



**In this issue:**

- P2-4**      **News from the Executive Board**
- P5**        **AYM Autumn Conference**
- P6**        **AYM Management Training Courses**
- P7**        **Youth Justice Sector Improvement Partnership**
- P8**        **Youth Justice SEND Quality Awards**
- P9**        **Independent Review of Safeguarding in Oakhill STC**
- P10**      **Call for Specialist Workforce**
- P11**      **Children, Violence and Vulnerability 2022**
- P12**      **PACE: Powers to Search**
- P13**      **Young Minds and Crime**
- P14**      **Criminal Cases Review Commission**
- P15**      **Keep Caring**
- P15**      **MSt Course in Applied Criminology, Penology and Management**
- P16-20**    **Other News**
- P21-22**    **Dates for Your Diary**
- P23**      **How to Stay in Touch with the AYM**
- P24**      **AYM Regional Representatives**



## News from the AYM Executive Board

### ***From the Chair***

Dear colleagues, it has been a very busy 6 months since our AGM. As AYM Chair, it has been excellent to hear how many of you have assisted in the work of the Executive Board in responding to consultations and surveys, and generally giving feedback and support, it's very much appreciated. Your input means that the feedback we give to public bodies, such as the Ministry of Justice, reflects the diversity of provision offered by youth justice services nationally to meet local needs. We are always keen to ensure that central policy understands that for youth justice services, and the children we support, one size doesn't fit all.



I'm delighted to welcome new members to the Executive Board, and to note that most of the deputy regional representative positions, newly created this year, have been filled. I would however, encourage our members in the two regions (East and East Midlands) where we have vacancies to consider local nominations so that your regions can be as widely represented in our work. I also want to acknowledge the sterling efforts of our Project & Business Officers who support the AYM, as their continued work, often behind the scenes, is absolutely essential and we couldn't operate without them.

The AYM has welcomed the opportunity to be involved in consultation on a number of practice and policy developments this year; such as the MoJ Remand Working Groups in light of the remand changes under the PCSC Act 2022, Oasis Restore for the developments of the secure school, the YCS review of Oakhill STC and also their Reducing Reoffending Board, the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) on their diversion programme, Street Games on the new MoJ Sports Fund and the YJB on a range of areas, including changes to KPIs and the conditions of YOT grant. Also, as you will know, I recently wrote to our members regarding the work we have undertaken in the development of the MoJ grant which will support those of our services that have been struggling to fund preventative work due to financial pressures. We will continue to work with the MoJ and the YEF to ensure the grant is as effective as possible.

Many of our colleagues have been inspected during the year and some of you are currently being inspected, Andrea Brazier as the HMIP Head of Youth Inspections will be attending our next Executive to appraise us on the work so far and the plans for the new framework going forwards from mid-2024. Some of you will remember the seminars we ran with members on your HMIP experiences, which gave the opportunity to feedback, it might be useful for us to consider running these again, with a focus on Turnaround this time, let us know your thoughts?

As always, we are keen to hear about any issues that are affecting you locally, or that are troubling you nationally; do get in touch with your regional representatives, or directly through our website, so that we can help and ensure your views are represented.

I hope you all have a relaxing and well-deserved Christmas break and I look forward to hearing from you in 2023, all the best.

Jacqui Belfield-Smith, AYM Chair.



Our Vice Chair, Charlie Spencer recently joined the **Youth Justice Sports Fund Strategic Advisory and Decision Making Group** to discuss this Ministry of Justice fund which is managed by Street Games within a consortium arrangement with other sporting bodies. The fund aims to support vulnerable children aged 10-17years who are at risk of criminality, anti-social behaviour or serious violence. Applications for funding opened on the 7<sup>th</sup> November and 1500 expressions of interest from sporting providers have been received.

Charlie was keen to ensure that the group understood the importance of successful providers working together with youth justice services to ensure that the programmes delivered are suitably tailored to meet the needs of the respective localities and can link into any existing local arrangements.

The Strategic Group is keen to ensure that it maintains a strong relationship with youth justice services locally and nationally and the initial meeting was very positive and suggests strong partnership working in the future.



To find out more about the Youth Justice Sports Fund [click here](#)

---

Roni Checksfield, regional representative for the North East attended the recent **Youth Remand Working Group on behalf of the AYM**, the remit of which is to work together on the delivery of the recommendations in the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Remand Review.

This latest meeting of the group focused on the Review's recommendation that the MoJ explore with the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) how to '*better encourage the use*' of bail intensive supervision and surveillance (ISS). as a direct alternative to custodial remand.

