



# Bulletin October 2023



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## News from the AYM Executive Board

The AYM Executive Board held a development day on the 28<sup>th</sup> September to discuss plans for the future way in which the AYM will work to support the youth justice managers and the sector, and respond to the numerous consultations from government departments and other external stakeholders and partners. There will be more information about the outcomes of this day in a future bulletin. *In the meantime.....*

### ***Working with external stakeholders***

Pat Jennings, AYM's portfolio lead for diversity and disproportionality attended a roundtable, the second in a series hosted by the MoJ to consider an action plan in **response to the HMIP thematic inspection of black and mixed heritage boys in the youth justice system**. The YJB were not in attendance but the members of the roundtable recognized the importance of including the board in future discussions.

The roundtable concluded that youth justice services and their partnership boards are the correct place to hold cross-sector conversations on ways to tackle racial disparity in the youth justice system. As partnership boards they can work together to ensure that all of the partners address those areas of practice that can lead to disparity. The key performance indicator for reducing racial disparity therefore needs to be more 'transparent'.

The members of the roundtable also recognized the need to include other organisations in the conversations due to the level of unmet need that often leads children into the youth justice system. Members at the meeting also highlighted that in many areas low numbers make it difficult to use the disproportionality tool at local level.

The roundtable also highlighted that disparity is addressed in the key performance indicator for management boards (KPI 7), but that this is with regard to '*monitoring if partners contribute data from their individual services that identify areas of racial and ethnic disproportionality*', rather than identify methods to reduce disparity.

If you have any issues you would like addressed at a future meeting please contact:

[pat.jennings@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:pat.jennings@bedford.gov.uk)

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Mike Rees, AYM's portfolio lead for probation attended a meeting with the Youth Custody Service to consider the approach to **managing children aged 18 years** released from custody following their detention in the youth secure estate. Another meeting will be arranged to take this conversation further.

If you have any issues you would like addressed at a future meeting please contact [mike.rees@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:mike.rees@n-somerset.gov.uk)

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Our secretary, Roni Checksfield, spent some time in September collating responses to questions raised by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Youth Justice Policy Unit which is carrying out work with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) regarding resettlement with the aim of **strengthening and improving employment and training support for children leaving custody**.

The unit asked a number of questions which the Executive raised within the regions:

- How confident are youth justice practitioners in supporting children leaving custody to claim benefits, and are they doing this regularly – in particular for 16-17 year olds?
- Are youth justice practitioners successfully referring children to DWP Youth Hubs?
- Do youth justice services think that children not in receipt of benefits and who are NEET should be able to access DWP services?
- What kind of additional support (if any) would YJS's like to see from DWP services?

We would like to say a big thank you to all those who responded.

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Following the completion of a survey last year, the AYM has also been contacted by the MoJ's Youth Justice Policy Unit to consult further on **bail intensive supervision and surveillance programmes (ISSP)** to see if there have been any noticeable changes and to capture the sector's thoughts. The MoJ is interested to know the views of AYM members on the following questions:

1. Is your service aware of the 25 hour condition for Bail ISS?
2. What more can be done to make Bail ISS work for violent crime?
3. Are you being encouraged by the courts to support Bail ISS?
4. Has the flexibility in 25 hours helped with the ongoing issues in securing ETE and where required keeping gangs and gang members apart?
5. Do you feel there is adequate "best practice" guidance available to the sector?
6. As Bail ISS is part of the YJB grant agreement what are you doing differently and what impact is that having?

We would love to hear your responses to this consultation so please get in touch with your regional representative so that your thoughts can be included in the AYM response to the MoJ.

**All responses will need to be received by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October** so that they can be included for discussion at the next National Remand Working Group.

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Our chair, Jacqui Belfield-Smith and AYM's portfolio lead for courts, Jessica Edwards will be meeting with the MoJ on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October to discuss **youth remands** and will also be covering the consultation of the MoJ on youth remand funding highlighted in last month's AYM Bulletin.

