



# The AYM Bulletin Number 4 - 2025

2000 - 2025: 25 years of supporting Youth  
Justice Managers



## AYM Activities at a glance...

- Goodbye to Roni
- Remand Round Table
- AYM Members Day
- Repeat Offending Research



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Celebrating 25 years of the AYM





Roni Checksfield -  
AYM Secretary

March saw us saying goodbye to our colleague, Roni Checksfield, AYM Secretary and Service Manager for Hartlepool Youth Justice Service, who died after a short illness. Roni was our Regional Representative for the North East Region before offering to take on the role of Secretary. In both roles he was enthusiastic and committed; he brought a sense of humour to all that he did for us.

Roni has left an indelible mark all of us at the AYM and wider youth justice system.

Last Friday a number of the AYM executive joined the funeral for what was described by Kay Dargue (North East AYM Regional Rep) as *'a beautiful send off... really well attended by the YJS Community, ex army colleagues, friends and family. He clearly meant so much to so many and a truly sad day'*.

We remember Roni for his tireless service to others and send our love and thoughts to Roni's family.



Sarah Goddard - Regional  
Representative for the Yorks  
& Humber

## Girls in custody

Sarah Goddard (Yorkshire and Humber AYM Regional Rep and Girls lead) praises the recommendations from the Independent Review into secure placements for girls.

With YOI placements for girls already ceased, Sarah is keen to understand next steps to achieve, for example, a consortia of SCH provision and adds that it will be critical for YJS colleagues to continue to share best practice, or community alternatives to custody. *'The recommendations suggest a more progressive and gender-informed approach, but given the small cohort, it will be incumbent on us within the AYM executive to ensure that Girls in Custody remains on the agenda for change'*.



Susannah Hancock - COO of  
the National Fire Chiefs  
Council and YJB board  
member

To read the full report see :- [Delivering the best for girls in custody - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/611111/Delivering_the_best_for_girls_in_custody.pdf)

## Goodbye and Good luck

Sincere thanks goes to Nick Jeffreys West Midlands & Sarah Goddard Yorks and Humber who are moving into roles in YEF and Early Help respectively.

Your support and input has been invaluable and best of luck going forward!

Our Assistant Secretary David Webb, will shortly be writing to all members in their two regions asking for nominations for the role of Regional Representative (Yorks/Humber) and Deputy Regional Representative (West Midlands).

Nick Jeffreys -  
Deputy Regional  
Representative  
for West  
Midlands



Sarah Goddard -  
Regional  
Representative for  
the Yorks &  
Humber





Tom Lang  
Deputy Regional  
Representative for the North  
West

## Remand Roundtable

Our Deputy Regional Representative for the North West, Tom Lang, attended the Remand Roundtable hosted by MOJ/YJ Minister Sir Nic Dakin MP. The session explored how innovative, non-secure, community residential provision can act as an alternative to custodial remand.

Tom shared insights from the Greater Manchester pilot project along with Charlotte Matthews leading the London Accommodation Partnership. They discussed both the challenges and successes so far, as well as the importance of providing further support for this developing area, such as by encouraging increased buy-in from wider local authority partners.

There was promising interest from wider potential providers and the hope is that support and investment will be forthcoming from the MOJ during this coming financial year.



*Tom Lang has also been 'out and about' this month at an awards celebration.*

Manchester Youth Justice in Partnership with TiPP, Northern Rail and Transport for Greater Manchester were shortlisted for this year's Community Rail Awards, hosted by the Lumo Train company in Newcastle. This was in recognition of the 'Moments in Transit' exhibition at Deansgate Station, in Manchester the City Centre.

Children completed a photography project, and their work is on permanent display throughout the station. The children wanted to make the busy space brighter and capture the commuter's attention by showcasing street art from across the city.

This is just the start of our collaboration to co-create this space with children to give the commuters a positive experience in their busy daily lives. It has been great to take the amazing work our children do for our communities into the spaces and places where we can advocate for them and celebrate their exceptional talents and kindness.