Roni was able to feedback on the results of a survey sent to AYM members regarding which included difficulties with resourcing 25 hours per week provision, the inability of youth justice services to deliver ISS as a groupwork provision where gang activity is evident in the locality and the lack of education, training and employment provision for children. Roni advised that youth justice services should not be relied on to provide education.



Our colleague in YOT Managers Cymru helpfully raised the need to avoid the default position of issuing ISS for 25 hours in order to avoid enforcement proceedings where such a requirement is unsuitable for the child.

Roni agreed for the AYM to repeat the survey in due course, to identify if Bail ISS being a condition of the YJB grant has had an impact. Please complete the survey when it is issued to ensure that we can give a comprehensive picture of how bail ISS is being used nationally.



Tom Dooks the AYM portfolio lead for out of court disposals is also pleased to say that, following considerable AYM work with partners, the **Community Resolution and Outcome 22 guidance** documents, have now been agreed and signed off by Chief Constables. The guidance has been issued to out of court disposal leads in each police force area and all have been made aware that these documents now replace all previous versions.

In due course you will also be able to access these documents from the NPCC website, but in the meantime, you can access the documents on our national guidance area of the [clicking here](#)

---

Celia Payne, the AYM joint portfolio lead for out of court disposals would also like to thank those AYM members in our reference group who helped with our response to the National Police Chief's Council on a **revision to the Youth Gravity Matrix** consultation this month,.

We will provide an update on this in a future bulletin and on the AYM website.



---

***We are still looking for deputy/regional representatives*** for the East Midlands (both positions), East and South East regions (deputy roles).

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the work of the AYM and helping drive improvements in the youth justice system, please get in touch by [clicking here](#).

## AYM Autumn Conference

**A reminder to book your place at our free Autumn Conference**, kindly hosted by Milton Keynes Youth Offending Team.

To book your place [click here](#) (please note, we may only be able to offer online attendance due to demand – advise when registering if you prefer to attend in person and we will confirm if this is possible).

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2022**

**10am – 3:30pm**

**Milton Keynes Professional Development Centre,  
Galley Hill, Milton Keynes MK11 1PA**



### **AGENDA**

- |              |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| <b>10:00</b> | <b>Registration</b>   |   |
| <b>10:30</b> | <b>Welcome</b>  | Jacqui Belfield-Smith, AYM Chair  |
| <b>10:40</b> | <b>Key issues arising from the ETE thematic</b>                             | Helen Mercer, Head of Policy and Standards, HMIP                                  |
| <b>11:25</b> | <b>The neuroscience of learning and the biology of stress</b>               | Sharon Gray OBE, YJB Board Member   |
| <b>12:05</b> | <b>Comfort break</b>  |   |
| <b>12:20</b> | <b>Why everyone should know about DLD (developmental language disorder)</b> | Courtenay Norbury, Prof. of Developmental Language & Communication Disorders, UCL |
| <b>13:00</b> | <b>Lunch</b>  |   |
| <b>13:45</b> | <b>AYM Awards</b>   | Marius Frank (SEND QA),   |
| <b>14:30</b> | <b>Oakhill STC - ETE &amp; safeguarding update</b>                          | Wendy Tomlinson, Head of Safeguarding, YCS  |
| <b>15:15</b> | <b>Closing summary</b>  | Jacqui Belfield Smith, AYM Chair  |
| <b>15:30</b> | <b>Conference Close</b>   |   |

## AYM Management Training Courses

### ***Reminder to register your interest!***

#### **ILM 7 Qualification for Heads of Service.**

Are you interested in joining the latest cohort of the Institute in Leadership and Management Level 7 Certificate programme?

The course is delivered by our partners Solace, the UK's leading network for public sector professionals, and is unique in that it is the only leadership and management course offered to heads of service in youth justice. The course covers aspects of leadership and management within a strategic context and is delivered through a combination of workshops, tutorials, personal coaching, individual learning and work-based learning projects.



The programme is tailored to meet the needs of individuals within the cohort. The course outcomes can be linked to the organisation's strategic aims and strategies and the priorities of key political, organisational or community stakeholders, as well as to internal people and organisational development approaches.

We are currently looking to deliver this next cohort early in the new year. **If you are interested please contact us so that we can finalise the dates.**

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

---

#### **Aspiring Future Leaders Course**

This course, also delivered by Solace is aimed at operational and team managers who are wishing to progress to Head of Service/YOT manager or other more strategic roles in the public sector.

The programme is varied and aims to provide candidates with knowledge and development in a number of areas:

- Leadership and change
- Strategic thinking in public services
- Collaborative working
- Coaching for high performance.



