



## Bulletin

### September 2020

#### **In this issue:**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>P2-5</b>   | <b>News from the AYM Executive Board</b>                        |
| <b>P6-7</b>   | <b>The Youth Justice SEND Quality Mark Re-designation</b>       |
| <b>P8-9</b>   | <b>The Forgotten Power of the Restorative Letter</b>            |
| <b>P10</b>    | <b>Understanding the Lessons of Policing During COVID-19</b>    |
| <b>P11</b>    | <b>Intersectionality is Important for girls and young women</b> |
| <b>P12</b>    | <b>New Stop and Search Guidance Issued</b>                      |
| <b>P13</b>    | <b>'Inside Out'</b>   |
| <b>P14</b>    | <b>Child and Adolescent Violence to Parents</b>                 |
| <b>P15-17</b> | <b>Other News in Brief</b>                                      |
| <b>P18-20</b> | <b>Items of Interest</b>  |
| <b>P21</b>    | <b>How to Stay in Touch with the AYM</b>                        |
| <b>P22</b>    | <b>AYM Executive Board</b>                                      |

## News from the AYM Executive Board

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



### **Association of Youth Offending Team Managers Ltd Annual Conference and AGM**

**On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2020  
11am**

*Members are invited to join the meeting taking place on Zoom, [click here](#) to join.  
You will be prompted for the Meeting ID: 860 4446 4068 & Password: 335518*

#### **CONFERENCE AGENDA**

- 11:00** Welcome & opening remarks - Andy Peaden, Chair of the AYM
- 11:05** Youth Justice Standards Inspection Standards: Response to HMIP Consultation - Justin Russell, HM Chief Inspector of Probation
- 11:35** Thoughts & Views for Youth Justice - Keith Fraser, Chair of the YJB
- 12:05** AGM commences (*for AYM members only*)

#### **AGM AGENDA**

- 1. Minutes of last AGM on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2019**
- 2. Matters arising**
- 3. Chair's report**
- 4. Secretary's report**
- 5. Treasurer's report & adoption of accounts**
- 6. Election of officers**
  - i. Chair**
  - ii. Vice Chair**
  - iii. Secretary**
  - iv. Assistant Secretary**
  - v. Additional Executive Board Members (x2)**
- 7. AYM Strategic Plan 2020/21**
- 8. AOB**

## Youth Justice Improvement Partnership



The Youth Justice Improvement Partnership (YJSIP), a tripartite partnership between the AYM, senior youth justice leaders and the YJB, provides improvement support **for the sector, by the sector, and always with the sector**. YJSIP is pleased to be continuing to deliver training to support its improvement agenda during the pandemic crisis.

The YJSIP Board has arranged for the delivery of the following training opportunities:

TRAINING COURSE	VENUE
Operational Managers Training	Zoom
Peer Reviewer Training	Warwick Conference Centre
Coaching Training	Zoom

If you haven't already registered but are interested in finding out more or booking a place on any of these courses, please contact [jon.bradnum@yjb.gov.uk](mailto:jon.bradnum@yjb.gov.uk)

We currently have 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
<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

## **Ministry of Justice Consultation on Strengthening the Scrutiny Bodies through Legislation**

Heads of Service will have received an invitation from the Ministry of Justice to respond to a consultation regarding proposals to strengthen scrutiny bodies sponsored by the Ministry of Justice. It explores: *“a number of options to strengthen the Arm’s Length Bodies’ ability to scrutinise and improve accountability within the criminal justice system; more specifically relating to prisons, probation and custodial settings. It also considers extending the tenure of the interested senior public appointees, as well as placing the National Preventive Mechanism on a statutory footing.”*

The AYM will be submitting a response to the consultation. **If there are issues you wish us to include in this submission please contact your regional representative as soon as possible.**

The **deadline for responses** to the consultation is **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September**

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

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, this ILM7 Development Programme, for Heads of Service, will be completed as a virtual course using Zoom for workshops and tutorials.



The course, delivered by Solace, experts in public sector management training, has been designed for 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. **Qualification is fully accredited by the Institute of Leadership and Management.**



We have a few places left available on the course, **commencing on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2020**, subject to appropriate numbers.

**As a result, we have been able to reduce the cost of the course for 2020**The cost of the course is £2450. **If you are a member of the AYM you will only pay £2200.**

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

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## Don't forget the AYM's John Hawkins Award

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?



