



Bulletin September 2024



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News from the Executive Board

Introducing the AYM to the New Government

Following our introductory letter to the ministers in the new government, we are pleased to say that we have already heard back from Janet Daby, Minister for Children and Families in the Department for Education.

In our letter to the ministers, we shared our 'Where We Stand' statements to clarify our approach to supporting young people in the justice system and highlighted, what we believe to be the most critical issues that we would like the new government to focus on over the next four years:

- Diversity and Disproportionality;
- Prevention of offending;
- Diversion from the criminal justice system;
- Children in police custody;
- Child-centred youth justice;
- Participation and the voice of the child;
- Governance of the youth justice system;
- Reducing the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

We also highlighted the issues of immediate concern to the AYM and its members:

- The impact of short-term funding arrangements for youth justice services;
- The need for greater focus on supporting children with SEND and neurodiversity;
- Serious youth violence reduction;
- Criminal exploitation, modern day slavery and the National Referral Mechanism;
- The current offer to victims of youth crime,
- Transition arrangements for children in the criminal justice system post-18.yrs; and
- Safeguarding in the secure estate for children.

In her response, Janet states she 'very much appreciates the work of the AYM' and she is keen for the Department of Education to deliver on Labour's manifesto and beyond, stating:

Everyone deserves the best start in life. To achieve this, we must break down the barriers to opportunity, as well as ensuring high and rising standards in education, which in my particular case includes children's social care, so that each child and young person knows that happiness and success can belong to them. Opportunity must be for all – and not just for the privileged few. The ministerial team has already begun work with departmental officials to deliver on our mandate. We will deliver better life chances for all. We have already begun the process of resetting the way the department works in partnership with our workforces – including our excellent children's social care workforce – to ensure there are no limits on the ambitions of the next generation.'

To read the full letter from the AYM which was sent to all relevant ministers and Janet Daby's response [click here](#)

Working with External Stakeholders

The Executive Board has provided a response to the consultation from the Youth Custody Service (YCS) on the **draft 'Temporary Release in the Children & Young People Secure Estate Policy Framework'**.

Our AYM portfolio leads for custody and resettlement were involved in the planning and meeting processes that preceded the draft guidance being released, and as such we feel this guidance offers a much more collaborative approach than previously experienced. However, we advised in our response that whilst there is a balance between the child's resettlement needs and wellbeing on the one hand, and the management of risks presented by children when released into the community on the other, a challenge remains with the decision in presumption of release on temporary licence (ROTL) remaining with the relevant Governor (or equivalent) and that the process for dispute and escalation is still to be addressed and incorporated within the guidance.

Nevertheless, we welcomed the framework, it appears to appropriately balance 'Child First' principles, but as this is not explicitly named as such within the guidance and we argue this should be revisited to make it more explicit.

We also call for greater emphasis on the views and rights of victims with reference to the new Victim and Prisoners Act 2024. We advise that the emphasis on victims via the Victim Contact Scheme, will not include all victims, and greater emphasis regarding integration with community victim services via Youth Justice Services or contracted arrangements needs to be specified.

The presumption in favour of ROTL is good, as are the references to constructive resettlement, racial disparity and children with speech, language communication difficulties, and special educational needs. However, we argue that the presumptions in the guidance need to also include children with other neurodiverse needs, girls, and those who identify as non-binary or as different to their birth gender.

The AYM called for examples of innovative practice in the delivery of activities the YCS can adopt to support a child's personal development in temporary release from the secure estate. We also asked that the framework explores the challenges presented when a child is placed far from their home area, advising that the guidance needs to allow for children who are in transition, or those who are moving to another home area upon release.

We also argue that the framework should consider the role for ROTL for children who have attained the age of 18 years, and the opportunity for Youth Justice Services to support those children alongside Probation/Care Leaver services where appropriate.

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

The Executive Board has also received a letter from **Ed Cornmell, Executive Director of the Youth Custody Service (YCS)** in which he outlines the approach YCS will be taking to ensure there are sufficient and appropriate placements in Secure Children Homes and the Secure Training Centre for the younger and most vulnerable children in the estate. He also advised that Ofsted confirmed their registration of Oasis Restore, which has led to the first children being placed in the secure school. He also updated us on the fact that the use of PAVA on children is being considered by the new ministers and that YCS is seeking approval for its Children and Young People Strategy.



The AYM Autumn Conference for Policy Makers and Strategic Leaders in Youth Justice

This year's autumn conference takes place on:

Wednesday 16th October, 2024
at
The International Convention Centre (ICC)
8 Centenary Square, Birmingham
B1 2EA

This year's event, kindly sponsored by the Youth Endowment Fund will focus on:

'What's next for Youth Justice?'

