

Bulletin December 2023



In this issue:

P2-3	News from the Executive Board
P4	AYM Autumn Conference
P4	Aspiring Future Leaders Course
P5	Youth Justice SEND Quality Award
P6	Youth Justice Sector Improvement Partnership
P7	YJB Chief Executive Officer Appointed
P7	Mapping Speech and Language Provision
P8	Youth Work Cuts Risk Increasing Youth Crime
P9	The Case Against Serious Violence Reduction Orders
P10	Trauma Informed Practice
P11	Inspection Reports on Custody
P12	School to Prison Pipeline
P13	Vacancies
P14-16	Other News
P17-18	Dates for Your Diary
P19	How to Stay in Touch with the AYM
P20	AYM Regional Representatives



News from the AYM Executive Board

The AYM Executive Board is very much looking forward to seeing many of our members and colleagues at our Autumn Conference on the 6th December which is an in-person event. The focus of the conference is custody and resettlement, issues that are very close to the hearts of all youth justice managers and practitioners who wish to support children in secure settings as much as possible and to help ensure that services, delivered as part of a resettlement package, lead to positive outcomes.

Clearly youth justice services have been very concerned with inspections of youth custody establishments for some time, the conference is a chance to hear about plans of the Ministry of Justice and the Youth Custody Service for improvement – especially with the opening of the first secure school expected in spring 2024.

The Autumn Conference also offers delegates the opportunity to hear from the newly appointed interim Chief Inspector of Probation, Sue McAllister. Sue and her colleague Helen Mercer, Head of Policy and Standards at HMI Probation will reflect on outcomes of inspections.

The AYM aims to be a supportive friend to our colleagues across the sector and so we have also invited some guest speakers who will provide examples of best practice in resettlement; some you will know, such as Andy Peaden former Head of Leeds Youth Justice Service, others you may not such as Darren Burns, Director of Inclusion and Diversity at the Timpson Group which provides employment for those leaving custody.

We will of course also be presenting the AYM John Hawkins Award 2023 winner, and Youth Justice SEND Quality Awards.

Working with external stakeholders

The Executive Board continues to work with stakeholders to support evidence of quality youth justice provision and perspectives on policy and practice in youth justice. Our chair Jacqui Belfield-Smith recently had a very constructive meeting with Janet Daby, Shadow Minister for Youth Justice. Janet, who has a professional background in children's social care, is keen to develop her relationship with the AYM in order better to understand the issues facing local youth justice services.

Members of the Executive will this month be attending a United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stakeholder session with the Ministry of Justice, to consider the age of criminal responsibility in England and Wales. They are also providing initial feedback to the role of children's social care in supporting children in and leaving custody and the proposed Youth Justice Charter.

A number of our portfolio leads will be meeting with members of the Home Office Anti-Social Behaviour unit to discuss the Criminal Justice Bill which contains a proposal that will lower the age that individuals can receive a community protection notice (CPN) from 16years to 10years of age.

We have been asked to engage with a consultation on HMI Probation's thematic and research programmes 2024/2025.

If you have thoughts that you would like to be considered in our discussions regarding these consultations, please contact lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk so that they can be included in our discussions.



We have also been contacted by the Youth Custody Service who are keen to ensure that youth justice services are fully aware of the change in operational policy which will change the release of children from custody on a Friday or the day before a bank/public holiday.

The policy resulting from the recognition of the challenges that can arise from a release prior to a non-working day and the impact on effective resettlement of children and young people, is presumed to apply to all children who have served at least 28 days in custody. However, in exceptional circumstances, the relevant authorising body can still decide to release the child on the original release date. The policy does not apply to those who are subject to discretionary releases such as release by the Parole Board or under Home Detention Curfew (HDC), as releases in these cases must take place on an agreed date, nor does it apply to children/young people remanded to custody but not yet sentenced.

The resettlement practitioner (or equivalent caseworker) in custody will consult with any other relevant practitioners in custody (e.g. healthcare or substance misuse practitioners, education providers), as well as the child's YOT worker and other external professionals involved in their care (e.g. children's services). It will be through these resettlement meetings that any exceptional circumstances will be identified.

