



Bulletin

July 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 10th June, a day when we would normally meet with members for our AGM which is now planned for later in the year.

Members of the Board shared concerns regarding changes in practice by partners such as courts, police and the secure estate as a result of COVID-19:

- The inappropriate use of community resolutions in some areas raises concerns about potential net-widening and is something we would be keen to hear from members about – is your YOT beginning to see an increase in the use of community resolutions? If so, contact your regional representative and share this experience.

- The delay in court hearings for children creates a significant risk of backlogs that YOTs will need to manage. The AYM will be represented on the National Working Group, chaired by Mr Justice William Davis QC, Judicial Lead on Youth Justice in England and Wales where YOTs concerns regarding this will be considered further. **If you have concerns resulting from backlogs resulting from court delays, please let your regional representative know so that these can be represented at this meeting.**

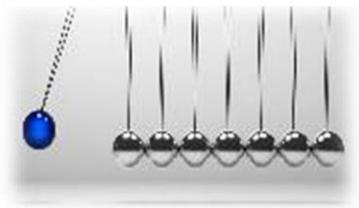
The work of the sector led improvement programme was also discussed and the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on these. The programme board are considering how training within this programme could perhaps, like the AYM manager's training, could be delivered virtually.

The next meeting of the Executive is the 15th July. If you have any issues you wish to raise, or if you would like to 'attend' please let your regional representative know.

And, following the Executive Board Meeting...

Jessica Edwards, AYM portfolio lead for courts, has been collecting information regarding the number of cases delayed during the COVID-19 crisis and the extent of cases released under investigation which may contribute to delays. This information will be used to inform the national 'Court Working Group' so if you have information you wish to provide please let your regional representative know so that it can be included in Jessica's feedback to the national group.

IMPACT OF COVID-19



The AYM chair Andy Peadar, and YOT Manager's Cymru chair Gill Adams, have been consulting with the YJB regarding the call to YOTs for recovery plans. The YJB has been working on developing recovery guidance document which we anticipate will be published shortly.

The next Executive meeting will be held virtually on the 15th July

No doubt the next Executive meeting will continue to discuss the COVID-19 crisis but with a view to considering what YOTs are planning for the easing of restrictions and managing the increase in court work resulting from previous delays in proceedings.

Carol Homden has also been invited to attend this meeting; formerly a member of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, Carol is now with the children's charity Coram which is undertaking a piece of work to follow up and advance their previous discourse on the issues in communities for young people at risk of violence and on the growth in homelessness and lack of access to local authority assessments for children.

Additionally, Carol will be gathering information to support the project Coram's Migrant Children's team is undertaking. Funded by the Strategic Legal Fund it is looking at the treatment of children and young people with criminal convictions in the EU Settlement Scheme. As with all Coram's work the project will seek to promote the rights of refugee and migrant children and their families to ensure they receive adequate protection and support and that there are routes to permanent status for young people.

Coram previously submitted evidence non-British children and young people in the secure estate to the Justice Committee inquiry in the autumn which might be of interest. The submission by Coram to the committee can be viewed by [clicking here](#)

If you have any issues to raise which can support discussion on this agenda item, or examples of practice which you can share, please let your regional representative know.

For more information on Coram and the charity's work [click here](#)

'Black Lives Matter'



Following discussion at the last AYM Executive meeting, our Chair sent a letter to all members saying:

We wanted to express our dismay at the manner of George Floyd's death and our distress at the way in which events are unfolding in the United States and in the United Kingdom. We wanted to express our support for the Black Lives Matter movement and for dealing with the issues of racism and disproportionality that are present within society and particularly within in the criminal justice system.

We recognise that addressing the issue of racial injustice is vital to our society and that as the professional association for youth justice managers, AYM has a big part to play in relation to highlighting and challenging inequality and injustice where we see it within the criminal justice system and within our day to day work.

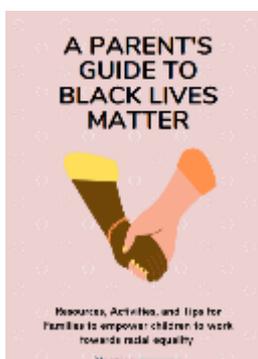
It is vital that those of us in positions of power and influence use our voice to address these concerns and also vital to ensure that we listen to the experience of the children and communities that we deal with. We are committed to the concept of 'explain or reform' that was proposed within the Lammy report.

We understand that many of the children and families that we deal with and many others in society are angry, frightened and confused, and we want to ensure that we do our best to support youth offending team colleagues to address these concerns.

