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AYM Summer Conference!

The AYM held its annual Summer Conference this month in Stafford, and it proved to be a very successful event with many stakeholders attending as well as AYM members and delegates on-line from around the country.

The focus of this year's conference was ***25 Years of Youth Justice: What's changed since the Crime and Disorder Act 1998?***.



John Drew (pictured left with AYM Chair Jacquie Belfield-Smith), former Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) and AYM Life Member, opened the presentations discussing the highs and lows of youth justice over the last 25 years and the 'unfinished business' for all professionals to consider, including custody, disproportionality and child first practice across the sector.

We were extremely pleased that **all the past Chairs of the YJB provided a short video documentary of their reflections of their time in office** and developments since the Crime and Disorder Act was implemented. Lord Norman Warner, the first chair of the Board (1998-2003) also provided a commentary on the creation of the act and the thinking behind it..

Comments from delegates suggested this was an interesting reminder of the challenges and opportunities youth justice services and partners such as the YJB have, and continue to, experience.



Keith Fraser, the current YJB chair gave a presentation in person which was a good way to consider the next few years and the latest YJB's plan. Alongside developing 'fairer funding formula' for YOTs and ensuring children's rights, Keith was particularly interested in keeping youth justice as a specialism and the mechanisms for ensuring there is a 'pipeline' for replacing long serving YOT managers to ensure consistency of this specialism. He said:

'youth justice is a necessary specialism with skills that are not ubiquitous in children's services. And I would strongly guard against integration on the basis of cost saving alone.'

You can read Keith's full speech by [clicking here](#)



We also heard from **Laura Cooper, Director of the Youth Justice Legal Centre (YJLC)** who has led the YJLC alongside her fellow Director Katya Moran since 2019. Laura talked about the work of the YJLC which has just become a not-for-profit organisation, and the progress made over the past 25 years such as understanding of adolescent brain development, changes to sentencing guidelines and the implementation of child first principles. She also covered some of the areas that continue to be concerning for professionals in youth justice, such as the continuing disproportionality of children from minoritized ethnic backgrounds in the youth justice system. During the lunch break delegates were able to watch a short video produced by young people about their experiences of appearing in court.

To watch the video '**Judged**' [click here](#)

Laura concluded by outlining important areas for professionals to focus on going forward – adoption of a strengths-based approach, meaningful participation of marginalised children in decision making, and 'radical safeguarding', focusing on structural and system change.

congratulations!



The winner of the 2022 AYM John Hawkins Award - **Bradford and District Youth Justice Service SPARKS! Project** was announced by our chair Jacqui Belfield-Smith and Michelle Buchan, Team Manager from Bradford Children and Family Trust was presented with the award.

SPARKS! is a summer activity programme that aims to inspire young people with new hobbies, encourage learning and support for those at risk of being exploited into criminal activities.

The project provides good, nutritious meals and aims to 'spark' new interests into those participating. This is the second year of SPARKS! so the project shows sustainability and to date 65 young people have participated

After an introduction on the awards and a passionate outline of the work of successful youth justice partnerships by Marius Frank from Microlink, Marius and Jacqui Belfield-Smith presented certificates to the latest youth justice partnerships that achieved an **AYJ/Microlink Youth Justice SEND Quality Award**.

Congratulations to Croydon YOT (right) for achieving the Quality Mark and to **Swindon YOT** (below) for achieving the Quality Lead.



Above: Jacqui with Michelle Buchan from Bradford CFT.



Above: Emma Carter and Marina Grandison from Croydon, with Marius and Jacqui

Left: Michael O'Connor and Dan Vizor from Swindon, with Marius and Jacqui



Norfolk, West Sussex, Wokingham and North Somerset were also congratulated on achieving a Quality Award but were unable to attend in person to receive their certificates.

Congratulations everyone!

We collected some reflections from youth justice service managers who have experienced many changes over the last 25 years and we've added these to the **Summer Conference slides** which you can access on our website, as part of the presentation slides ;here's a summary of some for you to read now:

YJS have achieved so much to be proud of. We have steered a consistent, innovative ship responding to changes... it's a testament to all involved that despite the challenges we continue to grow

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

A YOT Manager's Perspective

The Crime & Disorder Act resulted in too many children in the criminal justice system. 25 years on we have a greatly improved approach to prevention and diversion

YOTs are without a doubt the 'Success of the Century' and this is because we are quick to learn and to change – we've had to be! Who knows how much better we can get at looking after and advocating for the needs of the most vulnerable children.