If you haven't yet responded to the consultation on **youth remand funding** you can read the consultation document by [clicking here](#)

The consultation is online and can be accessed by [clicking here](#)

**The deadline for response is 11:59pm on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

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The MoJ is also holding a second roundtable on the MoJ's response to the HMIP thematic inspection of **education, training and employment** on the 26<sup>th</sup> October which Sarah Goddard, AYM's portfolio lead for this area will be attending. If you have any issues you wish Sarah to include in the discussion please email her at:

[sarah.goddard@bradfordcft.org.uk](mailto:sarah.goddard@bradfordcft.org.uk)

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### ***Keep in Touch!***

We are always keen to hear from AYM members about the issues they are facing in youth justice services and the regions. Regional representatives bring your thoughts and concerns to Executive Board meetings to share your experiences and help identify if these are an issue for other services and other parts of the country. We like to think, '*a problem shared is a problem halved!*' You may also have examples of best practice you can share too – please do.

If you have any issues you would like to raise for the board to consider, please get in touch with your regional representative – the contact details are on the last page of this bulletin.

If you would like to attend and Executive Board meeting as an observer, please contact our secretary Roni Checksfield who will provide you more information:

[secretary@aym.org.uk](mailto:secretary@aym.org.uk)

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## AYM Autumn Conference



### ***With a Focus on Custody and Resettlement***

This year's AYM Autumn Conference will consider the concerns regarding children in custody and ways to ensure resettlement is as effective and positive as possible. Invited speakers will discuss their future visions for custody and resettlement, and share examples of good practice.

With the opening of the secure school in Spring 2024, this is an exceptionally good time for delegates to share their thoughts of what custody and resettlement should be like if positive outcomes for children are to be truly achieved.

The conference will take place on:

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2023**

**The Bloxham Centre  
8 Somers Road, Rugby  
Warwickshire**

**CV22 7DE**

**Between 10am- 3:30pm**

Confirmed speakers at the conference include:

- **Justin Russell** – Chief Inspector, HMI Probation
- **Ed Cornmell** – Executive Director, Youth Custody Service
- **Darren Burns** – Director of Inclusion and Diversity, The Timpson Group
- **Andy Peaden** – Director, The Skill Mill Social Enterprise
- **Kay Davidson** – Head of Barton Moss Secure Care Centre

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

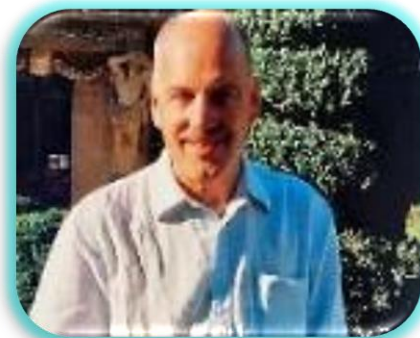
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## The AYM John Hawkins Award

### ***Nominations close this month – Enter yours now!***

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? Nominations close this month for the AYM John Hawkins Award.

John Hawkins was AYM's Treasurer and Head of Service at East Sussex YOT for many years, until his untimely death. His family agreed to support this AYM award to a youth justice service that demonstrates creativity or innovation in its' work with children.



Presentations for the winner of the 2023 Award will be made at our Autumn Conference in Rugby on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The **winners will receive £500 for their service.**

**Deadline for nominations is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.**

To nominate your service for the award please email [secretary@aym.org.uk](mailto:secretary@aym.org.uk)

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## Youth Justice Sector Improvement Partnership

The Youth Justice Sector Led Improvement Partnership (YJSIP) is a tripartite partnership between the AYM, the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales and senior youth justice leaders. The Partnership provides improvement support for the sector, by the sector and always with the sector.