### ***Interested in joining the next cohort?***

**The next course is planned for February 2023.**

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

## Youth Justice Sector Improvement Partnership

### ***Grant Awarded!***

The Youth Justice Sector Improvement Partnership (YJSIP) has now been advised by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, that the budget uplift required for this year's programme of work to be delivered is confirmed.



The YJSIP tripartite is now in discussion to secure a grant for 2023-24. The content for that programme will be informed by consultation with the sector around current need and demand. If you have ideas of how we could develop our offer, please get in touch by emailing:

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

If you are a Head of Service and haven't yet completed our (very quick) strategic questionnaire, [click here](#) to do so now. Thanks to all those who have already completed it, your contributions are much appreciated.

With the grant secured, we are now taking applications for a peer review leadership training event, taking place 7<sup>th</sup>– 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 in Coventry.



Accommodation and meals are provided. Remaining spaces are being prioritised for Heads of Service as we are primarily looking to increase the number of strategic co-leads we have. For more information, please email:

[laura.kinsey@aym.org.uk](mailto:laura.kinsey@aym.org.uk)

### ***We need you!***

If you are a trained YJSIP coach/mentor Get in touch as we have a number of coaching and mentoring applicants, as well as remaining mentors needed for the Elevate programme. Email [Laura.kinsey@aym.org.uk](mailto:Laura.kinsey@aym.org.uk)

### ***Keep in touch!***

Follow us on 'Linked in' by [clicking here](#)



## Youth Justice SEND Quality Awards

### ***Achieving the Youth Justice SEND Quality Lead Award, with Child First Commendation***



#### ***Milton Keynes Youth Justice Area Partnership***

Milton Keynes was one of the first area partnerships to embrace the Youth Justice SEND Quality Assurance framework which it used to identify weaker areas of practice, leading to the partnership attaining Quality Lead status in February 2018.

Diz Minnitt, operational lead at Milton Keynes YOT since 2001, has been a pioneer within youth justice in the area of special education needs in the youth justice system, taking a role nationally in raising awareness of the impact speech language and communication needs of children in the criminal justice system and advocating for co-location of speech and language therapists within youth offending teams.

The assessors note the effectiveness of the NHS-England funded PRRE (Promoting Reintegration and Reducing Exclusions) initiative sitting within an overarching diversion and prevention ESP (Early Support Project) framework. Assessors also note that although the service is commissioned through the YOT, there is no reference to the leadership and management of this initiative in reports and provision, thereby reducing the risk of labelling or stigmatisation.

---

#### ***Camden Area Partnership***



Camden has attained a Youth Justice SEND Quality Lead Award with Child First Commendation at the first attempt. The evidence that has been gathered is comprehensive and fully supportive of the award, framing a Child First Commendation that cannot be pinned on any one measure or initiative: but rather, emerging from strategic intent, investment in provision and the intelligent design of joined-up provision and service teams.

A long-standing strategic commitment to the most vulnerable children and young people in the Borough, as evidenced by systems and processes, policy and practice and an extensive network of co-located professionals, organised under the umbrella of Integrated Youth Services, of which the Youth Offending Service is a key partner.

In terms of Child First Partnership Practice, the effectiveness of the Early Help Team Of is noted, which offers a highly effective family-centred, holistic multi-agency response.

This commitment extends up to beyond *service "cliff edges"*, with co-located Connexions workers, Health Panels, a Neurodiversity Working Group and Vulnerable Adolescents Strategy Group working to create a wrap-around 18-25 years provision before transition to adult services.

***Well done Milton Keynes and Camden!***



# Independent Review of Safeguarding in Oakhill STC



## **Government Response**

The government has responded to the independent review of safeguarding practice in Oakhill Secure Training Centre (STC) by Sheila Durr (safeguarding consultant).

The review was commissioned by the Youth Custody Service (YCS) on behalf of the Secretary of State as a part of the action plan arising from Ofsted's Urgent Notification issued in October 2021, following a full inspection of the STC which found help and protection for children to be inadequate.

In its response to the review, the Government accepts the 19 recommendations made, noting that a number of the recommendations require input from statutory safeguarding partners and other statutory partners responsible for children. The response includes an update on progress against the recommendations.

The response goes on to state that *'the report accurately reflected the safeguarding landscape at the time of the review at Oakhill Secure Training Centre, identifying the areas of future development required'*.