Being shortlisted is another example of changing the perception of Justice involved children and creates a positive picture of children and challenge the negative narrative often portrayed in the media.



# News from our Executive Board Members:

Michael O'Connor  
Deputy Regional  
Representative for the  
South East



## North Somerset Youth Justice Service

### Young people share their stories through art in Weston-super-Mare

Children and young people aged 11 to 18 who work with North Somerset's Youth Justice and Prevention Service have been showcasing their creativity while challenging public perceptions through a powerful new public exhibition **'What Do YOUth See?'** in Weston-super-Mare.

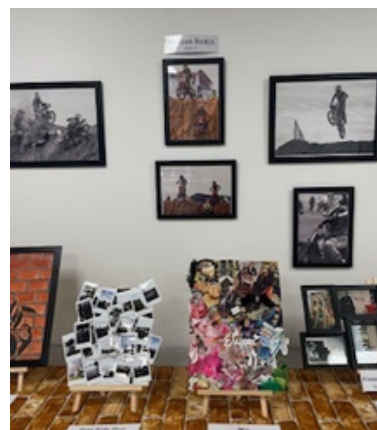
With the help of Reframe North Somerset, (a co-production group challenging perceptions of children and young people), children organised the launch event to express creativity and experiences. Special guests, including The Mayor, attended to recognise the children's work.

Visitors can expect to see a striking collection of photography, collage, and other thought-provoking artwork reflecting the unique perspectives of local children. There is also a chance to meet the young artists, hear their stories, and celebrate their achievements.

Cllr Catherine Gibbons, North Somerset Council's Deputy Leader and executive member responsible for children's services, families, and lifelong learning, said: *"Through projects like Reframe North Somerset, we're not only giving children a voice, we're helping them develop the confidence, skills, and positive sense of identity that can change lives. This exhibition is a powerful reminder of how vital it is to listen to and engage with young people. It's much more than just an art display – it's a testament to what can happen when young people are empowered to share their stories, work together, and create positive change. I'm incredibly proud of the young people involved and encourage everyone to come and see their inspiring work first-hand."*

The exhibition is part of a broader effort by North Somerset Council's Youth Justice and Prevention Service to improve outcomes for children and victims of crime. The service uses a child-first, identity-focused approach to encourage positive identity development and help young people make better life choices. More information about the team's work, including the programmes available and details of how to refer a young person, are available on the council's website [here](#).

Find the exhibition at the Sovereign in the High Street, open weekdays from 11am to 1pm until Thursday 3 April.





## In other news....

**A new guest slot to celebrate 25 years of the AYM.**

**The Bulletin opens the pages to some well known and loved YJS faces. This month we speak to Brendan Finnegan, YJ service manager in Hackney.**



### **What role where you in 25 years ago?**

I had just left Lewisham as YOT Manager in 2001 and had started at YJB as Information Senior Policy Officer with Charlie Beaumont as my only team member. I only needed one Charlie, he didn't seem to sleep, I routinely received emails from him sent in the middle of the night.

### **What are your resounding memories of youth justice 'back then'**

An overwhelming belief in the project, that engaging children involved in breaking the law worked- but diversion with engagement (as promoted by Northamptonshire YOT) struggled to be adopted - and all too soon it became what I called 'Pokemon Youth Justice'; because it felt as if "we had to catch them all". With the misapplied Offences Brought To Justice targets for police, it really felt as if we were.

### **What do you think has changed for the better/worse?**

**BETTER:** An acknowledgement that Diversion from formal YJ sanctions works; it isn't a soft touch, doesn't ignore harms caused and doesn't let victims down. However, it concerned me that the YJB felt it had the need to recently state that their Child First approach wasn't soft on crime and doesn't ignore victims needs shows that applying evidence based practice is still under political threat.

**WORSE:** Continued racial and ethnic injustice across the YJS and CJS. Fewer children in contact but there is still a significant disparity of impact on certain communities and ethnicities.

