



# Bulletin March 2024



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## News from the Executive Board

### ***Working with External Stakeholders***

This month Tom Dooks, portfolio lead for prevention and diversion, represented the AYM in a meeting with the Home Office **Anti-Social Behaviour** (ASB) policy team. The Criminal Justice Bill currently making its way through Parliament sets out a number of new and amended powers to tackle anti-social behaviour. One amendment is the minimum age a community protection notice (CPN) can be imposed will be lowered from 16 years to 10 years old, in line with the age of criminal responsibility and other measures such as civil injunctions. The AYM has provided assistance to the ASB policy team for new statutory guidance to avoid CPNs being used inappropriately with children whose behaviour might be symptomatic of wider need or neglect. There is a raft of civil measures already available and the AYM has advised a general 'duty to consult' with youth justice services prior to issuing a CPN.

There is a further Teams workshop with the Home Office ASB policy team scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> March 2-3pm. If any AYM members are interested in joining to provide a sector wide perspective please contact the ASB policy team directly at [asbteam@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:asbteam@homeoffice.gov.uk)

For more information on CPNs info here [click here](#)

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Nick Jeffreys, joint portfolio lead for custody attended a joint stakeholder event on post-release accommodation which had good engagement from invited areas and received a general update from the Custody Service about the placement of over 18-year-olds in the youth custody estate, Secure Stairs, the secure school and the London Consortium.

Those from the community provided updates notably about accommodation, the general trend of increasing numbers of girls in the youth justice system, and the challenges regarding courts acceptance of bail programmes

The interface between custody and the community was discussed with a view to looking forward and improving access to children in custody and meetings such as critical case panels, with a call from the community to have a voice in the youth custody service.

A further meeting is expected to be convened in late spring in order to develop understanding and encourage continuing dialogue.

In the meantime, Michael O'Connor, also joint portfolio lead for custody, has been working with the Youth Custody Service Resettlement Team, to consider the development of joint training for secure estate and youth justice service staff in each region in order to develop child first/identity focused interventions for resettlement.

## ***Call for Evidence on SEND, Neurodivergence and Youth Justice***

The Sieff Foundation Working Group on SEND, Neurodivergence and Youth Justice launched a call for evidence from professionals working in youth justice to answer the following questions:

- What is the current thinking on the treatment of SEND and neurodivergent children in the youth justice system (YJS)?
- How best to achieve the current mandate of 'Children First' from the UN Convention of the Rights of Children (UNCRC) for children under 18 years of age with SEND and neurodivergence in the YJS?
- Whether there might be ways of dealing with cases currently in the YJS involving the SEND and neurodivergent cohort more appropriately and cost effectively outside of the YJS?
- How viable would it be for this cohort of children to be dealt with through the SEND tribunal system?
- What might be the advantages and disadvantages in using the tribunal system for cases involving under 18 year olds with SEND or neurodivergence?, and
- How can the work of relevant government departments, public bodies, multi-agency teams, courts and tribunals best be coordinated to deal with cases in the justice system involving children with SEND and neurodivergence?

As portfolio lead for Speech, Language and Neurodiversity, Diz Minnit will be giving evidence on behalf of the AYM. If you have anything you wish to add to the response, please email [phil.sutton@aym.org.uk](mailto:phil.sutton@aym.org.uk)

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The Executive has been approached by the Ministry of Justice Youth Justice Policy Unit for YOT Manager's views on **the role of children's social care in support of children's resettlement**. They are particularly interested to hear if children sentenced to custody are given children in need status as a general rule, if so does that support more effective resettlement provision. They would also like to know if those with looked after status receive services more effectively. If you have any thoughts on any of the above issues you would like included in the AYM feedback, please contact [lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk](mailto:lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk)

The Executive is also responding to the consultation on the **draft Youth Custody Service Placement Guidance**.

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Our Vice Chair Charlie Spencer will be attending the '**Future of Youth Justice Roundtable**', hosted by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, this month. The event is linked to the 25th anniversary of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and the YJB state it believes that this is an appropriate time to consider the future of youth justice and the roles of those involved in the system. The roundtable will explore and discuss a range of critical questions about what is currently working well in youth justice and areas that might be considered for reform. The intention is that the outputs from the roundtable will help inform the YJB position.

