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From the Chair



Colleagues,

This is my final 'thoughts from the chair' for the bulletin having handed over the reins to Hazel at the AGM on Monday, following two years as vice chair and two years as chair. I am very proud to have been offered the opportunity to represent the interests of Youth Justice in this way and really grateful for the support of members and of colleagues on the executive over this time.

It really has been a fantastic experience, I've long been convinced that being a YOT manager is one of the best jobs you can do (even though it might not always feel like that on occasions!) and joining AYM and becoming part of the executive is a fantastic opportunity to promote the youth justice cause and to hopefully achieving better outcomes for children in the justice system. I would encourage all of you to consider it next time there is a regional representative opportunity in your area. I am very confident that the organisation will continue from strength to strength under its new leadership!

It's been a busy last week, the [Sentencing White Paper](#) 'A Smarter Approach to Sentencing' which includes a number of reforms for the youth justice system was launched on September 17th. The Rt Hon Robert Buckland's message at the launch was clear, tougher sentences for the most serious offences, and protecting the public. The White paper talks about ensuring that minimum custodial sentences for knife crime are served and that 'such offenders who go to prison, stay there for longer'. It includes a number of punitive measures for children and young adults including moving the age threshold for whole life sentences from age 21 down to 18.

However, some of the White Paper is cause for optimism, there is a promised focus on rehabilitation through the use of more community sentences; increasing the threshold for remands to custody through a 'real prospect of custody test' and a focus on early intervention, prevention and diversion. There are welcomed planned reforms to the criminal records system through the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, a promise of consultation around how reparation and restorative justice can be improved, and the announcement of youth justice pilots around high intensity community orders involving mandatory location monitoring to ensure custody is used as a last resort.

It was our delayed AGM this week and we were really pleased to have Justin Russell and Keith Fraser with us to talk about the revised HMIP framework and the YJB's plans and ambitions for the next year, over the past few years both HMIP and YJB have had a very strong focus on partnership and conversations with AYM and this has been really constructive and beneficial and I think we are in a better place as a result.

I'd like to finish by way of a final thank you for all the support I've had during my time as chair, and by way of wishing you all the best as you and your services work towards 'recovery' and getting service delivery back to normal.

Stay safe!

Andy

And, From Our New Chair....

As the incoming chair I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andy for all of his hard work over the last 2 years which has certainly paved the way for me as your new chair. I am really looking forward to being able to work with all of you as members, in keeping youth justice high on everyone's agenda, particularly during these unprecedented times whilst facing a new sentencing paper and a revised inspection framework.

I would invite all of our members to actively engage directly with all of your regional reps to ensure that we continue to represent your views and work for you to make sure that we continue to provide better outcomes for children within the youth justice system.

Hazel



News from the AYM Executive Board

AYM Annual Conference and AGM

The AYM Conference and Annual General Meeting took place on the 21st September, using Zoom. We were pleased to see 58 colleagues attend the conference in which delegates heard from **Justin Russell, HM Chief Inspector of Probation** on the results of the consultation by HMIP on the Youth Justice Standards Inspection Standards which was published the same day.



Justin answered questions on the inspections including confirmation of the definition of a small YOT. Justin confirmed this is the same definition used by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) and noted that the number of youth offending teams (YOTs) defined as small is increasing as caseloads reduce.

In response to a question about the impact of COVID-19 on the way in which YOTs have managed, Justin noted the differing approaches being undertaken and applauded the commitment of staff to continued engagement with children.

In his presentation, **Keith Fraser, Chair of the YJB**, thanked YOT staff for their work with children during the pandemic and the creative approaches taken to engaging children in a climate of restrictions resulting from social distancing. Keith also encouraged YOTs to share their practice at the Hidden Heroes Day on the 29th September.

Keith discussed the work being undertaken to address disproportionality of BAME children in the criminal justice system. As AYM member Charlie Spencer stated this is not a new issue, Charlie asked therefore what will be different about the YJB and governments response to disproportionality? Adding to that question, Diz Minnit AYM's portfolio lead for SLCN asked if the YJB intended to ensure efforts to address disproportionality would include the cumulative and compounding impact SLCN has on disproportionality.