It will offer a first opportunity for policy makers and strategic leaders of local youth justice services to work together on delivering the ideas presented by the new Government:

- How will the Children's Wellbeing Bill improve access to education for the most disadvantaged children?
- How will Young Futures Prevention Partnerships support and develop existing local partnership work and knife-crime initiatives?
- What has been the impact of Child-Centred Policing on day-to-day policing?
- What can we learn from research into the diversion of children from the CJS?
- How is the Inspection Framework for Youth Justice Services adapting to changes in the youth justice system?

We will also have presentations of the AYM awards to our colleagues in the youth justice partnerships who have excelled in their practice.

This event is free to our members. Lunch and refreshment are provided. Places are on a first come basis to register for a place, please [click here](#)

Further details about our guest speakers and an agenda will follow in due course.



The AYM is Recruiting!



Two Positions To be Filled!

With the imminent departure of two valued colleagues, AYM is looking to commission the services of freelance (self-employed) people with enthusiasm and relevant experience to support our work. There are two roles. Both are home based. We would like to commission these services for an initial period of six months, with the possibility of extensions.

POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER TO THE AYM.

The role is 0.2 FTE i.e four days per month, worked flexibly, and is responsible for producing and arranging distribution of the monthly AYM Bulletin and ad hoc special bulletins, overseeing our social media output including content of the website and overseeing arrangements for our annual conference and members day, both of which you would be expected to attend. The role also includes responsibility for delivering our induction and training programme for new Executive members and for oversight of our training courses for members. Further responsibilities include liaison with members of the AYM Executive in relation to policy formulation, supporting the AYM Chair in the co-ordination of responses to relevant consultations, and monitoring the delivery of our business plan. We are looking for someone with significant experience of management in youth justice services, excellent communication skills and the ability to complete allocated tasks in a highly professional manner with limited supervision.

BUSINESS SUPPORT OFFICER

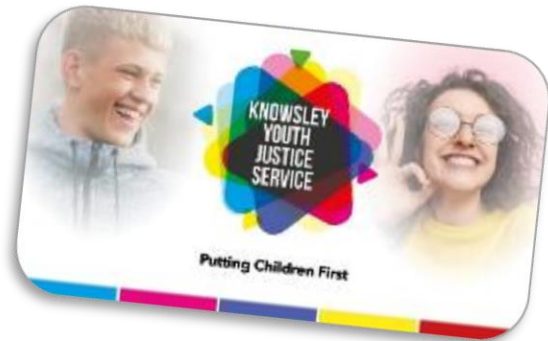
This role is also 0.2FTE or four days per month to be worked flexibly. The services that we wish to commission are intended to increase our business support capacity, complementing the work of our existing Business Support Officer. The role will give priority to raising and tracking invoices for membership subscriptions and training courses and to developing our social media and website output. It will take shared responsibility for servicing meetings, including issuing invitations and papers, minuting etc., providing administrative support to the AYM Executive, maintaining membership lists on SharePoint, maintaining various Outlook inboxes and responding to queries as appropriate. We are looking for someone with a good working knowledge of MS Teams, MS Excel, MS Outlook and SharePoint. We also use Xero accounting system and experience of this would be an advantage, but not essential as full training can be provided. WordPress experience is also an advantage, but some training can be provided.

For further information or an initial conversation, please contact Phil.sutton@aym.org.uk.

To apply for one of these roles, please submit your CV, together with an indication of which role you are applying for, to secretary@aym.org.uk by **Monday 30th September**.

Youth Justice SEND Quality Awards

Congratulations to Knowsley Youth Justice Area Partnership



We are pleased to announce that Knowsley Area Partnership has achieved the Youth Justice SEND Quality Lead Award Redesignation with a Child First Commendation. The assessors said of Knowsley:

Knowsley Area Partnership approached redesignation from a position of strength. Three years ago, what now would be considered as 'Child First Practice' was prevalent within the ethos, culture and system design. For example, a collaborative approach to whole system development and review was clearly evident, with shared leadership and accountability characterised by co-production, with service users (children with SEND and their parents/carers) fully involved in decision-making. The Teams around the child (including Early Help, Child Exploitation, Looked After Children, Multi-Agency Support Hub, etc.) had close working relationships.

Practice has developed further, driven by a pervading culture of inter-service co-operation, mutual accountability and well-embedded trauma-informed practice. This has been achieved through trauma-informed training and practice development across all teams, including schools.

There is clear evidence of a range of partnership work focusing on meeting the range of needs of children and families i.e. specialist consultations with a focus on trauma and SEND facilitated by education psychologists and multi-disciplinary team meetings facilitated by YJS health manager. Partnership developments also focus on preventative work. The Youth Justice Service attends the SENCO Forum, raising awareness of the importance of their roles in identifying as early as possible children with additional needs and the potential trajectory for those children whose needs are not identified and met.

Education Training and Employment opportunities are well managed, including an awareness of, and a provision to support, children who are deemed 'not ETE ready'.