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Celia Payne, portfolio lead for prevention, is working with the Ministry of Justice to help them develop ways to embed lived experience into policy making in the Youth Justice Policy Unit.

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## **Changes to the First Time Entrant Measurement**

In August 2023, the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales advised it had developed its own measure for first time entrants (FTE), which uses youth justice service case level data instead of the Police National Computer (PNC) data used by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). There are several advantages to this change which include being able to reconcile the data and the ability to further breakdown the information, for example the demographics of children, the type of outcome they received and when they became first time entrants. However, there are differences between the MoJ and YJB's methodology which may have impacted on the FTE rate in your area. Some areas have seen an increase, whereas other areas have seen a decrease.

- The YJB is counting any offence that leads to a child's first caution or court sentence, whereas the MoJ excluded a range of summary offences and summary motoring offences.
- The YJB is counting FTEs by youth justice service based on the service that returned the data and the residence on legal outcome date not equalling 'Other', whereas the MoJ mapped figures to local authorities, using home address of the child, or postcode. Where no home address information was recorded, the MoJ based this on the postcode where the offence was committed and where neither of these were recorded, an allocation model was used based on patterns of where FTEs had been dealt with by police stations.
- The YJB has calculated age based on the age at arrest or offence for youth cautions and age at first hearing for court sentences. The way the MoJ calculate age is not made explicit in their recording guidance, however it is likely to be based on the child's age on the outcome date.

Concerns have already been raised with the AYM about these changes because of the impact this may have on FTE figures and the integrity of the data when children are being counted as an FTE when they previously have not.

We are interested to hear what impact this has had on your figures, in order to gauge if this is an issue that the AYM needs to raise on behalf of the sector.



If you have any thoughts or considerations, you would like us to know about, please email:

[Sarah.Goddard@bradfordcft.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.Goddard@bradfordcft.org.uk)

## Youth Justice Sector Led Improvement Partnership (YJSIP)

The Youth Justice Sector Led Improvement Partnership (YJSIP) a tripartite partnership between the AYM, the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales and senior youth justice leaders has been providing sector led improvement for many years.



However, all Youth justice Heads of Service and Management Board Chairs will have received a letter from the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) Chief Executive Officer, Steph Roberts-Bibby, regarding the YJSIP and the YJB's intention to wind down the current grant arrangements and cease all funding from March 2025. The YJB currently fund the YJSIP programme through a grant of 120k per annum, and as AYM members will be aware, there is also a very significant in-kind resource contribution from youth justice services across England & Wales.

Discussions have taken place with the YJSIP Programme Board, which includes representatives from the youth justice regions, and we are committed to continuing to provide a partnership approach to youth justice sector improvement and we are currently looking at various options, including discussions with existing partners, to seek a way forward.

**If you have any comments, please feel free to contact your local AYM regional representative** who will ensure that we are able to collate as many thoughts and suggestions as possible to ensure that sector improvement continues to thrive.

YJSIP has no dates set for activity for the next financial year. To express interest in any aspect of what we do, please email [YJSIPadmin@aym.org.uk](mailto:YJSIPadmin@aym.org.uk) and we will add you to our waiting list.

### ***Coaching and mentoring***

We welcomed 16 enthusiastic and skilled sector leaders from across England and Wales in February, who undertook the rather intense YJSIP coaching and mentoring course. With none of them running for the hills, all are now matched and starting their YJSIP coaching. We are very much looking forward to supporting their coaching development and hearing how the space they provide supports the development of those they coach.

For those amongst our current coaches/mentors wanting to access up-coming CPD and coaching supervision please do get in touch with us.

Elevate cohort two is due to come to an end in a few weeks. It has been great to be a part of the programme again and support the mentoring and action learning set facilitation. We are looking forward to the YJB's independent evaluation of the course so we can collectively build on this seemingly impactful and certainly important programme.