### **Do you have memories of AYM? If so what were they?**

I think I would say my early memories of AYM were a concern about what the AYM wanted to be? Was it wanting to be a professional body or was it seeking to be another Trade Union? ... AYM emerged as the respected collective voice of the professionals who successfully manage a complex, multi-agency partnership. .... All the while keeping in mind a keen sense of the victims (who are also the very same suspects), local and national public confidence and the need to deliver social justice, rebalance injustices and prevent disproportionate outcomes. Simple!

### **Where would you like to see the AYM and youth justice, advance in the next 25 years?**

Wow what a question. Taking the 'world peace' scale of wishing; I would wish that the next 25 years would see the end to the racial and ethnic injustice in the youth and criminal justice systems. Justice must also deliver equity or it is not justice. This would also suggest that solutions will be found to the many intersectional concerns, poverty, class, gender, sexuality, parenting and age that plague the YJS and adolescence. Maybe we will have a truly restorative, collaborative and inclusive YJS where harms are acknowledged and amends are made?

On a slightly less ambitious but no less contentious note, I hope that the practical lessons of effective multi-agency work, and the evidence about maturity and brain development allows for CJS work with young adults to develop in a similar way to the 1998 reformed YJS. Who is writing the 'No More Excuses' White Paper for 18 -25 year olds?

## The AYM Members Day 2025

We are pleased to be able to confirm the details of our 2025 In-person Members Day.

**Wednesday 18th June 2025. 09.00am – 16.30pm (Including our AGM)**

\*Welcome and Networking from 9.00am with the agenda beginning at 09.30\*

Always a popular, interactive and operationally relevant exchange across YJ professionals! At this years event, delegates will hear from AYM colleagues; share positive aspects of local practice, whilst also bringing attention to key challenges faced individually or across regions.

AYM executive leads will also be sharing national news, and seeking to engage colleagues in a key policy and practice initiatives. Our Annual General Meeting will take place at this event.

**The AYM Members Day is being hosted at:  
Scarman Conference Centre  
The University of Warwick  
Scarman Road, Coventry  
CV4 7SH**

Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided at the venue. **\*Please provide any dietary requirements on the booking form.**

To book your place please see [here](#).



If your YJS is a member but you haven't yet added yourself to their members list then you can do so by completing the membership link [here](#) or if you have any questions please contact us at [adminsupport@aym.org.uk](mailto:adminsupport@aym.org.uk)



## Probation Annual Report

The Chief Inspector of Probation Martin Jones has published his first Annual Report which covers the inspections undertaken between February 2024 and February 2025. Mr Jones makes it plain that the probation service remains chronically under-resourced.

***“I continue to emphasise that the Probation Service currently has too few staff, with too little experience and training, managing too many cases.”***

Please see full report [here](#).

## Serious Youth Violence - DfE Research 2025

The Role of Key Workers in Supporting Children and Young People with Experience of Serious Youth Violence.

The DfE, in partnership with the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF), commissioned research to explore the role of key workers in supporting children and young people (CYP) who have experienced serious youth violence (SYV). This research sits in the context of the DfE and YEF's wider programme of research into SYV. The research adds to the evidence base on trusted adult relationships and aims to improve understanding about how to effectively implement the key worker model in the context of SYV.



Department  
for Education



Please see full report [here](#).

### Key findings for success -

- The role and core functions of key workers in the context of SYV are understood and agreed.
- A trusted relationship between a CYP and the key worker is the cornerstone to delivery.
- Key workers sit within and act as a bridge between CYP and the systems of support.
- Key workers empower CYP to shape their own support, ensuring engagement is based on preferences.
- There are broadly four stages to key worker support: allocation, delivery, monitoring and transitioning.
- The delivery of the key worker model is enabled by individual, organisational, and external level factors.
- Key workers supporting CYP with experience of SYV aim to impact outcomes associated with SYV.
- There are challenges to measuring the impact of key workers, in particular in demonstrating the impacts of the key worker on outcomes associated with SYV.