The aim of the YJSIP programme is to:

- Actively promote working relationships across the sector and youth justice partnerships
- Assist in the development of sector improvement across England and Wales
- Clear accountability through the YJSIP Programme Board and oversight via the AYM Executive Board
- Transparency of activity
- Co-operation, co-ordination and the effective exchange of information

### ***Coach and Mentoring Courses***

If you are interested in becoming a YJSIP coach/mentor, save the date 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 for our in-person bespoke coaching and mentoring course. To express interest please email [YJSIPadmin@aym.org.uk](mailto:YJSIPadmin@aym.org.uk). This course is for those who want to become part of our growing community of coaches and mentors who support colleagues in other parts of England and

Wales on behalf of YJSIP. The skills are, of course, also hugely relevant and transferrable within your own supervision space/organisational context.

YJSIP coaching is about developing a person's skills and knowledge so that their job performance improves, leading to the achievement of organisational objectives. It targets high performance and improvement at work and usually lasts for a short period and focuses on specific skills and goals. A definition; "a process that enables learning and development to occur and thus performance to improve". The key is the focus on shift, be that learning, skill, knowledge or performance.

Mentoring is most often defined as '*A professional relationship in which an experienced person (the mentor) assists another (the mentee) in developing specific skills and knowledge that will enhance the less-experienced person's professional and personal growth*'. A good mentor should help people to recognise their abilities and limitations, and help them seize opportunities and come to terms with the reality of their career potential.

This course is for those who want to become part of our growing community of coaches and mentors who support colleagues in other parts of England and Wales on behalf of YJSIP. The skills are, of course, also hugely relevant and transferrable within your own supervision space/organisational context.

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### ***Our YJSIP Team is Growing!***

We are delighted to welcome some new board members, Carly Turner, head of service at Leicester City YJS is joining us as the East Midlands board representative, and Matthew Knights will be joining our coaching and mentoring sub-group to drive forward that part of our work. We are very pleased to welcome both to the team.

### ***Peer Reviews***

We are accepting peer review applications in principle for 2024-25. If you're interested, please initially get in touch with your regional YJSIP board representative. If you don't know who yours is, let us know (we still have vacancies in Mid Wales, West Midlands and the South West – do get in touch if you're interested in joining us to represent these regions).

### ***Are you keeping in touch with the work of YJSIP?***

Visit our 'LinkedIn' page by [clicking here](#)



## Youth Justice Lunchtime Webinars

A reminder that as advertised in last month's bulletin, we will be holding our next **Child First Effective Partnership Practice Lunchtime seminar** will take place on:

**Wednesday 25th October, 2023**

**12:30-13:30**

The focus of this webinar is *'Removing the systemic barriers: How Assistive Technologies can transform communication outcomes for young people and adults in justice pathways'*

Following on from the 'visioning' webinar in June earlier this year with Sharon Gray, Marius Frank will be describing how recent advances in assistive technologies are rewriting the rulebook when it comes to supporting young people with communication issues.

Joined by Diz Minnitt, a passionate advocate for meeting speech language and communication needs of young people in youth justice pathways, Marius will share the learning from two recent Department for Education (DfE) funded projects involving over 200 schools in England, and describe opportunities for Youth Offending Service staff to access training alongside staff from pupil referral units and alternative provision in their areas.

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

***Please note, if you have attended a Child First Webinar already, there is no need to re-register: you will be automatically enrolled.***





## Stop and Search Increases



### ***Annual Home Office Statistics Published***

The Home Office has published its annual statistics for stop and search and arrests for the year until March 2023. The reports once again include data on stop and searches at Community Safety Partnership level, published for the first time in the year ending March 2022.

The data report shows that searches for drugs and for s43 of the Terrorism Act 2000 decreased compared to the previous year (3% and 24% respectively), however, searches for all other offences increased resulting in a 3% increase of stop and search reported overall; up by 16,033 to 547,003.

22% of stop and searches resulted in an outcome that was linked to the reason for the search, a similar level to the year ending March 2022 (23%). The number of arrests following searches under all legislation increased by 10% to 74,097. However, not all police forces reported such an increase with 17 making fewer arrests. 71% of stop and searches resulted in no further action, the same as the previous year.