## **Frontline leaders**

We are halfway through the revamped Frontline Leaders course, post independent evaluation and refreshed content. We had a brilliant turn out for the first day for both groups with excellent participation. As with the coaching course, feedback so far highlights the extent to which people value having time to reflect with peers. The opportunity to take a step away from the day-to-day pressures, and sometimes just to hear that you are not alone in some of the challenges. Also, people having the opportunity to articulate what keeps them motivated and drives them in what is a pretty tricky landscape for most right now.

We have a strong group of sector leader facilitators now, all of whom are previous participants and current sector leaders. With CPD accreditation in progress, it feels an exciting time for this element of the YJSIP offer.

We would like to express massive thanks to Jamie Warr, our board representative/frontline leader, our facilitators and our business support, Tor Coupe, for the incredible effort to get the course off the ground.

## **Peer review**

We are three peer reviews down with two to go this financial year. It has been another year of unexpected hurdles for the teams, but our peer reviewers reflect strongly on how they value the process, as exhausting as it is.

Receiving services have all been proactive in implementing findings in practice and we have been ensuring that we continue to evolve the offer; learning from each review how we can strengthen what we do to get the best out of it for everyone involved.

If you have not seen our LinkedIn posts (if not, get over there and give us a follow), we are very focussed on our golden threads (the voice of the child, and anti-discriminatory practice, diversity and reducing disproportionality in all elements of our work/reviews). Our **Power the Fight** and **Peer Power training** events for reviewers this year provided a space to continue considering these hugely important elements of what we deliver.

## **Board membership**

We welcomed new board members this year; Carly Turner, our East Midlands representative, Matthew Knights, who will be supporting our coaching and mentoring sub-group, Fiona Walk, our South West representative and Oli King, our Mid Wales representative.

We would like to say a huge thanks to our board members, partners and those who deliver our work. We really value your individual and collective expertise. We are obviously only one part of a much bigger puzzle, but it's a puzzle piece that is always delivered with skill, respect, commitment, and a sense of shared purpose. Thank you to Terry Gibson, the AYM treasurer, who has to deal with the endless receipts and changes of bank account, and our three chairs, Angie Fuller, Tania Reidel (YJSIP co-chairs) and Jacqui Belfield-Smith (standing in for Hazel Williamson as the AYM representative) for continuing to champion sector improvement and generally being incredible advocates for all things youth justice and all things child focussed.

To follow us on LinkedIn for updates about what we are up to [click here](#)

## Youth Justice SEND Quality Award

### **Congratulations to Bexley Area Partnership**

Congratulations to Bexley Area Partnership for attaining the Youth Justice SEND Quality Mark Status.

The assessors said of Bexley that the team have worked to identify the many areas of strength, as well as areas for further development

The service is committed to being child centred, demonstrating this throughout all work in the service.

The assessors acknowledged the significant progress they have made in formalising relationships between the Youth Justice Team and the SEND team where they have built on the existing informal working relationships, including *'the construction of an effective and comprehensive protocol of joint action in order to support better outcomes for young people with SEN in youth justice pathways'*.

The team also has an effective and comprehensive professional development programmed for front-line staff.

The service was also able to demonstrate effective multiagency work to identify children at risk of entering youth justice pathways through panels such as early intervention, Horizons, inclusion meetings, which is evidenced by lower-than-average first-time offending rates.

The assessors noted the significant contributions made by the co-located professionals (SaLT, Ed Psych etc.).

Effective practice is evident within the service, through engagement at the management board level which is triggering new thinking and new ways of working across other children's services and the assessor not the communication passport as *'a case in point'*.

Bexley is well-placed to build on these solid foundations and push forwards towards Quality Lead status in due course.