The Child First commendation reflects the developments in relation to the partnership's commitment to early intervention and the Local Authority's significant investment in establishing a new prevention service, working alongside panels such as MACE (Multi Agency Child Exploitation Panel) and MARTHR (Multi Agency Risk Threat and Harm Reduction forum):

- **STEP (Support - Together - Empower - Prevent)** Supporting children beyond the statutory cohort that are at risk of offending, reoffending and exploitation, including children with significant Education and SEND profiles. This initiative is proving to be very effective: early successes include 97% of children successfully engaged with the service, 95% of children do not go on to reoffend; 87% of children have been prevented from escalating to more intensive and costly service interventions.

Education Training and Employment opportunities are well managed, including an awareness of, and a provision to support, young people who are deemed "not ETE ready".

Well done Knowsley!

Child First Effective Partnership Practice Webinars

Autumn 2024 Series

The AYM and Microlink PC UK Ltd has an exciting series of autumn webinars planned which we hope will prove interesting and beneficial to those wishing to improve child first partnership approaches to support children with SEND and neurodiversity.

In the first of this series of webinars, delegates will hear from colleagues in Coventry and Hillingdon Youth Justice Local Area Partnerships, both of whom recently received the Quality Lead Award with Child First Commendation. This webinar takes place on:

Wednesday 18th September

at

12.30-13:30pm

There will be no webinar in October, due to the AYM Autumn Conference on the 16th

The second webinar will hear from colleagues from the **Isle of Wight and Haringey** Youth Justice Local Area Partnerships who also achieved the Quality Lead Award with Child First Commendation. This webinar takes place on:

Wednesday 6th November

at

12.30-13:30pm

The third webinar ‘Securing Better ETE Outcomes Through Supported Internship Pathways’, provides a wonderful opportunity to explore new possibilities for helping children in youth justice pathways to secure employment opportunities through a national scheme that is gathering momentum, led by NDTi. The government-funded Internships Work programme aims to get 4,500 16-25 year olds with additional needs into employment by 2025.

We will be inviting a wider group of colleagues from across the country (who manage these pathways) to attend this special webinar, which we hope will result in more effective local area partnership working with youth justice services in future. This webinar takes place on:

Wednesday 4th December

at

12.30-13:30pm

More information about this exciting development will be sent out in the coming months. To register for the first of these webinars [click here](#)

To see the list of citations for the Youth Justice SEND Quality Award [click here](#)

AYM Spotlight on Practice

Artwork in Manchester

The walls of Deansgate Train Station have been adorned with spectacular pieces of urban Artwork, that appear as though they have been produced by a highly qualified professional. The real artists behind the work, are the young people of Manchester Youth Justice Centre, who have been growing and developing their artistic and expressive abilities with the aid of charity organisation TiPP.



TiPP is a participatory organisation that have worked alongside Manchester Youth Justice services for over 15 years. The last five years in particular were focused on really embedding the arts within the core of the youth justice system. TiPP originated as a research centre at University of Manchester and is now an independent charity, uses a combination of both academia and day-to-day practise to create the highly successful programmes they deliver to those in the criminal justice system. TiPP believes that creativity and fun as well as social engagement and cultural and social capital are the most important factors to reduce reoffending rates. All of their work with young people is underpinned by gaining qualifications and skills, based around self-efficacy, confidence and social capital. They mainly focus on group work as this causes the young people to not only build a relationship with the staff, but also their peers.

This particular project transpired over the summer holidays. The participants, aged 14-16, began by completing photography workshops with artist Sangita Mystery, where they learnt about composition, light exposure and developed various other skills. The young people then went on a street art tour of the Norther Quarter putting their new skills into practise and producing some incredible photographs. The final photographs display meaningful messages and emotions about how the young people feel connected to their city.



Rachel Graham, a member of staff at TiPP said that the work was so incredible they wanted to find a way to exhibit it. She had noticed artwork from a primary school up in Victoria and decided to get in contact with TFGM (Transport for Greater Manchester) to see how they could display their own. TFGM explained to Rachel how they could 'adopt a station' meaning that they could complete as many artistic projects within the station as they wished. Thanks to funding from TFGM and Northern, the young people's artwork is now displayed for the residents of the city to view. This project has advocated for the young people of the youth justice system within the public eye.

Throughout projects such as these, the young people are not only gaining qualifications but they are also boosting their confidence and learning how to express themselves. Rachel said:

'It's not always about producing an amazing piece of artwork, sometimes it's about them being able to have a conversation with you as an adult or with you as somebody who doesn't come from the same background as them. It is allowing young people with a space to explore themselves, with some kind of protective factors around them. Sometimes they will say things, things will come up that are quite challenging, but it's a space in which we can have those conversations.'