As in previous years, the most common reason for carrying out a PACE stop and search was on suspicion of drug possession, accounting for 61% of all stop and searches compared to 65% in the previous year. However, the proportion of searches on people suspected to be in possession of stolen property or going equipped for stealing increased slightly in the year ending March 2023, as did searches for 'other' reasons,

65% of all stop and search incidents during the year were on people aged between 10 and 29 years of age. 21% of all searches were of children aged between 10 and 17 years, an increase on the year ending March 2022. There was an 8.6% decrease in the number of children aged under 10 years of age who were searched (from 70 to 64).

85% of arrests 'a percentage that has been stable for more than 10 years' were of males, slightly lower than both the proportion of males stopped and searched (89%); the proportion of males stopped and searched that resulted in an arrest that was 91%.

Boys aged 15 to 19 years of age had the highest rate of stop and search, at 71 stop and searches per 1,000 population in the year ending March 2023.

All ethnic groups (based on self-defined ethnicity), either saw a reduction or little or no change in disparity rates compared with the year ending March 2022. Individuals from a black or black British background have the highest disparity rate, at a rate 4.1 times higher than that of those from a white ethnic group across England and Wales.

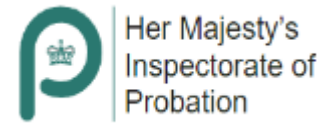
Although data for stop and search where a 'use of force' tactic was deployed by an officer is provided on a voluntary basis, 22 of the 44 police force areas provided such data, showing an average of force being used in 28% of searches. The Metropolitan Police is shown to have reported using force the most (36%) with Thames Valley and Hertfordshire deploying force in 35% of searches and Cambridgeshire in 34%.

To access the data reports [click here](#)

## Desistance, Adversity and Trauma

### **Academic Insight**

HMI Probation has published its latest 'Academic Insight' paper, authored by Jonathan Evans, Tricia Skuse, Dusty Kennedy and Jonny Matthew and highlighting recent learning from Wales and the delivery of Enhanced Case Management.



*The discusses 'some of the key ideas and evidence that could contribute to a practice agenda which supports desistance from offending processes, engages with social adversity and trauma, and helps to empower children and young people to work towards their pro-social goals.'*

The paper considers the evidence (for and against) for desistance theory, highlighting the findings of the Edinburgh longitudinal study by Professors Lesley McAra and Susan McVie, of children's pathways into and out of offending and considers adversity, trauma and the trauma recovery model of practice (TRM) identifying the need to ensure that alongside these systemic harms such as racism and poverty for example are considered.

The authors advise that 'Enhanced Case Management' (ECM) is a psychosocial approach that aims to appropriately balance the service provider's attention to both the internal psychological needs of the individual and their social needs. The positive evaluations of ECM are highlighted including amongst others, the increased confidence in staff delivering interventions, reduction in enforcement proceedings for children engaged with ECM and improvements in children's emotional regulation and their engagement in positive activities.

Improvements for the delivery of the model are also highlighted, including the need to improve the representation in case formulation of the voices of the children and their family.

The authors conclude that what is required is an approach that engages with children as individuals and proactive engagement with social contexts that shape their lives. The need to balance a psychological and sociological approach is seen as vital for providing full access to the necessary support for all children.

To read the report [click here](#)

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## Expansion of Youth Offer

### **Government Announces Support Boost for 'Inactive' Young People**



As part of the government welfare reforms, a £3.5 billion package of measures announced in the Chancellor's 2023 Spring Statement, the Department for Work and Pensions has announced the expansion of the Youth Offer to inactive claimants will begin immediately, to help young people into work and to improve their wellbeing. The announcement states the changes will provide support to 30,000 16-24 year olds, offering those claiming Universal Credit early access to work coaches, access to Work Hubs, and assistance with interview preparation.

The Department states that

*'Despite youth unemployment being down by over 43% since 2010, young people are more likely to be economically inactive than the rest of the population.'*

Previously the Youth Offer was only available to young people deemed closest to work, the changes mean that those who are seen as further away from and who face more challenges finding long term work are now eligible.

Youth Hubs, located within other organisations, provide advice and guidance to young people seeking work; some offer this as a drop in service.

