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News from the AYM Executive Board

Our Chair, Jacqui Belfield-Smith, has had another busy month in which she represented the AYM as part of a panel discussing partnerships and early intervention, at the Youth Justice Summit alongside colleagues from the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB), Youth Endowment Fund, ADCS and NHS England.

Pictured right, is Jacqui at the Summit, congratulating Keith Fraser, on his confirmed appointment for a further 2 years as the Chair of the YJB. Well done Keith, the AYM looks forward to continuing our productive relationship with you.



Jacqui was also able to meet with Claudia Sturt (pictured left) and wish her the very best in her new career, expressing appreciation, on behalf of the AYM, for her 2 years as Chief Executive at the YJB where she has steered the YJB into a new sense of purpose and ensured that children are placed at the centre of our youth justice work and reflected in national policy.

Of course, work for the Executive Board is ongoing and Jacqui will be attending a Parliamentary round table, chaired by Baroness Louise Casey on Monday May 22nd.



The event will mark the launch of a joint Commission on Young Lives and Manchester Metropolitan University report on girls and young women at risk of violence and exploitation, including in and around criminal gangs which will be published the same day. The Report draws on a 5 year Manchester Metropolitan University research project working with over a hundred girls and young women who have experienced violence and harm. It includes findings from expert evidence sessions and policy discussions and puts forward policy proposals and recommendations to prevent girls and young women coming to harm and to support them to succeed.

Nick Jeffreys and Michael O'Connor, AYM portfolio leads for safeguarding have been working with other members of the Executive Board to respond to consultations from the Youth Custody on reviews of some of their policies. All AYM responses to consultations can be found on our website aym.org.uk or by [clicking here](#)

The Executive would also like to remind readers that our AYM Summer Conference and AGM take place on 22nd June, if you haven't already registered for a place please do so by [clicking here](#) Full details of the conference can be found on the following page.

AYM Summer Conference:
25 Years of Youth Justice. What's changed since the Crime and Disorder Act 1998?



Thursday 22nd June, 2023
10:00 – 13:30

1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford ST16 2LP.

AGENDA

- 10:00 Registration and refreshments**
- 10:30 Welcome – Jacqui Belfield-Smith, AYM Chair**
- 10:40 Highs, Lows and Unfinished Business: Personal Reflections on the last 25 years of Youth Justice – John Drew, Former CEO of YJB and AYM Life Member**
- 11.15 John Hawkins Award (2022) Presentation**
- 11.25 Supporting Children's Rights in the YJS – Laura Cooper, Co-Head of the YJ Legal Centre**
- 12.10 AYM/Microlink YJ SEND Awards Presentations – Marius Frank, Head of Education, Microlink**
- 12:20 What next for the YJS?– Keith Fraser, YJB Chair**
- 13.00 Reflections from YOT Managers**
- 13:15 Conference Closes with Lunch**
- 14.00 AGM commences (*for AYM members only*)**

Register for a place at the conference by [clicking here](#)

Youth Justice Sector Improvement Partnership

The YJSIP is in the process of finalising its Year End Report for 2022-23 activity and programme plan for 2023-24.



Highlights from the feedback and evaluation of the past year's activity include, of our Peer Review Leadership training event in March participants said:

'Excellent, dynamic, interactive delivery: Nothing to fault, develop or improve', and in response to a recent YJSIP Peer Review Report, a receiving service strategic leader commented, 'It's really invaluable for services to have the capacity to learn and reflect from others and the report is a clear and concise outline of the findings. Thankyou for the time and effort you've put into it'

If you are interested in YJSIP and want to know more contact laura.kinsey@aym.org.uk

Youth Justice SEND Quality Awards

Congratulations to Swindon Area Partnership

Swindon Area Partnership has been awarded the Youth Justice SEND Quality Lead Award with a Child First Commendation and applauded by the SEND QA assessors for *'making significant and sustained progress in terms of developing productive and effective relationships between partner organisations, supported by a Child First vision of service provision that goes beyond the Youth Offending Team.'*



The assessors noted that joint working with the SEND Team is highly effective, as evidenced by protocols, EHCP tracking, regular meetings and internal training. The commitment to securing the best possible outcomes for children with SEND in youth justice pathways is tangible.

Co-located professionals from Welfare, Speech and Language Therapy and CAMHS ensure that screening is proportional and appropriate to identified needs, and targeted support provision is actioned quickly and effectively and recent staffing appointments (a new re-settlement post, for example, and a dedicated post-16 ETE worker) ensure continuity of support from the community into custody and from custody into the community.

Child First practice extends deep into provision for children who offend, including assessment procedures that embrace and inform youth resilience and identity development.

Congratulations to Swindon!

The next Child First Seminar will be presented by St. Helens and Camden will focus on prevention and takes place at 12:30 on 24th May.