We wonder what your reflections would be?



Following the Summer Conference, the AYM held its annual general meeting and it was good to see so many members present – in person and virtually.

The election of officers saw the re-election of our Chair and Vice-Chair, Jacqui Belfield Smith and Charlie Spencer respectively.

We also saw the election of a new Secretary, Roni Checksfield (pictured right). We are indebted to the support of Ian Langley (pictured far right) who after nearly 20 years of being secretary, held an honorary secretary role whilst we awaited the election of a new secretary.

Roni's election leaves a vacant position for the North East Regional Representative and we are keen to hear from the North East who his replacement will be.



Sadly, Brendan Finegan (pictured left) our London Representative did not stand for re-election and our Chair gave a hearty thank you to Brendan for his long standing support within the Executive. We look forward to the nomination of the new London Regional Representative.

We also saw the re-election of our Additional Members, Diz Minnit and Hazel Williamson and Tom Dooks.

Tom (pictured right), who has recently been appointed as Head of Service for Cheshire Youth Justice Services, following the retirement of Gareth Jones (pictured left) who many readers will know and who was a previous Chair of the AYM.



Congratulations Tom!

The Executive Board is currently waiting to hear about the nomination of our East and South East Deputy Regional Representatives.

Consultations

During June the AYM also contributed to consultations and these included a Home Office consultation on proposed new knife crime legislation, including measures to tackle the use of machetes and large outdoor knives in crime which portfolio leads Carly Turner and John Evans gathered views for the AYM response.

We largely agreed with the proposals but stated we **had 'strong reservations in relation to there being harsher 'blanket' sentences for children'** and expressed our concerns regarding mandatory custodial sentences which it can be evidenced are counter rehabilitative.

We called for greater consideration to be given to the needs and vulnerabilities of children, calling for sentencing guidelines focused on the response to children, separately from those for adults.

To read this response, and others [click here](#)

Working with Stakeholders

Probation vacancies

Following the AYM's recent survey of youth justice services regarding the level and duration of probation vacancies within their services, the AYM is pleased that all Heads of Service and YOT Management Boards have received a joint letter from the Steph Bibby-Jones (YJB), Alan Webster (Ministry of Justice) and Andrea Bennett (Probation Service) acknowledging youth justice concerns regarding the level of vacancies.

The letter outlines some of the difficulties the Probation Service is experiencing in recruitment of probation officers but states its intention to recruit 1,500 newly qualified probation officers and to increase retention of current staff.

The Probation Service highlights the fact that some youth justice services are not claiming funding to recover the cost of the vacancies in order to recruit to the positions as detailed in the National Framework for YOTs and is encouraging services to claim this funding, backdated to the commencement of the vacancy. Online support for making these claims will be provided by the YJB. In the meantime, we have posted the National Probation Framework onto our website for ease of access in the future [Useful Resources for YOTs \(aym.org.uk\)](https://aym.org.uk)

We are pleased that all your efforts in submitting this data to the AYM has resulted in this response, thank you for your support.

Working towards child first assessments

The AYM has been invited to a workshop to enable 'work toward child first assessments'. Two of our deputy regional representatives, Michael O'Connor and Nick Jeffreys will be attending this workshop. If you have anything you would like them to consider regarding this development please contact them:

moconnor@swindon.gov.uk

nicholas.jeffreys@coventry.gov.uk

We will update members on any developments arising from this in due course.

Specialist SEND Provision

Members of the #SENDInTheSpecialists coalition, of which the AYM is a member, met with Claire Coutinho, Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing, this month to discuss their call to retain specialist SEND practitioners. The meeting was useful and we hope to hear more about this development as it progresses.

Changes to YRO sentences

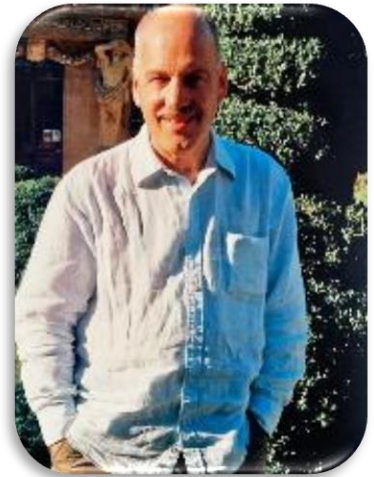
The AYM has also been approached by the Ministry of Justice with regard to providing feedback on potential proposed amendments to youth rehabilitation orders which we will share with members.