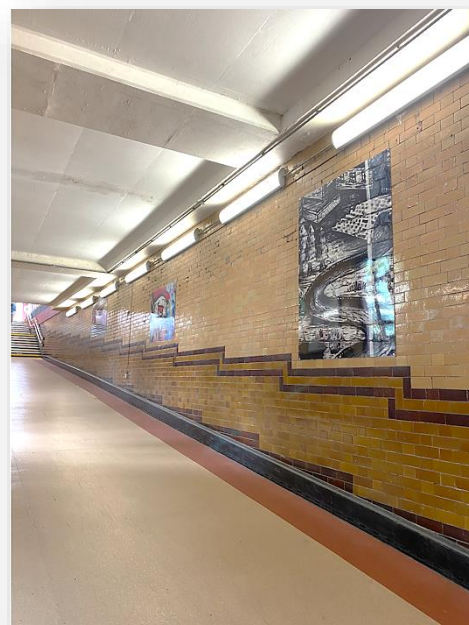
Allowing and teaching the young people to express themselves throughout creative outlets is imperative for their own benefit and development. When they are producing art and music, it evokes important conversations as the staff at TiPP can ask, *'what does that art mean? What are you trying to say with this lyric? What might other people think about this? Is their potential that this could get you into trouble? How would you feel if your mum saw/heard this?'*

Instead of telling young people what they can and can't say, they are opening up conversations about what is being said, and what could be viewed as problematic. As a result, the young people are becoming more considerate of their own actions and the impact they might have, which is crucial, especially in today's society with online presence and cases of young people's music interests being used against them in court.

One former TiPP participant who came to the organisation and asking to learn how to play the guitar, is now studying music at college, and performing live, at places such as the deaf institute in Manchester. They said that now when they get angry, they will get their guitar and write a song about it instead of punching someone.

TiPP and the Manchester Youth Justice Service wish to thank everyone that has been involved within this project. Particularly artist Sangita Mystery, TFGM and Norther. The youth justice system is continuously assembling more and more of these effective methods, to support young people in the best way they can, due to charities such as TiPP.

The exhibition is being formally launched by Andy Burnham on the 2nd of September so make sure to look out for any social media and press releases on TiPPs Instagram or twitter @TiPPMcr, or their website <https://www.tipp.org.uk> .



Addressing the SEND Assessment and Support Crisis



Latest Report of the Centre for Young Lives

The sixth report from the Centre of Young Lives, in a series of reports in partnership with N8 Universities Child of the North, has been published; '***An evidence-based plan for addressing the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) assessment and support crisis***'.

The report presents evidence and analysis, revealing the scale of the crisis facing many children with SEND, with some families waiting years for assessments. It proposes a new evidence-based plan to support the new government in its mission to '*widen opportunity, by tackling the poor identification of SEN(D), the postcode lottery of EHC plans, and reducing the huge numbers of children not receiving the support they need to reach their full potential.*'

The evidence provides shows the current system is failing many vulnerable children and young people with SEND, stating 'Over 1.5 million pupils in England have SEN(D), with 40% of children identified as having SEN(D) at some point between 5 and 16 years of age. Yet the current system cannot cope and has been unable to keep pace with advances made in identifying and recognising when children have additional needs and require extra support.'

The report makes a series of recommendations including:

- **Improve and extend training on SEN(D) for professionals and families.** Most educational professionals will interact with and support children with SEN(D) every day but training on SEN(D) is limited. Many educational professionals want to receive more training, and others do not feel sufficiently confident to support children with SEN(D). Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses on SEN(D) should be mandatory for educational professionals.
- **Use holistic measures of child development to identify pupils with increased likelihood of having SEN(D).** New evidence shows that assessments of academic and non-academic abilities can identify those children at increased likelihood of needing SEN(D) support. Tools that assess non-academic skills beyond the early years should be developed and rolled out nationally to facilitate earlier identification and support of SEN(D). The Electronic Development and Support Tool (EDST) is an innovative example of an assessment that has been developed to suit this purpose.
- **Connect systems more effectively to facilitate earlier identification of SEN(D) and the provision of more appropriate support.** Public services, such as education, health, and social care, often work in silos. As a result, information like health conditions or birth factors that may facilitate earlier identification of SEN(D) is rarely communicated directly with schools. Better connected public services would enable free sharing of information, speeding up identification of SEN(D) and reducing structural inequalities.

To read the report [click here](#)

To receive the Centre for Young Lives' regular newsletter [click here](#)

Framework for Integrated Care (Community)

Second Annual Review Completed

The Framework for Integrated Care (Community), developed by NHS England to invest in additional support and care for vulnerable aged 0-18 years with complex needs, provides a set of guiding principles and practices as a template for genuine co-production and integration of services for those children and their families.



Selected areas known as ‘vanguards’ operate across integrated care system (ICS)/provider collaborative footprints and develop and deliver their services in line with the principles of the Framework, using methods to support the specific needs of their local cohort. There are twelve vanguards across the country with at least one in each of the seven NHS England areas.