The policy will be implemented and applied to all releases from the youth custody estate from 11th January, 2024 and the first releases under this new scheme will be considered from Wednesday 13th December, 2023. A small number of children may be affected by this before 11th January, 2024. If a child's release date falls on a Friday or the day before a bank/public holiday in this period, their case should be carefully considered on a case-by-case basis and treated with additional care.

To read the policy [click here](#)

If you have any questions about this change, contact:

yca-reducingreoffending@justice.gov.uk

Executive Board

We are pleased to say that Michelle Edwards has been elected as the regional representative for London, following the resignation of Brendan Finnegan who had held this position for many years. Michelle had previously held the position of deputy regional representative so is well known to other members of the Executive.

Members of the AYM Executive Board wish all our members and colleagues



A Very Happy Christmas



AYM Autumn Conference



Rethinking resettlement and custody: learning from across the sectors.

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. 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.

The conference will take place on:

Wednesday 6th December, 2023

**The Bloxham Centre
8 Somers Road, Rugby
Warwickshire
CV22 7DE**

Between 10am- 3:30pm

Speakers at the conference include:

- **Sue McAllister** (Interim Chief Inspector) and Helen Mercer (Head of Policy and Standards) - 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 [click here](#)

AYM Aspiring Future Leaders Courses

We are pleased to advise colleagues that we will be running a further course of this well respected course in February 2024.

For many years the AYM has run this course, in partnership with Solace. It is a highly successful development programme for future leaders in Youth Justice. It is an endorsed ILM development programme at level 5 and consists of an introductory workshop and four two-day modules which take place at roughly six-week intervals. These modules cover:

- Leadership and change;
- Strategic thinking in public services;
- Working collaboratively across organisations; and
- Coaching for high performance.

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

Youth Justice SEND Quality Award

Enfield Area Partnership Redesignation



Enfield Area Partnership has been redesignated as Youth Justice SEND Quality Lead Status with a Child First Commendation following its recent re-assessment.

Enfield originally achieved the Youth Justice SEND Quality Lead Award in October 2019. Amongst the many strengths that were acknowledged at the time were the quality of relationships between service teams, the impact of co-located professionals (including speech and language therapists, CAMHS, educational psychologist, and a therapeutic social worker) on positive outcomes for young people, as well as comprehensive awareness-raising and professional development opportunities which included a diverse range of youth justice workers, including panel members. The strategic intent was driven by a vision of young person first, offender second. As the "Child First" concept has grown and flourished across youth justice services nationally, this has simply added to a narrative already at the heart of service practice in Enfield.

The intervening three years has seen further developments which include:

- Updated protocols supporting more effective joint working across area partnership teams, and a joint appreciation of, and commitment to, child-first; provision;
- Comprehensive shared training opportunities;
- Close partnerships between multi-agency panels and the police (including neurodiversity and SEN-awareness training), and close liaison with the secure estate;
- The role of an Education Panel to assess and respond to emerging critical and complex needs, and:
- Council-wide commitment to supporting transition, and participation.

The assessor reports that 'A notable 'Child First' service development has been the appointment of dedicated Advisory Teacher (previously an Assistant Head) who will advocate for children and families and challenge schools to ensure that needs are being met.

Congratulations Enfield!



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.

If you've not already seen our comms, we have a few final places left for our newly developed **Frontline Leaders training**.

Are you a youth justice frontline leader/manager? Our newly revamped Frontline Leaders course might be of interest if you want to develop your leadership, connect with colleagues from other parts of England and Wales, and have space to take a step back from the day to day to reflect and reenergise.

Please note, this is a free course on the basis that participants commit to engaging fully in the content.

This highly experiential course is intended to provide a reflective, collaborative space for frontline youth justice leaders (those who supervise practitioners) to achieve the following:

1. Engage with current research and practice examples of contemporary issues within Youth Justice;
2. Critically reflect on intended areas for development as a Frontline Leader including, reviewing strengths and current competence/confidence;
3. Prepare and implement a personal-development plan to benefit me as a Frontline Leader and the organisation I represent.

