



Ministry  
of Justice



Association of YOT Managers

To:  
Heads of Youth Offending Teams  
President, Association of Directors of Children's Services  
Chief Executive Officer (interim), Youth Justice Board  
Executive Director, Youth Custody Service  
Chair, YOT Managers Cymru

October 2023

Dear colleagues,

### **Ministry of Justice and Association of YOT Managers partnership**

This is a particularly busy and important year for youth justice policy, with several programmes and projects of work under way. During this time, it is all the more important that national policy-making and local service delivery go hand-in-hand.

In the Ministry of Justice, we want to ensure all our thinking and understanding is informed by expert local leadership. But we also want to ensure that our engagement is done in as effective and efficient a manner as possible – drawing on the breadth of experience and viewpoints across the country, and without distracting teams from their important operational day-to-day work. It is this effective coordination and sector-wide leadership that the Association of YOT Managers (AYM) offers across England.

As a result, we are delighted to share that the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is providing the AYM with £60k one-off grant funding until April 2024. This funding will ensure frontline staff continue to have a voice regarding developments in the youth justice system. Critically, this funding does not affect the independence of the AYM which will continue to represent fully the sector's and its members' views. Indeed, a key element of this grant will be targeted towards the development of new sustainable structures that will enable the AYM to be resilient and self-sufficient for years to come.

We recognise that sometimes it can be difficult to manage costs within services to accommodate face-to-face consultation or engagements where the frontline perspective really matters. The AYM seeks to use this funding from the MoJ to help provide more opportunities for youth justice managers, whilst also strengthening links with colleagues in Wales through YOT Managers Cymru.

We hope that this boost of funding will provide the AYM with greater to capacity to share thoughtful, challenging and evidence-based contributions across the youth justice sector.

To get the most out of this grant funding, we encourage all managers in youth justice services across England to engage with the AYM - a platform where you can continue to influence sector development, and we can work together to build a system that reduces offending amongst children.

Your faithfully,

A. Webster. 

Alan Webster, Deputy Director, Youth Justice Policy.  
Jacqui Belfield-Smith, Chair, Association of Youth Offending Team Managers.

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Background on the AYM:

The AYM is a professional association representing the majority of youth offending teams (YOT) and their managers in England. It is a not-for-profit limited company.

Section 39 (1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the co-operation of the named statutory partners to form a YOT. Section 38 (1, 2) identifies the statutory partners and places upon them a duty to co-operate in order to secure youth justice services appropriate to their area. These statutory partners are the local authority, police, the probation service, and health. To support the YOT, additional partners may also be recruited to the joint strategic effort to prevent offending by children and young people.

Around 90% of youth justice partnerships in England support their YOT managers' membership of AYM, and we have a strong executive board with a network of regional representatives. The Association is able to draw on the wealth of knowledge and the breadth of members' experience to promote public understanding of youth crime issues and to play its part in shaping the youth crime agenda.

Our members run services providing community-based supervision for children and young people who offend. We also work closely with staff in secure units and young offender institutions to ensure that young people in custody have as smooth a transition as possible back into the community.

If you are interested in joining the AYM or would like to find out more please contact us here: <https://aym.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/>