The second annual review cycle of vanguards has now been completed and findings show ‘**an incredible amount of positive work is going on across all vanguards**’; anecdotally it also shows that vanguards have been influential in driving system change to improve outcomes for children and their families. The NHS is now looking to drive improvements in data quality and to develop the evidence base to further show the impact of working within the Framework.

Statistics for 2023/2024 show that referrals have increased by over 100% (3969) since the end of the last financial year 2022/2023 (1883), with the total being 5852. Analysis has identified ‘emotional neglect’ as the main trauma recorded by vanguards and ‘anxiety or worry’ as the main need. The majority of referrals fall into the age range ‘12 to 15’ which is consistent across all vanguards. When considering ethnicity, ‘White’ is the category with the highest overall cumulative figure, however when this is broken down to a regional level ‘Black, Black British, Caribbean or African’ emerges as the majority category for some regions. Data shows an increase in the number of children referred via Social Services over the past year.

A case study from the North and Central London (NCL) vanguard joint working model draws on a report from Enfield, referencing a 15-year-old involved in the criminal justice system who has complex needs including mental health challenges, navigating system support, learning difficulties, relational difficulties with his family.

The joint working model discussed is a symbiotic professional relationship where two or more professionals combine their skill sets to provide holistic support to a young person with complex needs. The case study captures only one element of the support offered by the NCL Vanguard but explains an aspect that could be adopted by other services.

The joint working/blended model intervention provides the following layers of support:

- Redefining system support and rebuilding young people's trust,
- Advocacy and direct intervention that caters to wellbeing and stability needs,
- Meeting the young person's goals,
- Gradual system changes from the vanguard's delivery of training and consultation.

For more information and to receive regular updates from the Framework for Integrated Care (Community) [click here](#)

Child Centred Youth Diversion

The Benefits of Adopting the Good Lives Model

Marie-Anne Hall, an independent youth justice consultant and trainer for Child Centred Youth Diversion Ltd has recently been appointed as an associate consultant for the Centre for Justice Innovation. Marie-Anne previously worked in North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Service where over a period of 7 years she developed out of court services using the 'Good Lives' model to support practitioner interventions, raising the HMIP inspection rating of this inspection domain (including work with children presenting with harmful sexual behaviour) to 'Outstanding'. Marie-Anne says of the model:

When it comes to working with young people who have become known to us through the criminal justice system we need more than themed interventions, awareness programmes and skimming the surface of their environmental factors. I believe we need to have a model wrapped around every child that comes for support.

In youth justice services we assess the young person then make a plan; instead we should be trying to understand what the behaviour is trying to communicate and what primary needs that behaviour is meeting to enable change. Intervention/awareness programmes simply aren't enough, they need to combine psychoeducation with therapy to enable the child to make positive changes toward a pro social identity. Awareness programmes tend to make an impact only when the child doesn't have an adverse childhood experiences (ACES) but then they are unlikely to be with us.

The Good Lives model is embedded in AssetPlus but the general view is that it's not well enough understood. Following the adoption of the Good Lives model, recidivism rates in Lincolnshire increased from an average 45% to a very stable 85%, with softer outcomes being measured positively too.

The Good Lives model is a strength based rehabilitative model that's been used for years by some organisations but it's not obvious, it just looks like what it says on the tin moving towards a good life or better life, so you can even use it to prevent young people entering the justice system. Its' based on 11 areas of human dignity.

The Good Lives model thoroughly assesses each child and their current life, previous ways of living and future life plans to gain a pro social identity it identifies their full range of pathways to offending; high priority areas for intervention in a meaningful way which is most likely to gain their interest and identify and meaningfully report on evidence of change.

The Voice of the child copyrighted Goodlives workbook is available, fully endorsed by a Consultant Clinical psychologist with post graduate qualifications in paediatric clinical neuropsychology and a speech and language therapist. The book allows the child to be at the centre of information, planning and intervention and their voice is heard in every session. The previously workbook was highlighted as a good practice document by HMIP and OFSTED.'

If you are interested in having the training delivered to your team please contact Marie-Anne for more details at enquiry@childcentredyouthdiversion.com or by completing the contact form on the website www.childcentredyouthdiversion.com

Youth Justice Legal Centre

Young People's Participation

On September 12th Youth Justice Legal Centre (YJLC), part of the Child Law Network, will present on the participation of young people in legal campaigns and the design of legal proceedings at the National Association of Child Counsel conference program, USA.

Collaboration with young people is one of the four key tenets of the YJB's Child First approach. At the recent launch of the Child First Self-Assessment Toolkit, Georgia Watkinson of the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership explained how they worked with 450 children across the authority to co-produce their Child First framework. The vision was to have 'meaningful collaboration with children across West Yorkshire on topics that matter most to them, recognizing children as equal stakeholders, prioritizing meaningful engagement with children to influence the work and evidencing the understanding'. The framework identifies that children want to be involved in the design of things that impact them but sometimes '*adults don't listen and think we are dumb*'. The Child Law Network online materials include participation and YJLC can provide training on the theory and practice: Roger Hart's 'Ladder of Participation' describes ways in which children can participate.