We welcome dialogue across the sector and all suggestions and as to how we might address these issues and support colleagues as we move forward.

A Zoom meeting took place on Monday 29th June for those who expressed an interest in order to identify how we can best support members in dealing with the issues of racism and disproportionality present within the youth justice system.

The meeting was really useful and a number of suggestions and proposals were made and we will be using these to produce an additional report to the Justice Select Committee for inclusion in their in their session on youth justice.



YOTs and partners may find the 'Parents Guide to Black Lives Matter'(pictured left) that was shared as a useful resource, and can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

The executive is proposing to set up a regular members' sub group to oversee this agenda and to discuss and share ideas and resources. We are very keen to try and make a difference on this agenda which has been problematic for far too long

Further updates will be provided in the next bulletin.

Providing Evidence to the Justice Committee



We were pleased to be invited to give evidence to the Justice Committee on 2nd June, 2020, unfortunately the Committee ran out of time that day and was unable to take evidence from the AYM, Standing Committee for Youth Justice and the Magistrates Association. However, the Committee was keen to reschedule an additional time and we were invited to give evidence on 16th June.

The committee was keen to hear about children in the criminal justice system during COVID-19. Our chair, Andy Peaden, was able to share the innovative practice that YOTs have achieved in order to maintain contact and engagement with children under YOT supervision. Andy has raised concerns regarding the loss of education for children who are disproportionately disengaged with education.



Hazel Williamson, AYM Vice Chair, also raised the concern about increased exploitation of children as a result of the restrictions and advised the committee that social media platforms were being used to exploit children further.



When asked about the youth justice system's ability to respond to children, Andy raised the AYM concerns regarding the use of custody and the current institutions being far too large to respond appropriately to their needs, pointing out that small secure children's homes are far more desirable. Andy also raised the need for children to be diverted from the criminal justice system wherever possible and for agencies to be able to respond effectively to trauma.

Members of the committee had already discussed raising the age of criminal responsibility and were keen to hear evidence from this panel. Pippa Goodfellow of the Standing Committee provided comparative evidence to support the increase of criminal responsibility and Hazel also reminded the committee that many children currently within the criminal justice system have SEND needs and have experienced trauma and that this and the fact that children's brain development is not complete at 10 years of age has led to the AYM adopting increasing the age of criminal responsibility as one of its core principles.

The committee was also concerned about the separation of children in the secure estate as a result of the restrictions which amounts to isolation and considerable concern was raised about the increase in custodial remands and the level of disproportionality of BAME children in custody and also asked what YOTs were doing to address this. Concern was also shared regarding the delays in court hearings and the impact of this on children.

To see the committee and the AYM input [click here](#)

Youth Justice Legal Centre Advisory Board



The Youth Justice Legal Centre (YJLC) Advisory Board has asked AYM Executive Board member (and regional representative for the North West), Jacqui Belfield-Smith to join the board.



YJLC, part of Just For Kids Law, is a centre of excellence on youth justice law. The YJLC Advisory Board advises and supports the Co-Heads of the YJLC to provide a service and resources on excellence in legal representation to children and young people in the criminal justice system in England and Wales.

The YJLC are keen to have a voice from the sector and Jacqui has worked with them in her YOT and AYM role, particularly with regard to concerns about children in police custody, so was pleased to accept the invitation.

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

Response to Consultations

Remember to check the AYM responses to consultations on the AYM website www.aym.org.uk.



The latest published are the response to the **HMIP Inspection Framework Consultation, June 2020, and** an addendum to the AYM's submission to the Enquiry of the Justice Committee into Youth Justice (dated September 2019) which has been published to support evidence given to the Justice Committee.

To read AYM responses [click here](#)

Quality Awards

Revalidation for those with awards commences

Members will recall that it was nearly three years ago that we developed the Youth Justice SEND Quality Mark Awards in partnership with the children's education charity, Achievement for All. The award is valid for three years and in 2021 the first crop of award winners will be written to and offered the opportunity to re-validate their status as SEND Quality Mark or SEND Quality Lead areas.



Delivering effective services for children in the youth justice system with SEND remains a key priority for local partnerships and we hope that all of the existing award holders will want to apply for re-validation when the time comes. We aim to make the process relatively 'light touch' with area partnerships (YOT/ Health/ SEND specialists) asked to review their practice against the ten standards and show how they have maintained the quality of service.