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

Youth Justice Oversight Framework

YJB Thanks AYM Members for their Contribution

The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) has written to the AYM thanking us for AYM members' contribution to the development and launch of the new Oversight Framework.

The YJB anticipates that the framework, together with the revised terms and conditions of grant, will enable the Youth Justice Board to engage more effectively with the youth justice sector, both with local youth justice services and their key partners across England and Wales.

The YJB also stated the framework will be fully evaluated in 2026, in the meantime continuous feedback is welcomed; sessions involving the AYM will be used to help facilitate this feedback.

In developing the framework, the YJB fully recognise that the youth justice system is a complex landscape, involving numerous services, organisations, and agencies. All these need to work in partnership to achieve the system aims of preventing offending and reducing reoffending and truly realise the best outcomes for children, families, communities, and victims.

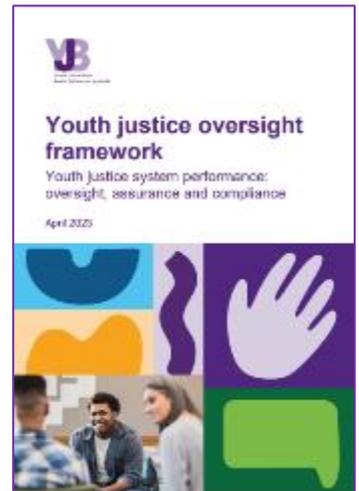
The framework provides clarity on how the YJB's monitoring function is fulfilled, outlining how oversight of local youth justice services is undertaken and delivery across the wider system understood. The YJB will be working together with services and partners to drive up performance against outcomes. The letter notes that achieving the confidence of youth justice services and the partnerships is essential in supporting this, and welcomes the role the AYM has undertaken in supporting this aim.

The framework outlines the approach the YJB will take to overseeing the performance of youth justice services, bringing together in an overarching performance framework, an outline of:

- the mechanisms used for oversight of and assurance against performance outcomes
- how compliance against the terms and conditions of the youth justice core grant (provided to local YJSs on an annual basis) is confirmed
- how effective practice across the system will be identified
- when and how support is provided to drive up standards in delivery
- the responses to persistent poor performance and/or noncompliance against the terms and conditions of the youth justice core grant.

The AYM will be considering methods to assist in feedback on the framework to ensure a national perspective takes account of local variations. If you have anything you would like to contribute to that ongoing feedback, please contact your regional representative.

To read the framework [click here](#)



YJB Business Plan 2023-24



The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) has published its business plan for 2023/2024. In a letter to the AYM and other stakeholders, the Chief Strategy Officer Jamie Bennett stated:

'We will continue to meet all our statutory functions and reprioritise our finite resource to focus on the areas we believe will make the biggest difference to children: taking a stronger role in driving performance across youth justice services and wider partnerships. As an organisation, we are strengthening how we bring together data, intelligence and insights so we can better monitor the youth justice system and improve outcomes for children who receive support from youth justice services. We will continue to focus earlier upstream and recognise the importance of early intervention and prevention. We have made a commitment to becoming an anti-racist organisation. As well as addressing disparity, and the consequences of racism, in the system – which will be an intrinsic part of all we do - we will internally challenge our systems, policies and processes.'

The YJB reinforce its commitment to developing a child first youth justice system. There will also be targeted work focussing on four areas:

- Courts,
- Police
- Partnerships to reduce serious youth violence and exploitation, and
- Education.

To read the business plan [click here](#)

Supporting Children who have Experienced Developmental Trauma

Research in Practice has published a '**Frontline Briefing**' for frontline practitioners, practice supervisors and social work managers. The term 'developmental trauma' is used throughout to reflect the layered impact of ongoing trauma on a developing child; the terms 'complex trauma' and 'relational trauma' are also commonly used in this context.



The briefing brings together knowledge and resources on working in a trauma-informed way with children who have experienced trauma and their parents or carers. It focuses on developmental trauma, which arises as a result of early and repeated traumatic experiences, such as abuse and neglect, within a child's important relationships.

The paper provides an overview of developmental trauma and outlines key approaches for working with children and their parents or carers and signposts open access resources that practitioners and parents and carers can draw on. It focuses on younger children, but many of its messages are applicable across all age groups.

To read the briefing [click here](#)

HM YOI Cookham Wood



HMI Prisons Invokes Urgent Notification

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, Charlie Taylor, has written to the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, Rt Hon Alex Chalk KC MP, to invoke the Urgent Notification process as result of an unannounced inspection of HMYOI Cookham Wood between 4th and the 20th April, 2023.