***Well done Bexley!***



## Cookham Wood YOI

### **Independent Monitoring Board Annual Report**



Independent Monitoring Boards are responsible for monitoring all prisons in England and Wales and consist of members, appointed by the Secretary of State, from the community in which a prison is located. Each board is required to:

- *'satisfy itself as to the humane and just treatment of those held in custody within its prison and the range and adequacy of the programmes preparing them for release,*
- *inform promptly the Secretary of State, or any official to whom authority has been delegated as it judges appropriate, any concern it has,*
- *report annually to the Secretary of State on how well the prison has met the standards and requirements placed on it and what impact these have on those in its custody.'*

The annual report of the IMB monitoring HM Young Offender Institution Cookham Wood shows that progress against recommendations from the previous report have mostly not been achieved.

Despite the occupancy rates being lower than its 120 capacity for most of the year (September 2022-August 2023), boys were regularly spending less than 2 hours out of their cells each day which the IMB considered 'inhumane'. The IMB reported high numbers of separations which placed additional strains on the 'inadequate' number of prison officers.

The IMB report that:

*'Inconsistency and last-minute changes to the regime meant the boys lacked clarity about what to expect daily. The IMB witnessed the negative impact this had on boys' mental health and anxiety, and their sense of loneliness, because of the limited opportunities to build trusting relationships.'*

Health and wellbeing provision, including education, was available for the boys but often disrupted due to session cancellations or the need for separation.

The IMB recognised the positive work of the resettlement team in supporting release on temporary licence, smooth transitions for boys moving to adult open prisons, and open days for youth justice staff to build relationships. However, they reported the high number of boys remanded for long periods due to court delays and for those aged 18-years placed in Cookham to relieve the stresses on the adult estate, and for foreign national boys awaiting advice and support from the Home Office Immigration Service.

The report makes a number of recommendations to the Justice Minister, local authorities, the Youth Custody Service and the governor of Cookham Wood.

To read the report [click here](#)



## 'Childhood Matters'



### **Update on ADCS 2017 Policy Paper**

**'Childhood Matters'** an update to the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) 2017 policy position paper, **'A country that works for all children'**, seeks to capture the issues and challenges facing children, young people and families, such as poverty and poor mental health, as well as the public services they rely on.

The ADCS report that of the seven recommendations made in the 2017 paper, all remain unmet, and the need for action on addressing child poverty and the crisis in workforce and funding is greater than it was before.

The authors argue that children's needs, their rights and outcomes have not been prioritised and whilst increasing numbers of children and their families require support, funding for such services has not been matched to this need.

The paper has been developed in consultation with leaders of local authority children's services across the country, who expressed a shared concern about the lack of prominence and prioritisation of children within government policy and spending priorities, and the complexity of accountability arrangements across multiple government departments and agencies, each with responsibility for different aspects of child and family policy.

The authors also argue that:

*'a number of different reviews commissioned by government, plus recent green and white papers, have correctly diagnosed some of the systemic challenges faced by children, and children's services, and have put forward sensible solutions, but the resulting recommendations are often only partially implemented, if at all.'*

The paper reiterates previous calls for a comprehensive vision and plan for childhood accompanied by a long term, sustainable funding settlement.

The paper identifies for the current and incoming government what the ADCS considers to be the most pressing priorities for each of the key nine government departments and agencies who have a role in child and family policy.

To read the paper [click here](#)

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## Supporting Young People in Transition

### **First Project Report Published**



The Alliance for Youth Justice has published the first in a series of reports that will be published as part of a three-year project, '**Young People in Transition in the Youth Justice System Project**', which is supported by Barrow Cadbury Trust. The project is examining the experiences of young people turning 18 years of age while in contact with the justice system and the ways in which this transition can be improved.

This first report '**Bridging gaps and changing tracks: Supporting racially minoritised young people in the transition to adulthood in the criminal justice system**', calls for reforms to ensure that as racially minoritised young people in the criminal justice system turn 18 years, the voluntary and community sector is there to support them - bridging gaps in statutory services and helping to guide young people to brighter futures.

The report raises concerns for racially minoritised young people in transition. It identifies the destabilising impact of the cliff edge transition to adult services and how these are compounded by deficits in support before and after turning 18 years. The report makes a number of recommendations to policymakers setting out the concerted effort that is needed to ensure specialist, age-appropriate, culturally relevant, and strengths-based support is available to the young people.

