is aimed at YOS Heads of Service and offers a unique opportunity to work with others in a similar role, to develop approaches to a chosen aspect for improvement in your own service.

A number of members have expressed an interest in undertaking the course and, subject to appropriate numbers, **the next course will commence on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.**

The cost of the course is £2450. **AYM members will pay £2200.**

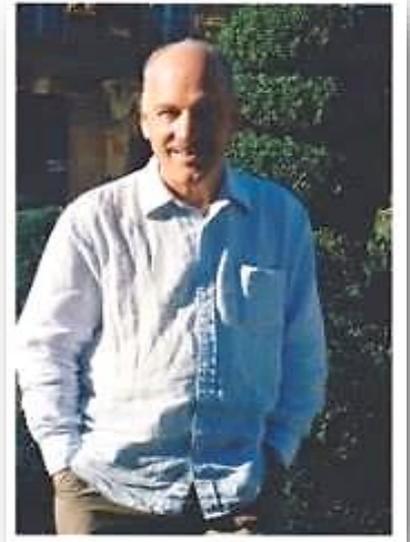
If you are interested in undertaking this course please contact [diana.bowden@aym.org.uk](mailto:diana.bowden@aym.org.uk)



## AYM's John Hawkins Award

In memory of John Hawkins, previous AYM Treasurer and Head of Service East Sussex YOT, the award is presented to a YOT that can demonstrate creativity and innovation in its work with children in the youth justice system.

**The winning project receives £500** and the award is normally presented on the final day of the Youth Justice Convention. As this will not be possible in 2020, **we will be making the presentation virtually on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020.**



Do you have a programme or project that you feel demonstrates innovation or creativity and which provides positive outcomes for children you work with?

Perhaps you have developed a creative approach to the work you have undertaken with children and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant restrictions, why not nominate this for an award?



If you have an example of good practice, which is innovative or creative, and want to nominate it for an award contact our secretary Ian Langley at [secretary@aym.org.uk](mailto:secretary@aym.org.uk)

**The deadline for nominations is Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October.**



Young people involved in last year's winning project, *Bradford YOT's 'Child Friendly Plan'* will judge the entries.

**Good luck everyone!**



## Quality Awards

### **Congratulations Haringey YJS**

**Haringey**  
LONDON

Haringey have been awarded the Youth Justice SEND Quality Lead award. This award was developed by the AYM and 'Achievement for All' and recognises youth offending services that have evidenced improved outcomes for children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) in their local area through effective partnership working.



The standards for the award were developed with the support of the Department of Education and the YJB and with input from academics and practitioners, and is valid for three years.

If you are interested in gaining this or the Quality Mark award which recognises consistently high levels of practice with children with SEND, please contact [phil.sutton@aym.org.uk](mailto:phil.sutton@aym.org.uk).

### **A Reminder to YOTs Wishing to Revalidate Awards**

The Youth Justice Send Quality Awards – the Quality Mark and the Quality Lead are valid for three years and in 2021 those YOTs which received an award in 2018 will be offered the opportunity to re-validate their status as SEND Quality Mark or SEND Quality Lead areas.



**The cost of revalidation of the Quality Awards will be capped at 50% of the price of the original award (around £500 for areas) where the YOT manager is an AYM member.**



*Please note, the full fee will be charged for those wishing to apply for an upgrade from Quality Mark to Quality Lead.*

Contact [phil.sutton@aym.org.uk](mailto:phil.sutton@aym.org.uk) for more information or to arrange for revalidation.

## Chair of YJB Appointed to New Commission

### ***On Race and Ethnic Disparities***

The Prime Minister's Office has announced the membership of its new cross-government '**Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities**', to be chaired by Dr Tony Sewell CBE, an education consultant and Chair of the Trustees of the educational charity 'Generating Genius': Tony was previously a board member of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB).



The commission will be responsible for reviewing inequality in the UK, focusing on areas including poverty, education, employment, health and the criminal justice system. The Commission which will be supported by the Race Disparity Unit in the Cabinet Office, will look at outcomes for the whole population and will report to the Prime Minister. The Commission will aim to report its findings on the priority areas of health, education, criminal justice and employment by the end of this year.