The AYM's John Hawkins Award

Nominations open for the 2023 Award

In memory of John Hawkins previous AYM Treasurer and Head of Service, East Sussex YOT, John's family agreed to support this AYM award to a youth justice service that demonstrates creativity or innovation in its' work with children. John's family are always very keen to visit the winning service and meet with the children benefitting from the work of the project/intervention.

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?



Winner

AYM John Hawkins Award

For Innovation and Creativity
in Youth Justice Practice



Nominations are now open for the 2023 Award which will be presented at our Autumn Conference in Rugby on 6th December 2023; the **winners will receive £500 for their service.**

Deadline for nominations is Friday 27th October, 2023.

To nominate your service for the award please email secretary@aym.org.uk

Youth Justice SEND Quality Awards

Congratulations to West Sussex Area Partnership

West Sussex Area Partnership has been awarded the Youth Justice SEND Quality Award, demonstrating robust processes and relationships that have developed over time to identify children entering youth justice pathways with complex needs.



The Special Education Needs Assessment Team (SENAT) and the youth justice service work together effectively, building on a historic single point of contact arrangement for custodial cases to now include protocols that reference 'duty to cooperate' and data /information exchange. A further initiative of note is a learning and development pathway being established for all Children, Young People and Learning staff, building on ongoing training and professional development that will hope to have demonstrable impact on outcomes.

Work 'downstream' with schools is developing - 70 schools have received Therapeutic Thinking Training and there is a Violence Reduction Partnership funded Schools Inclusion project.

Well done West Sussex!

Aspiring Future Leaders Course



The AYM in partnership with Solace our training provider is delivering a further cohort of the Aspiring Future Leaders course in September, AYM's highly successful development programme designed for future leaders in youth Justice.



This is an Institute in Leadership and Management (ILM) endorsed development programme at level 5.

The programme is currently delivered virtually over 9 days:

Introductory Workshop (1 day) 10 – 3.30	15 th September, 2023
Module 1 (2 days): Leadership and Change	10 th & 11 th October, 2023
Module 2 (2 days): Strategic Thinking in Public Services	15 th & 16 th November, 2023
Module 3 (2 days): Working Collaboratively across organisations	12 th & 13 th December, 2023

Aspiring Future Leaders Programme

The programme is aimed at managers in youth justice services and is of particular interest to those who are contemplating making applications for more senior roles.

Each module will include a session with a guest speaker who has a leadership role within our sector
Feedback from previous delegates has been excellent and many have secured promotions to more senior positions following completion of the course.

The next cohort is due to start on 15th September, 2023.

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

HMI Probation Annual Report

Inspection of Youth Offending Services (2022)



HMI Probation has published its annual report on inspection of youth offending services (YOS) during 2022, a period in which no services were rated as inadequate.

Justin Russell, HM Chief Inspector of Probation, remarked in his overview of the positive nature of the report with the 'significant majority of services (69.7%) rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' and noted improvements in out of court disposals and resettlement work. Russell also remarked on the strength of the multi-agency model of youth justice services and said YJS management boards have:

'remained a great source of strength through some difficult times. Additionally, the range and depth of specialist services that YJSs can provide the children on their caseloads, from speech and language therapy to educational welfare and psychological support, continue to impress'

The report found that *'work to promote desistance is generally stronger than work to address safety and wellbeing and risk of harm to others, and YJSs that do not manage the risks associated with harm to others and safety and wellbeing effectively tend to have poorer inspection outcomes.'*

Throughout YOS inspections staff are surveyed and the report shows that the level of staff retention in services:

'Staff reported that they were broadly experienced, with half having worked at the YJS for more than five years; 17 per cent for three to five years; 17 per cent for one to two years; and only 15 per cent for less than a year.'

Management oversight continues to be rated low for many services and the report argues that

'YJSs need to ensure that managers' span of oversight is manageable, and where oversight was lower, we often found examples of managers holding very broad portfolios and/or managing high numbers of staff alongside this.'

75% of services were rated as good or outstanding for partnership working which is an improvement on the last 4 years of inspections.

An area of concern to HMI Probation is that of education and training which resulted in more than twice the number of recommendations for improvement in 2022 than in 2021 and led to the thematic inspection of education and training and employment undertaken with Ofsted and Estyn. The results of the thematic inspection show high levels of exclusions and many children not in any form of education, training or employment, leaving them at an increased risk of involvement in crime or criminal exploitation. As a result, 7 recommendations for improvement were made to the Department of Education, the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales and YOS Management Boards to improve outcomes for children.