## A Profile of Repeat Offending by Children and Young People in England and Wales

Late last month, the Ministry of Justice published this statistical report using newly linked data from *Data First*; connecting criminal courts records with children's assessment data for the first time.

Individual characteristics, offending patterns, and needs are explored alongside those children who do not prolifically offend.

For the full report see [here](#).

## Youth Court Services

For readers reflecting on youth court services the recent review by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) may prove a useful starting point!

For the YJB Standards for children at court standards review 2003-2004, see [here](#).



John Drew CBE -  
Former CEO of the  
YJB

## Adultifying Youth Custody

### The long term view with John Drew CBE – AYJ (Alliance for Youth Justice)

In this blog for the AYJ, John Drew CBE, a former CEO of the Youth Justice Board (YJB), shares his thoughts on the government's decision to change the age young people transition from the youth to adult custodial estates due to a capacity crisis in adult prisons.

For the full blog see [here](#).

The blog accompanies the AYJ latest briefing, *Adultifying Youth Custody: Learning lessons on transition to adulthood from the use of youth custody for young adults*, part of our project exploring transitions.

For the full report on Adultifying Youth Justice, see [here](#).



# Training, Events & Resources:

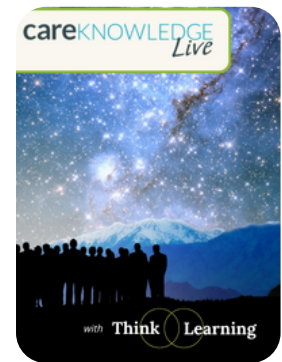
## Free Care Knowledge Live webinar: Connecting with Care

**Date:** Wednesday 30 April,

**Time:** 10am-12pm (London, UK) with a ten-minute break

**Speakers:** Dr Rebekah Howes and Professor Nigel Tubbs, Think Learning

In partnership with Think Learning, this CareKnowledge *Live webinar* will explore the practice and importance of making meaningful connections in professional care settings.



Through conversation we'll consider what it means to build meaningful connections, how challenges can be transformed into opportunities, and why deepening our understanding of relationships is key to effective and compassionate care. You can sign up free [here](#).

If you'd like access to the rest of CareKnowledge, **AYM members** can request a [free trial here](#).



## MISSION 44

Nothing happens in Isolation

**Ambitious about  
Inclusion events -  
Register your interest**

Mission 44 in partnership with The Centre for Young Lives will be holding a series of events to support schools and their partners to be ambitious about inclusion. These events will bring together teachers and staff, Trusts, local authorities, policymakers, funders, community organisations and young people, to explore what practical action can be taken to reduce lost learning and share best practice.

Their first event kicked off in London on 18 March, but going forward there will be events in Manchester, Newcastle, Leeds, Bristol, Birmingham, Portsmouth, and Kent.

Hosted in community and school venues that are embedded in the local area, with speakers from regional leadership and leading schools, these events will explore what works to deliver inclusion and support all children to stay in school and stay learning – as well as helping to troubleshoot problems where there are barriers to progress. Focussed on practical strategies and solutions to local issues, these events will help decision makers and practitioners build attendance, reduce suspensions and exclusions, and support all children to progress in school.

### How You Can Get Involved

Whether you are a teacher, Trust, local authority, policymaker, young person, parent, or community leader, your voice matters. We are now reaching out to invite people to take part in these events. To register your interest, please complete the form below.

**Find out more about Mission 44's 'Nothing Happens in Isolation' campaign [here](#).**



- This event is designed to equip all professionals working in the service of young people with innovative strategies to empower them beyond formal education.
- Latest policy insights, including updates on the government's ongoing development of the National Youth Strategy.
- CPD-certified sessions and valuable networking opportunities, this conference is essential for youth workers, service leaders, and policymakers dedicated to shaping the future of youth work.

Book [here](#) by 2nd May for early bird offer.