Members of this **new commission include Keith Fraser, Chair of the YJB**, together with a number of educationalists as well as those from experience of the public and private sector. Keith is an independent board member of the Ministry of Justice's race and ethnicity board and as a YJB board member was instrumental in the YJB's work to tackle disproportionality



[Click here](#) to read about the commission and its terms of reference.

**Keith has also taken time to reflect on the first 100 days since his appointment as Chair of the YJB** and setting out the priorities for his three-year tenure.

During the last 100 days Keith has been meeting with stakeholders across the youth justice system and hearing about the achievements and the frustrations of those working within the system, and the views of those children and young people who have experienced the system first hand.

Keith notes that "*the youth justice system is not working for everyone*", particularly those from BAME backgrounds and those in custody. Keith is clear that in order to achieve safe communities with fewer victims, we must understand what works whilst adopting a 'child first approach.

Keith also makes it clear that addressing over-representation is a top priority for the YJB

To read the full account of Keith's reflection [click here](#)

## Understanding Youth Diversion in London

### **Evidence and Practice Briefing**



The Centre for Justice Innovation (CJI) has published a briefing paper for practitioners outlining how point-of-arrest youth diversion is delivered across London and how innovative practice is taking place in an ever evolving and diverse city.



This evidence and practice briefing considers how 29 of London's 31 youth offending teams (YOTs) have point-of-arrest schemes in place to divert children and young people – from out of court disposals and prosecution.

The range of schemes available across the different YOTs means that children can avoid the negative consequences formal disposals create, such as a criminal record or interruption of education.



CJI held practitioner workshops in 2019 to consider the way in which diversion is determined and delivered in different areas of London. YOT and police practitioners at these workshops voiced concerns regarding the inconsistency of eligibility across the different schemes, a similar picture to that voiced nationally and highlighted in the CJI paper 'Strengthening Youth Diversion'.

This briefing paper considers two schemes in particular, that of the North West Borough Command Unit (BCU) which operates a police-led deferred prosecution scheme called 'Turning Point', and the Triage offered by, 'Young Hackney's Prevention & Diversion' scheme.

CJI conclude:

*"Innovative practice in the delivery of diversion has been responsive to the London landscape. The Hackney and the North West BCU case studies are just a couple examples of this. They show the commitment of YOTs and local police to working together to reduce the impact of criminal justice involvement for children and young people."*

However, the briefing demonstrates there is still a way to go before the problem of 'post code lottery' for decisions and outcomes for children in contact with the police is overcome.

To access the document [click here](#)

## Overcoming the Constraints for COVID-19



### ***Sian Hancock, North Somerset YOS tells us how she did***

Sian, from the Avon and Somerset Young Victims' Service (YVS), in North Somerset YOS had been supporting a young child due to domestic abuse he had witnessed. He was offered a place at school during the lockdown due to his vulnerability, the aggression he directed at mum and the knowledge that the Young Victims' Service (YVS), North Somerset YOS were not able to continue with face to face visits due to COVID-19 restrictions. He did not take up this place until late April/beginning of May so in discussion with his school the Young Victims' Advocate, (YVA) agreed that whilst he was at home the school SENCO would check in with his mum at the beginning of the week (the boy was reluctant to talk with his teacher on the phone) and the YVA would check in with him and mum at the end of the week (having spoken on the phone before).

The family moved house mid-April and the internet and mobile signal were found to be poor, making communication more difficult and this was one of the factors leading to the school place being taken up. The SENCO and YVA discussed options for facilitating a session during the school day; Zoom was suggested and mum consented to its use.

Sian arranged for these sessions to be managed in the same way her visits to school were facilitated. YVS hosted the meeting and sent the link to the SENCO, she opened the link on her school iPad and set it up in the staff room (where YVS sessions had previously taken place), the child arrived at the set time equipped with his tray of Lego (a usual feature in the sessions), paper and pens. Once settled we would be left to talk and when we had finished after 30-45 minutes he would alert the SENCO in her office next door before returning to his class and she and the YVA would then debrief.