To read the report [click here](#)

Guidance for Sentencing Children and Young People

From the Court of Appeal

The Youth Justice Legal Centre has highlighted the guidance provided by the Court of Appeal following its hearing of a case concerning five co-defendants aged between 15 and 17 years of age at the time of the offences (ZA-v-R)

The appellant pleaded guilty to theft and possession of a bladed article and was convicted by the jury of conspiracy to rob; he was acquitted of murder and manslaughter. However, the judge, relying on adult guidance for robbery sentenced the appellant to five years detention for conspiracy to rob and six month concurrent sentences for the other two counts.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal and reduced the child's sentence to one of three years detention and criticised the judge's approach, in particular noting that all counsel and judge failed to refer to the youth specific guidance regarding robbery. The judge was also criticised for:

- A failure to approach the sentence in the 'individualistic way advocated in the overarching youth guideline';
- not discriminating between the appellant and his older-co-defendants; and
- failing to explain why she did not regard a youth rehabilitation order with intensive support and surveillance as suitable.

The Court of Appeal also found that, as neither the theft nor the bladed article offences were grave crimes, the concurrent sentences of detention were unlawful – the only possible custodial sentence for these offences being a detention and training order.

The Court then set out a checklist for sentencing children and young people which includes that:

- Court listings should ensure that there is sufficient time for the judge, to read and consider all reports and to prepare sentencing remarks in age-appropriate language;
- Consideration should be given to listing children separately from adults, as a priority;
- The courtroom should be set up as for a vulnerable defendant entitled to proper support;
- Counsel must expect to submit full sentencing, addressing material considerations in an individualistic way for each defendant separately;
- Youth justice service pre-sentence reports and any medical/psychiatric/psychological reports are key and should be borne in mind with any youth-specific offence guideline;
- The stepped approach in the overarching youth guideline and any youth-specific offence guideline should be followed;
- If the court considers that the offence(s) is(are) so serious as to pass the custody threshold, and a YRO with ISS cannot be imposed the court must explain why.

The Court also reminded courts of the importance of the Youth Bench Book

For more information [click here](#)

Do Knife Crime Programmes Work?

Youth Endowment Fund Publishes Toolkit Update



The Youth endowment Fund (YEF) Toolkit provides an overview of existing research on approaches to preventing serious youth violence and published its findings regarding knife crime education programmes.

YEF argue there are two main ideas about why knife crime education programmes may reduce violence – they raise awareness of the consequences of knife crime, aimed at deterring young people from carrying or using knives as weapons, and the increased awareness may change attitudes to the acceptability of carry knives.

YEF argue that:

‘there is a risk that raising awareness about knife crime may create a misperception about how common knife carrying is. This may increase fear of knife-related violence and may increase knife carrying for self-protection. Graphic imagery of knife injuries may also be upsetting for some children and young people.’

Knife crime education programmes, carried out in schools, community, hospital and youth justice settings are sometimes supplemented with sessions delivered to parents, teachers or other local professionals working with children and young people. These sessions train adults to provide support or answer any questions that may come up for children and young people.

YEF reviewed six evaluations of knife crime education interventions, four in the UK, the others in the United States, none of which measured the impact of knife crime education on reducing violence. As result of this, YEF has not given knife crime education programmes an impact rating on reducing violence .

YEF report that a review of evaluations of four of the six programmes suggests that to implement knife crime education programmes well services should:

- Use real stories about knife crime;
- Engage skilled facilitators;
- Closely manage group discussions;
- Adapt to the local context;
- Allocate time for teachers;
- Provide follow up materials and support

YEF has also published two further strands to the ‘Toolkit’ – CCTV and Street Lighting, both of which they found to reduce offending. However, YEF report low confidence in impact ratings for both these interventions due to the *‘low quality of the research, variation in results and not directly measuring the impact on children and young people’*.

To find out more [click here](#)

Constructive Resettlement

Online Practitioner Resource

The London Resettlement Partnership (LRP), launched in 2020 is an innovative and joint approach committed to improving the resettlement experience for children. The LRP is a partnership with all 32 London Boroughs, Association of London Directors of Children's Services, Ministry of Justice, Youth Justice Board, Youth Custody Service, Mayors Office for Policing and Crime and NHS England. The aim of the LRP is to improve outcomes for children by working in partnership to present real opportunities that support their return to the community with the aim of reducing reoffending.