It also states that the review *'clearly highlights the improvements made by the centre since the Urgent Notification was issued'*, advising that Oakhill children and staff now benefit from:

- Increased access to specialist support from social workers;
- Increased safeguarding and resettlement team resources;
- Developing relationships with local strategic safeguarding partners supporting continuous improvement in safeguarding practice and strategies;
- Increased recording and sharing of information related to safeguarding to enable reviews and practice assurance whilst learning lessons along the way;
- Oversight of all recommendations by the YCS Monitoring Team. The team will undergo continuing professional development in safeguarding led by the YCS Head of Safeguarding.

The response goes on to say the government is 'content with the initial actions completed by G4S in response to the review report and the recognition by the joint inspection led by Ofsted in May 2022 that *'recognised the improvement in safeguarding. In particular the decrease in force as a result of de-escalation techniques....'*

Ed Cornmell, the new Executive Director for YCS has written to the AYM Chair, Jacqui Belfield-Smith thanking the AYM and its members for the support given to the review and the ongoing action plan. He advised that the **YCS is content with the initial actions completed by G4S** in response to this review, and added ***'we are pleased to announce that a small number of spaces have also been made available for girls to be placed at Oakhill STC. This is a positive step as we can now provide more diverse placement options for girls in the Youth Secure Estate.'***



To read the report and the government response [click here](#)

## Call for Specialist Workforce



### **To be Included in the SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan**

The AYM is part of a coalition, led by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT), of over 110 charities, royal colleges, professional bodies, professional associations, trade unions, parents and carers and others, has written to the Secretaries of State at the Department of Education and Department of Health and Social Care, calling for an investment in a specialist workforce for children and young people.

The letter calls for the government to ensure that its SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan addresses urgent gaps in the provision of specialist workers. The letter details the importance of a properly trained workforce to support mainstream education and specialist provision and advises that such support helps identify needs early, reducing the demand for more expensive support later in life and supporting children in mainstream schooling. The role such specialist provide to teachers is also identified.

The coalition identify the insufficient number of specialists being currently trained to meet demand and the attrition rates of specialists, and the increased waiting times resulting from pressures resulting from the pandemic.

The coalition advise the ministers of the urgency of the issue, advising that without specialist support children, including those with SEND, will be at risk of poor educational outcomes, mental health and well being and longer term social and economic prospects.

The coalition recognizes the government's aim to ensure young people with SEND have the right support, in the right place, at the right time. And state the aim:

*'is a welcome one. We share it. However, we struggle to see how this ambition will be achieved without a clear workforce plan to ensure there are sufficient specialist professionals to help those working with children to identify needs and secure support both now and in the future.'*

The coalition states that:

*The long-term future of the specialist workforce must be secured through proper workforce planning so that children and young people now, and in the future, can access the support they need to thrive. It's also essential that children and young people with SEND from disadvantaged backgrounds, and are experiencing inequitable outcomes, are a major focus in the Government's plans and receive targeted action.'*

To read the letter [click here](#)

## 'Children, Violence and Vulnerability 2022'

### **Youth Endowment Fund Publish New Report**



A report by the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) reports that violence, and fear of violence, has far-reaching effects on children in England and Wales today. The report shows that children in England and Wales are missing out on education and opportunities because of their fear of violence.

- In an online survey of 2,025 children, 39% told the YEF that they'd been directly affected by violence in the last 12 months (either as victims or witnesses).
- Over half (55%) of children said they'd seen real life violence on social media in the last year. And nearly a quarter (24%) had seen other children carrying, promoting, or using weapons.
- 65% of children told us they'd changed their behaviour to keep themselves safe from violence in the last 12 months. 14% had been absent from school out of fear.
- More than a quarter (26%) want to see changes to policing (such as more patrols) to address serious violence, alongside more youth clubs and activities (15%) and drug and alcohol services (10%).

The report was launched at an event at the House of Lords, attended by the AYM Chair Jacqui Belfield Smith, where speakers from the YEF (including Executive Director Jon Yates and Youth Advisory Board Co-Chair Carlin Pelton) were joined by the Children's Commissioner Dame Rachel de Souza and the Minister for Prisons, Parole and Probation, the Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP (*pictured right*).



Speakers reflected on the need for change – because less violence means fewer children skipping school, fewer children missing sleep and fewer children losing out on opportunities. Caleb Jackson, Head of Change for Youth and Voluntary Sector at the YEF said:

*'We need to find out what works to solve the problem. Together with partners across the country, the Youth Endowment Fund is investing in finding what works to keep children safe. Violence is not inevitable. Together we can keep children safe from violence and give them richer, happier, safer lives.'*



*AYM Chair Jacqui Belfield-Smith pictured here with Jon Yates, Executive Director of YEF*

To read the report [click here](#)

To see the YEF Toolkit [click here](#)

## PACE: Powers to Search



### **Review Published**

The National Appropriate Adult Network (NAAN) has published a review of the police powers and safeguards to search individuals, with particular emphasis on the searching of children and vulnerable people. It follows in the wake of Child Q and similar cases identified by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).