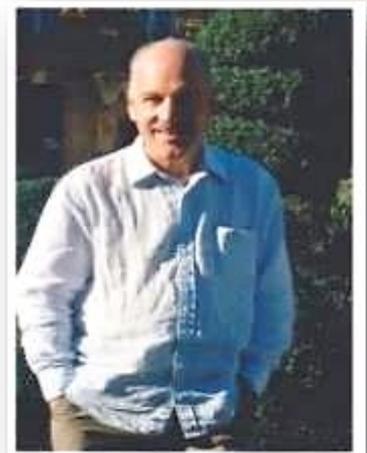
Do you have an of example of good practice, which is innovative or creative, and want to nominate it for an award? If you do, contact our secretary Ian Langley at [secretary@aym.org.uk](mailto:secretary@aym.org.uk)

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

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



The Award is made each year in memory of John Hawkins, previous AYM Treasurer and Head of Service, East Sussex YOT.



## The Youth Justice SEND Quality Mark Redesignation

### **Process commences on 1st September 2020**

In March 2018, to mark the culmination of a tremendously successful DfE and MoJ funded project, led by AYM and Achievement for All, 22 Youth Offending Local Area Partnerships\* attained either Quality Mark or Quality Lead status to acknowledge practice leading to better outcomes for young people with SEN (Special Educational Needs) in the youth justice system. These awards were formally acknowledged at the AYM National Conference in June 2018.



### **We now have over 50 teams involved!**

In the process of attaining these awards, YOTs have forged closer links with schools PRUs and statutory services such as SEND Teams, as well as sharing effective practice across the networks in areas such as colocating specialist provision and understanding the impact of complex needs. The awards have also been very useful independently verified evidence during statutory inspections, and their presence noted by inspection teams.

*“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. 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.’***

*Glenda Astley Blackburn and Darwen Area Team Manager*

Above all, better outcomes are now being assured for children and young people throughout the country.

**We are now entering a window of opportunity to enable the first cohort of Youth Offending Teams to renew the award or strive for a higher rating.**

### **\*Teams qualifying for redesignation**

Teams from Birmingham, Brent, Cheshire East, Islington, Lancashire, Salford, Somerset, Kirklees, Bedford and Bedfordshire, Southampton, Slough and Wiltshire received **Quality Mark** status in June 2018, whilst teams in Buckinghamshire, County Durham, Milton Keynes, Nottinghamshire, Sheffield, Southwark, Staffordshire, Stockton-on-Tees, Warwickshire, and West Berkshire originally received **Quality Lead** status at the same time.

### **Teams seeking redesignation at the same level (QM to QM, QL to QL)**

- Register for redesignation, ideally between September and December 2020
- Achievement for All will assist in the identification of process and evidence (this is not an onerous process); a formal concall/ZOOM/Teams meeting will confirm the award January-March 2021
- New logos and new certificates will be issued, the latter formally stating that standards have been maintained
- *Please note that if you choose not to redesignate, existing logos will have to be removed from all websites, letter heads and other official documentation*
- The costs have been kept to an absolute minimum (£500+VAT for AYM member, £600+VAT for non-AYM members)

### **For Teams seeking a higher rating (QM to QL)**

- Register for redesignation, ideally between September and December 2020
- Achievement for All will assist in the identification of process and evidence (informally benchmark, identify the critical evidence required, and assist with additional meetings. We do not want this to be perceived as a test; more like an iterative process towards the final outcome); a formal concall/ZOOM/Teams meeting will confirm the award January-March 2021
- New logos and new certificates will be issued, the latter formally stating that new standards have been attained, and identifying where this has occurred
- *Please note that if you choose not to redesignate, existing logos will have to be removed from all websites, letter heads and other official documentation*
- *If benchmarking uncovers practice development needs further time to embed, or evidence needs to be collected, the redesignation window will be held open until March 2022 without any additional charge*
- The costs are the same for a new entry into the process (£1000+VAT for AYM member, £1200+VAT for non-AYM members)



For further details, please contact either Phil Sutton  
[phil.sutton@aym.org.uk](mailto:phil.sutton@aym.org.uk)  
or Marius Frank [marius.frank@afaeducation.org](mailto:marius.frank@afaeducation.org).