Everyone was asked to consider whether their decisions at all decision making points would be likely to contribute to disproportionality and called for Police and Crime Plans of Police and Crime Commissioners to include consideration of how disproportionality will be addressed.

Keith also addressed the funding made available to Pathfinders and announced that in this coming year the YJB intend to fund approximately 15 or 16 new Pathfinders, the results of which will be published in the YJB Bulletin and on the YJ Resource Hub.

The YJB's commitment to the Youth Justice Sector Improvement Programme (YJSIP), a partnership between the YJB, AYM and youth justice senior leaders was given with Keith commending the work being undertaken by the programme. He also thanked the AYM members for the information provided to the YJB to help them understand the issues impacting on youth justice provision and in particular thanked the AYM for the positive relationship it has with the YJB.



Jessica Edwards, AYM Assistant Secretary, asked if the YJB were aware of the delay within the National Referral Mechanism. Keith confirmed that the YJB is aware of the issues but asked that when difficulties arise that these are escalated to the YJB so that such delays can be addressed.

Following the conference, was the AGM, where our chair, Andy Peaden, stepped down and was thanked for his work in the role over the past two years. Hazel Williamson, previously Vice Chair, was appointed as the new AYM chair.

Jacqui Belfield-Smith was appointed Vice Chair, leaving a vacancy for the role of North West Regional Representative; we look forward to hearing from the region who will be Jacqui's replacement.

Our secretary Ian Langley was re-appointed but advised the meeting that, after holding the role of secretary for 11 years, he intends to step down next year; offering help to anyone considering undertaking this role.

Jessica Edwards was re-appointed as Assistant Secretary and Terry Gibson was re-appointed as Treasurer.

Additional Executive members, Matt Bywater and Hannah Doughty stepped down having moved from their YOT Manager roles, but we were happy that Diz Minnit remained as an Additional Executive Member. Andy Peaden was appointed to replace one of the vacant positions. **If you are interested in becoming an Additional Executive Member** please contact our secretary Ian at secretary@aym.org.uk.

The Treasurer's report raised the fact that the organisation is reliant on membership fees and that maintaining a balanced budget, with membership fees not having been increased for more than 10 years, was proving impossible. Following his recommendation the meeting voted unanimously to increase the membership fees for the AYM; although fees for YOTs paying for four or more managers remains unchanged.

Mike Rees the AYM portfolio lead for the National Probation Service (NPS), reminded members that if there has been a vacancy in a probation officer role in their YOT of four months or more, YOT managers should claim the relevant monies from NPS.

The question of the changing structure of YOTs and the impact this is having on maintaining a youth justice specialism and the management of YOTs generally was raised by Val Crewdson, Norfolk Head of Service and Charlie Spencer (currently Surrey YOT Manager) contributed his experience of integrated working. The meeting was reminded that the AYM had undertaken a survey with members of governance arrangements in YOTs and that the response to this was provided to the YJB in order to inform the board's work to update the guidance 'Modern Youth Offending Partnerships'.

The next meeting of the AYM Executive is in October (*date to be confirmed*).



Youth Justice Improvement Partnership



The Youth Justice Board's commitment to the Youth Justice Improvement Partnership (YJSIP), a tripartite partnership between the YJB, the AYM and senior youth justice leaders, was clearly articulated at the AGM by the chair of the YJB, Keith Fraser.

Providing improvement support *for the sector, by the sector*, and *always with the sector*, YJSIP advertised in last month's AYM Bulletin, the courses currently available, and the response has been excellent. If you are interested in becoming involved with the programme and would like to attend one of the courses, please get in touch with:

jon.bradnum@yjb.gov.uk

TRAINING COURSE	DATE	VENUE
Operational Managers Training	To be confirmed	Zoom
Peer Reviewer Training	9 -11th November, 2020 <i>Subject to confirmation due to COVID-19</i>	Warwick Conference Centre
Coaching Training	20th & 21st October, 2020	Zoom
Familiarisation event for managers willing to deliver Operational Manager Training:	2nd & 3rd March 2021 <i>Subject to confirmation due to COVID-19</i>	Warwick Conference Centre