Glenda Astley Area Team Manager Blackburn with Darwen Youth Justice Service (pictured right with her team receiving the award in 2019) said:

“Blackburn with Darwen Youth Justice Service received their SEND Lead Award at the AYM AGM on 5 June 2019. On 17 June 2019 we were part of a joint Local Area SEND inspection between Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission. Buoyed up by our recent success I went fully armed to our meeting with said framed Award, explaining that we were very proud of it! Gaining the SEND Lead Award enabled me to go to that meeting with confidence in that all the excellent evidence and statistics we had sourced previously was key for the areas that the inspectors questioned.



*Pictured left to right:
Marius Frank (AfA) Julie Jackson,
Elaine Hyslop, Glenda Astley and Claire Barker*

In feedback following the inspection around the effectiveness of the local area in improving outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/ or disabilities our work was highlighted in the Strengths. The successful work of the youth justice service has been recognised. The team has received a national award. As a result of effective support, the rate of reoffending for this group has reduced significantly over the past 12 months.”



The cost of revalidation of the Quality Awards would be capped at 50% of the price of the original award i.e around £500 for areas **where the YOT manager is an AYM member**. If areas wish to apply for an upgrade (from Quality Mark to Quality Lead) the full fee would need to be charged.

Around one third of YOT partnership areas have achieved the award already!

We believe the process is an excellent way of bringing partners together to improve standards and celebrate their achievement in working with children.

Those YOTs achieving Quality Awards in 2018 and qualifying for re-designation in March 2021 include:



Awarded Quality Lead Status:

Buckinghamshire, County Durham, Milton Keynes, Nottinghamshire, Sheffield, Southwark, Staffordshire, Stockton-on-Tees, Warwickshire, West Berkshire

Awarded Quality Mark Status:

Bedfordshire and Bedford, Birmingham, Brent, Cheshire East, Islington, Kirklees, Lancashire, Salford, Somerset, Southampton, Slough, Wiltshire

If your area would like to consider joining the scheme for the first time, or want to receive more information please contact phil.sutton@aym.org.uk.

Skill Mill Reopens

Davie Parks, Managing Director of Skill Mill Ltd. reports



THE SKILL MILL

As you may know Skill Mill has quite literally been 'through the mill' in the past 6 months. We also appreciate that over the past 3 months we have all been seriously affected by the Coronavirus together.

I want to thank everyone who has helped us by either pausing or reducing your fees, increasing support or making grant funding available, despite facing your own challenges. A special big thank you to Gateshead Council, Essell Accountancy, Connected Voice, Northstar Foundation, Charities Aid Foundation, National Lottery Community Fund, West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Commercial Estates Group and Penshaw View and all the Local Authorities embarking on the SIB.

Without you we would surely have not made it. Skill Mill restarted operations two weeks ago in Leeds and will start this week in Durham and by July in Newcastle. Small steps for now but really great news. We are bringing staff out of the furlough scheme. Not a single young person's job was lost.

Moving forward we want to explore how we can strengthen the relationships we already have and create more opportunities for young people who will inevitably be the most affected, especially the marginalised youngsters we support. Just as a reminder - 128 of the most serious and persistent offenders employed to date and only 15 re-convictions.



So we continue to develop the services we can offer and we want to talk to you about how we can deploy the teams and get even better value for you whether you are a Local Government department, CVS organisation, construction company or CSR partner. We want to make sure that you get the most from your partnership with us. There are some of you who don't fit any of the above categories and are simply supporting our effort because you are interested and care about our work. Thank you and we hope that you continue to do so.

During lockdown we developed a suite of policies and procedures to enable safe working. We are happy to share these with you if you think they would be useful.

We have also started supplying our own face-masks creating employment for older people out of the labour market. It will become more of a necessity for us to cover our faces on public transport or in confined spaces - the 'new normal'. What better than wear one that is ecologically good, sustainable, cool and with social impact supporting 'The Skill Mill' and at the same time not impacting on the Health and Social Care sector's supplies.



Disposable single use masks are strewn everywhere harming the environment and can be quite costly. Our 2-ply masks are made from natural materials (high quality 100% cotton and 100% linen) and we can put your logo on. They cost only **£3.60** each with logo or **£3.00** without, with free delivery in the UK. They can be washed to 60 degrees and ironed. [Check out the samples](#) and get in touch if you are interested or send the details to others who might be. They would make an excellent practical welcome back to work item for staff. It all helps the Skill Mill mission - we can deliver to anywhere in the world for a small extra cost per mask To purchase them [click here](#)

We are now set to launch the Social Impact Bond that we have been working so hard on for the past 3 years as many of you will know....details to follow very soon.