The course is developed by serving youth justice service managers and covers a range of topics including:

- Contextual safeguarding;
- Courageous conversations;
- Child first, and;
- Quality assurance.

To find out more and for details of how to enrol [click here](#)

Are you keeping in touch with the work of YJSIP?

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



**Youth Justice Sector
Improvement Partnership**

YJB Chief Executive Officer Appointed



The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales has announced the appointment of Steph Roberts-Bibby as the new Chief Executive Officer. Steph has held the interim CEO role since June, following the departure of Claudia Sturt in January this year.



Steph is well known to those in youth justice having held the role of chief operating officer for five years prior to her appointment as interim CEO.

The AYM would like to congratulate Steph; we look forward to continuing to work closely with her in the future.

Congratulations Steph!

Mapping Speech and Language Provision

In the Youth Justice System

An analysis of AssetPlus data carried out by the Youth Justice Board reported that 71% of children had speech, language and communication concerns. The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) would like to find out what youth justice services have a speech and language therapist working with them to support young people with speech, language and communication needs.



The RCSLT is mapping where speech and language therapists are working, and we need your help. Do you have a speech and language therapist working in your youth justice service, secure children's home or young offender institution?

If so, please complete this very short survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5KS25CK> by **22nd December**.

If you have any questions, please send these to Claire Moser at Claire.moser@rcslt.org.

Youth Work Cuts Risk Increasing Youth Crime

Argues the National Youth Agency (NYA)



The National Youth Agency (NYA) has published a report, ***'The social cost of youth work cuts: Preventing youth offending through youth work'***, following its review of the impact of youth work provision on children involved, or at risk of involvement, with the criminal justice system and the costs associated with this, *'alongside the costs of inaction'*.

The review considered 74 sources of academic and grey literature and focused on material relating to England and Wales from the last 10 years.

The authors cite Ministry of Justice Official 2022 statistics when stating that:

It costs four times more for a young person to enter the youth justice system at the age of 16 (£200,000) than it does for them to avoid it (less than £50,000).

The authors also cite the report of UK Youth in November which argued:

'the economic value of youth work suggests that it saves £500 million annually by preventing incidences of knife crime, anti-social behaviour and other associated criminal justice costs'.

The report highlights the positive impact of youth work and showcase some of the positive outcomes for children engaged in it. They also cite evidence that shows that where cuts in youth work provision have been made, criminal activity increases.

The authors of the report argue that:

'Any strategies for tackling youth crime must consider a wide variety of interventions and require partnership across a number of agencies, both statutory and voluntary. A multiagency approach, operating through a whole systems framework, is better placed to ensure that a spectrum of services and support is available, and is responsive, adaptable and sustainable.'

The authors cite a number of case studies throughout the report which highlight best practice and show the benefit of collaboration between youth work provision, youth justice and other key professionals. The review identified a number of examples of such 'good and innovative practice' and argue that this should be *'more widely embedded within the system.'*

The report makes a number of recommendations including the restoration of investment in community-based youth work out of schools; integrated commissioning partnerships for youth work and statutory youth justice services; cross-sector workforce development; and prioritisation and investment in youth work research, to evidence its impact within the youth justice system.

To read the report [click here](#)

The Case Against Serious Violence Reduction Orders



Runnymede Trust Publish Report

The race equality and civil rights think tank, the Runnymede Trust, has published a report following its research into the efficacy of serious violence reduction orders (SVROs) and related policing and court order powers. The author, Dr Tim Head, Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Essex, and Research Associate at the Manchester University, argues that the evidence review which considered violence reduction, court orders, institutional racism in policing, and health, found:

'compelling evidence that high-discretion policing powers like SVROs have next to no measurable impact on rates of violence, whether measured by police arrest rates or by ambulance call-out data. This finding was particularly striking when compared with the evidence base about the high efficacy of non-policing community-based interventions on violence reduction.'