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Mel Stride MP said:

*'Young claimants with more serious and complex barriers to work, such as problems with addiction or finding somewhere permanent to live also have access to Youth Employability Coaches. These coaches can provide tailored and intensive support to young claimants before, during and after they have entered work, which alongside the other aspects of the Youth Offer, help to ensure that everyone can enjoy the physical and mental benefits of good employment, regardless of their situation.'*

Minister for Social Mobility, Youth and Progression, Mims Davies MP said:

*'The best way to get on in life, improve wellbeing and make friends is through work, and the expanded DWP Youth Offer gives our young people the key tools and support they need to find fulfilling and meaningful work.'*

For more information about 16-24 year olds' access to Universal Credit and the Youth Offer [click here](#)

# One in Three Care Leavers in Contact with the Law

## **Data Analysis Research Shows**



Analysis of the Department for Education's (DfE) data, taken from the National Pupil Database, and data from the Police National Computer has been used to undertake a longitudinal study of four cohorts of children born between 1996 and 1999 to consider the relationship between children's care experience and criminal justice involvement.

The research undertaken by ADR UK (Administrative Data Research UK) Research Fellowship project which began at Lancaster University and was completed at Manchester Metropolitan University in September 2023, has now published a briefing on its findings which show *'shockingly high levels of youth justice involvement among care-experienced children compared to those without care experience'*

The authors Dr Katie Hunter, Professor Brian Francis and Dr Claire Fitzpatrick, provide four key findings:

1. In addition to the disproportionate likelihood that care experienced children have of involvement with the youth justice system, it identifies the increased chances of such involvement for children from ethnic minority backgrounds;
2. The gap in youth justice involvement between care-experienced children and non-care-experienced children widened over time, and widened further still for some groups of ethnic minority children;
3. Typically, care-experienced children had much more youth justice involvement than non-care-experienced children. Some groups of ethnic minority care-experienced children had even higher levels of youth justice involvement;
4. A significantly higher proportion of care-experienced children received a custodial sentence compared non-care-experienced children. Custodial sentences were twice as common among black and mixed ethnicity care-experienced children compared to white care-experienced children.

The authors also make four recommendations:

1. Improve availability of linked data by extending the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Data First program;
2. The MoJ and DfE should publish data using detailed ethnicity categories;
3. Place a statutory duty on local authorities to prevent unnecessary criminalisation of children in care and care leavers;
4. Promote understanding across youth justice agencies of the needs of care-experienced children in order to improve support.

The authors caution' not to use interpretation of these findings to perpetuate negative stereotypes about care-experienced children and children from ethnic minority backgrounds.

To read the report [click here](#)

## 'Dare to Care'

### ***New Legal Guide Published***

The Youth Justice Legal Centre (YJLC) has published its latest guide in a series of youth justice legal guides designed to improve professional support for children in contact with the law. Whilst aimed at lawyers, the guide is a helpful guide to all working with care experienced children in the youth justice system.



The guide states that the police, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), courts and defence lawyers should examine how and why a care experienced child has come to be criminalised in order to be properly informed about how their case should be dealt with and to influence the outcome. It advises readers that care experienced children are more likely to:

- Be put in situations where they come into contact with the police;
- Be subject to additional restrictions and requirements in care settings which may lead them into conflict with the law;
- Be more likely to have experienced trauma and adverse experiences than other children; and
- Have much higher levels of mental health needs than in the general population

The report highlights that care experienced children are up to six times more likely to be criminalised than other children, and that just over half of care experienced children will have a criminal conviction by 24 years of age, compared to just over 10% of their non care experienced peers, and that whilst only 1% of children were in care in England in 2022, care experienced children represented 59% of children in custody in England and Wales.

The guide advises readers of the duty of care to prevent unnecessary criminalisation of looked after children and care leavers and advises that *'prosecution may not be proportionate because of their care experience'*.

The guide provides practical tips to be considered when considering proceeding with the prosecution of a care experienced child in contact with the police.