There remains a vacancy for the role of representative for the North East region. If you are interested in applying for the role, or if you just want to find out more about the work of the YJSIP Board, please get in touch with your local representative, or one of the YJSIP 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@lbbd.gov.uk , brendan.finegan@hackney.gov.uk
Midlands	tonybegley@warwickshire.gov.uk
North East	CURRENT VACANCY
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

The AYM's John Hawkins Award

Don't miss the chance to nominate your YOT for this award, made each year in memory of John Hawkins, previous AYM Treasurer and Head of Service, East Sussex YOT, - and the chance to win £500.

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

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?



The image contains a purple header bar at the top left. Below it, on the right, is a portrait of a man in a light blue shirt. To the left of the portrait is a text box with a yellow 'Winner' badge and the award name. At the bottom left of the text box is the AYM logo.

To submit your nomination, contact our secretary Ian Langley at secretary@aym.org.uk

The deadline for nominations is Friday 30th October.



Positive Restorative Justice Practice with a Police Officer

Further Insight into Practice in Cheshire YJS.



Mark Hamill, restorative justice practitioner in Cheshire Youth Justice Services described in last month's AYM Bulletin, the 'Forgotten Power of the Restorative Letter: This month he describes another restorative justice intervention – this time with a police officer.



Police forces across England have embraced restorative justice. In Cheshire, I see evidence every day of officers using a variety of restorative approaches to deal with minor offences. However, when it comes to participating in a restorative process with someone who has caused them harm, police officers, on the whole, are much less enthusiastic. Having communicated with the minority of harmed police officers who have responded to my initial contact request, it would appear that they view assaults on them either to be 'part of the job' or requiring an exclusively punitive outcome.

In the four years that I have worked for the Youth Justice Service, I have facilitated only one restorative meeting between a police officer, Dan, and a young person, Michael. Following the death of his grandfather, Michael had gone into town with the intention of getting drunk. As he didn't drink normally, his mission was speedily achieved. His anger at the loss of his grandfather, released by alcohol, was soon directed at a lamppost. PC Dan witnessed Michael punching the lamppost and, to prevent the younger man from causing himself further injury, bravely intervened. Unsurprisingly, Michael's blows now fell on Dan. A struggle ensued but eventually Michael was restrained and transported to the nearby police station where he spent a night in the cells.

Dan and Michael met a few weeks later. This time, Michael was sober and in the company of his grandmother. He told Dan about how his world had fallen apart since the death of his grandfather. He had stopped attending training at a professional sports club where he had been on the elite youth development programme. He had started drinking and going into town looking for trouble. He apologized profusely for assaulting Dan and for pretending at first to be his older brother at the police station, a fact that, up until this point, he had withheld from his aghast grandmother. Dan listened patiently to Michael. He said that, whilst he felt sorry for Michael's loss, it did not excuse or justify his actions. Dan then went on to reveal that, in his youth, he had competed for England in a different sport from Michael's. Daily training had dominated his teenage years, so he knew the pressure that Michael was under. One day, for no particular reason, Dan had decided to quit training and had 'let things slide'. Joining the police had, however, given him a mental focus, if not a physical one - he patted his stomach at this point. Although he was happy with his life as a police officer, he often thought how things might have been different had he persisted with his training.

Dan urged Michael to speak with his sports coach who, it turned out, was a personal friend of Dan's. He said that she would be sympathetic and would help him to get back to full-time training. Dan's hope for Michael was that one day he would pay to watch him playing professional sport.

After the meeting, Dan told me that he had agreed to attend in order to give Michael an ear-bashing; vengeance for the head bashing he had received. But, once Michael had started speaking, he had begun to see him as a 'human being' rather than the 'job' he had believed him to be. He would try to apply this insight in dealing with other young people in the future.

For his part, Michael spoke to his coach but decided not to return to full-time training. Instead, he decided to put all of his energy into becoming a world-class electrician.

