

# Bulletin

January



# 2021

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## News from the AYM Executive Board



### *From the Chair*

Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you've all had the opportunity for a break over the festive period and have had a chance to recharge ready for the challenges of 2021. We start 2021 with a new lockdown and the pressures associated with providing support and supervision to the children and families we are responsible for, whilst caring for our colleagues; we wish you all the best in your endeavours; let's hope the restrictions mean that things improve soon so we can all start to get back to some sense of normality.

It was a busy end to 2020 and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the AYM Executive and in particular our Vice Chair Jacqui who has supported me enormously in my first few months as Chair. We have many AYM Exec members who are portfolio leads and have been working with the Youth Justice Board, Youth Custody Service, National Probation Service, HM Courts Service and numerous other national bodies to champion the work of youth offending teams. Their support really does make a difference and I am truly grateful. I would also like to thank all of our AYM project officers who work behind the scenes to support us all. They are the really important people who keep the association going and on track with meetings, project work and communications.

**Best Wishes  
for 2021**

**Best Wishes to all our members and colleagues for a prosperous and productive 2021!**

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### **Summary of Work on Improving Outcomes for Children with SEND**

A report on the work undertaken by the AYM and Achievement for All with youth offending services (YOTs) has been published and is really worthy of a read. It's sometimes nice to see everything we have all achieved laid out in one document **and the achievements of YOTs is outstanding in this area of practice.**



The report starts by citing the sustained improvement achieved for an estimated five thousand children per year in youth justice pathways, or on the edge of criminality, resulting from the work of almost fifty YOTs across England.



**The rest of the report is equally as impressive!** To read the full report [click here](#)

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## **AYM John Hawkins' Award**

The presentations to the joint winners of the AYM John Hawkins Award 2020 took place via video conferencing during December.

This is the first time the award has been jointly given and was due to young people from Bradford, 2019 winners, being unable to decide between two projects.

Congratulations go to Hampshire YOS for their 'Therapeutic Wellbeing Officers (TWO) Service' and Lancashire YOS for their 'Your Choice Diversion Programme'

Bradford's children said the Hampshire's project:

*Gets young people to build relationships and have support to address what's happening for them. This could help most young people and support them to think of different ways to manage emotional and mental health and build relationships.*

*It's good because it can help a lot of young people and they can get to know the worker. Help them to not hurt their self and build confidence so they believe in themselves.*

Of the Lancashire Project, the children said:

*It is a good way for young people to develop knowledge but they might not open up in group situations i.e. if they were being exploited, I think other YOTs offer similar things before young people go to court.*

*Can help young people before they offend or before they end up in court*



Both YOT's were presented with their awards by the Chair of the AYM - Lancashire received their award during the YOT Management Board meeting and Hampshire received their award during an awards ceremony where they were joined by our AYM Secretary Ian Langley, Hampshire's former Head of Service, and Steve Crocker OBE, Director of Children's Services for Hampshire & the Isle of Wight and a former YOT Manager. Steve said he had worked with John Hawkins and respected and learnt from him, so was honoured that Hampshire YOT had won the award.

John's sons attended both ceremonies and shared their personal reflections of their dad and will visit both projects once the COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.



***Congratulations to Lancashire and Hampshire who will be judging the nominations for the 2021 AYM John Hawkins Award.***

## ***AYM Responds to Urgent Notification at Rainsbrook STC***

The AYM has written to the Executive Director of the Youth Custody Service (YCS), Helga Swidenbank, following her communication to youth offending services regarding the joint urgent notification issued, regarding Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre (STC), by Ofsted, with HM Chief Inspector of Prisons and the Care Quality Commission.

In her letter to YOTs, Helga recognized that *“the invoking of an Urgent Notification at Rainsbrook is of great concern, particularly for those YOTs who have children or young people residing at the centre”* and outlined the YCS response to the notification in order to safeguard children, stating:



*“we have taken the decision to temporarily pause placement of boys into Rainsbrook and will look to place new girls in an appropriate Secure Children Homes in the first instance, noting there may be exceptional circumstances where placement of a girl into Rainsbrook would be more appropriate.”*



Hazel Williamson, AYM Chair, has written thanking Helga for her communication but raising AYM’s concerns regarding the ongoing issues at Rainsbrook which have resulted in children being segregated, despite inspectors warning that such treatment is unacceptable and Rainsbrook making assurances that the practice would cease.