The report was formally launched at the beginning of February with young people and professionals who have supported them through this period of change, sharing their experiences and highlighting the issues they have faced. The event was chaired by Leeroy Logan, Chair of T2A, which supports research and practice to identify effective approaches for young adults throughout the criminal justice system.

A wide variety of professionals attended this event; many were AYM members. It also received presentations from professionals, such as HMI Probation, MOPAC, the Ministry of Justice, HMPPS, and the AYM Vice Chair, Charlie Spencer, who talked of the work of youth justice services in supporting young people transitioning to adulthood. Charlie commented on the need to translate evidence into good practice and the sharing of best practice, but he also spoke of the need to address those events that effect a young person's earlier life to help reduce the impact of these on their later life, such as school exclusions, and incidents, events and experiences that cause trauma.

To read the report [click here](#)

To find out more about the Young People in Transition in the Youth Justice System Project [click here](#)

# Frontline Leadership in Probation and Youth Justice

## **Research and Analysis Bulletin**



A recent bulletin published by HMI Probation considers the importance of frontline leadership in youth justice services and probation in helping the services achieve effective practice that in turns support the aims of reducing reoffending and protecting the public.

The findings are based upon the analysis of finding from multiple sources, including inspections of youth justice and probation services and the associated commentaries by inspectors in relation to individual cases. The researchers also analysed reports by HM Prison and Probation Services, the Youth Justice Board, and Ministry of Justice, as well as the feedback from a survey of senior probation officers (SPO) which was undertaken for the thematic inspection of the SPO role and management oversight. The report also draws upon a realist review of the subject commissioned from the Policy Evaluation and Research Unit at Manchester Metropolitan University.

The authors identify key elements that support effective management oversight:

- Supervision was much more likely to be deemed effective when the management oversight had also been found to be effective and appropriate;
- Across probation inspections, only 28 per cent of cases were deemed to have received sufficient management oversight. Youth justice inspections show that 59% of court disposal cases received sufficient management oversight, and 63% of out-of-court disposals. The authors note that youth justice services *'appear to benefit from more manageable caseload sizes and a stronger local focus with better integration and connections across helping services'*;
- The research literature and the probation SPO survey identified several underpinning foundations for effective management oversight including:
  - ❖ sufficient induction and ongoing training;
  - ❖ appropriate administrative and business support;
  - ❖ regular and meaningful supervision with team members;
  - ❖ a responsive management style.
- Providing sufficient time for reflective practice supervision. They state that SPOs were concerned that bureaucratic demands undermined their ability to find the time for such supervision with team members. However, the authors argue that the issue of role conflict, role ambiguity and role creep are common for middle managers in many other sectors.

The authors provide potential approaches for improving frontline leadership such as improved induction and training, improved administrative support and staff deployment. They also propose committing to reflective practice as a key component of a learning culture and adopting the role of 'connecting leaders' – middle managers that bridge the gap between senior leadership decisions and operational staff realities.

To read the bulletin [click here](#)

# Co-Creation and Participation in Youth Justice Services

## Resources Available to Assist

Peer Power, an 'empathy-led social justice charity' that works to support young people to help heal trauma and adversity in order to influence and inspire action, has published a resource pack to support professionals wishing to encourage and increase the participation of young people they work with, in order to improve the services delivered to them.



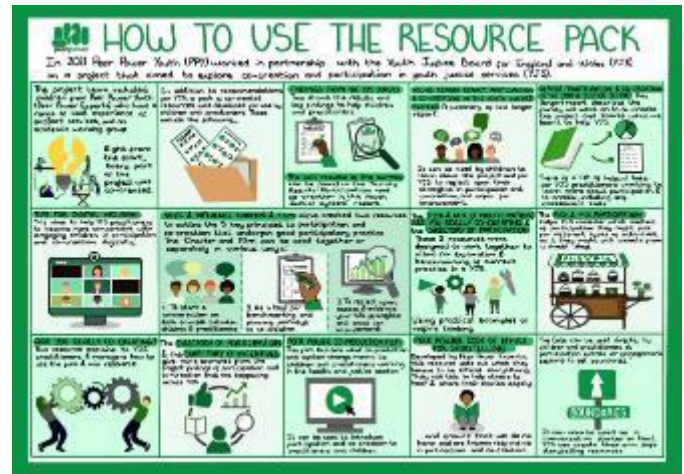
In 2021 the Youth Justice Board commissioned Peer Power to explore how well youth justice services listen and respond to the views of children and young people. Using its model of co-production, Peer Power explored opportunities and challenges of participation and co-production in a youth justice context, resulting in the creation of a suite of resources to support services in their aim to be more participative in their work with young people.