- Has the child or young adult been arrested or charged as a consequence of being care experienced?
- Is it in the public interest to prosecute them?
- How should they be supported at the police station, during their case and at court?
- Is their care experience relevant to any potential defences and legal arguments? and
- Should their care experience entitle them to a reduction in their sentence?

The guide identifies the legal framework and the ways to achieve better outcomes when working with care experienced children, advising that care experience should be considered a mitigating factor throughout their contact with the youth justice system.

To read the guide [click here](#)

## 1000 Young Voices

### **Research into Engagement with Sport**



StreetGames and Platypus Research, a 'global insights and innovation business' for the children young people and families, have undertaken a segmentation study to capture the views and opinions of children from lower-income households. An online survey of 1000 11-24 year-olds and a week-long forum with 15 respondents and 9 young advisors from Street Games.

The aim of the research was to ensure that Street Games understands how children can best benefit from engaging in sport, recognising the complexity of inequalities children face both material and psychological.

The research sought to capture children's concerns, priorities and inspirations, and what motivates them to participate in sport as well as the barriers and emotions they experience.

The feedback from the research has been used to create 'seven youth segments' which researchers say helps to *'better understand the motivators, barriers, and associated emotions that young people experience in relation to sport..'*

The research found that only 1 in 3 of the respondents felt they had a limited sense of their lives and that this was worse for girls, and older girls. 2 out of 5 respondents worried about their family's finance and the cost of living and their education, and around a third expressed concerns about their mental health and isolation.

Respondents said they appreciate the wide variety of benefits that sport and physical activity can offer them and *'most (though certainly not all) already enjoy it to some degree and are reasonably confident in taking part.'* However, more boys than girls expressed this view.

The cost of sport activities was a barrier for many, concerningly however 2 out of 5 respondents said reported they have *'ever felt discriminated against whilst taking part'*, with this more apparent for girls, those from ethnic minority backgrounds, those with caring responsibilities, and those physically disabled or neurodivergent.

The researchers identified key commonalities to be considered in order to increase and maintain participation:

- Support young people with costs and access to affordable, local activities;
- Balance Priorities and Increase Encouragement;
- Support in maintaining participation during transition times;
- Address psychological barriers and discrimination

The researchers *state 'Adding a targeted layer of understanding of young people to these general principles can increase relevance and ensure programmes can be designed to resonate with the different types of circumstances and personalities'*

To read the report [click here](#)



## Other News

### Colleagues Remember General Lord Ramsbottom

A service of thanksgiving for General Lord Ramsbottom was held in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey on the 21<sup>st</sup> September. Lord Ramsbottom, who died in December 2022, had held a number of positions following his distinguished military career including HM Chief Inspector of Prisons where he became a leader for prison reform, authoring a book 'Prison-gate: The Shocking State Of Britain's Prisons & The Need For Visionary Change.

As Chief Inspector he discovered the importance of speech and language therapy for children in contact with the law becoming the first ever Honorary Life Vice-President of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCLST) and later the Chair, of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Speech and Language Difficulties.



To read RSLCT's 'Appreciation of Lord Ramsbottom' [click here](#)

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### Pava Spray in Youth Secure Estate

The Children's Commissioner has joined the many voices, including the AYM, campaigning to prevent the use of Pava spray (synthetic pepper spray) in the youth secure estate. In a blog she said:



*'The decision to make the children's secure estate a more brutal place for the children living there should not be taken lightly.'*

The Commissioner has written to the Youth Custody Service (YCS) and will continue to raise the issue with YCS and Ministers.

To read the blog [click here](#)

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### 'Child First: Developing a New Youth Justice System'

#### **Discount Voucher for Purchase of New Book!**

For those wishing to purchase the book by Stephen Case and Neal Hazel, advertised in a previous bulletin, we have been provided with a voucher for 20% off – valid until 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.