The authors of the review consider a number of issues related to the police powers to search, and the impact of strip and intimate searches on individuals, particularly children and vulnerable adults.

The role of police officers is considered alongside other professionals. The review considers the different elements within the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) Codes regarding search, and the safeguarding requirement for those being searched, and note that parental involvement is minimal within the codes.

NAAN offers a number of 'ideas for change' to contribute to a wider discussion on the use of powers of search and PACE guidelines, highlighting that *'other bodies have the resources and mandate to provide a more detailed analysis and recommendations for change'*. *These ideas for change cover a range of issues designed to safeguard children and vulnerable adults:*

- There should be a strategic review due to the 'gap between public expectation and the existing framework';
- Development and deployment of alternatives to strip and intimate searches, by investing in personnel training and technology, and increasing in the role of medical professionals;
- Strengthening the role of appropriate adults and parents, and increasing the expectation that these will be made available in strip and intimate searches, unless there is immediate risk of harm to the child or to someone else;
- Improvements in guidance to ensure that intimacy, trauma and consent are sufficiently considered where search is an option and safeguards are in place to support those being searched, including increasing the understanding of educators;
- Consideration should be given to the appropriateness of the location where a search is to take place;
- Improvements to the oversight and recording of searches undertaken;
- Consideration should be given to the purpose of any intended searches and the conduct of those officers carrying them out;
- Issues of equality is considered with a review of guidance and the implementation of recommended actions by the IOPC and the Police Race Action Plan.

To read the report [click here](#)

## Young Minds and Crime

### ***'Understanding criminal behavior in children and adolescents'***

Eric Taipale, a Canadian author has written a series of articles for Psychology Today - '***Young Minds and Crime: Understanding criminal behavior in children and adolescents***' in which he considers causes of children's offending using case studies and literature reviews to highlight discussion.

Psychology Today

In this series, the author discusses:

**'Why Do Children Set Fires?'** This article considers how firesetting among children and adolescents, is a problematic behavioural pattern which can result in serious injury and the causes of it.

The author argues that attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, anxiety disorders, and conduct disorder may co-occur with juvenile firesetting, and that children who have a pattern of firesetting are more likely to be victims of abuse and use fires to express anger or alleviate stress. He advises that, *'though an interest in matches and fire is not always viewed as a behavioral issue, parents should understand the dangers of juvenile firesetting'*.

**'Understanding Youths Who Commit Sexually Motivated Homicide'**. In this article, the author argues that we rarely discuss the psychological dynamics of sexual homicide, especially when the perpetrator is a youth. Further, he argues that whilst sexual homicide committed by children is extremely rare, those who commit such crimes suffer from *'psychiatric disorders that influence their conduct and ability to manage their behavior'*.

**'The Crimes Murderers Commit as Children'**. The author discusses here that murderers have often committed crimes such as, shoplifting, criminal damage, fire setting, and 'animal abuse possibly as an expression of anger or rage', in their childhood. He also reports that truancy and academic problems are often present in those that commit murder.

To read the report [click here](#)

## Criminal Cases Review Commission

### *Free Advice and Support – and Training*

The Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) is the official body responsible for investigating alleged miscarriages of justice. Created by the Criminal Appeal Act 1995, CCRC independently review cases of people who it is believed have been **wrongly convicted or unfairly sentenced** and have **lost their appeal**.



If the CCRC identifies **new evidence or legal argument** that casts doubt on the safety of the original decision, it has the power to refer the case back to the appeal court. **Only the CCRC has the power to do this.** It is the only body with special legal powers to obtain material from **any public** hearing in England, Wales or Northern Ireland. This enables it to conduct detailed case reviews.

The services of the CRCC are **completely free**, applicants **do not need legal representation**, and there is **no time limit** to apply.

The CCRC has the jurisdiction to investigate **any criminal conviction or sentence** from England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and has **in-house expertise** to deal with cases relating to joint enterprise, county lines and other crimes disproportionately affecting young people.

The CCRC is committed to increasing its engagement with young people. It offers online and in-person awareness training to staff at YOIs and youth justice charities.



The CCRC is concerned that a lack of awareness of the role and remit of the CCRC is a significant barrier to young people applying to it, and this training enables those working with young offenders to effectively signpost to its services.