The school have been very supportive of this process, keen for these sessions to continue. The SENCO has said that this young boy is 'keen to speak, relaxed and happy'. She has noticed that he is listening and focussed far longer than she would expect a child of his age. She believes 'the sessions are key for him to speak openly'.

Whilst an online session is not like being in the same room together, often he will sit to the far side of the screen so only just visible which means some facial expressions are lost and on occasion his voice is very quiet so it is harder to hear him but it has enabled support to continue for this boy in his complex situation. It has been helpful to keep features of our sessions consistent whilst still adapting to the new conditions, the familiarity of these have helped put him at ease and built upon the work previously done. Not all schools would have the resources to support this approach and it is possible that when numbers return this school will be challenged to do so but for the time being we will continue.

**If you have an example of innovative practice get in touch** so we can share it with others. Send your examples to [lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk](mailto:lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk)

## Court of Appeal Rule on 'Cliff Edge Sentence'

The AYM Bulletin reported last month on the findings of the recently published legal guide and policy briefing '*Timely Justice: Turning 18*' from the Youth Justice Legal Centre, and the 'launch webinar' which discussed the injustices experienced by children who commit offences as a child but who are not proceeded against until they reach 18yrs.



A further ruling has been made finding against the sentence imposed. In the case of Regina v Thomas (2020) EWCA Crim 822 the defence barrister, Mr. Baker, submitted that

*“the appellant's role in the offending was far less serious than that of the 14 year old and Morgan-Winter, both of whom pleaded guilty to the section 20 offence, which carries a maximum of five years' custody, yet they received 12 month referral orders. The co-accused who, like the appellant, pleaded guilty to the section 4 offence, received only a three month referral order. The appellant, by contrast, received an 18 month community order with substantial requirements.”*

The justices considered the content of the referral orders imposed on the co-accused and the requirements of the community order, and the progress Thomas had made in completing the order and refraining from reoffending and allowed the appeal:

- Reducing the length of the community order to nine months,
- Reducing the rehabilitation activity requirement from 20 to 10 days
- Quashing the attendance centre requirement, and
- Substituting the victim surcharge from £85 to £20.

In making this decision the justices stated that this would mean that Thomas will continue to benefit from the advice and support of his probation officer for another three months, whilst completing the valuable rehabilitation activity requirement

To read the decision [click here](#)

To access the legal guide and policy paper from the Youth Justice Legal Centre [click here](#)

## Identifying Changes to Youth Justice Practice with Girls

### **Can you Help with Research?**

Pippa Goodfellow is conducting research in her role as a postgraduate student working towards a Professional Doctorate in Children and Young People's Services at the University of Bedfordshire, under the supervision of Professor John Pitts and Dr Tim Bateman.



### **What is the research about?**

Since the current form of the youth justice system was established and implemented nationally in 2000, there was a significant increase, then subsequent decrease, in the processing of girls through the youth justice system, and particularly their placement in youth custody. The primary aim of this study is to identify and explore the factors influencing recent levels of imprisonment of girls in England and Wales, to develop knowledge about how to minimise the use of custody and inform future policy and practice.

Do you have experience of working with girls in a youth justice context? The views and experiences of practitioners are being sought to take part in a survey about changes to youth justice practice with girls in recent years.

### **What is the purpose of the survey?**

The purpose of the survey is to identify and explore how youth justice culture and practice with girls has changed over time at a local level, and what has influenced these changes. Pippa is interested in the views of youth justice practitioners as to why the number of girls entering the youth justice system and youth custody has fallen so significantly and at a sharper rate than for boys. Completing the survey is likely to take up to 30 minutes. It is also intended that the survey will identify practitioners who are interested in being interviewed about these issues in more detail.

To undertake the survey [click here](#)

### **About Pippa**

*In her day job, Pippa is the Director of the Standing Committee for Youth Justice and a Trustee of the National Association for Youth Justice.*



If you have any questions please contact: [pippa.goodfellow@scyj.org.uk](mailto:pippa.goodfellow@scyj.org.uk)

## Children in Custody

### **Justice Committee Takes Evidence.**



Following their review of current youth justice provision and the impact of restrictions resulting from COVID-19, the Justice Committee heard evidence from witnesses regarding the separation of children in custody which, in some cases, amounts to isolation of up to 23 hours per day.