If you have not been receiving the monthly newsletter please check your spam folder and if you haven't subscribed please follow the link below.



You can also follow us on
[Twitter](#), [Facebook](#)
and [Linkedin](#)



Our latest blog article is [here](#) and please feel free to share.

And, finally, a date for your diary:

19th September is [World Cleanup Day](#). We will be again [leading the effort in UK](#) building on the huge success of last year and even with social-distancing we think it will be bigger than ever and encourage people to take even more care of their local green space they have come to appreciate even more during the past few months.

You can follow our plans via [social media](#)

Timely Justice: Turning 18

Online seminar hears a variety of perspectives from leading experts

The Youth Justice Legal Centre (YJLC) at Just for Kids Law held an online seminar on the 24th June to celebrate the launch of their Legal Guide and Policy Briefing 'Timely Justice: Turning 18'.



'Timely Justice:Turning 18' addresses injustices experienced by children who commit offences as a child but who are not proceeded against until they reach 18yrs, providing a legal guide to help practitioners navigate the different regimes, rules and principles that apply. In addition, our policy briefing examines the broader issues and makes proposals for change.

Delays in sentencing have increased as a result of the introduction of 'release under investigation' instead of release on bail, the use of postal requisitions and more recently as a result of delays caused by COVID-19 restrictions. This guidance is therefore particularly pertinent and welcomed at this time.

Turning 18 years of age also impacts on the decision to divert the individual from prosecution which is not a presumption for an adult. It will also impact on the use of bail.

The webinar which drew more than 300 participants, also covered the question of young adults, those aged 18yr or more with a number of speakers repeating the Lord Chief Justice Burnett in his ground breaking judgement in R v Clarke, Andrews and Thompson (2018) Cr. App R. (S.) 52:

"Reaching the age of 18 has many legal consequences, but it does not present a cliff edge for the purposes of sentencing. So much has long been clear....Full maturity and all the attributes of adulthood are not magically conferred on young people on their 18th birthdays..."

The importance of evidence of lack of maturity in pre-sentence reports, and the use of psychological reports to support those sentencing those aged 18yrs-24yrs was reiterated throughout by speakers. This age group represents 9% of the general population and 16% of the prison population with BAME disproportionately represented within this.

Speakers at the event included:

Mr Justice William Davis QC, Judicial Lead on Youth Justice in England and Wales
Dr Enys Delmage, Consultant in Adolescent Forensic Psychiatry
David Emanuel QC, Garden Court Chambers
Dr Laura Janes, The Howard League for Penal Reform
Claire Mawer, 15 New Bridge Street Chambers

If you weren't able to view the webinar you can view it, and access the 'YJLC Turning 18' legal guide and briefing by [clicking here](#)

Report on the Review of Restraint Techniques Published

'A Review of the Use of Pain-Inducing Techniques in the Youth Secure Estate'

This report, resulting from the review of the Ministry of Justice policy framework which permits the use of pain-inducing techniques on children who are in young offenders institutions (YOI), secure training centres (STC) or are being transported between court and custody.

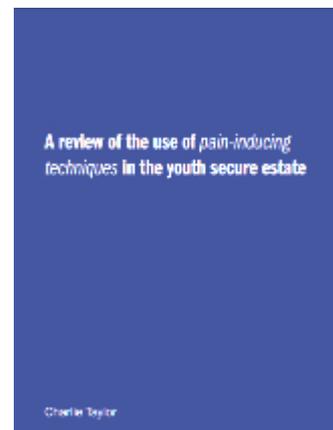
The review, undertaken by Charlie Taylor former Chair of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, was commissioned in 2018 by Edward Argar MP, youth justice minister at the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), as a result of a law suit brought by the children's charity Article 39' which challenged the policy on three grounds:

- That pain-inducing techniques are available to contractors that escort children to and from secure children's homes in which pain-inducing techniques are not permitted,
- That permitting these different rules for restraint for the same children constituted discrimination, and
- That the policy prohibiting the use of pain-inducing techniques to maintain good order and discipline during escorts was unclear.

The report considers what pain-inducing techniques are permitted in YOIs and STCs and the circumstances in which they are allowed. It also considers how effective they are in preventing serious harm, what are the alternatives to its use are and the governance arrangements and the effectiveness in these. Charlie undertook interviews with professionals and children and observed video footage of incidents resulting in restraint.