In an ideal world, all police officers assaulted by young people would take up the opportunity to get to know them as humans rather than as 'jobs'. Equally, on the other hand, there is a need for many of our young people to get to know police officers as humans rather than...*(you can insert your own offensive epithet here)*. The RJ team, with the support of our own PCs, is exploring ways in which these dual aims can best be achieved.

Although Cheshire Police Federation do not regard restorative justice as a suitable outcome for these types of offences, it was considered that in this particular case it was appropriate.

Do you have an example of positive restorative practice that you would like to share? If you do, please email lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk

What's Behind the Rise in Child Remand in London?

A Survey for London YOTs

'Transform Justice', in collaboration with the London Children in Custody working group, is conducting a survey of London YOT staff on the use of child remand in London

**Transform
Justice**

The survey aims to gather evidence on recent remand cases and decision-making, to understand why remand is rising and why black and minority ethnic children are over-represented in the remand population.

Responses are anonymous and a summary of findings will be published to inform policy and practice of YOTs and other agencies.

Please **share your experience before Tuesday 13 October** here: by [clicking here](#)

Emotion Coaching for Youth Justice Professionals

Emotion Coaching training now available

In recent years a huge stride forwards has been made in terms of understanding the life-course impact of childhood trauma, of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and of disadvantage and neglect. The next step is to turn understanding into informed and effective front-line practice.

Emotion Coaching is an attachment-based tool that **helps young people to self-regulate and manage their own emotions** by developing emotional self-awareness and nurturing relationships in teams around them. If, because of emotion coaching, young people become more responsive to help, support and guidance through better emotional self-regulation, the impact will be measurable beyond the programme: in this regard, **emotion coaching can be perceived by service leaders as a gateway intervention.**

Emotion coached young people:

- Are more emotionally stable
- Are more resilient
- Achieve more through study
- Have better relationships with their peers
- Have fewer behavioural problems
- Have greater resistance to disease and illness.

The impact on adults working with challenging children and young people is also compelling. Research has shown that Emotion Coaching enables adults as well to understand their *own* emotional responses and communicate more effectively and consistently with children about their emotions, particularly in emotionally charged situations, leading to a reduction in stress and an increase in wellbeing and readiness to learn. Benefits include:

- Improved staff wellbeing as evidenced by a decrease in staff absence
- Improved family life for their dependents and their families
- Improved professional reactions and response to young people's emotions
- Improved staff self-regulation which supports positive interactions with young people
- Increased sense of practice competency and setting ethos

In 2019-2020, 'Achievement for All' trialled a number of delivery models to embed emotion coaching into everyday practice within youth offending teams (YOTs) and can now offer training to further YOTs.

For more information on emotional coaching and the training courses [click here](#)

Training



Research



'Smarter Sentencing'

Announced in White Paper

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor, Robert Buckland, the Rt. Hon. Robert Buckland, has set out his plan for "smarter sentencing to crack down on crime and protect the public by ensuring dangerous criminals are kept in prison for longer."

The White Paper 'A Smarter Approach to Sentencing', published on 18th September, proposes longer custodial sentences for those committing sexual and violent offences, making "*community orders stricter*", and diverting more vulnerable offenders into treatment programmes to address issues such as mental ill health, or substance misuse.



The paper advises that the "*approach to sentencing for under 18s is distinct*", and sets out proposals for two key changes, in addition to the wider local and national work to improve outcomes in youth justice.

It proposes changes to ensure in the case of **serious offences**, custodial sentences are appropriate for the small number of children for whom they are necessary by reforming the detention and training order and by reforming existing provisions for murder and serious violent and sexual offences.

These proposals make changes to the way in which children are sentenced for serious offences, increasing the starting point for determining sentences for 15-17 year olds who commit murder from a minimum of 12 years to two thirds of the equivalent starting point for adults; ensuring "*the seriousness of the offence is taken into account and there is less of a gap between older children and young adults.*"

The paper also proposes **tougher community sentences and reforms to remand tests** with proposals for 'stronger high-end community sentences' and reforms to the legal tests for custodial remand, to avoid unnecessary use of custody for children.