The CCRC creates accessible literature, written with young people in mind. The easy-read application form can be posted, or completed online, and the **applicant can nominate a friend or family member** to fill it out on their behalf.

Young people can use the free advice line ([0800 538 5724](tel:08005385724)) where help and guidance will be provided.

If you are interested in a training session with the CCRC, or would like more information contact staff there on [info@ccrc.gov.uk](mailto:info@ccrc.gov.uk)

## Keep Caring

### **Online Survey for 16 and 17 year olds**



The **#KeepCaringTo18** campaign group has launched a call to action for 16 and 17 year-olds living in England.

The campaign group wants to know what care looks and feels like to 16 and 17 year-olds, to help influence government policy. The views of all 16 and 17 year-olds are sought no matter where in England they live.

**Article 39** which is running the KeepCaring campaign point out that:

*'In February 2022 a delegation of care experienced people handed in a petition signed by over 10,800 care experienced people, social workers, academics, sector professionals, and members of the public. Together, they called upon the government to extend the ban on unregulated, 'care-less' accommodation for children aged 15 and under to those aged 16 and 17.*

*The government has so far taken no steps towards ensuring every child in care receives care. Instead, it is investing over £140 million into introducing standards for accommodation for 16- and 17-year-olds which deliberately omit any requirement to provide care.'*

If you have a young person that would like to complete the survey – it can be found by [clicking here](#).

---

---

## MSt in Applied Criminology, Penology and Management

### **A reminder to apply before the deadline – 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2023!**

The Institute of Criminology (University of Cambridge) is running a two-year part-time Master's course (MSt) in Applied Criminology, Penology and Management, and is accepting applications for the Spring 2023 intake. Students include practitioners working in public and private prisons, probation services, youth justice, the third sector, the magistracy, and international governmental and non-governmental organisations.

The course is designed to be compatible with full-time careers in criminal justice, and aims to produce highly informed and research-literate future leaders. It is taught through a series of residential study blocks in Cambridge, by internationally renowned researchers and guest speakers, with an emphasis on interactive learning between experienced criminal justice professionals and academics.

**The next course begins in April 2023**, to apply for a place on the course please contact:

[mst.administration@crim.cam.ac.uk](mailto:mst.administration@crim.cam.ac.uk).

**The application deadline is 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.**

For more information [click here](#)



## Other News

A stylized logo with the word "News" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The letters have a slight 3D effect with blue and white highlights, giving it a modern, digital appearance. The logo is set against a white background with a thin grey border.

### Teenagers (Safety and Wellbeing) Bill

Alex Norris, Labour MP for Nottingham North, brought a private members bill before the House of Commons on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, to place a duty on the Secretary of State to promote the safety and wellbeing of teenagers; to make provision to prevent crime against teenagers; and for connected purposes.



Norris said:

*‘The Government’s response on the safety and wellbeing of teenagers is often unfocused and lacks co-ordination. No Department has a lead responsibility for promoting the safety and wellbeing of teenagers, and although several Departments have welcome funded programmes of activity that relate to teenagers, they are not co-ordinated and do not tackle the needs of vulnerable teenagers in a holistic and systemic way. This lack of focus and co-ordination nationally is reflected locally, with many teenagers falling through the gaps between school, children’s services, the NHS and the police. We know that there is a paucity of preventive help in most communities, meaning that teenagers will often need to fall into crisis before they can access help.’* Going on to explain that the system needs fixing:

*‘A Bill such as this could do that in four areas: by identifying a lead Department for vulnerable teenagers with clear accountability; by placing a duty on the Secretary of State to promote the safety of teenagers across government; by placing a duty on the Secretary of State to prevent crime against teenagers; and by placing a duty to promote wellbeing.’*

The second reading of the bill is scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.



To read more about the bill [click here](#)

---

## Online Library for Criminal Justice Professionals

The Butler Trust ‘Knowledge Exchange’ launched in February this year, is an online platform for sharing practice guidance and examples of best practice, articles, and reports regarding criminal justice. The Knowledge Exchange now has over 500 resources available.

[Click here](#) to access Knowledge Exchange.





## Better Ways of Working for Women and Girls



The Centre for Justice Innovation has published three new studies on its 'Map of Innovation' which have a specific focus on issues affecting women and girls:

**'My Ally'** is a service run by Watford Women's Centre that provides emotional and practical support, via a support line and e-mail, to women who have been subjected to domestic abuse.

**'Flourish'** is a therapeutic outreach service for women in Lambeth who have experience of care proceedings or the removal of a child from their care and are at risk of recurrent care proceedings.

The **'Everyman Project'** was a counselling service for men, which aimed to help them cease their violent and abusive behaviours.