The Children's Commissioner, Anne Longfield, questioned the need for the 'draconian measures' that were introduced across the secure estate, taking no account of the differences between children and adults.

Witnesses to the committee included three Leaders Unlocked Young Advisers on Criminal Justice who were able to give first-hand experience of the youth justice system and suggestions for reform. Talking of some of the trauma experienced by themselves and other children in custody, the Young Adviser discussed the inability of custodial establishments to support rehabilitation, describing the emphasis on control.

When asked about the levels of violence in the youth secure estate, the Children's Commissioner stated that the current security regime, as opposed to the culture promised for the new secure schools, means the current youth secure estate is not a fit place for children. Young Advisers agreed with this, calling for alternatives that take account of the needs of children and offer support to address the impact of experienced trauma.

Lucy Frazer, the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, reported that HMIP reported positive improvements when inspecting the three youth offending institutions which showed care and support offered to children by officers. However, she also raised the feeling of safety that some children have experienced as a result of separation, as a result of not having to mix with large number of other children. When asked about the prolonged period of the restricted regime for children, the minister stated that whilst some restrictions have been relaxed with education now taking place and face to face visits being conducted, it is expected that restrictions will continue within the secure estate until March 2021, unless it is safe to remove the restrictions.

The minister also reported that no children have been released under early release scheme, unlike adults which she said was the result of seriousness of the offences committed by children in custody.

When asked about the level of custodial remands, the minister stated a review is underway regarding this and options are being considered to address this issue.

To view the committee hearing [click here](#)



## Incentivised Admission in Children

### **Consultation Assistance Request**



A research group based at the University of Exeter is conducting research into incentivised admission in children. The group are consulting with children about decisions they have made to admit guilt (or not) and what was important in making those decisions, for example ensuring an out of court disposal or gaining a sentence reduction.

The researchers are interested in discovering when and why young people decide to say they have or haven't committed a crime. The researchers know these decisions can be complicated and difficult and want to make sure young people are making their decisions for the right reasons, and with the right support.

The researchers say:

*"We are hoping you will consider helping us to connect with children who may be willing to take part" We are hoping to talk to anyone under the age of 18 who has had to decide whether to admit guilt, either in the context of diversion or out of court disposal, or through a guilty plea in court.*



### **What will taking part involve?**

The completion of a short online survey and telephone interview. All participants will receive a £25 gift voucher to compensate them for their time participating.

### **Can You Help?**

We are asking for YOTs to consider distributing our information sheets to children who might consider participating.

If you would be willing to do this or have questions, please email [sh666@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:sh666@exeter.ac.uk)

## 'Time to Get it Right'

### **Online Launch of Report**



**'Time to get it right'**, a report by the Centre for Justice Innovation (CJI) and the Institute for Crime and Justice Policy Research (ICPR), **was launched on the 7<sup>th</sup> July** using a webinar which was 'attended' by professionals across the youth justice system. The report is the culmination of a multi-year research programme funded by the Nuffield Foundation, which explored the state of existing practice in youth courts to assess how well they are functioning to meet the needs of children and young people.

A powerful presentation by **Reality Arts** was introduced by **Phil Bowen, director of CJI** who gave background to the research and the resultant report. The presentation by Reality Art was a trailer for their upcoming exhibition, in collaboration with the Centre for Justice Innovation, which portrays young people's experience of the youth court system.

**Gill Hunter from ICPR** introduced the findings of the report, outlining some innovative practice by youth offending teams and the courts and **Carmen Robin-D'Cruz from CJI** introduced the feedback received by children who had experienced court proceedings – youth and crown. Some of the findings raise concerns about the way in which professionals communicate with children in court proceedings.

**Rt Hon. David Lammy MP** discussed the findings of his review into the treatment and outcomes of BAME children in the criminal justice system stating his disappointment that many of his recommendations have to date not been implemented. He noted the lack of trust of many in the criminal justice system, particularly those from second and third generation BAME groups and gave an example of the biased criminal response to behaviours of BAME young people in our communities and the impact for this bias.