## ILM Level 7 - Certificate Programme in Leadership & Management 2025:

The AYM will be running the next cohort of the ILM 7 course from September 2025. The introduction and launch event will be held on the 25th August 2025 at 1pm (Online via MS Teams) and the course begins on the 4th September 2025.

For information about the course see [here](#).

You can find the course dates [here](#).

To enrol on the course, please see [here](#).



## AFL - Aspiring Future Leaders training - September 2025:

Our next cohort of the Aspiring Future Leaders starts in September 2025. If you would like to enrol on this course then please see [here](#).

For more information about the course then please see [here](#).

For course dates then please see [here](#).

## MA Youth Justice Launching March 2025: Take the next step in your professional journey

- Entry Requirements: Minimum 2.2 honours degree or overseas equivalent
- Study Mode: Part-time distance learning
- Validated by the University of Suffolk



Register your interest today by filling out our [enrolment form](#) or contacting us at [contact@unitas.uk.net](mailto:contact@unitas.uk.net).

## Job Vacancies:



**Assistant Team Manager**  
**Salary: £48,710 - £51,802**  
**Contract type: Full time/Permanent**  
**Closing Date: 16/04/2025**

Oxfordshire Youth Justice Service is currently being relocated under an umbrella of teams as part of the development of a new 'adolescent offer' for Oxfordshire's children. This is an exciting time to join the service as we align with colleagues in Targeted Youth Work and Exploitation to enhance our responses across prevention, diversion and around harm outside the home.

This role is one of two Assistant Team Managers within the service who report to the Team Manager for Youth Justice. This role has supervisory responsibility for between 5-7 case-managers, with direct oversight of and responsibility for excellence in case-management practice.

Whilst we are working in an agile way and there are opportunities to work from home, the post-holder is expected to be available in County on a regular basis for face-to-face commitments and travel across the County of Oxfordshire is required. We are looking for a highly experienced youth justice professional who is looking for the next step in their career development into management. We are particularly keen to hear from current Senior Practitioners or those in similar roles.

For more information about this role then please [here](#).



**KTP Youth Justice Associate**  
**Salary: £37,000**  
**Contract type: Fixed term - 36 months**  
**Closing Date: 05/05/2025**

Following the success of implementing PYP into practice we have secured another KTP on an ever bigger scale (Knowledge Transfer Partnership).

The Manchester Centre for Youth Studies at Manchester Metropolitan University is delighted to be able to advertise the opportunity for a 36-month KTP in partnership with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority focusing on developing, implementing, and evaluating a child focused justice approach across the GMCA and its relevant partners, leading to organisational and cultural change.

For more information about the role and application details please see [here](#).

To submit a vacancy to the AYM for our Bulletin or to add to our website then please complete the form [here](#).



# Dates for Your Diary

Title	Date	Venue
National Policy Development Group (AYM)	16th April 2025	MS Teams
Executive Board meeting	17th June 2025	Warwick Conference Centres
Annual General Meeting	18th June 2025	Warwick Conference Centres
Annual Members Day	18th June 2025	Warwick Conference Centres
National Policy Development Group (AYM)	28th July 2025	MS Teams
Executive Board meeting	17th September 2025	MS Teams
National Policy Development Group (AYM)	6th November 2025	MS Teams
AYM Autumn Conference 2025	October 2025 - TBC	In person - TBC

To our colleagues who are celebrating this month...