The letter states that the previous inspection in 2021 had identified Cookham Wood as an ‘an institution with significant problems’, requiring ‘*support to be provided to enable improvements*’. Inspectors had identified low staff morale, standards, and expectations, *and a lack of energy and creativity that could engage and motivate children to use their time at Cookham Wood usefully, despite holding only half the young people it was resourced to hold*. Leaders needed to find ways to move beyond reactive and limiting approaches to managing difficulties.

The urgent notification advises the Secretary of State that the latest inspection has identified:

‘a failure to address the sustained decline in standards at this high-risk establishment and have no other option but to issue an urgent notification’.

Seven reasons for the decision are listed and include amongst others:

- A complete breakdown of behaviour management which has escalated poor behaviour and widespread weapon making,
- High levels of segregation, with 90% of children subject to ‘keep apart’,
- Normalisation of solitary confinement,
- A lack of cohesion in leadership,
- Widespread acceptance of low standards throughout the institution,
- Inadequate education, skills and work provision, and
- Despite a rich resource of staffing, the inspectors found significant staffing shortfalls in some areas, indicating that much of it was currently wasted, underused or in need of reorganisation to improve outcomes at the site.

Charlie Taylor notes that inspectors:

‘met many staff who cared about the children at Cookham Wood and wanted to deliver a good service to them, however they had lost hope that improvements were possible’.

The Youth custody Service has responded to the urgent notification by stating it is ‘aware of issues raised in the site’s inspection and are providing support to the site to help manage the complex needs of its young people. The site is implementing several actions to drive improvements’.

To read the urgent notification [click here](#)

Common Sense Policing

The Home Secretary Suella Braverman gave a speech at the Public Safety Foundation to set out her ethos for common sense policing. Talking of the increased number in police officers, in some areas to unprecedented high levels, she said, *'More police, means more flexibility for forces to do what makes sense locally'*.

The Home Secretary stated *'Everything that our police officers do should be about fighting crime, catching criminals, and keeping the public safe.'* *'we must all work towards rebuilding public trust and refocusing on the public's priorities.'*

More police on our streets; better police culture; higher standards; more effective policing; focused on the public's priorities; making use of all appropriate powers; pursuing good old fashioned criminal justice rather than social justice; relentlessly focussed on fighting crime, catching criminals, and keeping the public safe. That is the policing that the decent, hard-working, law-abiding majority, up and down this country, can get behind and have confidence in.'

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

Supporting Children's Compliance on Community Supervision

Academic Insight

HMI Probation has published its latest Academic Insight by Dr. Mairéad Seymour, a senior lecturer in the School of Social Sciences, Law and Education at Technological University Dublin, in which the concept of compliance is considered and strategies that *'pro-actively support and encourage substantive compliance by children and young people'* are explored.

The author notes that there has been *'a notable shift in England and Wales away from enforcement towards engagement in policy discourse and practice guidelines'* and identifies the crucial importance of establishing positive working relationships with children in order to promote and encourage compliance. It is recognised that in order to achieve 'legitimacy', practitioners need a range of skills, time and persistence and importantly *'genuine concern and interest'* in the child they are supporting.

In considering compliance, the author notes the importance of early and regular communication and that practitioners must adopt mechanisms to help overcome potential barriers to engagement, such as time and venues of supervision and providing assistance with transport where necessary.

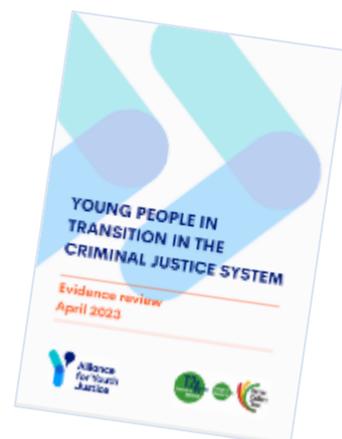
The author notes that *'Substantive compliance is more likely to evolve where children and young people are motivated by normative reasons such as perceiving the system, including their treatment within it, as procedurally fair and legitimate.'*



To read the [click here](#)

Young People in Transition in the Criminal Justice System

Evidence Review Published



The Alliance for Youth Justice (AYJ) has published an evidence review regarding young people's transitions in the criminal justice system. The review sets out the policy context for transitions and summarises existing research evidence and data; examining the experiences of children and young people turning 18 years of age while in contact with the justice system, exploring issues spanning the youth and adult criminal justice systems and wider support systems.

The review is part of a three-year Transitions Project by the Alliance for Youth Justice (AYJ), funded by Barrow Cadbury Trust and aims to develop understanding and recommendations for policy and practice by viewing critical issues that affect children in the youth justice system that continue to impact on them in young adulthood. The project has three priority thematic focuses: racial injustice, safeguarding young people at risk, and custody.