**Kate Aubrey-Johnson, child rights and youth justice expert adviser**, stated the need for cultural change in court proceedings and the need for training for lawyers in particular, calling for youth court hearings to be considered prestigious, not somewhere to learn their trade. Kate called for diversion from court where possible and the need to reduce unnecessary delays.

**AYM Chair, Andy Peaden**, called for the good practice recommendations in this report to be implemented, outlining some of the good practice undertaken in Leeds. Andy reported the knowledge of YOTs in identifying and managing children who have experienced trauma and/or exploitation.



The young people from Reality Art called for more truthful communications by professionals in order to increase trust in the system, and the adoption of more rehabilitative responses to youth crime.

# Youth Justice Young Advocates Participation Project

## *Opportunities for Young People*

The Standing Committee for Youth Justice (SCYJ) Young Advocates Participation Project, in partnership with Leaders Unlocked, will offer the chance for approximately 15 young people, aged between 14rs and 20yrs from across England and Wales with a variety of experience of the youth justice system to reflect on how they have been affected and help reform and influence future youth justice policy.



The project has been made possible by funding from Children in Need and is in line with the SCYJ's aims to put children and their experiences at the heart of the youth justice system and process.

The project wants the Young Advocates to be diverse and representative of the population, and encourages applications from all races, genders, localities and with varying experiences of contact with youth justice.

The Young Advocates will be given the opportunity to:

- Speak on issues and policies that affect them,
- Plan, develop and deliver social research about the YJS with their peers,
- Consolidate their findings into recommendations and share these with stakeholders,
- Partake in a shadowing or other work-based insight opportunity through our membership in an area that is of interest to them,
- Meet new people with similar or diverse experiences, including the Young Adult Advisors on Criminal Justice,
- Network with professionals within the justice sector and other professionals,
- Speak on topics and issues of importance to them and on behalf of children and young people across the country,
- Have their hard work accredited with AQA,
- Be heard!



During the week commencing 17th August we will have an informal drop-in Zoom session for prospective candidates and professionals supporting them, with Leaders Unlocked and SCYJ staff and the Young Adult Advisors. This will be a chance for those considering applying to ask any questions they might have and find out more about what they can expect from the project.

**The deadline for applications is on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August, 2020**

If you have any questions about the project please contact [amania@scyj.org.uk](mailto:amania@scyj.org.uk).

## Interventions and Mechanisms for Promoting Change

### **Call for Information**



Charlie Sutton, Research Associate at Nuffield Criminogenic Influences Project, and Professor Steve Case, from Loughborough University explains:

We have received a request for youth justice practitioners to help to explain the **ideas behind current interventions** and explain how this **compares to the use of interventions when the Asset assessment was being used**.

We are interested in hearing from youth justice practitioners about:

- a) What do you think are the most common mechanisms for promoting change in a child, in current youth justice interventions?
- b) Do these mechanisms for promoting change in a child differ to those in common interventions used following Asset assessments? Please explain your answer.

Some of the examples of mechanisms for promoting change in a child we have received to date are:

- Develop emotion recognition, self-regulation and promote positive behaviours and strengths,
- Develop resilience and strategies to manage impulsive behaviour,
- Provide access to legitimate employment & educational opportunities and vocational training.

If you are interested and can contribute, please email Charlie Sutton at [c.e.sutton2@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:c.e.sutton2@lboro.ac.uk)

***All contributions will be anonymised, and used to guide the decisions made by the project research team on the scope of their project.***

For more information on this research [click here](#)

## Other News



### AYM call for Information on Restorative Justice

Are you an accredited service with the Restorative Justice Council? The AYM would be interested to hear your views on the cost of accreditation which has been raised by a number of YOTs as being problematic in light of reducing budgets.



**Please get in touch with your regional representative if the cost is an issue for you.**

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### Changes to Criminal Records Disclosures

A statutory Instrument to amend The Police Act 1997 has been laid before parliament which **removes the requirement for automatic disclosure of youth cautions, reprimands and warnings and the 'multiple conviction' rule**, which requires the automatic disclosure of all convictions where a person has more than one conviction; regardless of the nature of their offence or sentence.