Peer Power has also included a set of recommendations ranging from 'Quick Wins' to 'Big Change' in its report on the project.

The resultant resources were developed from the learning acquired during its research which included work with children, practitioners and managers from youth justice services to understand what they needed to support the development of participation and co-creation in their services. Good practice examples were also captured.

The resources include ideas about:

- Incentives and rewards for involvement;
- Examples of different types of participation and co-creation evidenced throughout the youth justice system; and
- How to connect with young people through digital engagement.



Peer Power and their Peer Power Experts with a range of lived experience have co-produced the **Voice and Influence Charter** was created from our overall recommendations from the project and is the most crucial resource to help embed participation and co-creation in services. It can be used independently or together with practitioners and children to discuss each area in more detail, giving them the tools to benchmark the current work of the YJS.

To find out more about the Voice and Influence Charter [click here](#)

To view the Peer Power suite of participation resources [click here](#)

To find out about Peer Power's training offer for participation and co-creation [click here](#)

## The Centre for Young Lives

### **A New Think Tank and Innovation Unit**

The Centre for Young Lives has been launched by Executive Chair and founder, Anne Longfield, former Children's Commissioner for England and Chair of the Commission on Young Lives.

The Centre is described as **'a new, dynamic, innovative, independent think tank and delivery unit dedicated exclusively to improving the lives of children, young people, and families in the UK'**.



Anne said of the centre that:

*'the experienced team will provide informed and expert insight, produce quantitative and qualitative research and analysis, and campaign for and deliver change.*

*Our ambition is for the Centre become a leading, evidence-led, trusted public voice on issues affecting children and young people in the UK, just as the Institute of Fiscal Studies or Resolution Foundation are on economic issues.*

*Crucially, we will be solutions focused.*

The centre intends to highlight the challenges facing children now and in the future, and campaign and deliver change. Programmes include:

- *'Making Britain a country that works for all children'* - a partnership with the N8 Research Partnership and wider academic community (the N8+) as part of the Child of the North initiative. The first report in a series of twelve to be published this year focuses on *'the crisis in assessment and support for autistic children'*. To read this report [click here](#)
- *'Supporting children and young people to grow up well'*– programmes of research and innovation in children's mental health and wellbeing
- *'Supporting all children to learn and thrive in education'*– programmes to develop and support an inclusive approach to education to prevent children falling through the gaps of exclusion, off rolling and unnecessary school moves
- *'The importance of play'*– a new Play Commission led by Paul Lindley, entrepreneur and author of Raising the Nation
- *'Supporting young people to succeed, preventing youth violence and crime, and reforming youth justice'* – a programme to reform the youth justice system led by visiting fellow, Professor Hannah Smithson
- *'Development of an interactive measurement of childhood vulnerability'* using publicly available data to shine a light on the extent and impact of child vulnerability in the UK.

The centre is intending to expand its work and is looking for more partnerships, further funding, and for people who want to deliver change for children and young people.

For more information about the Centre for Young Lives [click here](#)



## Other News

### Metropolitan Police Cease Use of Gangs Matrix

The Metropolitan Police ceased the use of the Gangs Matrix on February 13<sup>th</sup>, instead using the Violence Harm Assessment (VHA) to identify and tackle the most harmful and violent individuals who are involved in violence in London.



The Metropolitan Police advise that the move follows a review of the Gangs Matrix including feedback from the local communities. The matrix has been the subject of much scrutiny and criticised for increasing disproportionality. Amnesty international raised concerns about its use and in November 2018 an enforcement notice was served on the Metropolitan Police Service by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) following its review of the matrix,.