Constructive resettlement is an evidence-based framework that empowers practitioners to support children on their own journey towards a constructive future. It provides a theory of change to focus on how to engage effectively with children to support them away from offending and/or destructive behaviours and to develop positive aspirations for their future.

The LRP has produced a website which holds information about the theory of constructive resettlement, case studies and 'how to' resources designed to help practitioners implement constructive resettlement.

AYM Executive Board member, Michael O'Connor, is interviewed in a podcast discussing operationalising constructive resettlement.

For more information and to hear the podcast [click here](#)



Friday Release Dates!

The Offenders (Day of Release from Detention) Bill receives Royal Assent

The government has announced that in order to support effective resettlement of prisoners, governors will have the power to release prisoners on a Wednesday or Thursday instead of the customary Friday in order to enable community services, such as accommodation and health provision to be arranged more effectively. The measures will also apply to children leaving custodial establishments, with the power granted to the appropriate officials.

The announcement stated:

'This will end the damaging race against the clock for prison leavers to get the help they need before many support services close for the weekend - which in turn increases their risk of reoffending and puts the public at risk.'

The powers under this Act will become operational following a period of implementation to enable services to adapt to this measure.

For more information [click here](#)



The Risk-Need-Responsivity Model

Academic Insight

The Risk-Need-Responsivity model: 1990 to the Present

HMI Probation has published the latest in its series of Academic Insights, reports that aim to aid understanding of what helps and what hinders probation and youth offending services. This latest report '**The Risk-Need-Responsivity model: 1990 to the Present**' reviews this model of assessment and rehabilitation since 1990 and was written by James Bonta, Fellow of the Canadian Psychological Association and a former Chief Psychologist, at the Ottawa Carleton Detention Centre.

The risk-need-responsivity (RNR) model has developed since the 1990s and the author argues that the RNR model of assessment and rehabilitation has been a major influence on the development of assessment instruments and treatment programmes such as the Offender Assessment System (OASys) and cognitive-behavioural accredited programmes, overseen by the Correctional Services Advice and Accreditation Panel (CSAAP).

The author concludes that '*RNR is not perfect and it will continue to evolve as evidence accumulates and constructive suggestions for improvements are implemented.*' He cites alternatives used in practice but states '*At present, the empirical evidence base supporting the RNR principles is the best we have.*'

To read the report [click here](#)

Contextual Safeguarding

HMI Probation Publish Research and Analysis Bulletin

HMI Probation has published the latest in its series of research and analysis briefings 'Contextual Safeguarding' (CS) in which authors, Professor Carlene Firmin, Dr Hannah King, Molly Manister and Vanessa Bradbury from Durham University, state '*To date, there has been no research explicitly exploring how CS is being understood or used within the youth justice (YJ) context, representing a critical gap in knowledge.*'

They argue that in theory CS is realised if a system operates strategically and practically across the four domains of '**Target; Legislative policy and practice, Partnerships and Outcomes**'. Their research explored whether and how youth justice services practice align to these four domains.

They conclude that the adoption of CS in youth justice services is '*largely down to individual practitioners, knowledge/guidance from managers, and wider service cultures that aligned to social care responses to extra familial harm (EFH)*'. Challenges identified were '*more broadly rooted in national policy, training and commissioning landscapes*'.

They make a number of recommendations for the YJB and youth justice services.

To read the report [click here](#)

Impact of COVID-19 on Child Defendants

New Report Published

Professor Hannah Smithson and Dr. Samuel Lerner from the Manchester Centre for Youth Studies, Manchester Metropolitan University, have published a report focusing on the key findings to emerge from the adaptations made to youth courts during the pandemic, ***'How Can you Punish a Child for Something that Happened Over a Year Ago? The Impacts of COVID-19 on Child Defendants and Implication for Youth Courts'***.



The report draws on findings from interviews across the Greater Manchester region with defence solicitors, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) staff, legal advisors, youth offending team (YOT) professionals, and children supervised by YOTs in the community and in custody.

The paper documents the experiences of professionals working in the courts and children who had contact with the courts during the pandemic, emphasising the benefits and the challenges of the adaptations made to youth courts during that time.

The authors recognize that the processes in England and Wales are an exemplar of the impact of COVID-19, they recognise that courts around the world were also experiencing the challenges of continuing to work during COVID -19 restrictions and that re-envisioning their role in wider criminal justice systems in a post-COVID-19 world is required.