Following the controversy surrounding the swarding of the contract to deliver the first secure school to Oasis, a charity, the paper proposes "*legislative change to clarify that operating a secure school could be a charitable activity*"

The Justice Secretary said:

"For too long our justice system has been beset by complex and confusing laws which the public often feel fail in their most essential aims - to keep them safe and properly punish offenders. That ends today. This White Paper is the first step in a fundamental shift in our approach to sentencing, towards one that is fairer, smarter and ultimately better protects the public."

To read the White Paper [click here](#)

Civil Service Changes

As the Chief Executive of HMCTS Moves to the DfE



The former Chief Executive Officer of HM Courts and Tribunal Service, Susan Acland-Hood, was appointed to the role of Acting Permanent Secretary at the Department of Education on the 1st September, following the announcement that Jonathan Slater, the previous Permanent Secretary, had agreed to step down in advance of his tenure in spring 2021, due to the exam debacle.

Kevin Sadler, the former deputy at HMCTS will be acting as Chief Executive Officer. A permanent replacement is expected to be appointed in the near future.



Criminal Courts Recovery Plan for England and Wales

HMCTS publish update on progress

HMCTS report that it is now *'fully focused on recovering its operations to increase courts and tribunal capacity to deal with normal workloads across jurisdictions and outstanding cases'*.

COVID-19:

Overview of HMCTS response

July 2020



Justice matters

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant restrictions, HMCTS closed approximately half of its buildings, and *"prioritised urgent cases to ensure public safety, protect the vulnerable and safeguard children"*.

The recovery plan provides a progress update on its recovery plans and sets out the areas of working being undertaken in the short and medium terms.

HMCTS report that it is *"now fully focused on recovering its operations to increase courts and tribunals capacity to deal both with normal workloads across jurisdictions and outstanding cases"*.

[Click here](#) to read the report which sets out the short and medium terms for recovery.

Tips for Professionals in Contact with Young People

Produced by the IOPC Youth Panel



Existing evidence indicates that young people are less likely to make a complaint about the police than older people. The findings of the IPCC's 2014 survey into public confidence in the complaints system demonstrated that young people and people from BAME (Black Asian and Minority Ethnic) communities in particular lack confidence in the complaints system.



The IOPC Youth Panel was established in March 2018 as a response to this challenge, providing a means for young adults aged 16-25 years to inform the work of the IOPC, and to help the IOPC to build trust and confidence among young people. Leaders Unlocked were commissioned to deliver this work with the Youth Panel.

In 2019 the IOPC in collaboration with the Youth Panel submitted a [report](#) following their engagement with 800 children and young adults across England and Wales, that included a range of recommendations for how the IOPC could improve awareness and confidence in the police complaints system and address barriers to their engagement. One of the recommendations was to create a youth-centred guide to the police complaints system.



In July this year the IOPC and the Youth Panel published: [Guide to the police complaints system for young people](#)

In collaboration with the Youth Panel, the IOPC has now produced a guide for professionals [Tips for when you come into contact with young people](#)

Key tips

- Remember I am a young person** – this might be my first contact with the police, I might not know my rights, I might be scared, and I might not react the same way as an adult would in the same situation.
- Do not assume my age based on how I look** – I might be younger than you think. Ask me if you are not sure.
- Talk to me in a way I can understand what you are saying** – do not assume I speak English proficiently. Use plain English, but do not talk down to me.
- Do not jump to conclusions** – try to see the full picture, understand my point of view, how I am feeling, and what I need. Try not to make assumptions about my involvement in something until you have some evidence.
- Signpost support that might be available to me** – whether that is an appropriate adult, or support offered by another agency or organisation.
- Make sure I am safe** – if you think I am vulnerable or at risk of harm, ask me if there is anything I need, or anything you can do to help.
- Reflect on your contact with young people** – think whether there is anything you could do differently next time you are in the same situation.

If you think you have seen or dealt with me before

- Do not assume the worst** – keep an open mind, I might not have done anything wrong.
- Do not judge me based on who I am associated with** – there will be people in my family, people I grew up with, or people in my neighbourhood who are involved in things that I am not a part of or that I do not agree with.