Enter the following coupon code at checkout on link.springer.com **H5DoMQ20% W47RT2HD**

## Call for Probation Service to be Returned to Local Control

Justin Russell has called for an independent review of the Probation Service in his farewell speech as Chief Inspector of HMI Probation. Citing the lack of improvements following the unification of probation back into the public sector as a single national service two years ago, he said:

*'Probation is, and always has been, a locally delivered service, working with local partners like the police, children's services, and NHS trusts. To make the most of those partnerships, local probation leaders need freedom and flexibility to commit resources and staff to match circumstances and to be able to speak publicly to both defend and advocate for their services. Currently, they often feel heavily constrained and that they play second fiddle to the priorities of the prison service to which they are tied in the new "One HMPPS" structure.'*



To read Justin's farewell message [click here](#)

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## Interim Chief Inspector of Probation Appointed

The Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor, Rt Hon. Alex Chalk KC MP, has announced the appointment of Sue McAllister as the interim Chief Inspector of Probation (HMCI Probation). This interim appointment will commence on 1 October 2023 and end on 1 March 2024 or when a substantive post holder is appointed, whichever is earlier.

Sue was the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman until 2022 and during that time, Mrs McAllister led two independent investigations into deaths of babies in custody.

Prior to her appointment as ombudsman, Sue was the Director of Reducing Offending and Prison Service Director General, Department of Justice in Northern Ireland. She has also held senior policy roles including Head of Public Sector Bids Unit at the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), and operational management roles in HM Prison Service as Prison Governor, Head of Security Group and Area Manager for the West Midlands.



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## HM Chief Inspector of Prisons Re-Appointed

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor has announced the Royal reappointment of Charlie Taylor as His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons.

Charlie former Chair of the YJB, pictured left at the AYM's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event at the House of Lords in March 2020, was initially appointed to the position of Chief Inspector of Prisons later that year; his second term of 3 years will run until the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026.





## Staying Close Programme



Department  
for Education

The government has announced that 27 new local authorities have been awarded £27 million to join the 'Staying Close Programme'. Staying Close provides a package of continued support and guidance to young people leaving care, including ensuring they have accommodation, resources and practical and emotional help provided by a member of staff from their former children's home, to help them thrive as independent adults.

The government has also launched a consultation, seeking feedback on the national advocacy standards and statutory guidance. The standards seek to improve advocacy provision for children in care and care leavers and address gaps and barriers to services, to ensure all voices are heard.

The government also introduced a new standard on non-instructed advocacy for very young and non-verbal children and young people. These updates set expectations for what high quality advocacy provision should look like and place the voice of children and young people at the heart of the system.

These latest updates are part of the government's approach to improving children's social care, set out in the children's social care strategy, 'Stable homes, built on love'. The two-year programme is backed by £200 million and aims to transform the current care system to focus on more early support for families, reducing the need for crisis response at a later stage.

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## Government Call for Improved Internet Safety to Protect Children

Following 'Meta's' announcement that it intends to roll out end-to-end encryption on Instagram and Facebook Messenger, the Home Secretary Suella Braverman has urged the organisation not to do so without robust safety measures that ensure children are protected from sexual abuse and exploitation in messaging channels.

The government states that:

*'Currently, 800 predators a month are arrested by UK law enforcement agencies and up to 1,200 children are safeguarded from child sexual abuse following information provided by social media companies. If Meta proceeds with their plans, they will no longer be able to detect child abuse on their platforms as they currently do, and the National Crime Agency (NCA) estimates 92% of Facebook Messenger and 85% of Instagram Direct referrals could be lost – meaning thousands of criminals a year could go undetected.'*

The campaign is backed by numerous prominent charities and organisations, including the NSPCC, Marie Collins Foundation and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF). The Home Office in partnership with the IWF has also published a guide for parents to advise them how best to keep their children safe if Meta does implement end-to-end encryption on the messaging service of Facebook and Instagram without appropriate child safety measures.