The authors note that the research findings demonstrate that courts moved swiftly to adapt their service delivery model during the pandemic but less is known about the quality and appropriateness of the service that children received. Whilst some commentators discuss creativity demonstrated by the courts, the authors of this report argue that

'in an English and Welsh context, we would argue that this creativity failed to account for a child's right to a fair trial.'

Focusing on the vulnerabilities of children in the criminal justice system, the authors note that:

'national literature indicates that even before the pandemic, concerns were raised about the impact of live links in exacerbating existing difficulties (e.g., mental health conditions, neurodiverse conditions, cognitive impairments), which may have prevented child defendants from participating effectively in their hearings and trials.'

The authors reiterate the need to ensure that cases for children are held only in youth courts and also argue that plans for the expansion of virtual justice within the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill are premature.

To read the report [click here](#)

CourtWatch

Observations of Court Rooms to be Introduced in London

Transform Justice is introducing CourtWatch to London, a project inspired by similar projects in the United States and other countries, arguing *‘many decisions about the lives of individuals and communities ‘happen behind closed doors, wher injustice can go unnoticed and unrecorded’.*



Courtwatchers will observe and document what happens in a courtroom, providing eyes and ears for a community to understand what is happening and to help hold courts to account, identify poor practice and take action to help change it.

Transform Justice is seeking volunteers for CourtWatch London and is calling for those interested, or *‘passionate about justice and equality’.* *Courtwatchers will be those who believe in transparency and the ability to encourage change in our legal processes.*

Transform Justice state volunteers will observe hearings in magistrates courts helping to *‘expose hidden injustice in the legal system’* through documenting what is seen and heard. Volunteers will receive comprehensive training on court processes and how to undertake the role of a courtwatcher.

To find out more about CourtWatch, or to volunteer as a ‘courtwatcher’ [click here](#)

Peer Power

Announces New Structure

Peer Power, an ‘empathy led charity’ that works alongside young people who have experienced injustice, inequalities, trauma and childhood adversity, has announced the appointment of Anne-Marie Douglas and Nic Kidston as joint Chief Executive Officers of Peer Power Youth. Dame Lorna Boreland-Kelly, Chair of Trustees, said of the appointments:



‘The Board of Trustees are confident that this new arrangement will continue to move the charity forward and having worked together for the last two years, we are confident that Anne-Marie Douglas and Nicola Kidston’s joint capabilities are well-equipped to handle any challenge or opportunity together’.

Peer Power also has recruited two new trustees Clare Richards a HR specialism, and Dominic Cotton who has a specialism in income generation and communications. The organisation continues to advertise for a further trustee and a treasurer.

Peer Power has also announced that Ria Hebden, a TV presenter, has joined as an Ambassador for the charity.

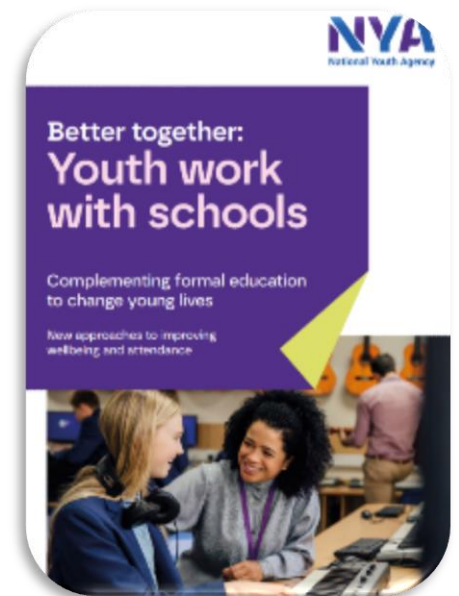
To read more [click here](#)

Positive Impact of Youth Work in Schools

National Youth Agency Report Published

The National Youth Agency (NYA) has published a report following an independent review it commissioned into the impact of youth work delivered with schools. The report ***'Better together: Youth work with schools'*** argues *'youth work significantly improves engagement with learning and attendance and boosts young people's mental wellbeing and confidence'*.

The report was compiled following a call for evidence and a survey of schools over 150 youth work organisations. An expert review panel, representing the education and youth service sectors, also supported a number of visits and online hearings.



The report highlights the need for a number of policies to identify, and address the fact that young people today are contending with numerous challenges including the risk of online harm, exploitation, and the cost-of-living crisis, and for many mental ill health resulting from COVID-19 restrictions.