The IOPC and Leaders Unlocked thank the young people who helped produce this guide.

Funding to Reduce School Exclusions in London

Mayor Commits Funding from the Violence Reduction Unit

Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has announced that the Violence Reduction unit will invest £2.3m for extra support for children in London who are returning to school after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Mayor's Office stated that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds have been "*profoundly impacted*" by the lockdown. As they return to school after several months away, Sadiq announced his new measures to aid young people in education and to help them stay safe.



The funding is part of a package to deliver dedicated one-to-one mentoring support for children in London with complex needs that attend London's Pupil Referral Units (PRUs). The scheme recognises that for many, a consistent one-to-one relationship with a responsible, approachable adult is key to keeping them on track with their studies, attendance, behaviour, and career direction.

The funding for this scheme will be available in all London boroughs. City Hall funding will also provide career mentoring, responding to concerns raised about year 11 pupil's access to "*learning, training or earning*", in the transition from school to further education or employment.

The Mayor's office state, "*Sadiq's investment will also work to re-engage those young people at risk of leaving mainstream education through sport, offering it as an intervention to encourage them to divert their energy to something healthy away from harmful influences and into positive opportunities during half-term, Easter and across the summer holidays.*"

Included in the investment is £1.4m, to support children at risk of exploitation from criminal gangs to stay in school; providing support to more than 200 schools in 16 London boroughs. Sadiq said:

"London's Violence Reduction Unit is absolutely focused on tackling the underlying causes of violent crime, but there is a real risk that these issues could be made even worse by the impact of Covid-19. New funding from London's VRU will support the delivery of a wide-ranging mentoring scheme and after-school activities for young Londoners most in need.

"The VRU is committed to tackling crime before it occurs and now is the time to invest in our youth services, our communities and our police - not more cuts. The future of young Londoners depends on it."

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

Consultations

Use of Force Policy Framework

HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) are currently undertaking a consultation on the draft revised 'Use of Force'. This policy document and a set of accompanying operational guidance will update and replace PSO 1600 and PSI 30/15.

The consultation, which commenced on the 21st September 2020, concludes on 16th October and HMPPS are keen to hear views on the new framework from all external stakeholders, some of which they have contacted directly.

We would encourage YOT Managers to respond to the consultation; as well as other interested readers of this Bulletin. To access the consultation documents [click here](#)

Please send your responses to james.ransom@justice.gov.uk

HMPPS will also be hosting a **round table event via a conference call on 14th October** which will commence with a summary of the evidence and vision for the policy framework, followed by an opportunity for participants to ask questions or offer comment.

For further information on the consultation and roundtable event please contact james.ransom@justice.gov.uk



HM Prison &
Probation Service

Serious Violence Reduction Orders

The Home Office is proposing to introduce these new orders to target known knife carriers and is asking whether such orders are required to make it easier to stop and search known knife carriers, or whether existing orders could be amended to achieve the same purpose.

The consultation is considering all aspects of such an order – when it should be imposed, how it should be enforced etc. and whether respondents consider such orders should be applicable to children - those aged under 18 years.

The consultation is also asking for views on the practical application by the police of such orders and the impact the introduction such orders might have on communities.

For more information on the consultation and details of how to respond [click here](#)

The deadline for responses is Sunday 8th November 2020

The AYM would encourage all YOT Managers to submit a response to these consultations and will be submitting responses to both.



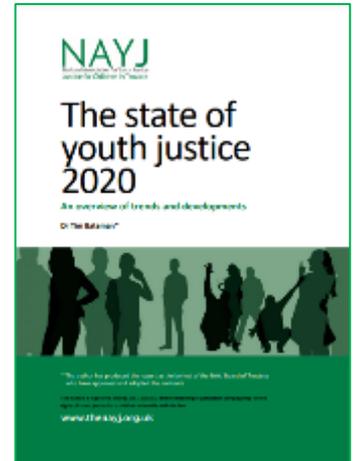
Home Office

The State of Youth Justice 2020

Dr. Tim Bateman Considers the Current Trends in Youth Justice

This publication by the National Association of Youth Justice (NAYJ) is the most recent edition in a series which commenced in 2015, and takes into account the approach to youth justice resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report considers the current approach to young people in contact with the law and asks if the 'child first approach' espoused by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) is 'rhetoric or reality', noting the implementation gap between policy and practice in part resulting from the opposition of such an ethos by some professionals.