The author also argues that, as well as the evidence of disproportional use of police stop powers on black males, there is:

'a wealth of evidence of a clear relationship between the use of high-discretion police stop powers and a series of harmful social consequences.'

The evidence of whether court orders such as anti-social behaviour orders and other civil orders are effective in reducing or preventing offending was reviewed and no such evidence was found. To the contrary, the author argues that:

'multiple studies have found a relationship between the use of civil and court orders and increasing levels of criminal legal system involvement.'

In making recommendations, the author argues that moving resources from policing budgets to other areas of state welfare provision *'ignores the fact that many areas of state-led provision have similar issues regarding effectiveness and institutional racism.'* He argues that:

'what is needed is an attentiveness to grassroots-movement-led work that plays a role in experimenting with alternative community-led responses to harm both with and beyond the state.'

Amongst its recommendations, the author calls for the discontinuance of serious violence reduction order pilots, and other such mechanisms, such as knife crime prevention orders and behavioural control orders. He also calls for the funding of grass root community led organisations to help interrupt and prevent violence and to provide support for those affected by *'police stop based interventions'*.

To read the report [click here](#)

Trauma-Informed Practice

Academic Insight

The latest Academic Insight published by HMI Probation focuses on trauma informed practice and its implementation in practice. ***‘Issues, challenges and opportunities for trauma-informed practice’***, written by Dr Sarah Senker, Dr Anne Eason, Dr Chris Pawson and Professor Kieran McCartan, all from the University of West England, highlight pertinent issues regarding trauma informed practice and the challenges and opportunities. It also provides some insights and points for consideration.

Previous Academic Insights papers have discussed the importance of understanding the impact of past experiences and trauma on the lives of people who go on to offend and how this knowledge can be used to better understand recovery, desistance and integration. as well as how this is pertinent to new policy and practice in the field of working with people convicted of a sexual offence.

The paper is based on a series of scoping interviews and roundtables and 20 in-depth interviews with professionals across a range of statutory, academic and third sector organisations. The purpose was to improve understanding of the ways in which the term ‘trauma informed’ is being used across the health and justice sector, including prison and probation settings and to identify the extent and nature of trauma-informed practices for individuals who have experienced trauma but also have convictions for sexual offences.

Through this work a number of themes were identified and developed into ‘ten critical questions’:

1. What constitutes trauma and whose is it to define?
2. Is there a definition that adequately describes a ‘trauma-informed approach’?
3. Is the body of evidence robust enough and widely known?
4. Can the priorities of managing risk, protecting the public and being trauma responsive reside together?
5. Is the physical, organisational and psychological environment of criminal justice settings conducive to a trauma-informed approach?
6. What does good trauma-informed work look like, and how do we know it when we see it?
7. What would the expected outcomes of good trauma-informed work look like, and do we measure them?
8. Are senior staff and frontline staff ready for trauma-informed approaches?
9. Is the wider community supportive of trauma-informed approaches?
10. Are trauma-informed practices achievable and/or desirable?

Each of these questions is considered and key considerations highlighted. The authors argue that trauma-informed practice should be an inclusive, service user orientated approach that is rooted in the core working of the probation service. Further, they argue that *‘there is a need be an improved evidence base to inform policy and practice, and to support the wider discourse regarding its desirability and value’*.

To read the report [click here](#)

Inspection Reports on Youth Custody

Two Reports Published

Inspectors report in **‘A joint thematic inspection of work with children subject to remand in youth detention**, (led by HMI Probation with HMI Prisons and Ofsted) that remanded children make up an increasing proportion of the child custodial population, with children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds over-represented in the remand population, a pattern that is increasing.

The report argues that not all of the children who were subject to a custodial remand needed to be remanded in custody, and that a quarter of those remanded were released on bail before being sentenced. Further, the report argues *‘inspectors judged that more of them could have been safely managed in the community’*.

There report advises that there *‘have been demonstrable improvements in the remand process in recent years’*, but argues that *‘more needs to be done to improve the guidance available to agencies and information exchange between the secure estate and the community’*.