## The Forgotten Power of the Restorative Letter

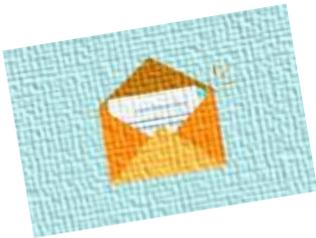
### **A restorative justice practitioner from Cheshire YJS reflects**



“Amongst Restorative Justice practitioners, there exists an unspoken hierarchy of approaches:

At the top of the hierarchy is the **restorative meeting** in which the harmed person and the person who harmed them come face-to-face. Television and radio documentaries aplenty have featured such meetings and they’ve also formed the climax of numerous works of fiction. Below the restorative meeting resides the process of **shuttle mediation** whereby the harmed person and those who caused them harm communicate via the RJ practitioner. Then comes **direct or indirect reparation** whereby those who caused harm take action to repair it.

Finally, at the very bottom of the hierarchy, there is the **restorative letter**.



Often, in my experience, a harmed person will respond to the offer of a letter of apology with, **‘He’s turned my life upside down and all you’re asking him to do is write me a letter of apology. No, thanks!’** Many harmed people reject the offer of a letter of apology as they doubt the writer’s sincerity. For them, saying sorry in the form of a letter is too easy despite Sir Elton’s oft quoted claim to the contrary.

### **During lockdown, however, the restorative letter has come into its own.**

With a ban on face-to-face restorative meetings and supervised reparation activities, the restorative letter has often been the only restorative approach on offer to harmed people. Since the start of lockdown, I have facilitated the writing of over twenty letters, all of which have been well-received despite frequent initial reluctance. Two letters in particular stand out and are testament to the power of the restorative letter to heal the harm that has been caused.

The first letter was written by Kyle (15) to Margaret (72). Margaret first encountered an inebriated Kyle and his equally inebriated ‘friends’ one winter evening at a bus stop after she had just completed a long shift working at a well-known fast food outlet. Kyle thought it would be fun to physically intimidate Margaret by ‘getting in her face’, punching her to the arm and pursuing her through the bus station.

When I first spoke to Margaret, she was still traumatized by what had happened and told me that she having to accept what her own family had been telling her for some time, she was a vulnerable old woman who, rather than working full-time and enjoying a very active social life, should be at home at night watching TV, knitting. She didn't want to see Kyle ever again but somewhat reluctantly agreed to accept a letter of apology from him.

In his letter, Kyle spoke of his disgust and that of his mum at his actions. His mum, he said, couldn't stop thinking about what Margaret had suffered. Her thoughts were keeping her awake at night. When I read this sentence to Margaret, there was an immediate transformation in her. She said, ***'I'm a tough old nut, I'll get over this but I'm not sure that his mother will'***. So, taking a break from her lockdown solo project of re-decorating her entire house, Margaret wrote the second letter that has inspired this article.

Margaret's letter was addressed to Kyle's mum. She told her that her own son had been 'no angel' at Kyle's age but had 'come good'. Kyle's mum was not to lose sleep over her as she had accepted Kyle's apology and was encouraged by his stated ambition to join the army. Margaret had been born into a military family and had been married to a soldier for most of her life. Her hope was that after lockdown, she and Kyle's mum would be able to meet up for a cup of coffee. ***When I read Margaret's letter to Kyle's mum, she cried.***

Not all restorative letters that I've helped to write over the period of lockdown have been so transformative and only Kyle's has received a written reply. But lockdown has allowed all of us to reflect upon our practice and, for me personally, has made me seriously question the hierarchy of restorative approaches."



***Do you have any examples of positive practice outcomes you want to share?***

If so, get in touch by emailing Lesley Tregear at [lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk](mailto:lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk) and we will include your example in our bulletin.

## Understanding the Lessons of Policing During COVID-19

### **Current policing models considered**



Crest, a crime and justice consultancy, and the Police Foundation, the UK's policing think tank, have brought together an integrated team to undertake research into the way in which policing has been managed during the COVID-19 restrictions.



During these unprecedented times, police forces across England and Wales have been required to adapt their models of policing, enforcing restrictions and adjusting to the changes in crime whilst ensuring the safety of their officers and staff, and the public.

Using statistical analysis alongside qualitative research, the project aims to identify strengths and weaknesses on current policing models, focusing on structures, technological solutions employed, strategic planning, and public consent.