Tim states that NAYJ is concerned that, whilst the reduction of children in the criminal justice system is welcomed, it may in part be the result of financial drivers in a climate of austerity, rather than the result of a child-centred approach to children in contact with the law: citing that the 39% reduction in funding to youth offending teams (YOTs) between 2011 and 2019; did not result in the re-allocation of funding to “*mainstream children’s service or alternative forms of youth provision, and have accordingly been lost as resources for disadvantaged children.*”

The report recognizes the continued reduction in the level of youth crime but notes the National Audit Office observation in 2010 that:

“the relative impact of children’s lawbreaking and of government targets on the official statistics, cannot be disentangled”, and further that “the fact that the volume of detected youth offending can be so readily influenced by changes in performance indicators does, however, pose deeper questions about the impact of policy on children in trouble”.

The issue of the increasing over-representation of BAME children in the youth justice system is considered, describing disproportionality within the youth justice system as:

“widespread, longstanding and deep rooted; the causes are complex and intertwined”, stating, “substantial investment in provision for young people in disadvantaged communities, reversing years of under resourcing, is a prerequisite of reducing inequity for BAME children.”

As Tim states, *“Adopting a child first practice that focuses on the long-term wellbeing of all children in conflict with the law, rather than seeing them in terms of the risks they embody, will also enhance the prospects that youth justice interventions do not exacerbate racial inequalities.*

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

'Child First' Justice: Making it Work in Practice

Participants for Workshops Needed



Ann Browning Research Associate in Social and Policy Studies and Professor Steve Case, from Loughborough University have recently documented and have been building upon the evidence base for the 'Child First' national youth justice strategy, introduced by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) in 2019, which was translated into the standards for youth justice practice in 2020.

The next stage of this timely and important project, 'Child First: making it work in practice', is to collaborate with key stakeholders through online workshops (of an estimated two hours duration) to explore and establish:

- Stakeholder understandings of the 'child first' model and principles,
- Anticipated barriers and challenges to implementation across the sector.
- How implementation of the strategy in operational terms will affect practice roles at different stages of the youth justice system.

Ann states that

"Since the AYM is perfectly positioned to enable access to the knowledge, experience and expertise of youth justice heads of service and area team managers, your (the AYM's) involvement would be invaluable and highly appreciated."

The research needs help from youth justice service to hold the following online workshops in October:

- 2 groups for operational managers
- 1 group of heads of service
- 1 group of practitioners

If you are able to participate in one of these workshops please contact:

A.L.Browning@lboro.ac.uk

Identifying Changes to Youth Justice Practice with Girls



Do you have experience of working with girls in a youth justice context?

The views and experiences of practitioners are being sought by Pippa Goodfellow for her Doctorate, 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.



To add your experience to the research, undertake the survey by [clicking here](#).



Other News

Longer Remands Opposed by Leading Charities

In an attempt to manage the impact of COVID-19 on court hearings, and in particular those held in crown court, the Prosecution of Offences (Custody Time Limits) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (“the Regulations”) is due to come into force on 28 September 2020. The result of the amendments is that custody time limits will be extended.

The Howard League, Just For Kids Law, and Liberty, have written a joint letter to the Justice Secretary saying that in order *“to protect liberty and avoid discrimination, we respectfully ask that you urgently withdraw the Regulations”*.

The letter identifies that the amendment could result in: individuals charged with both either-way offences and indictable-only offences being remanded in custody for a period of up to nearly eight months, and raises concerns that this will compound existing concerns about discrimination in the criminal justice system in particular children, women and people from ethnic minorities remanded to prison

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

Independence of Board Questioned.



‘Children and Young People Now’ has reported the controversy regarding the panel chosen to appoint the new Children’s Commissioner when Anne Longfield’s tenure finishes in December this year.