Other rules will continue to result in the disclosure of:

- unspent convictions,
- convictions receiving a custodial sentence,
- a conviction or adult caution for an offence specified as 'serious' (the 'never filter' list of offences), where less than 11 years has passed (5.5 years for convictions received under age 18), and
- all adult cautions where less than 6 years has passed

To read more about the changes [click here](#)

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### Name Change for Standing Committee for Youth Justice

Members of the Standing Committee for Youth Justice (SCYJ) agreed at a meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> July for the organisation to change its name in the near future, to the '**Alliance for Youth Justice**'; the organisation will continue to be known as SCYJ for the time being whilst arrangements for the name change are finalised.

The next meeting will be the AGM and will take place on:

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, at 2-4pm**



## Nightingale Courts in response to pressure from pandemic

The Lord Chancellor has announced the locations of the 10 'Nightingale Courts'. These courts have been created to tackle the impact of coronavirus on the justice system. In March 2020, almost half of all courts were closed and jury trials were paused to minimise social interaction between court users.



These are temporary courts designed to ease pressure on courts and tackle the number of outstanding cases resulting from the closure of courts during COVID-19 restrictions.

The courts will hear civil, family and tribunals work as well as non-custodial crime cases. The move will free up room in existing courts to hear other cases, including custodial jury trials, which require cells and secure dock facilities to keep the public, victims and witnesses safe.

The closures have had a significant impact on hearings for children appearing in youth court and crown court, however, it is unclear as yet as to whether the Nightingale Courts will ease the backlog of youth cases.

To find out more about these courts [click here](#)

**The AYM is keen to hear about the experiences of YOTs** in managing the backlog of cases resulting from the pandemic measures and to understand the impact Nightingale Courts are having in addressing some of the issues.

**Let your AYM regional representative know your views/concerns so we can raise them with the Ministry of Justice.**

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## Justice William Davis Issues Allocation Note

Justice William Davis, Judicial Lead for Youth Justice has issued a note to sentencers in an attempt to help reduce the delays, caused by COVID-19 restrictions, that some young people are experiencing in awaiting crown court hearings when jointly charged with an adult. In this note he recognizes that whilst there is also a backlog of bail cases in some youth courts it is not as significant as that in relation to jury trials in the crown court.

Justice Davis states that **an additional factor to consider in the justice test**, namely **the likely delay in trying a youth in crown court as compared to youth court**, must be considered an important factor whilst deciding on the venue of trial for the young person. This may lead to youths being tried separately in the youth court, whereas previously they would have been sent for trial to the crown court jointly with the adult defendant(s). This is because **the disadvantages of delay in trying the youth or youths may outweigh any injustice of separate trials**.

## Children and Young People Now Awards

### ***Do you run a project or service that helps resolve problems within families or supports young people to avoid disputes?***

If so, the Children & Young People Now Awards (CYP Now) would like to hear from you.

The CYP Now Awards are now in their fifteenth year, these awards provide a great source of pride and recognition for all those who strive day in, day out, to improve the lives of others. They offer an opportunity to raise the profile of projects and initiatives to funders and the general public.



The Awards are a tremendous showcase of learning and best practice from across the UK that can be an inspiration to all. They recognise initiatives from the public, private and voluntary sector that work with children and young people from birth to adolescence as well as their families.

**The Family Justice Award** has been created to honour the memory of District Judge Nicholas Crichton, who pioneered the creation of family drug and alcohol courts to tackle parental substance misuse in care proceedings.



The award, **sponsored by the Centre for Justice Innovation**, is for the initiative that has done the most to help young people and families avoid disputes and resolve problems. The judges will look for examples of innovation, in particular where families have played a key role in developing the initiative.

Last year, the Family Justice Award was won by Cafcass for its Positive Co-Parenting Programme (CPPP). Charlotte Cooklin, Improvement Manager at Cafcass, said the CPPP had arisen out of an identified need to provide an intervention model to support families in conflict within the court system.