The inspectors report that where oversight of the appropriateness of remand was stronger, a good connection between strategic boards (including across corporate parenting), youth justice service management boards and safeguarding partnerships was evident. This also supported greater strategic coherence, and a shared culture and approach to working with children.’

Management oversight within youth justice services was found to meet the needs of the children remanded in 88% of cases. However, in just under three-quarters of cases the youth justice service did not offer a bail programme at the child’s first remand hearing, often because of lack of suitable accommodation, or perceived risks posed by the child. Inspectors advise that *‘most joint working between youth justice services and social care is information-sharing rather than a well-coordinated, coherent multi-agency approach to meeting children’s wider needs’*.

To read the report [click here](#)

HMI Prisons has also published the report – ‘Children in custody 2022-23’ which considered the perception of 12–18 year-olds’ experience of detention in two elements of custodial establishments in England and Wales - young offender institutions (YOIs) and secure training centres (STCs): children detained in secure children’s homes are not considered in this report.

The report shows that children do not feel supported, safe or cared for whilst in custody in YOIs and STCs and highlights that children from minoritised groups are unlikely to share with custodial staff that they have health needs or disabilities.

HMI Prison’s chief inspector, Charlie Taylor, states that:

‘This report highlights the impact of several years of failings in children’s custody. Despite the significant resources at their disposal, leaders in the Youth Custody Service are unable to guarantee basic services for children...’

To read this report [click here](#)

School to Prison Pipeline

The ‘Prospective Markers’ of School Exclusion and Neurodisability



An article in the Forensic Science International: Mind and Law, an international open access journal dedicated to forensic psychiatric, psychological, legal, and other related disciplines, has highlighted the relationship between school exclusion and entry into the criminal justice system.

The authors report that exclusions have been increasing since 2012/13 and that Department for Education data for 2023 shows that in ‘2021/22 the rate of permanent exclusions in the UK was 0.1%, and the rate of fixed term exclusions (which are typically five school days, but can be up to 45 school days) was 6.91%’. The authors also argue that this phenomenon is not unique to England and Wales, stating such increases are also evident in Australia and Europe.

The authors argue that ‘school exclusion and neurodisability are prospective markers for increased risk of subsequent contact with criminal justice system’, but that the relationship between these and age at first conviction has received ‘minimal attention’.

They argue that the criminogenic nature of contact with the justice system means those convicted at an earlier age ‘are at risk of becoming entrenched in the system’ and that this is demonstrated by data collected from a screening assessment used in HMP Parc (Do-IT Profiler). The data showed that:

‘Multiple school exclusions were associated with earlier first convictions, with those excluded once, 2–3 times, and 4 or more times being first convicted 3, 5, and 6 years earlier on average than the never-excluded cohort.’

Further, they cite that:

‘of the excluded cohort, 45% were sent to a pupil referral unit (PRU) and this cohort was first convicted an average of 2 years younger than those who were excluded but never sent to a PRU, and an average of 6 years younger than those who were never excluded’.

When considering those who were considered to have a neurodisability (indexed by lower scores on a functional skills screener), they found that this was associated with being 0.5 years younger at first conviction and argue that the correlation between school exclusion and scores on the functional skills screener ‘**suggests that school exclusion could be a potential mechanism for the criminalisation of children with neurodisability.**’

To read the report [click here](#)

Vacancies

Solihull Seeks Systems & Data Analyst



Solihull Metropolitan Council is seeking to recruit to the role of Systems and Data Analyst for Exploitation, Missing and Youth Justice Services.

The postholder will be an instrumental part of these teams, providing robust analysis of information, performance data and systems support to inform the direct operational delivery to enhance better outcomes for children and young people and their families.

This role is part of a multi-disciplinary partnership that includes Police, Social Workers, Education and Health and is crucial in the council's aims of safeguarding children and young people by reducing the risk of children and young people being exploited, the number of children missing from home and local authority care and those at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

The role will involve working within the Service's Business Support Unit to provide the service with intelligence and analytical support to improve the understanding of Solihull's Exploitation, Missing and Youth Justice Services needs and inequalities. You will be working in collaboration with the Department for Education Ministry of Justice, Police, Community Safety and Analysts across Solihull Council and the wider partnership.