In a letter to the Minister for Children and Families, Vicky Ford, the Children’s Rights Alliance state

“To have two panellists so closely affiliated with the party of Government and no panellist from any other political party is not in line with the Paris Principles.”

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

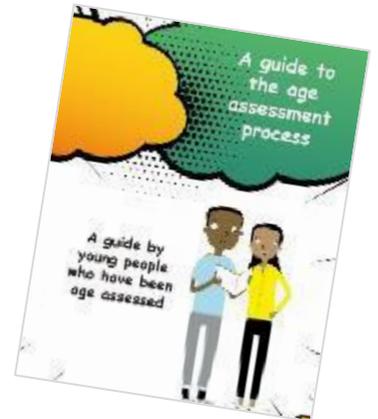


Young People's Guide to Age Assessments



Greater Manchester Immigration Unit 'All4One' youth group has produced a guide to assist young asylum seekers who are being age assessed, recognising how upsetting the experience can be.

The group has also created three information sheets with the 'SixThings' young people want social workers, appropriate adults and interpreters to know about the age assessment process.



To access the guide and 'SixThings' information sheets [click here](#)



YJB Live

The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) has announced it will deliver a series of free virtual events known as YJB live as a result of the postponement of the Youth Justice Convention.

The events will provide an opportunity for youth justice services to share good practice and will include feedback from some of the pathfinders.

The launch of YJB Live will be attended by the Minister for State, Lucy Frazer on the 4th November.

Details about the sessions and how to register will be advised in the YJ Bulletin.

**For Your
Diary!**

Items of Interest



Calendar of events for AYM 2020

Title	Date	Venue
Executive Board meeting	October <i>(date to be confirmed)</i>	Virtual Meeting
Executive Board meeting	17 th November	Virtual Meeting
AYM John Hawkins Award	17 th November	Virtual Presentation to Winners
Executive Board meeting	January <i>(date to be confirmed)</i>	Virtual Meeting

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

Standing Committee for Youth Justice

Serious Violence Reduction Order Consultation

Following the Home Office's consultation on proposed Serious Violence Reduction Orders (SVRO), the Standing Committee for Youth Justice (SCYJ) is holding a meeting with members in order to provide a response:

Thursday 8th October

2-4pm.

If you would like to attend the meeting please email policy@scyj.org.uk.



Member's Meeting, and Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 14th October 2020

**2-4pm
Via Zoom**

For more information about SCYJ [click here](#)



HMCTS' 4th Annual Public User Event

Via Microsoft Teams



Held over three days, attendees will have the opportunity to hear from HMCTS about the projects within their Reform Programme, and how this and HMCTS services have responded to COVID-19.

DATE	TOPIC
Tuesday 3 November	Civil and Crime jurisdictions
Wednesday 4 November	Tribunals jurisdiction and Cross-cutting projects
Thursday 5 November	Family jurisdiction and special topics

Throughout each day there will be an opportunity for Q&A sessions, live demonstrations of online services, and much more!

Each date will be filled with several bookable sessions. Attendees are welcome to attend as many or as few of the sessions as they would like.

To register for a place [click here](#)

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.



2nd – 5th November, 2020

On-line Conference



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

Safeguarding Children in the Digital Age



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 2021

30th November to 1st December, 2021

at Birmingham NEC

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





Want to stay up to date with YJ issues?

Then follow the AYM on Twitter.....
We have more than 2,900 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

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	
shelley.nicholls@nottinghamcity.gov.uk			Pali.obhi@solihull.gov.uk		
South East	Jon Gardner Southampton YOS		South West	Mike Rees North Somerset YOT	
jon.gardner@southampton.gov.uk			mike.rees@n-somerset.gov.uk		
North East	Miriam Sigsworth Stockton-on-Tees YOT		North West	VACANCY	
miriam.sigsworth@stockton.gov.uk			jacqui.belfield-smith@stockport.gov.uk		
London	Brendan Finegan Hackney YOT		Yorkshire & Humberside	Samantha Matthews	
brendan.finegan@hackney.gov.uk			Samantha.T.Matthews@eastriding.gov.uk		