Hazel advised that YOTs were given only a very short time to contact concerned parents before the press release and asked:

*“If this were to happen again in the future it would be helpful for us to work together more closely so that we can avoid any unnecessary upset to parents.”*

Hazel also stated the YCS response to the notification leaves the AYM *“concerned that this will reduce the availability of beds across the estate which may mean some children being placed within a YOI setting when an STC may have been a more suitable alternative.”*

Hazel also noted that the AYM is working with YCS to support continuous improvement and offered our support to improve the experiences of children placed in Rainsbrook.

**If you have any issues you would like AYM to consider in communication with YCS, please contact your regional representative.**

## ***YJB Seek Views of YOT Managers***



The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) has approached the AYM to help co-ordinate a virtual meeting of youth offending services wishing to discuss their views of youth justice in the future.



Colleagues in the Ministry of Justice are working to support Minister Lucy Frazer (picture left) with her thinking about the future of youth justice; this meeting will provide evidence and help inform the minister's thinking.

Members of the AYM Executive will be participating in this meeting but the AYM is keen to include AYM members and offer the opportunity for their views to be considered in this important discussion.

Timescales for this are tight with the YJB hoping to arrange a virtual meeting between the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

If you wish to participate in the meeting, or to provide information that can be included in the discussion please let us know by contacting our business support Diana Bowden at [diana.bowden@aym.org.uk](mailto:diana.bowden@aym.org.uk)

If there is a lot of interest, places at the meeting may need to be restricted to ensure that a full and meaningful discussion can place. The AYM is keen to ensure that all views can be included. If you are not offered a place at the meeting, we would ask that you provide a summary of evidence that you would like to be included in the discussion.



We will of course provide a summary of the discussion in our AYM Bulletin.

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## **Vacancies**

### ***North Lincolnshire YOS is Recruiting***

North Lincolnshire Youth Offending Service is seeking dynamic, experienced workers to fulfil the role two senior case manager vacancies. The post holder will provide management, supervision, oversight and guidance to the team. Leading a range of youth justice services including pre-court, court and post court services to children and young people involved with the criminal justice system, and their families.

For further information/discussion, please contact Paul Cowling on 07717588233.

**Closing Date is Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

To apply for one of these positions [click here](#)

## Chief Inspector of Prisons Speaks Out

### **Charlie Taylor Calls for New Approach**

Charlie Taylor, previous Chair of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) was appointed as Chief Inspector of Prisons on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and has spoken to the 'Spectator' regarding the recent Urgent Notification issued to the Secretary of State for Justice regarding Rainsbrook STC.



In the article '**We must stop treating juvenile offenders as lost causes**' published on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, Charlie said:

*"Rainsbrook holds children aged mostly 15 to 18, but on our inspection we discovered that for their first two weeks, new arrivals were being locked in their cells for 23½ hours a day. They had no contact with other children and little interaction with staff, who dropped food off at their doors and took them out for short solitary periods in the exercise yard.*

*The centre managers claimed they were responding to Covid-19 advice from local health officials, but they had not thought through the risk to children, or bothered to devise any alternative strategies..... Other institutions we have visited since April have, in contrast to Rainsbrook, grouped new arrivals into bubbles, even if this means some will have to spend slightly longer in quarantine."*

Charlie goes on to cite some of the tragedies in the secure estate and considers the poor progress of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in actioning the recommendation from his 2015 review of youth justice, the creation of secure schools; advising readers that it was two years ago when the charity 'Oasis' was selected to open the first of these secure schools, saying:

*"despite the support of the many ministers who have passed through the Ministry of Justice, progress has been painfully slow."*

This secure school – or '**new academy**' as Charlie describes it, is scheduled to open in 2022, seven years after Charlie's review was published. Charlie contrasts this with the successful opening of hundreds of free schools under the direction of the Department for Education, and argues:

*The MoJ must be prepared to reduce its tortuous bureaucracy and resist the controlling instincts of the prison service. It must give Oasis the freedom to get on with the plan to deliver good discipline, bespoke education and therapeutic care."*

Talking of children who have committed offences, Charlie said:

*"if we want them to go on to be successful adults and to take care of their own children, we must treat them differently. If we want these children to change, we have to start giving them what they need, not what we may feel they deserve."*

# Group-based Child Sexual Exploitation



## **Characteristics of offending**

The Home Office has published a report on group-based child exploitation (CSE) and its characteristics. The report considers group perpetrated CSE and includes 'street grooming' and 'gang grooming', noting the shift in public understanding and recognition of CSE following a decade of cases since those high-profile cases across England and North Wales.

