



Claudia Sturt

Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Board

13<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Claudia

I write to you in my capacity as Chair of the AYM to express our concerns regarding the new Youth Justice Plan Guidance and in particular the template issued on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The AYM Executive Group met on 27<sup>th</sup> April and based on our members feedback, we would like to share the following concerns with you.

Whilst we appreciate that the completion of a template enables the Youth Justice Board to compare YOTs across England, it does detract from local autonomy.

The letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 accompanying the template and the guidance states that '*For those services that have longer planning periods we require an annual refresh plan for the period 22/23.*' There are several YOTs that began a 3-year planning process in 2021 and are now faced with completing a new plan as they are unable to transfer their 3-year plan or complete an annual refresh as the new template does not support their local plan template.

Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out. Releasing a new template with no warning, with such a short timescale for completion has put a lot of undue

pressure on YOTs and as a result full consultation may well not take place.

We would urge the Youth Justice Board to re-consider the utilisation of this template as a condition of grant and that in the next 12 months we work together with the sector to develop some minimum standards for the development of the Youth Justice Plan.

The AYM would be happy to talk this through in more detail if you felt this would help.

Regards

Hazel Williamson

Chair of the AYM

[AYM – The Association of Youth Offending Team Managers](#)