The literature review considers all aspects of transition from the youth justice system to adult provision and highlights the change in practice adopted by professionals as a result of children perceiving to mature to adulthood. It notes however, the growing awareness of vulnerability of those transitioning into adult provision and the review includes evidence that proposes extending support for children to 25 years of age to replicate that support offered to looked after children, and those commentators such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child that recommend that:

'children who turn 18 before completing a diversion programme or non-custodial or custodial measure be permitted to complete the programme measure or sentence, and not be sent to centres for adults.'

The review found racially minoritized children are disproportionately likely to transition from a youth to adult justice system, are less likely to be supported through the transition and that the voluntary and community sector are able to bridge the gap between statutory services during the transition.

To read the literature review [click here](#)

Can You Provide Further Insight?

The AYJ will be holding an **Expert Seminar on Wednesday 7th June, 14:00-17:00**, at the **Halley, Haggerston, London** and will be **hybrid**, to gain insight from professionals involved with working with racially minoritised children and young people and those transitioning to adult service provision. If you are interested in participating in this Expert Seminar please contact mia.edwards@ayj.org.uk

The AYJ is also holding a **Youth Voice Focus Group (in person)** on **Wednesday 10th May from 14:00-17:00**, **in-person at The Halley, Haggerston, London**, in order to widen its understanding of the experiences of racially minoritised young people in contact with the justice system as they transition into adulthood. If readers know of children or young people aged 16-25 with such experience, please contact saqib.deshmukh@ayj.org.uk

Understanding Barriers to Restorative Justice

Why me? Publishes report



Why me?, a national charity that promotes and delivers restorative justice has published a report based on a three-year project focused on improving restorative justice for young people and young adults.

The aims of the project were to develop a **Youth Justice Services: Good Practice Guide** which was published in December 2022, and to publish a policy recommendation report. This report is the result of research, informed by young people and young adults, and provides evidence about the barriers to young people and adult's engagement with restorative justice.

The project worked with youth justice services, young offender institutions, with police and crime commission-funded restorative justice services, and explored disparities in access to and the uptake of restorative justice for young people and young adults from ethnic minority backgrounds.

In interviews with young people and other stakeholders 'Why me?' found:

- There was a distinct lack of awareness of what restorative justice is and the availability of the service. Many young people and young adults had not heard of restorative justice.
- The term restorative justice can be confusing to young people and young adults who have no prior knowledge of it.
- There is a lack of formal processes through which young people and young adults can access the service.
- One of the key findings from the work focusing on disparities in the uptake of restorative justice for young people and young adults from ethnic minority backgrounds was the lack of trust in services. This was particularly prevalent when the police officer in charge of a case was the person who is offering information about restorative justice.

The report contains ten recommendations for:

- The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales,
- The Ministry of Justice,
- Regional probation services,
- HM Prison and Probation Services,
- HM Inspectorates of Prisons and of Probation,
- The creation of a national reporting framework to increase accountability and understanding of impact of restorative justice, and
- A national action plan for restorative justice championed by a dedicated minister, to improve national coordination and oversight of provisions for victims and offenders.

To read the report [click here](#)

To access the Youth Justice Services: Good Practice Guide [click here](#)

Understanding Ethnic Disparity in Reoffending Rates

The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales has published a report following independent research that explored why reoffending rates among children are higher among some ethnic minority groups.



The research involved statistical analysis of reoffending data from England and Wales, interviews with children from England as well as focus groups with youth justice service practitioners.

The report '**Understanding ethnic disparity in reoffending rates in the youth justice system: Child and practitioner perspectives report**', focuses on the qualitative strand of the research, consisting of 19 interviews with children who have offended, and three focus groups with 22 practitioners from Greater London, East and West Midlands and North West England.

All interviewees were asked about their experiences of interventions to prevent reoffending, factors that contribute to reoffending and the support required for children from different ethnic minority groups to prevent reoffending.

The authors advise that there is also an analysis of reoffending data report which should be considered alongside this report. The research findings illustrate four key thematic drivers of ethnic disparity in offending rates for children:

- **Marginalisation of individuals and communities** - Nearly all children interviewed had been excluded from school prior to, or as a direct result of their first offence. Poverty and social class were key issues highlighted by both practitioners and children that influence offending and reoffending rates. These background factors contribute to a system in which ethnic minority children were overpoliced but under protected.
- **Individual, institutional, and systemic bias** - Children involved in crime are more commonly treated as adults – especially those from ethnic minority backgrounds. A lack of diversity among the police and courts system was felt by many interviewed to underline systemic racial bias.
- **Weaknesses in prevention and intervention** - Building strong, trusting relationships with children was viewed as a prerequisite to delivering effective interventions. Where this did happen, children spoke positively about their interactions with caseworkers. A shortage of wraparound services was identified as a potential driver for reoffending.
- **Negative experiences of the wider youth justice system** - Lack of information for children navigating the youth justice system is reported to be a driver of ethnic disparity in reoffending rate, exacerbated by negative experiences of police custody and inadequate legal representation as reported by many children, and the failure of sentencing to account for children's needs and experiences means interventions to reduce reoffending are not as effective as they could be.