To read the guide for parents [click here](#)

## Dates for Your Diary

**For Your  
Diary!**

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR AYM 2023-24



<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Executive Board meeting	5 <sup>th</sup> December, 2023	MS Teams
AYM Autumn Conference	6 <sup>th</sup> December, 2023	Rugby
Executive Board meeting	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	MS Teams
Executive Board meeting	June 2024	To be confirmed
Annual General Meeting	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	To be confirmed
Executive Board meeting	September, 2024	To be confirmed
Executive Board meeting	December, 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](http://aym.org.uk)*

## Trauma Informed Practice – Turning Rhetoric into Reality

During this webinar delegates will hear from colleagues from the Youth Endowment Fund, Public Health Wales, the NHS and the Youth Justice Board. Speaker will look at the existing evidence base, current project, research and practice examples. They will share examples of effective trauma informed and adverse childhood experience awareness practices.

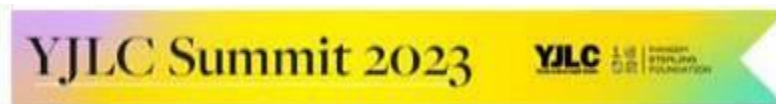
The webinar takes place using MS Teams on:

**Wednesday 4th October, 2023  
10:30 – 12:45.**

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

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## Exploring Alternatives to the Criminal Legal System for Children



The Youth Justice Legal Centre, in partnership with the Raheem Sterling Foundation, is holding its 5th Summit on:

**Thursday, 5th October, 2023**

**13:30 - 18:00**

at

**King's College London**

**Strand London WC2R 2LS**

YJLC state 'Children in the criminal justice system have never been more in need of professionals fighting their corner and our mission is to arm and inspire attendees with the tools and knowledge they need to get better outcomes.'

Delegates will hear from expert speakers including MiAngel Cody, from New Orleans USA a federal lawyer with the 'Decarceration Collective' who has been responsible for helping free 40 life sentenced prisoners.

Presentations at the summit include:

- Kids, Drugs & Criminalisation
- Schools and Police
- Non-Punitive Approaches
- Protection/Safeguarding v Criminalisation/Investigation

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

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## Community Care Live



Community Care Live will take place this year at

**The Business Design Centre in London**

on

**10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

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## Pre-Sentence Reports: Best Practice

This online event, one in a series of many, will update delegates on the key messages in the recently updated statutory guidance? What do examples of best practice from around the country look like? What do lawyers for children find most helpful?



Delegates will hear a range of perspectives and join the conversation about what good looks like in practice.

The event takes place on **8th November, 2023 at 1pm**

***YJLC online seminars, are free with YJLC membership.*** To enquire about membership, please [click here](#).

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

Then follow the AYM on Twitter.....

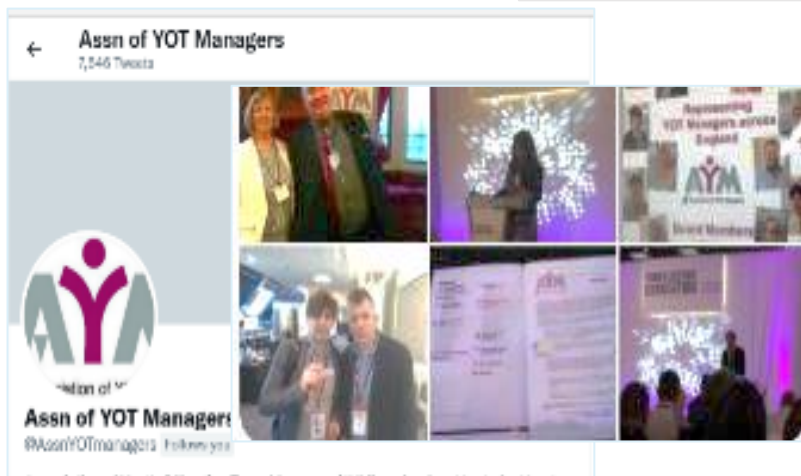
**We have more than 3,000 followers** who receive frequent updates on issues relating to youth justice and YOT Managers.

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

**@AssnYOTmanagers**



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



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

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

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



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## AYM Regional Representatives

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

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

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