The research has four phases, focussing firstly on evaluation of workload and management of police work during the crisis and forecasting to model the impact of models adopted. The second phase will evaluate the level of resilience on existing structures. The third stage will consider the impact of the pandemic on *“public perceptions of the police and the implications for police legitimacy and our model of policing by consent.”*

The final stage will consider the implications for future policing models and identify lessons for police governance and organisational structures – including the ‘43 force model’, and the police operating model. It will also identify lessons for future police workforce strategy.

A report on the findings of the research will be published at the end of 2020 with a view to informing the Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales (due to report in June 2021) and the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice.

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

## Intersectionality is Important for girls and young women

**Millie Hall, SCYJ Communications Assistant, reflects**



In a blog for the Standing Committee for Youth Justice (SCYJ), Millie considers the position of girls and young women in a criminal justice system which is “*predominantly designed for men*”. She reports on some of the key points discussed in the recent workshop on transitions of girls as they turn 18 and move into adult services. The workshop forms part of the Young Women’s Justice Project, a partnership between the Standing Committee for Youth Justice (SCYJ) and Agenda Alliance for Women and Girls at Risk, that aims to shine a light on the experiences of girls and young women aged 17–25 in contact with the criminal justice system and to bring about lasting change to policy and practice.

Millie describes intersectionality as a ‘golden thread’ arising from discussion at the workshop, going onto provide background to this concept, first coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw a Black feminist scholar and civil rights advocate.

Intersectionality recognizes that the convergence of multiple identities, such as race, gender identity, and socioeconomic status, contributes to a specific type of systemic oppression and discrimination experienced by an individual. The golden thread the importance of understanding intersectionality and the need to recognize the impact of this when working to improve the lives of young women in transition.

The term ‘hard to reach’ (regarding care-experienced girls with complex needs) is cited in the blog as an example of the disregard for intersectionality demonstrated by the language and stigma still attached to many girls and young women.

Millie reports that the workshop recognized that more holistic approaches to responding to the needs of girls and young women was required and that, organisations look critically at their expertise and recognise where they are, and importantly where they are not, well-placed to provide support.

The project aims to provide a briefing paper on transitions later in 2020.

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

To find out more about transitions for girls, or about the Young Women’s Justice Project, contact [policy@scyj.org.uk](mailto:policy@scyj.org.uk).

## New Stop and Search Guidance Issued

### **Guidance to police updated**



In a bid to improve confidence in the use of stop and search powers by the police in England and Wales, the College of Policing has issued new guidance that maps the use of stop and search and call for members of the public to scrutinise the use of the powers by the police, in those areas using the powers most frequently.

The panels will be independent of the police and members of the panels will be trained to read and interpret the legislation and data. They will also receive training on the complaints processes.

Panels will be held in places, and at times to ease participation and encourage engagement of the panel members.

Chief Constable Mike Cunningham, Chief Executive Officer at the College of Policing, said:

*“Forces are dedicated to keeping the public safe, and stop and search powers can make a real difference in disrupting crime in the short term.*

*“We want local communities to be able to ask questions, share their experience and build mutual understanding so that the police are best able to keep people safe.”*

The guidance also states forces should ensure that communities are aware that members of the public can accompany police officers on patrol and observe instances where ‘no suspicion’ searches have been authorised.

To read more about the new guidance, [click here](#)

## 'Inside Out'

### **'Young People's Health and Wellbeing: A response to COVID-19'**

The National Youth Agency (NYA) has published a paper considering the *"disproportionate impact the pandemic has had on children and young people's health and wellbeing."*



The report reviews recent analysis of young people's mental and physical health and their wellbeing and identifies lessons from lockdown that need to be considered during future spikes of COVID-19 and any resultant lockdowns.

Recognising adolescence as a critical transitional period it argues the impact of the pandemic on some will be far-reaching compounding existing inequalities and effecting most the vulnerable and marginalised.

Of the all children surveyed, 3 out of 4 young people observed lockdown. *However, amongst those in more vulnerable groups a quarter of the young people admitted to breaking lockdown to see friends.* Recent research by the University of Sheffield is cited to support understanding of this where young people who were more anxious were more likely to comply with physical distancing measures, than those with higher levels of depression who were more likely to break the rules.