The report makes a number of recommendations for practitioners and policy makers to address these issues.

To read this report and the '**Analysis of Reoffending Data**' Report [click here](#)

Elevate Programme

Applications for Cohort 2 are Now Open.

Individuals from ethnic minorities backgrounds are currently under-represented in strategic leadership positions. Elevate is a positive action programme that supports middle managers from an ethnic minority background to progress their careers into strategic leadership.

The course is endorsed by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB), YJSIP and the Youth Justice Workforce Development Council: **75% of the participants on Cohort 1 have now been promoted.**

The closing date for applications is June 16th, 2023

To find out more about Elevate and to apply for a place on the programme [click here](#)



Youth Justice Qualifications

Unitas Announce New Courses

The first cohort of the **Youth Justice Practitioner L5 Apprenticeship (YJPA)** will commence in July 2023.

An additional qualification that can be achieved alongside the YJPA is the **Foundation Degree in Youth Justice (FDYJ)**.

For further information on the Apprenticeship [click here](#)

Contact Unitas Now!

Email: contact@unitas.uk.net or call Unitas on **01603 570365**

If you are considering how the Youth Justice Practitioner Apprenticeship (YJPA) may benefit your organisation please speak with your local authority's Apprenticeship Team who will be able to give you additional guidance. The [Apprenticeships.gov.uk](https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk) website which has lots of employer guides and helpful information can be accessed by [clicking here](#)



Vacancies



Cheshire Youth Justice Service

CYJS is a large, multi-agency partnership arrangement delivering statutory Youth Justice services across the four local authority areas of Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington. The service has a national reputation as a trauma informed, child-first and innovative service and were rated Good with several Outstanding features in a full joint YOT inspection in 2021. The service is looking to recruit to the following positions:

Youth Justice Practice (Team) Manager CYJS is looking for an outstanding manager with a good understanding of theory and legislation underpinning youth justice practice to join its experienced, friendly and highly professional management team. The successful candidate will manage a local area team in the east of the county but work collaboratively as part of a sub-regional Youth Justice Management Team taking on some thematic portfolio responsibilities for the whole service.

This is an exciting opportunity for an outstanding individual to help embed participatory, relationship-based practice and stay at the cutting edge of evidence-based youth justice.

For an informal discussion about the role, contact [Tom Dooks on 0345 1450055](mailto:tom.dooks@cheshireyjs.org.uk)

Closing date for applications is 1st May, 2023

To apply for the position [click here](#)

YOT Officer (x2) CYJS is also seeking to recruit a motivated Youth Offending Team Officer to join its very friendly multi-disciplinary team on a permanent basis.

The successful applicant will manage a demanding case load of young people, completing their assessments, writing reports and undertaking interventions to address their offending behaviour. You will be expected to work collaboratively with colleagues and other agencies to achieve the best outcomes for the public and the young person themselves. The postholder will also be part of a duty rota and referral order panel rota, and be required to work flexibly.

The post is categorised as Hybrid post which means practitioners are able to work from a number of office locations and from home at times.

Experience of working with young people who have complex risk and needs and can be difficult to connect with is essential, and candidates need to be able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of risk management, public safety and safeguarding.

The post holder may be required to work across any of the four local authority areas - Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington.

For an informal discussion, contact [Lisa Broome or the duty manager on 03451450055](mailto:lisa.broome@cheshireyjs.org.uk).

Closing date for applications is 7th May, 2023

To apply for the position [click here](#)



Other News

Ministerial Changes



The government has announced a number of ministerial changes. Of particular interest to those in criminal justice is the appointment of Alex Chalk KC MP who has been appointed as Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice following the recent resignation of Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP, with the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP taking the position of Deputy Prime Minister.

New Chair of HMCTS Announced

Sir Richard Broadbent has been appointed as the new chair of the HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) Board. Sir Richard succeeds Tim Parker whose tenure ended in December 2022, and current interim chair Victoria Cochrane.



The appointment comes as HMCTS finalises the government's £1.3 billion reform programme of courts and tribunals. The programme has already delivered a range of benefits for users, including the introduction of online civil money claims, online probate applications and the implementation of remote hearing technology in over 70% of all courtrooms.

The Board is responsible for overseeing the leadership and direction of HMCTS and plays a vital role in making sure the organisation effectively delivers the aims and objectives set by the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice and the Senior President of Tribunals.

To find out more [click here](#)

Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody

The Lord Chancellor has approved the appointments of Pauline McCabe and Jake Hard as members of the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody (IAPDC) for 3 years from 1st July, 2023.