For more information [click here](#)

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### Young Advocates Showcase Their Achievements



On 28<sup>th</sup> February the Young Advocates welcomed delegates from numerous organisations to the final showcase of their work undertaken as part of the Young Advocates Project, a partnership between the Alliance for Youth Justice and Leaders Unlocked and funded by Children in Need.

The event provided the Young Advocates with the opportunity to share the findings from their peer research and to celebrate their achievements.

External speakers at the event included the Shadow Youth Justice Minister Janet Daby MP, and the Chair of the Youth Justice Board, Keith Fraser, both of whom reflected on why the work undertaken is so important.

The event included breakout sessions to enable delegates to ask questions and give feedback on the findings from the project and its recommendations for improvement.

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## New Chief Executive Announced by the Alliance for Youth Justice



The Alliance for Youth Justice (AYJ) has announced that Jess Mullen will take up the role of Chief Executive in May, following the departure of Pippa Goodfellow, its first CEO.



Jess (picture right) brings twenty years' experience from working in the voluntary sector to challenge systemic injustice, by supporting and empowering people who are marginalised or discriminated against to make their voices heard and to advocate for their needs. She is currently Chief Executive at Collective Voice, the national alliance of drug and alcohol treatment and recovery charities, and was previously Director of Influence and Communications at Clinks, the national charity for voluntary sector organisations working in criminal justice.

At Clinks, Jess led influencing activity to promote the role of the voluntary sector in criminal justice, to tackle racism and discrimination in the justice system, and to highlight the impact of probation reforms on the voluntary sector. She is also a trustee of Hackney Council for Voluntary Services.

Of her appointment, Jess said:

*"I have watched the Alliance for Youth Justice grow from strength to strength, broadening its membership, influence and impact under Pippa's leadership. AYJ's non-negotiable stance on putting children first and tackling racism and discrimination, are principles very close to my heart. I am thrilled to be joining the AYJ to build further upon this legacy. I look forward to working alongside AYJ's impressive and diverse network of members and Young Advocates to ensure that the youth justice system is underpinned by social justice, children's rights and focuses on positive long-term outcomes."*

**As a member of the AYJ, the AYM would like to congratulate Jess on her new role; we look forward to working with her.**

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## Lord Falconer Announced as Patron of the Centre for Justice Innovation

The Centre for Justice Innovation, an organisation that promotes evidence-based, innovative justice policy reforms, has announced the appointment of Lord Falconer, as its inaugural honorary patron, as well as four new members of its board of trustees - Adjoa Abekah-Mensah, Sal Naseem, Kevin Sadler, and Jason Watt.



Lord Falconer, an English qualified King's Counsel has served in many ministerial roles such as Solicitor General, Lord Chancellor, and was the first ever Secretary of State for Justice when the position was created in 2007.

For more information about the Centre of Justice Innovation [click here](#)

## Crime Resolution Tracker



Transform Justice has published its '**Crime Resolution Tracker**' which enables a comparison on how effective different police forces are at resolving crime without charging offenders to court.

The tool has been created from published Home Office data for recorded crimes and outcomes and the ranking focuses only on 'positive outcomes' - charge, out of court resolutions, deferred prosecution and diversion to services (outcome 22). It excludes cases where no further action is taken, for example because of lack of evidence or because further action is not in the public interest.

The data on adults and children was obtained by Freedom of Information requests sent to all forces and is for 2023 only.

To view the tracker [click here](#)

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## Joint Enterprise (Significant Contribution) Bill



A private member's bill brought by Kim Johnson Labour MP for Liverpool, Riverside is seeking to change the law on joint enterprise by amending the Accessories and Abettors Act 1861 '*to provide that only a person who directly commits, or who makes a significant contribution to the commission of, an offence may be held criminally liable*'.

The bill initially heard in January, received its second reading in the House of Commons on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February and following a lengthy debate, the Whip agreed to adjourn the debate to be heard on 21<sup>st</sup> June.