The report is the result of a review of evidence, interviews and desk-based research. An external reference group (ERG), was consulted, consisting of experts on CSE across a range of sectors, including representatives of victims and survivors, law enforcement, academia, the third sector, and parliamentarians. The ERG provided expert advice, scrutiny, and constructive challenge on the report to ensure it gave an accurate reflection of what is known about group-based child sexual exploitation offending.

Key findings from the report include the following:

- All forms of child sexual abuse are under-reported and the evidence on which we base these findings is limited to known cases,
- Based on what is known, offenders in group-based CSE are predominantly but not exclusively male, are often older than sexual offenders in street gangs, but younger than lone child sexual offenders. In many cases, offenders are under the age of thirty, but in some cases, they are much older,
- Beyond specific high-profile cases, the academic literature highlights significant limitations to what can be said about links between ethnicity and this form of offending,
- A sexual interest in children is not always the predominant motive. Financial gain and a desire for sexual gratification are common motives and misogyny and disregard for women and girls may further enable the abuse,
- Offender networks tend to be loosely interconnected, with some members more central to the group and others more peripheral.

## **Key Findings**

Implications for policy at both a local and national level are considered and the report notes the number of 'evidence gaps' and areas in which information on group-based CSE can be improved, before detailing these in the final section of the report.

To read the report [click here](#)

## New Children's Commissioner for England



Gavin Williamson, Education Secretary, has announced that Dame Rachel de Souza has been appointed as the next Children's Commissioner for England, taking up the post in March 2021 when the current Commissioner Anne Longfield completes her tenure.



Rachel, who was appointed a Dame in 2014 for her services to education, is currently the Chief Executive at Inspiration Trust - a multi-academy trust based in Norfolk and north Suffolk, including 14 academies. Rachel said of her appointment:

*"It is a great honour to be the next Children's Commissioner for England. For many years I've been a passionate advocate for children and young people, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.....As Children's Commissioner I'm looking forward to standing up for children across England."*

Congratulating Rachel on her appointment, Anne Longfield said:

*"The role of Children's Commissioner is an honour and a privilege – holding to account without fear or favour, those who make decisions affecting children's lives, and shining a light on the many different issues facing children today. I want to congratulate Rachel on her appointment to this fantastic job and wish her the very best as she prepared to start her term in office, in March."*

### **Question Raised on Banning 'Smacking' of Children**

However, in giving evidence to the House of Commons education select committee where she was asked of her views on banning the smacking of children in England, following similar bans imposed in Wales and Scotland, having removed the defence of 'reasonable punishment', Rachel failed to offer a view saying *"I need to look into this properly."*

Leading Children's Rights Charities have voiced their concerns regarding this failure to take a stance and support such a ban. In an article in Children and Young People Now, Carolyne Willow Director of Article 39 said:

**Article 39**

FIGHTING FOR  
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS  
IN INSTITUTIONAL SETTINGS

*"This is the only statutory, national post whose sole function is to promote and protect the rights of children, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and with complete independence from government."*

*"I found the pre-hearing dispiriting in that at no point was it evident that the government's preferred candidate is passionate about children's rights, has a track record of standing with children who have really tough lives or is able to constructively challenge government policy when this is necessary for the benefit of children."*

## What's Can We Expect in 2021?



### **For Criminal Justice**

Danny Shaw Head of Strategy and Insight at Crest, a UK consultancy on crime and justice, has reflected on the effects of COVID-19 restrictions on areas of the criminal justice system, with delays in court hearings creating a backlog of cases being processed and reduced rehabilitation interventions delivered within the secure estate. In considering 2021, he argues that things are unlikely to improve soon.