Established in 2009, the IAPDC forms part of the Ministerial Council on Deaths in Custody in England and Wales. The IAPDC provides expert advice and challenge to ministers, departments and agencies with the central aim of preventing deaths in custody.

These appointments are made by the Secretary of State for Justice in consultation with the Department of Health and Social Care and the Home Office, who co-sponsor and co-fund the IAPDC.

Police Given More Time to Investigate Crime and Protect the Public

The Home Office has announced that the police are to be given more time to prioritise victims of crime and bring criminals to justice under new rules announced today to cut unnecessary red tape when recording crime.

Victims reporting multiple offences will have more support from police, as officer time is freed up to focus on bringing justice rather than on duplicative record keeping. It follows a National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) review which found that 443,000 officer hours are spent filling in unnecessary forms and burdensome administrative tasks - time that could be better spent cutting crime and keeping our streets safe.

All reported crimes for a single incident will now consistently be recorded under the 'principal offence', rather than as multiple entries on a database that effectively re-records the same incident. The police will continue to pursue all offences involved, understanding how they are linked, as part of their thorough investigative work.

For more information [click here](#)

Police response to sexual abuse

A report following the joint investigation into police responses to sexual abuse and safeguarding victims from risk of honour based abuse by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), the College of Policing and the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) has undertaken an investigation following a super-complaint submitted by Tees Valley Inclusion Project, which is:

'concerned that ethnic minority victims of sexual abuse receive a particularly poor service, which doesn't take sufficient or appropriate account of the specific risks and vulnerabilities they face.'

The report states that investigators were unable to gather compelling evidence that would either prove or disprove this concern due significant gaps in the data collected by the police as well as quality concerns and the lack of in-depth consideration of differences in experience based on ethnicity or vulnerability connected to honour-based abuse.

Investigators spoke to four ethnic minority victims of sexual abuse who had experienced honour-based abuse and professionals from relevant specialist support agencies. Almost universally, interviewees said:

'the police don't sufficiently take into account vulnerability connected with honour-based abuse when responding to sexual abuse cases.'

To read the report [click here](#)



Enhanced Case Management Evaluated



The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales has published the Phase 1 report of its evaluation of Enhanced Case Management (ECM) in the South West of England and is calling for all YOT Partnership Boards to read the report.

ECM is a trauma-informed, psychology-led approach to working with children in youth justice service. Grounded in the 'Trauma Recovery Model', it support practitioner to take account of early attachment, trauma, and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) when enabling engagement with children and planning and delivering interventions.

The report explores lessons from the implementation of ECM & sets out the benefits for both children and services including perceived reductions in offending and improved outcomes for children.

Data on reoffending is due in part 2 of this evaluation, however children and practitioners report that ECM is having a positive impact.

The model is already used throughout Wales and the report recommends that ECM should become business-as-usual for the rest of England.

To read the report [click here](#)

Participation in Youth Justice

AYM Life Member and former Chair Hazel Williamson, is pictured far right with Esther Horner (far left) from Kinetic Youth, Anne Longfield (centre left) Commission for Young Lives and Gess Aird (centre right) from Kinetic Youth at the Manchester University re-launch of the Participatory Youth Practice Framework

Hazel, picture far right, is currently seconded to the Youth Custody Service to support the development of safeguarding arrangements in the youth secure estate. She continues to support the AYM portfolio for participation.



Innovation Guides and Toolkit to Assess the Fairness of Court Procedures

Following its recent conference for practitioners, judges, researchers and others working in problem solving initiatives in the youth, criminal and family justice sectors, the Centre for Justice Innovation has published a suite of resources to support practitioners and policymakers.



These resources include a guide on the evidence and examples of problem-solving court practices in the United Kingdom and a toolkit to support practitioners to improve people's perceptions of the fairness of court processes.

These, and other useful resources can be accessed by [clicking here](#)

Shortage of Appropriate Adults for PACE Interviews

The BBC has reported that there is a shortage of appropriate adults (AAs) to support children and vulnerable adults during police interviews.

The National Appropriate Adult Network (NAAN) told the BBC that demand for AAs is increasing and that it believes there are many cases involving vulnerable adults that slip through the net.

Chris Bath, chief executive of the NAAN said:

'AAs are a critical protection to ensure people are treated fairly by police. But the gap in identifying vulnerable suspects remains massive.'

Following a freedom of information (FOI) request to forces across England and Wales, the NAAN found police had recorded the need for an AA in 7.3% of adult detentions in 2021, up from 5.9% in 2019. However, the charity is reported to believe:

'a more realistic figure could be as high as 39%, which would mean as many as 200,000 detainees a year not receiving essential support.'