The bill has cross bench support but the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for State for Justice, Gareth Bacon MP advised that '*the Government are unable to support the Bill in its current form*'.

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

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## Early Help Hubs Receive Additional Funding



The government which announced in October 2023 that £4.92 million would be available for 10 early support hubs, has now announced that it is providing an additional £3 million to expand the number of hubs to 24 across the country - ranging from Exeter to Liverpool.

The £8 million overall package will improve access for children and young people to vital mental health support, offering early interventions to improve wellbeing before their condition escalates further, which will also reduce pressure on NHS services.

For more information [click here](#)

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## Dates for Your Diary

**For Your  
Diary!**

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR AYM 2024



<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Executive Board meeting	5 <sup>th</sup> March, 2024	MS Teams
Executive Board meeting	19 <sup>th</sup> June, 2024	MS Teams
AYM Summer Conference	20 <sup>th</sup> June, 2024	To be confirmed
Annual General Meeting	20 <sup>th</sup> June, 2024	To be confirmed
Executive Board meeting	18 <sup>th</sup> September, 2024	MS Teams
Executive Board meeting	11 <sup>th</sup> December, 2024	MS Teams
<p><b><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></b></p> <p><i>To keep up to date with this calendar between Bulletins, please look at our website <a href="http://aym.org.uk">aym.org.uk</a></i></p>		

## Expert Voices: What is a good community sentence?

The Centre for Justice Innovation's 'Expert Voices' series, where academics and practitioners discuss the key issues affecting the justice system, is holding an online event which will draw on recent and ongoing research to explore what the elements of a good community sentence are.



The event, which will be held on Teams, takes place on:

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**

**2:30 - 13:30**

For more information and to join the webinar [click here](#)

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## Evaluation, Evidence & Impact Conference

Children and Young People Now is holding its annual 'Evaluation, Evidence and Impact Conference' on:

**Wednesday 20th March, 2024**

at

**The Hallam Conference Centre, London.**

Join the conference to hear from some of the country's leading experts in research and evaluation, who will be sharing the latest methods, key challenges and practical tips to help you demonstrate your impact in improving outcomes for children, young people and families.

The conference will cover key topics including strategies to build organisational capacity for evaluation, becoming an evidence-based charity, evaluating access to mental health services.

The conference is designed to all professionals with an interest in service evaluation

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

**Children & Young People Now**  
For everyone working with children, young people and families



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

Then follow the AYM on Twitter.....

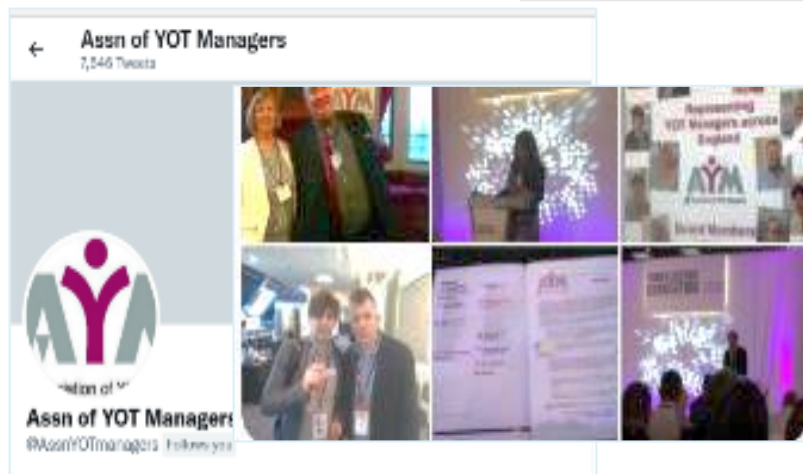
**We have more than 3,000 followers** who receive frequent updates on issues relating to youth justice and YOT Managers.

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>Michelle Edwards</b>		<b>Yorkshire &amp; Humberside</b>	<b>Sarah Goddard</b> <i>Bradford YJS</i>	
<i>michelle.edwards@newham.gov.uk</i>			<i>sarah.goddard@bradford.gov.uk</i>		