YJLC say '*we continue to learn and thought some of our insights might be helpful to others.*

- 1. The ideas of those impacted by the youth justice system is integral to its validity – this is sometimes called Procedural Justice- but this doesn't mean work needs to be exclusively with young people who are currently in the youth justice system. Consider including the voices of other people, who may have historically experienced the youth justice system. They often have additional great insight, having had time to reflect, on what is needed to change. In the tech space this is called User Centred Design (UCD)*
- 2. UCD - shifting the design to the people who use the system. UCD is agile, pausing to invite feedback in the development process and tweaking based on that feedback. This is explained in a paper written by a former care leaver about ensuring the user is involved in every step of development including deploying the solution. The article countenances against the term 'youth engagement' as infantilising which can establish an inherent imbalance of power between the young people and the adults.*
- 3. When co-producing projects or programmes with users is everyone being treated the same? The answer is usually no, primarily because of the age of the participants involved. But it is important to consider the dynamic when one person is employed to produce a piece of work as a part to their job and the others are helping that person out.*
- 4. Factor in suspicion - Users of the youth justice system (current, former and family members) might, quite rightly, be suspicious of the system and professionals within that who have interfered with their autonomy. Professionals might 'belong' to one group which can, in and of itself, 'other' the users of the system. Without doubting the motivation of the professionals, the Users might still feel it, so it is important to raise and discuss it up front.*
- 5. The West Yorkshire framework says 'make engagement engaging', children told us we needed to make it 'fun'; tantamount to the same thing. They also requested that professionals 'develop leadership' so there is progression in responsibility, and that we consider how they gain benefit from the work.'*

The YJLC's offers to work with and train youth justice professionals to develop collaborative projects

Vacancies

Walsall is Seeking a Team Manager



An exciting opportunity has arisen for an experienced manager to join Walsall Youth Justice Service as a Team Manager. The service is seeking a person who is dedicated, positive and passionate about improving outcomes for children and young people.

The service works with children and young people on the periphery of the youth justice system to prevent them from becoming first time entrants. The team support children involved with the Police receiving out of court disposals and children convicted in Court. It also works with children in the secure estate on remand and sentenced to custody and is responsible for the resettlement of young people back into the community. The service also oversees services to victims of youth crime, including restorative justice interventions.

Walsall is proud to be pushing for better outcomes for young people and families in the authority and shares the Youth Justice Board's 'Child First' vision.

The successful candidate will join a close-knit restorative team, helping to promote inclusion whilst also supporting our dedicated practitioners with any changes and challenges they face. The service is dedicated to enhancing/improving its standards and believes its staff and management teams should reflect the diversity of the communities they serve, encouraging applications from Black and Minority Ethnic individuals (Section 158 of the Equality Act 2010 applies). Nevertheless, appointments will be based solely on merit.

Candidates for the positions must:

- Have significant experience of working with children and young people who have offended;
- Have Experience in complex risk management;
- Be an individual with the ability to manage multi-agency services for children and families,
- Have knowledge of best practice for children who offend and trauma informed approaches.

The successful post holder must have a relevant qualification:

- A social work qualification, probation officer qualification or a good quality relevant degree i.e. BA in youth justice or criminology, and
- Must also hold the Professional Certificate in Effective Practice (PCEP) or Youth Justice Effective Practice Certificate (YJEPC) or be prepared to complete the qualification within the first 12 months of employment.

If you would like to hear more, please contact Phil Rutherford, YJS Strategic Lead at Philip.rutherford@walsall.gov.uk

For more information and to apply for this position [click here](#)

Closing Date for applications is 8th September, 2024

Interviews are likely to be week commencing 23rd September 2024

CPS Approach to Recent Disturbances

The Youth Justice Board has reported in its YJBulletin of 23rd August, that whilst we have seen charges and prosecutions being expedited across the county as a result of the recent disturbances:

'The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has confirmed that it continues to apply the Code for Crown Prosecutors and the relevant prosecution guidance and policies, including the Child Gravity Matrix. In practice, this means that children are treated as children and afforded the rights their age gives them. Prosecutors continue to consider the individual circumstances of each child in each case, in line with the Child First approach, as set out in the CPS guidance on Children as Suspects and Defendants.'

The YJB goes on to say:

'We would encourage early discussions with the police and CPS to ensure the right course of action is taken for any children who have been involved in the disturbances, and that those actions consider the evidence base of what we know works to prevent children offending, create safer communities with fewer victims.'