However, with a focus on criminal justice reform resulting from the Royal Commission, Shaw argues that after the delay caused by the pandemic, things are beginning to move forward, saying whilst not yet launched:

*“officials have begun drawing up the terms of reference, which suggests it may not be far off.”*

Shaw argues that:

*“In terms of policy, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is set to be one of the busiest Government departments in the months to come, with findings expected from a series of reports and consultations.”*

Shaw goes on to cite changes expected to be delivered in 2021, such as the move toward a more transparent public protection tribunal to replace the Parole Board but with stronger powers, and the review of the Human Rights Act and the Judicial Review, both of which are expected to be reported on in 2021.

Shaw considers too the changes for the National Probation Service, turning back the reforms that created criminal rehabilitation companies, saying we should *“Expect more than a few teething troubles...”*

In considering the MoJ's prison building programme, designed to provide six new prisons helping to accommodate some of the 18,000 new places by 2026, Shaw notes that only two sites have yet commenced building. However, he cites the government estimation of a surge in custody numbers of 4000 in 2021, and a further increase of 15,000 by 2026.

Crest's modelling shows that the increases will result as much from the recruitment of 20,000 more police officers by 2023, as from the 'tougher sentencing for serious offenders' resulting from the proposed Bill to be introduced in the coming months.

Shaw says, *“the Home Office is busy preparing a Police Powers and Protections Bill, which will probably resemble a box of Quality Street, with something in it for everyone.”*

If Shaw is right, 2021 will be an interesting year!

To read the article [click here](#)

## Supporting Homeless Young People

### **Centrepont Publish Research Report**



Centrepont a leading national charity working with homeless young people aged 16 to 25yrs has published a new report based on the results of a national survey of youth homelessness organisations conducted by Centrepont in November 2020. A total of 57 organisations from across the UK responded to the survey.

The survey considered the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on young people and the report argues that the pandemic:

*“has exposed and exacerbated many of the challenges homeless young people face, from unemployment and difficulties accessing education, to challenges accessing secure and truly affordable accommodation. Young people have been among the hardest hit by the economic impacts of the pandemic, with many job losses concentrated in the hospitality and retail sectors.”*

Considering the rate of furlough and unemployment among young people, the research found that:

*“Half of all eligible workers aged 16-24 were furloughed in the first three months of the pandemic, and youth unemployment has reached 13.6%, more than three times the figure for all ages.”*



The report also argues that:

*Alongside this, there is clear evidence that thousands of young people across the country are facing homelessness and housing insecurity due to the COVID-19 pandemic”, with 73% of respondents to the survey expecting to see an increase in the numbers of young people sleeping rough in the coming months.*

The report makes five recommendations, two for the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and three for the Department of Work and Pensions, each designed to increase appropriate resources and accessibility of funding and accommodation for ensure that disadvantaged young people are properly supported

To read the report [click here](#)

## Early Intervention

### **Multi-Agency Prevention Strategy Considered**

Vicky Ford the Children's minister who has announced a multi-million investment in programmes for vulnerable families. At the Early Intervention Foundation's (EIF) national conference in December that she further announced she plans to launch the procurement process for a new National Centre for Family Hubs and Integrated Services, to support areas and councils to set up new family hubs, and said the Government will also put in place *"an evaluation innovation fund to build the evidence base on integrated family service models."*



Donna Molloy, Director of policy and practice at the EIF whilst welcoming the funding announced for Troubled Families and Family Hubs in the recent spending review, said:

*"what we need is not individual initiatives, but clear government leadership and overall vision for vulnerable children, built on the evidence of what works to improve outcomes, backed by sufficient investment."*

She said, *"We do know what works in many areas, but we are still not doing it"*, before going on to say

*"where we know what to do, but perhaps aren't doing it as much as we could be is in relation to the evidence for intensive home visiting in the early years."*

*The simple fact is that there are some things that have been well tested, and shown to improve outcomes, and we should be delivering more of them."*

Developing this further, Jenny Coles, President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services, said:

*"There needs to be a radical rethink about how the totality of public funding in a locality can be brought together. This would reduce duplication, and help us make real progress towards the shared outcomes public services, the voluntary and community sector are all working towards happier healthier, safer communities."*

*This transformational thinking is happening across the country, but not in every place", adding, "the next iteration of the Troubled Families programme could provide a national vehicle to do this."*