The authors cite that the latest data shows school absences have increased from 6.5% at the start of the Autumn term 2022 to 9.3% at the start of May 2023, with persistent absence during the most recent spring term at 25.2%, compared to 10.9% of all enrolments in the pre-lockdown year of 2018/19.

The report highlights that teachers welcome youth work when it takes place reporting it benefits learning reducing poor attendance and *'by bridging the gap between families with other support services and promoting pupil's wellbeing, and personal and social development.'*

The report makes a number of recommendations including:

- A dedicated Minister for Young People at the Department for Education to drive forward a National Youth Strategy joining up education and youth services;
- Funding and statutory guidance to support youth work with schools to facilitate more cross-sector working;
- An enhanced Ofsted inspection framework to assess quality, consistency and longevity of external partnerships that support the personal wellbeing of children;
- A joined-up approach for training and workforce planning between schools and youth work.

To read the report [click here](#)

Impact of Reports on Sentence Completion

Ministry of Justice Publish Report

The Ministry of Justice has published a report in its Analytical Series' by Kristina Gray, Rachael Finn, Joanna Gent & Kezia Huttleston in which the authors, using data from the Ministry of Justice considered the impact of pre-sentence reports on offenders completion of their court orders.



The White Paper 'A Smarter Approach to Sentencing' published in 2020, which expressed concern regarding the reducing number of pre-sentence reports used to support sentencers decision making (from 211,494 in 2010 to 103,004 in 2019) stating:

'The purpose of a pre-sentence report (PSR) is to facilitate the administration of justice, and to reduce an offender's likelihood of reoffending and to protect the public and/or victim(s) from further harm. A PSR does this by assisting the court to determine the most suitable method of sentencing an offender (Criminal Justice Act 2003, section 158)'.

The paper called for research into the impact a PSR has on *'offender outcomes, sentencing behaviour and the efficient administration of justice'*.

This analysis for this report considers reports on adults sentenced to a community order or a suspended sentence order (with requirements and examines the impact of a pre-sentence (oral or fast delivery) report on the reason that a court order (or sentence) terminated.

The authors argue that the *'overall results show statistically significant evidence that those who received a PSR oral or PSR fast delivery in 2016 were more likely to successfully complete their court order, compared with a group of similar offenders who did not receive a PSR'*.

The analysis undertaken shows that 80% of those who received a PSR (fast delivery) in 2016 successfully completed their court order, compared to 73% of a similar cohort sentenced without a PSR, and 73% of those who received a PSR (oral) in the same period successfully completed their court order, compared to 68% of a similar cohort that did not receive a PSR.

Whilst the authors state these outcomes should not be considered definitive they argue:

'these findings increase the evidence on the effectiveness of PSRs and therefore it can be recommended that oral and fast delivery reports are requested and delivered to increase successful termination of court orders'.

To read the report [click here](#)

Other News

News

New Prison Opens

The second of six *'state-of the-art prisons'* in the government's 20,000-place building programme has been opened in Leicester. HMP Fosse Way will accommodate approximately 1,715 prisoners and will be staffed by 600 staff.



The building programme aims to protect the public by cutting crime and rehabilitating offenders while boosting the local economy. This ethos was put into practice in building Fosse Way - 71 prisoners and ex-offenders were employed in the construction of the prison.

Prisoners at HMP Fosse Way will learn new skills receive training in vital industries so they can find work immediately when back in the community and plug labour gaps. The prison has 24 workshops, and a large number of classrooms. Skills learned by offenders will include how to *'drive construction vehicles in a simulator, manufacture glasses, and construct concrete components and lighting equipment that can be used in future prison builds.'*

The government also report that the prison is the *'greenest prison ever constructed in the UK, thanks to greener fuels, renewable energy and electric construction machinery.'*

Fosse Way is Britain's latest 'smart' prison following the blueprint of HMP Five Wells, which opened last year.

For more information [click here](#)

Supporting Children in the Criminal Justice System

The Local government Association (LGA) has published a series of case studies exploring the different ways that youth justice services are supporting children in the youth justice system, to keep them safe and stop offending behaviours.

The case studies demonstrate the effectiveness of innovative ideas developed and adopted by youth justice services nationally.



For more information [click here](#)

Youth Justice Legal Centre

The Youth Justice Legal Centre (YJLC), formerly part of Just for Kids Law, has launched as a not-for-profit organisation, Laura Cooper Director of YJLC announced at the AYM Summer Conference in Stafford on the 22nd June.