The authors argue that emergency measures have led to young people engaging *"in 'risky behaviour' or relationships without a safe space for trusted or confidential advice on subjects such as sexual health or unintended pregnancies."*

They also identify that *"Groups of young people are often discouraged from socialising in parks and public spaces, seen to be a nuisance or with the potential to escalate to disruptive and anti-social behaviour."*

The authors conclude that during future restrictions agencies should:

- Keeping services for young people open where it is safe to do so
- Mobilising youth workers as critical workers alongside health professionals
- Provide clear, ongoing child-friendly public health messaging and guidance
- Take a strength-based approach to secure long term investment in services for young people.

Crucially, the report states agencies should adopt an age-sensitive response to the needs and concerns of children and young people.

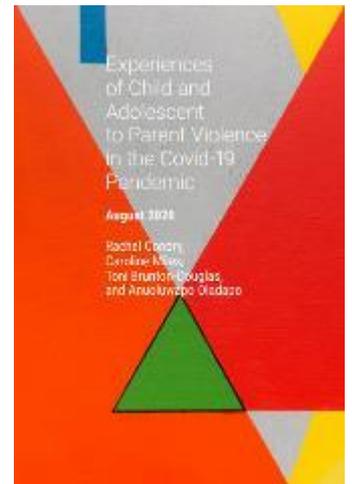
To read the full report [click here](#)

## Child and Adolescent Violence to Parents

### **The Effect of Lockdown**

'Experiences of Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence in the Covid-19 Pandemic' reports the findings of a project that considered evidence from experiences of parents and the views of those professionals working with families during lockdown (between April and June 2020).

It is based on survey findings from 104 parents who have experienced such violence and 47 practitioners working with families experiencing such violence, together with information obtained from Freedom of Information Act requests to the 43 police forces in England and Wales requesting information on the number of incidents between April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020..



The report considered the impact of government restrictions on families and violence/abuse within those families and the support available to them during the restrictions.

Analysis of the data and surveys showed that:

- 70% of parents reported an increase in violent episodes during lockdown
- 69% of practitioners reported an increase in referrals for families experiencing child and adolescent violence to parents.
- 64% of practitioners identified that the severity or incidence of violence had increased.

Respondents cite a number of reasons for the increase.

29% of parents reported a reduction in violence toward them by their child/ren which was explained by a reduction in the stresses and triggers for violence in this period. Although the reduction of violence is positive, both practitioners and parents were very concerned for this group of families who might experience more severe problems when the pressures of everyday life returns.

The report makes a number of recommendations which include ensuring that children are not 'over-criminalised for their violence, recommending prosecution as a last resort..

The authors recommend that we should 'expect and plan for a rise in demand for support as lockdown lifts. Amongst the recommendations they also call for:

- specific programmes designed for families experiencing child and adolescent to parent violence,
- safe spaces for families in crisis, and
- respite care for young people

To read the report [click here](#)

## Other News

### **1,000 New Probation Officers to be Recruited.**

In addition to the 800 new probation officers already in training, the government has announced a commitment to recruit at least 1,000 more this year alone which will see the workforce grow by 29%. This recruitment plan is part of the government's plan which aims to strengthen the supervision of offenders

The government argues that, public protection will also be improved by staff having a more balanced workload when services are brought back under National Probation Service control next June.

The Probation Workforce Strategy also sets out plans to improve training and shift administrative work away from frontline staff.

The move is part of the Government's efforts to make the country safer, with the recruitment of 20,000 more police officers and the building of over 10,000 new prison places.

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

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### **Prioritise Children in Future Lockdowns**

A briefing paper by the Children's Commissioner to England, Anne Longfield, has been published identifying how children should be prioritised in any future local or national lockdowns.



The commissioner argues schools should be the last places to close, after pubs restaurants and non-essential shops, saying once the wider social costs of school closures are factored in, it's clear that schools should be kept open; closing only once other options have been exhausted.

The commissioner calls for the separation of the Youth Custody Service (YCS) from the wider prison estate and closer working between YCS and Public Health England to ensure children's wellbeing is given a higher priority in any future lockdowns, citing that children have spent in excess of 20 hours per day in their cells during the crisis. She also states that children should not be required to isolate for 14 days when re/entering a secure unit.

The briefing also suggests the government hold a press conference aimed at children, stating children should be allowed and encouraged to submit questions to any press briefings, just as adults were in the previous daily press briefings.