## Increase in NEET Young People

### Office for National Statistics



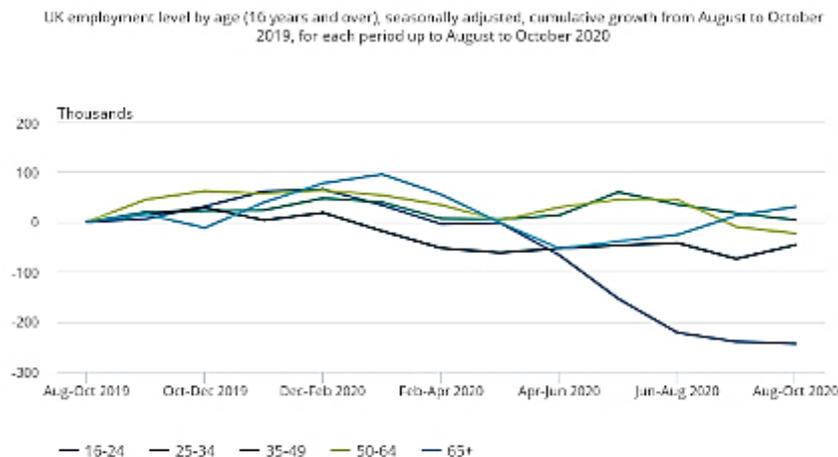
Two Office for National Statistics reports show a depressing picture for children seeking employment.

'Young People not in education, employment or training (NEET), UK: November 2020' and 'Employment in the UK: December 2020', compiled using data from the Labour Force Survey of a large number of households in the UK, show decreasing employment rates for those aged 16-24 years.

The first of the reports considering NEET data shows an estimated 757,000 young people (aged 16 to 24 years) in the UK were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in July to September 2020. The report describes this as **'a record low'**.

Of those who were NEET in July to September 2020, an estimated 45.5% were looking for, and available for, work and therefore classified as unemployed, an increase of 39.6% for the same period in 2019.

The report 'Employment in the UK: December 2020', shows a record number of redundancies between August and October 2020 and a decrease of 90,000 young people aged 16-24 years who are employed, **'to a record low of 3.51 million.'**



Source: Office for National Statistics – Labour Force Survey

To read more on the NEET report [click here](#)

For more on the report on employment [click here](#)

# Integrated Offender Management

## For Neighbourhood Crime Prevention



Integrated offender management (IOM) was introduced in 2009 to provide a cross-agency response to crime and reoffending threats faced by local communities, by prioritising and jointly managing the most prolific and high risk offender.

However, in February 2020, a joint inspection by HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) found that IOM had '**lost its way**' and highlighted the potential benefits of greater leadership from the centre, including improving clarity around the cohort focus for IOM and the nature of the work that should be involved.

Ministry of Justice data for 2019 shows that:

*80% of all crime is created by those reoffending, a significant proportion of which is neighbourhood crime. The total cost of reoffending is estimated at £18.1 billion.'*



Not surprisingly, reducing reoffending and driving down neighbourhood crime are key government priorities. As a result of this and the review of IOM, the '**Neighbourhood Crime Integrated Offender Management Strategy**' has been developed with the government providing '**£5 million of additional funding** for Regional Probation Directors to use in line with the strategy.'

The government states it will also set '**clear national priorities (whilst retaining the local discretion of schemes)**' for local leaders, including the '*freedom to continue running IOM schemes for other cohorts*'.

The strategy outlines '*an evidence-based approach, creating new governance structures, and facilitating evaluation and shared learning*', and ministers suggest the reforming of criminal sentencing supports the strategy, by providing new '*tools that can bolster a more focused offender supervision approach*'.

Whilst children are not mentioned within this strategy, the strategy suggests the 'Flex' cohort could allow local areas to '*weight towards young adult offenders to prioritise those making the transition from youth to adult services*'.

The Ministry of Justice and Home Office will be publishing operational guidance to support this strategy.

To read the strategy document [click here](#)

## Other News

A stylized logo with the word "News" in a bold, red, sans-serif font with a blue drop shadow, set against a white background with a grey border.