To read the report [click here](#)

The Screen Time Diet: Helping Youth Teen Find Balance with Their Tech

'My Tutor' has published a tutor blog to help parents support their children in achieving a healthier use of technology and social media, a difficult task for many parents. The blog may also be of interest to professionals, there are useful tips and advice on health gadget use, alternative technology for learning and creativity and ways to encourage a more balance screen time diet with technology.

The MyTutor logo, consisting of the text 'MyTutor' in a bold, sans-serif font, set against a light beige rectangular background.

To read the blog [click here](#)

Legal Challenge from Teenager Placed in Hostel

A legal challenge, to be heard in the High Court in July, has been brought against Lambeth Council by a young 19 year old girl, regarding her placement by the authority in a hostel whilst she was 17 years of age and homeless.

The girl argues that the placement was unlawful and that the local authority failed to provide accommodation as directed under section 20 of the Children Act 1989 and information necessary to make an informed choice.

The action follows confirmation by the Department for Education that it will regulate supported accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds looked after by the local authority.

New £10 million grant round for positive activities

The Youth Endowment Fund has opened a new £10 million grant round. The grant will fund projects that use positive activities as a means to protect children from violence and engage them in other support services. It will test the impact of sports, arts and adventure and wilderness activities on preventing violence.



The fund aims to invest between £9 million and £10 million to fund and evaluate five or six large-scale projects in England and Wales. Projects must support children involved in, or at high risk of becoming involved in, the youth justice system that deliver one of the following positive activities:

- sports
- the arts (including music making, arts and craft, dancing, drama, creative writing and poetry, photography, painting, pottery, sculpture or new media/digital arts)
- adventure activities
- wilderness activities

For more information and to apply for a grant [click here](#)

SENDInTheSpecialists Coalition

The coalition 'SENDInTheSpecialists', of which the AYM is a member, now has 131 members!

Christina Welsh from SEC and Dr Daniel Stavrou, SEC's policy vice-chair, appeared at an Education Select Committee oral evidence session alongside other representatives from other coalition members at the end of March. They were giving evidence in response to the recent SEND and AP Improvement Plan. Daniel mentions in his initial speech about the delays in accessing specialist support and how this may affect a pupil needing this professional intervention, drawing attention to this underfunded part of the SEND sector.

To view the recorded session [click here](#), or read the transcript by [clicking here](#)

Dates for Your Diary

**For Your
Diary!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR AYM 2023-24



Title	Date	Venue
Executive Board meeting	22 nd June, 2023	Stafford
AYM Conference	22 nd June, 2023	Stafford
AYM AGM	22 nd June, 2023	Stafford
Executive Board meeting	5 th September, 2023	MS Teams
Executive Board meeting	5 th December, 2023	To be confirmed
AYM Winter Conference	6 th December, 2023	To be confirmed
Executive Board meeting	March 2024	To be confirmed

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

Child First diversion in practice: Bradford

This webinar will summarise the Bradford's learning from the last two years as a YJB Pathfinder in creating a diversion model. Hear from guest speakers from a variety of agencies that are working in partnership in Bradford to prevent and divert children away from the criminal justice system.

The webinar will have a variety of sections including a Q&A panel with a range of guest speakers, key information about how to develop a Child-First Diversion service, resource sharing and provide an update on the progress of our Chance to Change evaluation with the Manchester Metropolitan University.

The webinar will also showcase the '**Chance to Change Diversion Model**' that uses Outcome 22, which includes children where they have not made an admission and will include practice examples. The Centre for Justice Innovation will discuss how they have supported the Pathfinder and will provide a national perspective of diversion.

Participants will also hear about Prevention and Diversion services within Bradford's Police Early Action Team, The Knife Angel project, Bradford District Care Trust, Liaison and Diversion and the Youth Engagement and Support Team which is funded by the SAFE taskforce which offers targeted support and intervention for children who are at most risk of serious violence and gang exploitation.

The webinar takes place on **Thursday 25th May, 2023 between 13:00 - 15:30**

To register for the webinar [click here](#)



Manchester Centre for Youth Studies 2023 Annual Lecture

Manchester Metropolitan University, is delighted to welcome Dr Keir Irwin-Rogers to deliver the 2023 Annual Lecture:

Social harm and violence in children and young people's lives, a crisis of mattering?

The lecture will take place on **7th June, 2023**
17:30-19:30
at
Manchester Metropolitan University (Room TBC)
Geoffrey Manton,
All Saints Manchester
M15 6BH

Childhood and youth should be periods of security, joy and wonder. Yet for too many children and young people living in Britain today, this is not the case. This lecture will explore a range of social harms that undermine children and young people's potential to flourish. In particular, it will discuss the nature and scale of serious violence between young people, and consider the extent to which such violence is being driven by a crisis of mattering. The lecture will examine some of the shortfalls and limitations of contemporary responses to violence, and reflect on how we can build safer and better societies for children to grow and flourish.