To view the 'Map of Innovation' [click here](#)

---

## Further Funding for Female Victims of Violence

The Home Office has announced £15m to tackle violence against women and girls. The measures will include:

- £8.4 million to support victims of violence against women and girls
- targeted funding for the most vulnerable communities
- up to £7.5 million for domestic abuse interventions in healthcare settings
- 
- In addition £70k is being provided to fund rapid spiking tests to build police intelligence.



For more information on this funding [click here](#)

---

## SafeCall Helpline



The charity, Missing People, has had its funding extended to offer the SafeCall helpline until 2025. The service helps young people affected by child criminal exploitation, their families and the professionals working with them.

Support is offered via this anonymous helpline via phone, text, and Online Chat. The service can provide reassurance and support to explore their choices, and help in formulating a safety plan.

For more information [click here](#)

## Care Review

MPs have been criticised in both Twitter and LinkedIn for the poor turnout to hear the parliamentary debate on the Care Review's final report.

During the debate, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education, Claire Coutino, was asked to confirm when the government's response to the review, which was promised by the former prime minister Liz Truss to be published by the end of this year.

In her response, Coutino said:

*'I committed to publishing our implementation strategy early in the new year and I look forward to returning to this House to set out our plans in full'.*

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

---



## Norwegian 'Change Factory' Visit London

Members of the Alliance for Youth Justice staff team, Leaders Unlocked and one representative from the Young Advocates met with Change Factory on 15<sup>th</sup> November. Representatives from Change Factory were visiting London, and other countries, to build an international network for youth justice.

Change Factory is an organisation based in Norway, with the goal of sharing knowledge from children with politicians, educators and the wider public. The 'Pros' (children and young people who are experts by experience in areas such as the justice and welfare systems) distribute their knowledge via booklets, presentations, and films.

The group met to exchange knowledge about the youth justice system in both Norway and England and Wales, and to develop understanding of the ways in which the youth voice can be amplified to influence policy.

To find out more [click here](#)

---



## SEND Improvement Plan

In the Education Blog', the Education Secretary, Gillian Keegan has stated that she has written to the education and care sectors outlining her vision for the publication of the SEND Improvement Plan and her commitment to meet with families and organisations ahead of its publication early next year.



In the blog, she states:

*'I want to understand the extensive feedback we received through the consultation, before publishing a full response to the SEND and Alternative Provision green paper, in an Improvement Plan. I will publish this early in the new year.'*

She goes on to say:

*'Ahead of our Improvement Plan being published, I'm happy to confirm that we are taking forward two additional measures to support children with SEND: investing £21 million into training 400 more educational psychologists, who play a critical role in the educational support available to children with SEND, and extending a training programme to up to 150 more schools for teachers to use assistive technology to better support their pupils.'*

To read the blog [click here](#)



---

## Responding to Drug Possession

The Centre for Justice Innovation has published a new framework '**Responding to Drug Possession – a new framework**' in which sets out a comprehensive, evidence-led framework for diversion for drugs possession offences across England and Wales. It aims to help police forces and others develop a better response to drug possession, to reduce the harms associated with drug misuse, keep communities safe, and reduce the costs to the criminal justice system.



The framework is for use with children and adults, and recognizes the work of youth justice services in driving practice toward the use of diversion, rather than statutory out of court disposals to engage those using drugs to engage with a supportive intervention.

To read the new framework [click here](#)

---

## Hidden in Plain sight

**COMMISSION  
YOUNG LIVES**

The Commission on Young Lives has published a final report '**Hidden in Plain Sight A national plan of action to support vulnerable teenagers to succeed and to protect them from adversity, exploitation, and harm**'. This report brings together four previously published thematic reports, and sets out a policy framework which includes the scale of investment needed to support vulnerable children and their families.

The four thematic reports made the case for change in the education system, children's social care system, the family support offer to parents and children, and in children's mental health services. Each report also contains its own set of recommendations. This final report brings together those recommendations and makes the argument for a bold overhaul of the way in which at risk teenagers can be safeguarded, the way support that can be offered '*at the right time to those who need it*', and the ways children can be supported to thrive.

To read the report [click here](#)

---

## Safeguarding Pressures Phase 8 Interim report

**ADCS**  
Leading Children's Services

The ADCS has published a report '*Safeguarding Pressures phase 8 interim report*' draws on qualitative and quantitative data from 125 local authorities, covering 83% of England's child population, to evidence and better understand changes in demand for, and provision of, children's social care.