### Guide for Practitioners Published

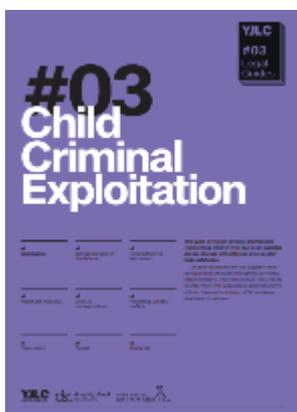


Following the Youth Justice Legal Centre's (YJLC) seminar featured in last month's AYM Bulletin, the YJLC in collaboration with the Children's Rights Group at Doughty Street Chambers has published their guide 'Child Criminal Exploitation; the third in a series of key youth justice guides.

The guide takes practitioners through the key stages in a case where child exploitation has arisen and children have been charged with offences arising from that exploitation, giving practical advice on the work that needs to be done by the defence at each stage.

In addition, it provides an overview of the outcomes available to children prosecuted for offences arising from their experience of criminal exploitation.

To access the guide [click here](#)



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## Survey for BAME Children

The Black Training & Enterprise Group (BTEG) are conducting a survey of Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) children aged between 15-24yrs, or those who work with this group. The survey aims to help BTEG understand the experiences of young ethnic minority people in Britain today and what matters to them when it comes to education, jobs and apprenticeships.



Do you know anyone that could take part in the survey? There is a reward for taking part in the survey: to find out more and to complete the survey [click here](#).

**Closing date for the survey is Sunday 17 January 2021.**

## Independent Review of Taser Use



The **Independent Review into Disproportionate Effects of Use of Taser**, has been established to commission and review an extensive, independent programme of social research to explore the causes and consequences of racial disparities in the police use of Taser. Under the scrutiny of an Independent Research Advisory Panel, this work will provide an evidence base to identify and inform meaningful policy changes aimed at improving racial disproportionality.

This independent panel with a majority black membership appointed by the Chair Junior Smart OBE, supported by the NPCC, will include academics, activists, those with lived experience and community leaders.

The review commencing in this month will form part of the NPCC's and College of Policing's developing Plan of Action on Inclusion and Race, and is expected to run for 12 months, publishing findings during throughout the course of the project.

Home Office statistics for 2019/20 showed that black people were eight times more likely than white people to experience a taser being drawn on them or discharged. In 86% of all uses the taser was not discharged.

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## Violence Against Women and Girls

**The Home Office is calling for evidence** from people aged 16 years and over who may feel underrepresented in previous strategies or who feel their circumstances were not supported by existing services.

In addition to those with lived experiences of these issues, the Home Office is also seeking the views of those with expertise in working with and supporting victims and survivors, and those involved in preventative activity.

The consultation will aid the development of the government's next 'Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy'.

For more information and to provide evidence [click here](#)

**The consultation closed at 11:45pm on 19 February 2021**



## New CEO for StreetGames



Following the retirement of Jane Ashworth, founder and Chief Executive Officer of StreetGames, Mark Lawrie formerly acting CEO of the organisation has been appointed to the role.

StreetGames was founded in 2005 and has become one of the UK's 'strongest' 'sport for development' charities, supporting a network of more than 1,400 locally trusted organisations to deliver sport and physical activity in disadvantaged communities across the country.

Of her departure Jane said:

*“When we founded StreetGames 15 years ago, none of us could have predicted where that journey would take us.*

*It's never easy leaving behind a role that has been such a large part of your life, but in my case I'm comforted by the knowledge that StreetGames is in such safe and capable hands, with an incredible team who I know will continue to take the charity from strength to strength.”*

To read more about the work of StreetGames [click here](#)

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## YJB Webinars Available to View

The YJB has shared the recordings of all webinars for its 'YJB Live' sessions which were held remotely this year, in place of the annual Youth Justice Convention.



If you missed the webinars and wish to view them click on the links below:

- [Launch event](#)
  - The [County Lines Pathfinder](#),
  - [Serious Youth Violence: Empowering Positivity through Participation](#),
  - [Inspecting small YOS remotely](#),
  - [Over represented children in the youth justice system](#),
  - [Constructive Resettlement pathfinder](#),
  - The [impact of COVID-19 on the youth secure estate](#), and on youth justice services,
  - [Inspecting in a difficult year](#), and
  - The [‘child first principle’ in theory and practice](#)
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## Items of Interest