The report makes 15 recommendations, including the removal of pain inducing techniques from the 'Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint' (MMPR) training programme used in YOIs and STCs (recommendation 7). However, the report goes on to say:

"The removal of pain-inducing techniques from the MMPR syllabus and improved behaviour management and relationships will lead to a safer youth custodial estate, but given the nature of some of the children in custody, even in the most humane, well-run setting there will be occasions when direct, immediate physical force is required."



Recommendation 8 of the report goes on to state:

“The YCS, Governors or Directors should ensure that staff are trained in personal protection and breakaway techniques for use when there is a risk of serious harm to themselves or others. This should include the response to exceptional circumstances where there may be no other recourse but to use a technique that can cause pain”.

Recommendation 11 requires the creation of an Independent Restraint and Behaviour Panel (IRBP) which should meet monthly and consider practice at one YOI or STC, reviewing *“incidents in which serious injuries or warning signs have been identified, or where a pain inducing technique has been deployed.”*

The Ministry of Justice in its response to the report stated it fully agreed with 8 of the 15 recommendations with the remainder partially accepted or accepted in principle.



Ministry
of Justice

Notably recommendation 7 was fully agreed with as was recommendation 8 which also requires that there should be a focus on establishing a “presumption of rebuttal”, which means that staff members will be expected to provide a strong justification for why they have used pain with Governor or Directors accountable for the use of pain inducing restraint at the Independent Restraint Scrutiny Board. However, the recommendation (recommendation 11) for such a panel was agreed only in principle stating they “

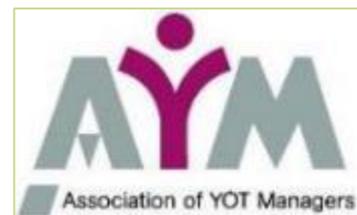
“..will undertake a programme of work that will establish clear terms of reference and membership for a new process that will review, and gather and disseminate learning from all incidents where a pain-inducing technique was used.”

The report and the government response to it can be found by [clicking here](#).

The AYM welcomes the report and the subsequent government response. Hazel Williamson, AYM Vice Chair said in response to the report:

“We know that children in custody are those that have often experienced significant trauma in early childhood and it is our view, in line with what we stand for, that children should be cared for in nurturing environments whilst in custody.

“We welcome this review of the MMPR guidance as detailed in the government response and are encouraged by the review of the positive behaviour management policies being implemented across the youth custody estate. However, as an association we still believe that children should be held within small secure units close to their home and this principle is something we would still advocate for.”



'Time to get it right'

Online Launch of Report



The Centre for Justice Innovation (CJI) and the Institute for Crime and Justice Policy Research's new report 'Time to get it right,' a report into the state of youth court, will be launched on:

7th July in the form of an online webinar 10:45am-12:15pm. The report is the culmination of a multi-year research programme, 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. This work has been generously funded by the Nuffield Foundation.

The event will be chaired by the Centre's Director, Phil Bowen, and will include discussion of the **key findings from the report and its policy implications**, along with panel discussion with key national figures including:

- **Rt Hon. David Lammy MP** (Member of Parliament for Tottenham and Shadow Secretary of State for Justice)
- **Kate Aubrey-Johnson** (Child Rights and Youth Justice Expert Adviser)
- **Andy Peadar** (Head of Service, Leeds Youth Justice Service and Chair of the Association of YOT Managers) The report was published on the 30th June and can be accessed by [clicking here](#).



If you have questions for the panel after reading the report you can provide these before the webinar, enabling the event to be responsive to stakeholder engagement. Information on how to submit a question will be sent to attendees via Eventbrite beforehand.

Reality Art will be presenting a trailer for their upcoming exhibition in collaboration with the Centre for Justice Innovation which displays young people's experience of the youth court system.

To book a place on this webinar [click here](#)



Other News in Brief



Independent Report on Separation in YOIs

The Separation Taskforce was commissioned to consider the arrangements for separating children in young offenders' institutions and to formulate a response following publication in January 2020 of the report by HM Inspector of Prisons and Probation; 'Separation of children in young offender institutions – A Thematic Review'.

The report of the taskforce, now published makes 14 recommendations with timescales for completion, which have been presented to the Permanent Secretary and are being considered by the Ministry of Justice and HM Prison and Probation Service.

The Independent Advisor to the Chair and the Separation Taskforce, Sir Alan Wood has reported to the minister that the recommendations of the taskforce have merit and should be implemented.