The YJLC is a 'centre of excellence in youth justice law in England & Wales.' It provides comprehensive, up-to-date legal knowledge and expertise on children's rights in the criminal justice system, sharing knowledge, convening expertise and circulating examples of innovation in order to support a community of youth justice practitioners' fight for better outcomes for children.

The centre publishes guides for professionals, including lawyers, and for children and their families and offers specialist youth justice training.

For more information about the YJLC [click here](#)

NSPCC Chief Says Child Protection System At Risk

Children and Young People Now has reported that the Chief Executive Officer of the NSPCC, Sir Peter Thomas Wanless has warned at the charity's 'How Safe Conference' that a:



'lack of coherent national leadership' in implementing recommendations made in a series of major inquiries into support services for vulnerable children is putting the child protection system at risk.'

Wanless argued that the government had failed to deliver "decisive improvements" to child protection systems following the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), the Care Review, and the review into the deaths of Star Hobson and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes.

Wanless called for government action to deliver a properly resourced plan of reform, and urged the Prime Minister to appoint a minister for children at cabinet.

To read the article [click here](#)

**For Your
Diary!**

Dates for Your Diary

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR AYM 2023-24



Title	Date	Venue
Executive Board meeting	5 th September, 2023	MS Teams
Executive Planning meeting	28 th September, 2023	Warwick
Executive Board meeting	5 th December, 2023	MS Teams
AYM Autumn Conference	6 th December, 2023	Rugby
Executive Board meeting	5 th March 2024	MS Teams
Executive Board meeting	June 2024	To be confirmed
Annual General Meeting	20 th June 2024	To be confirmed
<p><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></p> <p><i>To keep up to date with this calendar between Bulletins, please look at our website aym.org.uk</i></p>		

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](#)



Early Help: Policy, Practice and Supporting Wellbeing

Hallam Conference Centre, London

on

Wednesday 27th September, 2023

Join experts and leading professionals from across the sector at Children and Young People Now's 10th annual Early Help Conference.



For more information [click here](#)

Community Care Live

Community Care Live will take place this year at

The Business Design Centre in London

on

10-11 October 2023



This event is free for all registered social workers, and those with closely associated role. There is also a chance to attend one of 8 legal learning sessions on topics such as the Public Law Outline, coercive control and contact, and deprivation of liberty (*charges applied*)

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



Want to stay up to date with YJ issues?

Then follow the AYM on Twitter.....

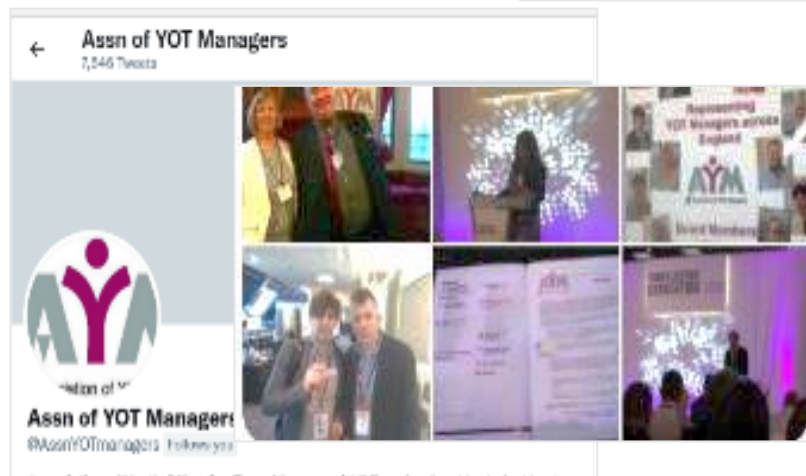
We have more than 3,000 followers who receive frequent updates on issues relating to youth justice and YOT Managers.

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

@AssnYOTmanagers



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**

**PLEASE
NOTE:**

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 Bedfordshire YOS				
pat.jennings@bedford.gov.uk					
East Midlands	Carly Turner Leicestershire YJS		West Midlands	Celia Payne Wolverhampton YOS	
carly.turner@leics.gov.uk			celia.payne@wolverhampton.gov.uk		
South East	Anna Harbridge Southampton YOS		South West	Mike Rees North Somerset YOT	
anna.harbridge@southampton.gov.uk			mike.rees@n-somerset.gov.uk		
North East	Awaiting Nominations		North West	Kathy Gill Wirral YJS	
			kathygill@wirral.gov.uk		
London	Awaiting Nominations		Yorkshire & Humberside	Sarah Goddard Bradford YJS	
			sarah.goddard@bradford.gov.uk		