*May this Eid bring new opportunities, growth, and joy in your professional and personal life. Eid Mubarak! Wishing you a peaceful day filled with success and happiness.*



To keep up to date with this calendar between Bulletins, please see our website - [www.aym.org.uk](http://www.aym.org.uk)

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

## AYM Regional Representatives

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

### NORTHWEST

Regional Rep: Kathy Gill (Wirral YJS)  
Deputy Reg Rep: Tom Lang (Manchester YJS)

### NORTHEAST

Regional Rep: Kay Dargue (South Tees YJS)  
Deputy Reg Rep: Sam Starmer (Cumbria YJS)

**YORKS & THE HUMBER**  
Regional Rep: VACANCY  
Deputy Reg Rep: Chris Sweeting (Kirklees YJS)

### EAST MIDLANDS

Regional Rep: Carly Turner (Leicestershire YJS)  
Deputy Reg Rep: John Evans (Nottinghamshire YJS)

### EAST OF ENGLAND

Regional Rep: Pat Jennings (Bedfordshire YJS)  
Deputy Reg Rep: VACANCY

### SOUTHEAST

Regional Rep: Ruth Hayles (Isle of Wight YJS)  
Deputy Reg Rep: Bea Nigolian (Wokingham YJS)

### LONDON

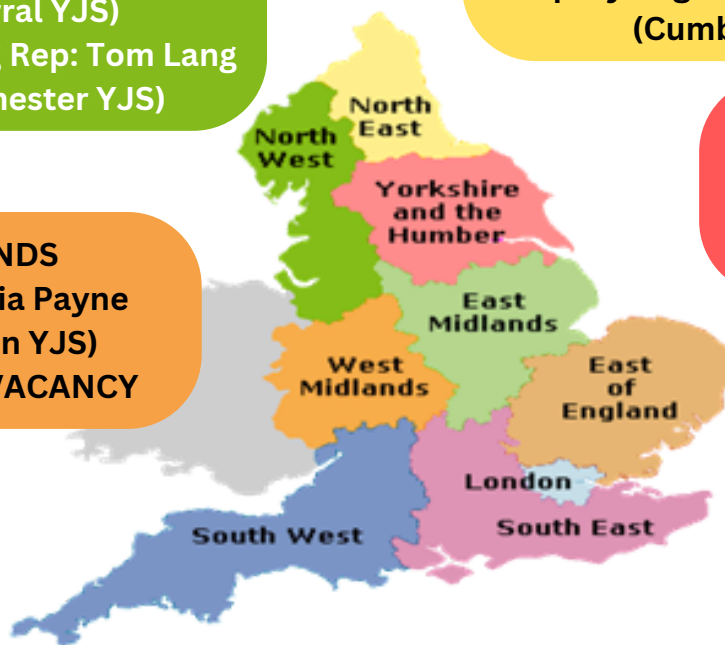
Regional Rep: Michelle Edwards (Newham YJS)  
Deputy Reg Rep: Alison Sabaroche (Hammersmith & Fulham YJS)

### SOUTHWEST

Regional Rep: David Webb (Dorset Combined YJS)  
Deputy Reg Rep: Michael O'Connor (North Somerset YJS)

### WESTMIDLANDS

Regional Rep: Celia Payne (Wolverhampton YJS)  
Deputy Reg Rep: VACANCY



\*The East of England, Yorks and Humber and West Midlands are looking for Deputy and Lead Regional Representatives.

Our Assistant Secretary will be writing to the members in these regions shortly to seek nominations so please keep an eye on your emails.

Get in touch...



Visit our website here - [www.aym.org.uk](http://www.aym.org.uk)



Follow us on LinkedIn [here](#)

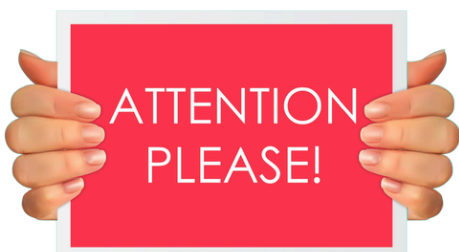


Email our Editor - [lisa.harvey-messina@aym.org.uk](mailto:lisa.harvey-messina@aym.org.uk)

For general enquiries or to contact the AYM,  
please email us at -  
[adminsupport@aym.org.uk](mailto:adminsupport@aym.org.uk)



To submit a vacancy to the AYM for our  
Bulletin or to add to our website then  
please complete the form [here](#).



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of interest. Inclusion should not be taken as user  
endorsement for products or views.