Postponing Sentencing Hearings to Deal with Prison Overcrowding

The Magistrates' Association has published a statement in which it states:

Responding to reports that a listing direction has been issued to the managers of magistrates' courts advising that the sentencing hearings of offenders who are likely to receive a custodial sentence should be postponed until at least 10 September, Tom Franklin, the Chief Executive of the Magistrates' Association, said:

"Another day, another sticking plaster to hold our crumbling justice system together. This latest emergency measure – while it may be necessary to deal with prison overcrowding until the big release of prisoners on 10 September – demonstrates the need for an injection of more resources at every stage of the justice process.

"As well as investment in the whole criminal justice system, we need a long-term joined-up plan, where all parts of the justice system – including police, courts, probation and prisons – are considered together. We also need a grown-up discussion about the purpose of prison, and indeed other types of sentences such as community sentences.

"Every delay in magistrates' work adversely affects the timely delivery of justice and impacts victims, witnesses and defendants. The Magistrates' Association stands ready to work with all stakeholders to improve the system for all. We have identified six areas for improvement and shared them with the new Lord Chancellor."

To read about the Six Areas for Improvement [click here](#)

Youth Justice Board Business Plan 2024-25



The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales has written to the AYM advising of the publication of its new Business Plan 2024-25. In the letter, Stephanie Roberts-Bibby, YJB Chief Executive Officer highlights that the plan reflects on the vision for a Child First youth justice system and the prioritisation of areas of greatest impact for children, victims and communities.

Stephanie advises that the YJB will continue to monitor and champion local partnerships, share effective practice and provide support for improvement where required. It will also advocate for change in the secure estate, working with the Youth Custody Service to ensure better outcomes for children.

The letter also advises that the YJB has strengthened its use of research to make data-informed strategic and financial decisions, and will use evidence to inform advice provided to ministers, and the wider youth justice system to lead improvements and influence the development of policy and guidance.

Stephanie advises that, subject to ministerial agreement, the YJB anticipates being subject to a review under the Cabinet Office Public Bodies Review Programme, which will provide an independent assessment of its operations and effectiveness. She concludes by saying:

'We look forward to continuing to work with you to realise our shared vision to deliver positive outcomes for children and create safer communities with fewer victims. As an organisation with big ambitions for children and the youth justice system, we recognise the value of our partnerships, and we appreciate your support and involvement in our work.'

To read the Business Plan [click here](#)

Youth Endowment Fund

AYM Vice Chair, Charlie Spencer, participated earlier this year in some research led by the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) on stop and search. YEF has advised that the summary of this research has now been published, thanking Charlie for his contributions in *'helping shape this critical piece of research'*.



YEF advises that:

'While publishing these findings is an important step, we understand that the real challenge lies in driving meaningful change. We will be sharing our findings with government officials, police chiefs and associations across the country, with the aim of making stop and search practices fairer and more effective.'

To access the summary on the YEF Toolkit [click here](#)

Dates for Your Diary

**For Your
Diary!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR AYM 2024-25



Title	Date	Venue
Executive Board meeting	18 th September, 2024	MS Teams
Autumn Conference	16 th October, 2024	ICC, 8 Centenary Square, Birmingham
Executive Board meeting	11 th December, 2024	MS Teams
Executive Board meeting	10 th March 2025	MS Teams
Executive Board meeting	17 th June, 2025	Warwick Conference Centres
Annual General Meeting	18 th June, 2025	Warwick Conference Centres
Annual Members Day	18 th June, 2025	Warwick Conference Centres

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.

We welcome observers at our Executive Board meetings, if you wish to attend one, please contact our secretary at

secretary@aym.org.uk

To keep up to date with this calendar between Bulletins, please look at our website

www.aym.org.uk

Childhood Criminal Records Roundtable

Unlock the UK charity that supports and advocates for people with criminal records in England and Wales, is holding an online roundtable to discuss the need to reform childhood criminal records by creating a distinct system for children. The roundtable takes place:

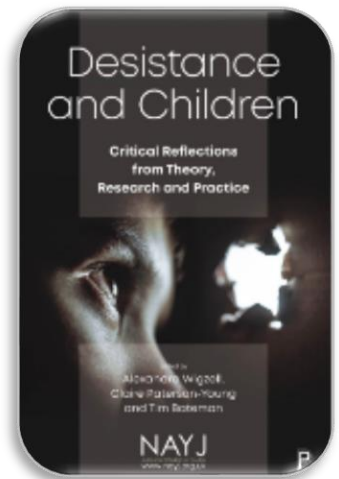


**Tuesday 10th September
2- 4pm**

To attend this event email brendan.shepherd@unlock.org.uk

Desistance and Children

This event launches the publication of the book, ***Desistance and Children: Critical Reflections from Theory, Research and Practice***, edited by Ali Wigzell, Claire Paterson-Young and Tim Batema, all of whom are trustees of the National Association for Youth Justice (NAYJ).