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

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## Recruiting Learning Coaches



Due to the launch of additional courses, Unitas the leading provider of distance learning programmes in the youth justice sector is looking to recruit additional learning coaches.

Unitas say:

*“Our dedicated team of learning coaches are pivotal to supporting our students throughout their studies. The successful candidate will be committed to helping students get the most out of the course, mark assignments and provide feedback by phone, email, text and video call to ensure the best possible distance learning experience.*

*The role offers flexibility within a prescribed model supported by digital study materials available online and downloadable as apps, learning coach guidance, and would suit those who enjoy passing on their knowledge.”*

If you have a degree or level 6 qualification with experience in the youth justice field, as well as in teaching or staff development, please send your CV to:

[Paula.coombe@unitas.uk.net](mailto:Paula.coombe@unitas.uk.net)

Or write to Paula at: Unitas, Diamond House, Vulcan Road North, Norwich, NR6 6AQ

For further information about Unitas and the courses offered [click here](#)

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## Racial disparities in the youth justice system

The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales has published an update to their 2019 report on disproportionality in the youth justice system, to reflect the latest data.

[Click here](#) to access the presentation and an [here](#) to see the related infographic that summarises some of the main points.

In March this year, the YJB published a revised ‘Summary Ethnic Disproportionality Tool’ with the most recent data. The tool is available to youth offending teams (YOTs) through the Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF) and enables them to identify whether there is over-representation of particular groups is an issue in their local area.



## Children and Young People Now Awards

### **Reminder, nominations close for these awards soon...**

If you run a project or service that helps children and families and you are proud of it and want to share your story, why not nominate if for one of the Children & Young People Now (CYP Now) Awards.



There are a number of categories including the **Family Justice Award, sponsored by the Centre for Justice Innovation**, for the initiative that has done the most to help young people and families avoid disputes and resolve problems.

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

To find out more, enter your project for one of the CYP Now Awards [click here](#)

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## More Courts for Vulnerable Victims and Witnesses

HM Courts and Tribunals Service and the Ministry of Justice has enabled all crown courts in London and Kent to provide the facility for vulnerable victims and witnesses to pre-record their evidence, removing the need to attend the trial



The new technology was piloted in Liverpool, Leeds, and Kingston-upon-Thames and pre-recorded video evidence is already available at crown courts in Aylesbury, Bradford, Bristol, Carlisle, Chester, Durham, Kingston-upon-Thames, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Mold, Northampton, Oxford, Portsmouth, Reading, Sheffield, Swansea, Wolverhampton.



The technology allows vulnerable witnesses and victims to have their cross-examination video-recorded earlier in the process and played during the trial. The recording is carried out as close to the time of the offence as possible in order to help memory recall, and reduce the stress of giving evidence to a full courtroom at trial.

To read more [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)**

## Employment Training

Catch 22, is delivering a virtual training event exploring pathways to employment for people on resettlement from custody. Children will also form part of the discussion.

The event will consider:

- Are programmes to prepare prison leavers for employment fit for purpose?
- Where there are skills shortages, how can we equip people with the right skills to enter the job market.
- What can employers do to get the best out of prison leavers and create opportunities that meet the needs of both employer and employee.

### ***Prison leavers and pathways to employment***

**15th September, 11am-12noon  
on Zoom**

To register for the event, [click here](#)

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## Standing Committee for Youth Justice



### ***Member's Meeting, and Annual General Meeting***

**Wednesday 14th October 2020**

Details of the venue/format will be confirmed nearer the date, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

For more information about SCYJ [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.



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

**On-line Conference**



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

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### *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:

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

**at 10 Union Street, London**

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

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

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### Youth Justice Convention 2021

**30<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2,800 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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The views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent those of AYM or its membership.

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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> <b>Bedfordshire YOS</b>				
<b><i>Pat.jennings@bedford.gov.uk</i></b>					
<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>Shelley Nicholls</b> <b>Nottingham City YOS</b>		<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>Pali Obhi</b> <b>Solihull YOS</b>	
<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> <b>Southampton YOS</b>		<b>South West</b>	<b>Mike Rees</b> <b>North Somerset YOT</b>	
<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> <b>Stockton-on-Tees YOT</b>		<b>North West</b>	<b>Jacqui Belfield-Smith</b> <b>Stockport YOS</b>	
<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> <b>Hackney YOT</b>		<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>		