*"In creating the programme, we drew on individual skills and knowledge, collaborative work with colleagues and departments across the organisation as well as consultation with external partners," she said.*

Cooklin added that having the programme's good work acknowledged through the CYP Now Awards *"has been immensely significant for us both for raising awareness of the programme and installing confidence in those who use the programme in practice"*.

**The deadline for entering the CYP Now Awards is Friday 25 September 2020.**

To find out more about the CYP Now Awards and to enter your project for the Family Justice Award, or other CYP Now Award [click here](#)

## Review of Police and Crime Commissioners

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) were elected for the first time in 2012 and the current government's manifesto pledged to '**strengthen and expand the role of PCCs**' in order to deliver on the public's priority of reducing crime.



In a bid to provide the public with this greater say on local policing, the Home Secretary, Priti Patel, has announced a PCC review, which will consider measures to:

- raise the profile of PCCs
- give the public better access to information about the performance of their PCC
- share best practice so that PCCs are delivering consistently across the country
- review the relationship between PCCs and Chief Constables.

The Home Secretary said:

*“The British people want to know the police will uphold the law and then be held to account on that basis. This review will help to improve accountability, scrutiny and transparency, ensuring Police and Crime Commissioners always put the law-abiding silent majority who voted for them at the centre of their decision-making.”*

Part one of the review in the summer, will look at raising standards and improving accountability. It will also consider how to strengthen the accountability of fire and rescue services in line with the Government's long-term ambitions on fire governance reform.

The second part of the review, taking place following the PCC elections in May 2021, will focus on longer-term reform, including what extra powers PCCs need to better fight crime. The review will not consider scrapping PCCs, nor will it review the 43 police force model.

Longer-term plans, including increasing the number of mayors with responsibility for policing, will be detailed in the Local Recovery and Devolution White Paper, due for publication this autumn.

To read more about the review [click here](#)

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### 'Policing the Pandemic'

**Leaders Unlocked** has published the report, Policing the Pandemic report, a youth-led study exploring the responses that 3,941 young people who whilst noting some positive experiences, highlighted the inconsistency of policing across the country, and the over-policing, particularly of young black people especially during the recent protests.



The young people make a number of recommendations including scrutiny of stop-search and arrest cases, training and improved community engagement.

To read the report [click here](#)

**For Your  
Diary!**

## Items of Interest



### Calendar of events for AYM 2020

<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Executive Board meeting	21 <sup>st</sup> September	Virtual Meeting
AYM Annual General Meeting	21 <sup>st</sup> September	Virtual Meeting
AYM ILM 7 Course (for Heads of Service)	Commencing 15 <sup>th</sup> September (tbc)	Virtual Course
Executive Board meeting	17 <sup>th</sup> November	Virtual Meeting
AYM John Hawkins Award	17 <sup>th</sup> November	Virtual Presentation to Winners

***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 between Bulletins, please look at our website:***

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

## Children and Young People Now Conferences

### *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.



**2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**

*Please note due, this is now an on-line conference.*



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

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### *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](#)

## Youth Justice Convention 2021



The Youth Justice Board's (YJB) has announced that its annual Youth Justice Convention is to be postponed due to COVID-19 and the duty of care the YJB has towards delegates, speakers, sponsors and staff. The new date for the convention is:



**New Date**

**30<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021**

**at Birmingham NEC**

Colin Allars Chief Executive Officer of the YJB said:

*“Postponement of this event is not a decision we have taken lightly. And I would like to thank the Association of YOT Managers, colleagues in Wales, the Youth Advisory Network, Academics and all the other people that fed back to help us make the most appropriate choice in the current environment. In addition, evaluations of previous events told us that much of the convention’s success is due to its huge networking potential and the face-to-face activities available. Unfortunately, it is very likely that this would be hindered if the event were to go ahead this year.”*

For more information on the convention [click here](#)

**In the interim, the YJB plans to provide a series of free virtual events** to explore current themes and practice; these will be advertised in the YJB Bulletins.



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

Then follow the 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](https://twitter.com/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](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>		