Dr Irwin-Rogers is a Senior Lecturer in Criminology, The Open University. There will be an opportunity for a Q & A about his work and an open discussion on the topic of youth, social harm, and violence shortly after the lecture.

The lecture will be followed by a drinks reception and a book launch for the major new MCYS publication, Gray, P., Jump, D. and Smithson, H. (2023) *Adverse Childhood Experiences and Serious Youth Violence*. Bristol: Bristol University Press. For more information about this publication [click here](#)

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

Defining the Roadmap to Responsive and Connected Justice

The 21st Annual Modernising Criminal Justice Conference will bring together senior leaders from across the criminal justice sector.

The conference will receive the keynote address from **Victoria Atkins MP**, Minister of State at the Ministry of Justice before hearing from a variety of experts and leaders in criminal justice.

The conference takes place on **22nd June, 2023**
at
The QEII Centre, London



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

Children and Young People Now Awards

This year's Children and Young People Now Awards are taking nominations and there are a number of categories that youth justice services may wish to enter, including the Youth Justice Award

The award ceremony takes place on 23rd November, 2023 at the Hurlingham Club, London.

Closing date for entries is 23rd June, 2023.

To find out more about the awards and how to apply [click here](#)



The SEND Summit: Policy Reform and Practice Impact

Children & Young People Now is holding its third annual **SEND Summit** on

Tuesday 4th July, 2023

in

Central London.

This event is for practitioners and leaders across the system of SEND support.

Experts will guide delegates through what the reforms mean for practitioners and families, with examples of innovative and effective practice highlighting key insights in supporting a range of needs.

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





Want to stay up to date with YJ issues?

Then follow the AYM on Twitter.....

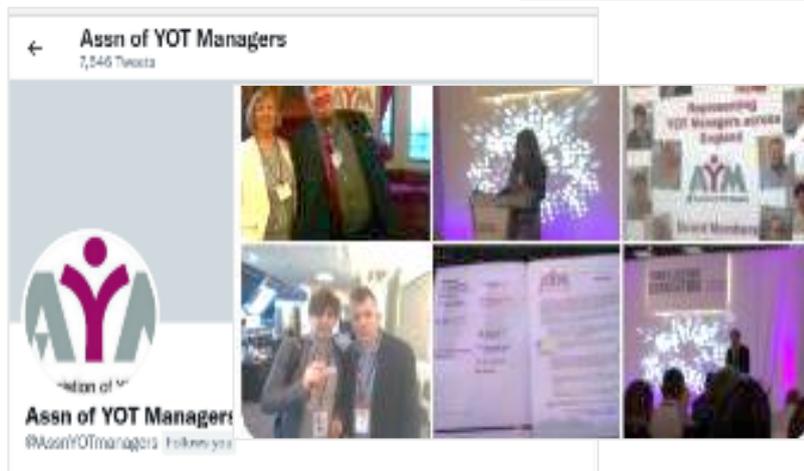
We have more than 3,000 followers who receive frequent updates on issues relating to youth justice and YOT Managers.

It's easy to sign up - our username is:

[@AssnYOTmanagers](https://twitter.com/AssnYOTmanagers)



See also the **'latest news'** section at <http://aym.org.uk>



Via our website <https://aym.org.uk/about-us/contact-us>

Via Twitter [@AssnYOTmanagers](https://twitter.com/AssnYOTmanagers)

Email our Editor lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk



This AYM Bulletin 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 or views.



If you do not wish to receive this Bulletin, please email lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk and you will be removed from our records. Non-Member email addresses are only used for circulating this newsletter.

AYM Regional Representatives

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

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

East	Pat Jennings <i>Bedfordshire YOS</i>				
<i>pat.jennings@bedford.gov.uk</i>					
East Midlands	Carly Turner <i>Leicestershire YJS</i>		West Midlands	Celia Payne <i>Wolverhampton YOS</i>	
<i>carly.turner@leics.gov.uk</i>			<i>celia.payne@wolverhampton.gov.uk</i>		
South East	Anna Harbridge <i>Southampton YOS</i>		South West	Mike Rees <i>North Somerset YOT</i>	
<i>anna.harbridge@southampton.gov.uk</i>			<i>mike.rees@n-somerset.gov.uk</i>		
North East	Roni Checksfield <i>Hartlepool YOS</i>		North West	Kathy Gill <i>Wirral YJS</i>	
<i>roni.checksfield@hartlepool.gov.uk</i>			<i>kathygill@wirral.gov.uk</i>		
London	Brendan Finegan <i>Hackney YOT</i>		Yorkshire & Humberside	Sarah Goddard <i>Bradford YJS</i>	
<i>brendan.finegan@hackney.gov.uk</i>			<i>sarah.goddard@bradford.gov.uk</i>		