Applicants will need to demonstrate:

- Education to degree level (or equivalent) in a subject requiring statistical and analytical techniques, or the ability to demonstrate through extended data analysis experience and training, the necessary knowledge to carry out the full range of duties;
- Experience of carrying out statistical analysis and interpretation, analysing large data sets and using mathematical techniques to summarise and describe trends.

If you have any specific questions regarding this post please get in touch with Pali Obhi, Service Manager at pali.obhi@solihull.gov.uk

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

Interview Date is Thursday 11th January, 2024

Closing Date for applications is 17th December, 2023



Other News



Ministerial Changes

During the King's Speech the recent ministerial changes were announced which included the move of Damian Hinds from his position as Minister of State for Justice, responsible for youth justice amongst others, to Minister of State for Education. Damian has since been replaced at the Ministry of Justice by Edward Argar MP who has previously held this role. Alex Chalk remains the Justice Secretary.

For more information about the new cabinet members [click here](#)

Support for Young Victims of Crime

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has announced that he is to provide £160,000 for 'The Trusted Youth Allies' pilot to train adults to support children who are victims of crime. The pilot will provide children in Croydon, Enfield, Newham, Lambeth and Southwark with the chance to speak to a trusted adult, if they have become a victim of crime.

The pilot, which will be developed and delivered by 'Groundwork London', follows work being done by the Mayor funded London's Violence Reduction Unit that aims to tackle violence through prevention and early intervention which funds youth workers in custody suites in all 12 of the Metropolitan Police Basic Command Units, and in accident and emergency departments and major trauma centres across the capital.

For more information [click here](#)

Devolving Justice

Crest Advisory has published a new report in which it considers the ways in which four areas, West Midlands, Greater Manchester, Avon and Somerset and the Greater London Authority have progressed toward justice devolution, citing the different areas of focus for combined working across agencies and authorities.



The Welsh Government has also confirmed its commitment to devolving justice by issuing a statement advising that it has 'commissioned an independent team to work with key stakeholders to understand the benefits, opportunities, challenges and risks of a devolved policing model for Wales; with a view to identifying a *'long-term vision for a devolved policing service in Wales'*

To read the Crest report [click here](#)

To read the statement from the Welsh Government [click here](#)

New Additions to the Illegal Substances List

The Home Office has announced that, following advice from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, 15 new dangerous synthetic opioids will become Class A drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The announcement states that although there is no current evidence to show these substances are prevalent in the UK, there have been some deaths linked to the drugs. The government is therefore *'taking decisive action to safeguard communities.'*

For more information [click here](#)

New Funding to Improve Substance Misuse Services

Local authorities across England will benefit from almost £267 million of government funding next year to improve drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services.

The funding, to be rolled out in April 2024, will enable local authorities to:

- Recruit more specialised staff;
- Support more prison leavers into treatment and recovery services; and
- *'Help reduce crime by increasing the number of people receiving structured drug and alcohol treatment, as well as improving the quality of treatment provided.'*

To find out more [click here](#)



New Bills in Parliament

The government has introduced the Sentencing Bill into parliament for its first reading in the House of Lords, which contains measures in relation to:

- Whole Life Orders (WLOs);
- Serious Sexual Offences Sentencing and Release Arrangements;
- A presumption to suspend custodial sentences of 12 months or less; and
- Extending Home Detention Curfew (HDC) eligibility.