The Ministry of Justice and HM Prison and Probation Service state *"The findings in these reports will support our commitment to HM Inspectorate of Prisons that we develop a new model of separation for Young Offender Institutions."*

To read the reports [click here](#)

Judicial Review Granted of DoE Relaxation of Statutory Regulations

Article 39

FIGHTING FOR
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
IN INSTITUTIONAL SETTINGS

The children's charity Article 39' has been granted permission for a judicial review regarding the removal of regulations designed to protect children, by the Department of Education as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

Article 39 asked the court for the case to be expedited and this was agreed by the High Court which has listed the hearing for the 27th and 28th July. Approximately 100 changes were made to 10 sets of children's social care regulations, including social worker visits, reviews of children's welfare whilst in care and independent scrutiny of children homes.

Review has been granted on three separate grounds – the failure to consult, that the changes are contrary to the object and purpose of primary legislation and that the Education Secretary breached his general duty to promote the wellbeing of children in England.

Call to increase Universal Credit for under 25 yr olds.



**give homeless
young people
a future**

Centrepoint, a charity that provides accommodation and support to homeless people aged 16–25yrs, reports that those aged under 25yrs get almost a fifth less Universal Credit than older people.

Centrepoint's 'Chance to Move on Campaign', which has already raised the difficulties under 25yr olds experience as a result of receiving lower rates of housing benefit, is calling for the government to remove the discrepancy in Universal Credit and award children and young people who are living independently the same rate as those aged over 25 yrs.

If you wish to find out more about the campaign [click here](#).

New Government Funding to Keep 'Rough Sleepers' Safe



The government has announced funding and interims housing for thousands of rough sleepers in a bid to keep them safe and off the streets during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funding, an additional £105 million, will be used to support rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness into tenancies of their own, including through help with deposits for accommodation, and securing thousands of alternative rooms already available and ready for use, such as student accommodation.

The announcement comes as plans to provide 6,000 long-term, safe homes continues and last month, the government unveiled plans to support thousands of rough sleepers currently housed in emergency accommodation to move on to more sustainable, long-term housing, with 3,300 additional supported homes to be provided this year.

The government has reiterated its commitment to ending rough sleeping by the end of this Parliament and the creation of the new Rough Sleeping Taskforce, led by Dame Louise Casey, will lead the next phase of the government's support for rough sleepers during the pandemic.

**For Your
Diary!**

Items of Interest



Calendar of events for AYM 2020

Title	Date	Venue
Executive Board meeting	15th July	Virtual meeting
Executive Board meeting	21 st September	Cramlington, Northumberland (subject to COVID-19)
AYM AGM	Postponed from 10 th June due to COVID -19 crisis. .	To be confirmed
Executive Board meeting	17 th November	To be confirmed
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>To keep up to date with this calendar between Bulletins, please look at our website:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">aym.org.uk</p>		

ADCS Annual Conference



The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) has announced that it will be hosting a free virtual mini annual conference for ADCS members and publishing a written address by ADCS President, Jenny Coles on:

Thursday 9th July

The ADCS aims to host two consecutive, forward looking sessions, which will be open to the full ADCS membership. ***The conference sessions will be for ADCS members only; there will be no external contributors.*** Any work stemming from the discussions will be channelled through the usual business of ADCS policy committees which are currently meeting virtually every four to six weeks.

HMCTS Online Event

Use of remote hearings during the coronavirus outbreak



Find out how HMCTS has expanded the use of technology across all jurisdictions during the COVID-19 outbreak to maintain justice and learn about future plans for the new technology with a demonstration of how it works. This online event takes place on

**Wed, 15 July 2020
13:00 – 14:00**

To find out more and register for a place [click here](#)

Standing Committee for Youth Justice

General Meeting

This meeting will take place using Zoom on:

**Wednesday 1st July,
2.30-3.30pm**



Members' Meeting

Will take place on:

**Wednesday 15th July, 2020,
2:30-4:30pm**



Members will be advised prior to this date whether this will be a virtual meeting or a face to face event.

Young Women's Justice Project



SCYJ and Agenda, the Alliance for Women and Girls at Risk, are working together on a Young Women's Justice Project and are inviting organisations from both the youth and women's sectors to take part in an expert seminar via Zoom on:



**Thursday 30th July
2-4pm**

The seminar will explore the theme of transitions of girls into young adulthood, while in contact with the criminal justice system.

There are limited places available so if you are a SCYJ member and are interested in participating, please confirm your interest by emailing policy@scyj.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](#)

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.

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.



23rd October, 2020

at America Square Conference Centre, London

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

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:

13th 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 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 Hawkins'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 21st Anniversary of the YJB and YOTs!



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



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