**For Your Diary!**

## Calendar of events for AYM 2021

<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Meeting with YJB	Date tbc (between 11-22 <sup>nd</sup> January, 2021)	Virtual Meeting
Additional Executive Board Meeting	15 <sup>th</sup> January, 2021	Virtual Meeting
Executive Board meeting	19 <sup>th</sup> January, 2021	Virtual Meeting
Executive Board meeting	23 <sup>rd</sup> March, 2021	Virtual Meeting
<p><b><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></b></p> <p><b><i>To keep up to date with this calendar between Bulletins, please look at our website:</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://aym.org.uk">aym.org.uk</a></p>		

## Children and Young People Now Conference

### ***Safeguarding Children in the Digital Age***



The 4th national 'Safeguarding Children in the Digital Age' conference will now take place as an online conference over four consecutive days with a series of two-hour, CPD-certified live sessions from:

**Monday 11th to Thursday 14th January 2021**

between

**1pm and 3pm**

Providing essential learning for the entire children's workforce, it will bring 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.

There is also a time slot each day for delegates to engage with a range of exhibitors who would like to talk about how their products or services that can improve practice.

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

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## Standing Committee for Youth Justice

**The Next Member's Meeting** of the Standing Committee for Youth Justice (SCYJ) will take place on:



**Wednesday 27th January**

**between 2pm and 4pm**

**via Zoom**

Presenting at the meeting will be Emily Frith, Head of Policy and Advocacy at the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England.

Look out for the registration details which will be announced to members shortly.

To find out more about the SCYJ [click here](#)

## Public Sector Crisis Communication Conference

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual conference where the latest in crisis communication strategy will be considered including identifying risks, ensuring the right channels are being used, working with the media and best practice to prepare for the unforeseeable.

The conference aims to take stock of learning from the COVID-19 crisis so far, and consider how prepared we are for what comes next.

This online conference will take place on:

**28 Jan 2021**  
Between  
**10am and 3:30pm**



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

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## Explaining desistance: looking forward not backwards



The National Association for Youth Justice are holding an on-line event to launch this new briefing.

**25<sup>th</sup> February 2021**  
at  
**12:30pm**

Speakers include: Dr. Ali Wigzell, University of Cambridge; Alan MacDonald, HMI Probation, and Dr. Tim Bateman, Bedfordshire University and Chair of NAYJ Trustees.

Places are free but are limited to 100. To register for a place [click here](#)

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## The Children and Young People Now Awards Ceremony

This year's ceremony, celebrating the work of those working with children and young people, will be a virtual event taking place on:

**Thursday 4th March, 2021**  
at  
**4pm**



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

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

Then follow the AYM on Twitter.....

**We have more than 3,000 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](#)

Email our Editor [lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk](mailto:lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk)

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## AYM Regional Representatives

Below is the list of regional representatives across the country, with email addresses. Please contact your regional representative if there are issues you want to raise. We welcome your input.

[Click here](#) for details of all Executive Board members.

<b>East</b>	<b>Pat Jennings</b> <i>Bedfordshire YOS</i>				
<b><i>pat.jennings@bedford.gov.uk</i></b>					
<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>VACANT</b>		<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>Pali Obhi</b> <i>Solihull YOS</i>	
			<b><i>pali.obhi@solihull.gov.uk</i></b>		
<b>South East</b>	<b>Charlie Spencer</b> <i>Surrey YOS</i>		<b>South West</b>	<b>Mike Rees</b> <i>North Somerset YOT</i>	
<b><i>charlie.spencer@surreycc.gov.uk</i></b>			<b><i>mike.rees@n-somerset.gov.uk</i></b>		
<b>North East</b>	<b>Miriam Sigsworth</b> <i>Stockton-on-Tees YOT</i>		<b>North West</b>	<b>Celine Gafos</b> <i>Knowsley YOS</i>	
<b><i>miriam.sigsworth@stockton.gov.uk</i></b>			<b><i>celine.gafos@knowsley.gov.uk</i></b>		
<b>London</b>	<b>Brendan Finegan</b> <i>Hackney YOT</i>		<b>Yorkshire &amp; Humberside</b>	<b>Samantha Matthews</b> <i>East Riding YOS</i>	
<b><i>brendan.finegan@hackney.gov.uk</i></b>			<b><i>Samantha.T.Matthews@eastriding.gov.uk</i></b>		