The changes will be introduced primarily by amending the Sentencing Code, which is contained in Parts 2 to 13 of the Sentencing Act 2020, and the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

On the same day (14th November) the government introduced the Criminal Justice Bill into parliament. This bill contains measures that aim to:

- Protect the public by giving the police and others the powers required to cut crime and anti-social behaviour;
 - Introduce tougher sentencing for sexual and violent criminals and strengthening the supervision of offenders following their release from prison; and
 - Improve public confidence in policing by ensuring that police officers adhere to the highest standards of integrity and professionalism.
-

Gender-sensitive Support for Females in the Criminal Justice System

Agenda Alliance and the Alliance for Youth Justice have published a briefing '**A CALL TO ACTION: Developing gender-sensitive support for criminalised young women**' in which the authors argue:

'By the time a young woman encounters the criminal justice system, she has often been failed by numerous public services, finding herself caught up in a damaging cycle of abuse, inequality, and offending. Even though many of these young women are grappling with trauma, too often they are crudely labelled as perpetrators and criminalised.'

The briefing, part of the **Young Women's Justice Project**, run in partnership by Agenda Alliance and the Alliance for Youth Justice and funded by Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales, extends the evidence achieved in the project through '*stakeholder discussion with women's centres, youth/justice practitioners, specialist "by-and-for" services,² and young women with lived experience of the justice system, further complemented by additional desk-based research and examples of good practice.*'

The briefing outlines specific steps to develop age and gender-responsive support for young women.

To read the briefing [click here](#)



Healthcare Specification for Secure Estate

NHS England has published the latest '**Health and justice service specifications for children and young people in secure settings**' following a refresh of this and the companion '*Healthcare Standard for Children and Young People in Secure Settings*'.



This suite of specifications includes the overarching, physical health, mental health and neurodevelopmental conditions, substance misuse, and dental and oral health specifications, and aims to ensure all children in secure settings receive excellent care that is responsive to their needs. The healthcare specifications are intended for use by commissioners in procuring healthcare services that meet these standards.

To read the documents [click here](#)

Dates for Your Diary

**For Your
Diary!**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR AYM 2023-24



Title	Date	Venue
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	19 th June, 2024	MS Teams
AYM Summer Conference	20 th June, 2024	To be confirmed
Annual General Meeting	20 th June, 2024	To be confirmed
Executive Board meeting	18 th 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



**Merry
Christmas**



Safeguarding Children in the Digital Age

Children and Young People Now are holding the 7th Safeguarding in the Digital Age conference. This online conference takes place on the afternoons of:

Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th January, 2024

Delegates will hear from speakers on insights and 'top tips' to implement in practice to help safeguard children and to build 'digital resilience'. The sessions are CPD accredited.

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



AYM Aspiring Future Leaders Course

Commencing in February 2024

This course is specifically designed for those in youth justice considering applying for more senior roles.

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





Want to stay up to date with YJ issues?

Then follow the AYM on Twitter.....

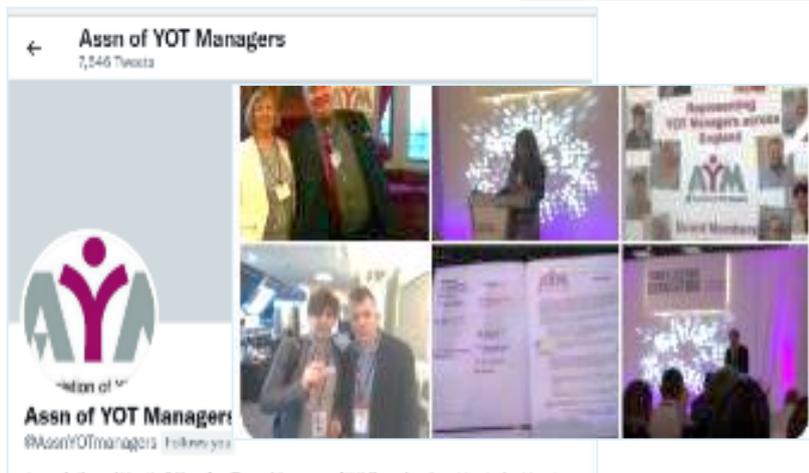
We have more than 3,000 followers who receive frequent updates on issues relating to youth justice and YOT Managers.

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**



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>				
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East Midlands	Carly Turner <i>Leicestershire YJS</i>		West Midlands	Celia Payne <i>Wolverhampton YOS</i>	
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