The book brings together contributors from academia, policy and practice to consider whether and, if so, how 'desistance' thinking (a body of knowledge about how people move away from offending) applies to justice-involved children. Desistance thinking has been transplanted from adult criminal justice to the youth justice system in recent years, with little debate about whether it is relevant to the lives of children. This book is the first to consider and critique its application with children.

There will be short talks from the editors and several chapter authors

This free hybrid event takes place on:

Thursday 19th September

12-1:30pm

at

Garden Court Chambers, Lincoln's Field, London

To read the book which is fully open access and available [click here](#)

For more information and to register for the event [click here](#)

Early Help: Innovation and Impact Conference

The annual conference, now in its eleventh year, will showcase innovative projects, leading-edge research and evidence of what works, the future of family help and what the latest data tells us about children at risk poor outcomes and how we can use it to make informed decisions. The conference takes place on:



Tuesday 24th September, 2024

at

Cavendish Conference Centre, London

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

The National Children and Adult Services Conference & Exhibition 2024



The National Children and Adult Services Conference and Exhibition 2024 is a three-day conference for officers, elected members and senior leaders in local authorities with responsibility for, or an interest in, the delivery of effective services and opportunities for children, young people and adults.

This year's event takes place:

Wednesday 27th and Friday 29th November

in

Liverpool.

To find out more and to book a place at the event [click here](#)

The Children and Young People Now Awards

The Children and Young People Now (CYP Now) Awards 2024 are **now open for entries**. The awards are open for anyone working with children, young people and their families.

Now in its 19th year, the awards offer an opportunity to raise the profile of projects and services to funders, commissioners and the public.

This year's ceremony will take place on:

Thursday 28th November 2024

at

Novotel London West. Hammersmith

To read more about the awards and to register a nomination [click here](#)

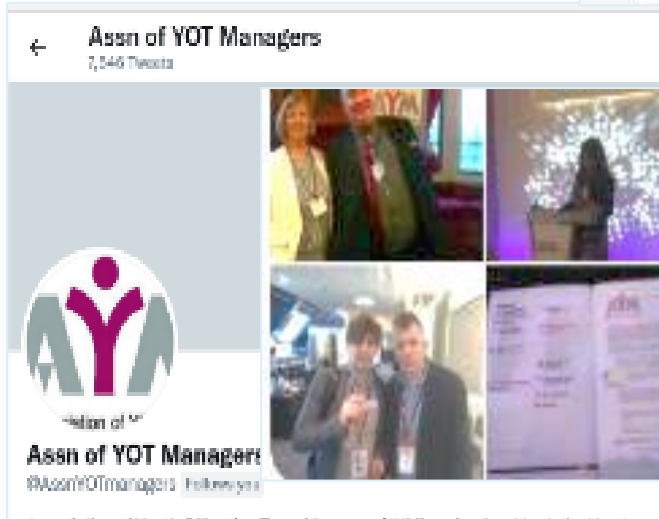
Want to stay up to date with YJ issues?



[here](#)

We have a new LinkedIn page - connect with us by [clicking](#)

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



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

Email our Editor lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk

**PLEASE
NOTE:**

This AYM Bulletin shares items which we feel may be of interest to members and other interested parties, but this should not be taken as endorsement of individuals, organisations or their products or views.




If you do not wish to receive this Bulletin, please email lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk and you will be removed from our records. Non-Member email addresses are only used for circulating this newsletter.

AYM Regional Representatives

Please contact your deputy/regional representative if there are issues you want to raise with the AYM; we welcome your input.

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

AYM Regional Representation					
East	Regional representative	Pat Jennings <i>Bedfordshire YOS</i>			
	Deputy regional representative	VACANT			
East Midlands	Regional representative	Carly Turner <i>Leicestershire YJS</i>	West Midlands	Regional representative	Celia Payne <i>Wolverhampton YOS</i>
	Deputy regional representative	John Evans <i>Nottinghamshire YJS</i>		Deputy regional representative	Nick Jeffreys <i>Coventry YJS</i>
South East	Regional representative	VACANT	South West	Regional representative	David Webb <i>Dorset Combined YJS</i>
	Deputy regional representative	Ollie Foxell <i>Reading YJS</i>		Deputy regional representative	Michael O'Connor <i>North Somerset YJS</i>
North East	Regional representative	Kay Dargue <i>South Tees YOS</i>	North West	Regional representative	Kathy Gill <i>Wirrall YJS</i>
	Deputy regional representative	Sam Starmer <i>Cumbria YJS</i>		Deputy regional representative	Tom Lang <i>Manchester YJS</i>
London	Regional representative	Michelle Edwards <i>Newham YOT</i>	Yorkshire & Humberside	Regional representative	Sarah Goddard <i>Bradford YJS</i>
	Deputy regional representative	Alison Sabaroche <i>Hammersmith & Fulham YJS</i>		Deputy regional representative	Chris Sweeting <i>Kirklees YJS</i>