It provides an insight into the first two years of the pandemic period, from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2022, and shows that the impact of Covid-19 continues to be felt in children's lives, local communities and in public services. This, together with existing data, provides an insight into the safeguarding related pressures currently facing children's services across the country.

To read the report [click here](#)

---

## Chair of YJB to Run the London Marathon

Keith Fraser, Chair of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales has announced he will be racing in the London Marathon on 23rd April, 2023 in support of 'Cure Leukaemia'.

Keith said that he has not run for more than 10 years and this is the first time he has taken part in the marathon.



***Good Luck Keith, we will be looking out for you!***

---

---

**For Your  
Diary!**

## Dates for Your Diary

### Calendar of events for AYM 2022/23



<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Autumn Conference	7 <sup>th</sup> December	Milton Keynes
Executive Board meeting	6 <sup>th</sup> December, 2022	MS Teams
Executive Board meeting	14 <sup>th</sup> March, 2023	MS Teams
Executive Board meeting	22 <sup>nd</sup> June, 2023	To be confirmed
AYM Conference	22 <sup>nd</sup> June, 2023	To be confirmed
AYM AGM	22 <sup>nd</sup> June, 2023	To be confirmed
Executive Board meeting	5 <sup>th</sup> September, 2023	MS Teams
AYM Conference	6 <sup>th</sup> December, 2023	To be confirmed
Executive Board meeting	6 <sup>th</sup> December, 2023	To be confirmed

***Please contact your regional representative (see below) if you wish the Executive Board to consider a particular issue, or if you have an item you would like to bring to their attention at one of their meetings.***

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

## Alliance for Youth Justice Member's Meeting



The next members meeting of the Alliance for Youth Justice (AYJ) will take place on:

**14:00-16:00**

on

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2023**

The guest speaker at the meeting will be Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England.

The AYM is a member of the Alliance for Youth Justice. If you would like to attend this meeting, please register your interest by [clicking here](#)



---

## Tackling Homelessness Digital Conference

This conference offers a series of panel discussions and case studies to enable delegates to gain insights on collaborative approaches across housing, health, care and third sector.



Delegates will also be able to join a conversation with members of the committee who produced the latest NICE guidelines on 'Integrated Health and Social Care for People Experiencing Homelessness'.

The conference takes place on

**Wednesday 25th January, 2023**

at

**9:00 – 13:35**

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

---

---

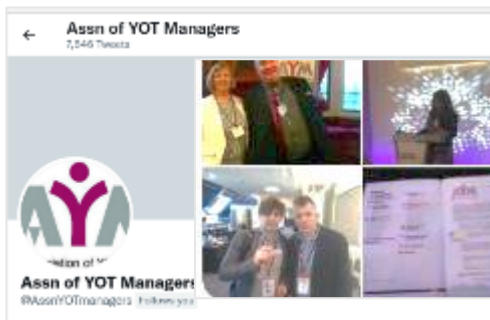
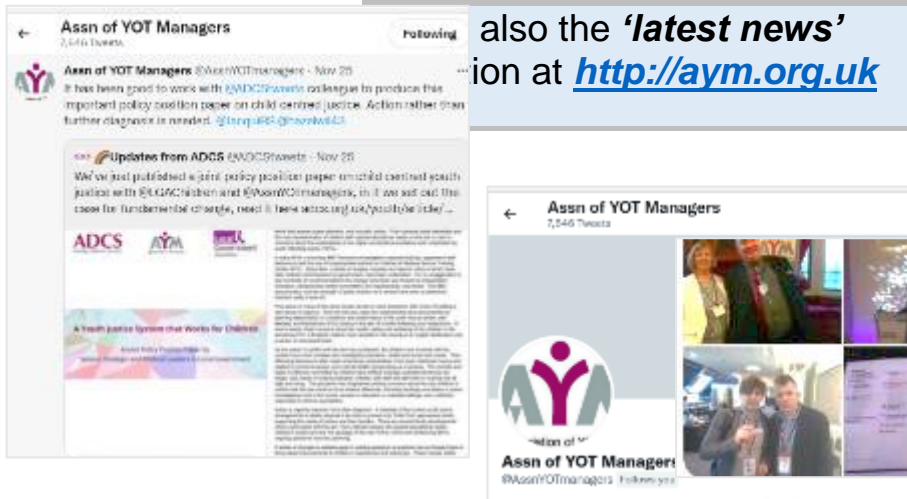


## Want to stay up to date with YJ issues?

Then follow the AYM on Twitter.....

**We have more than 3,000 followers** who receive frequent updates on issues relating to youth justice and YOT Managers. It's easy to sign up - our username is:

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



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)



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](mailto:lesley.tregear@aym.org.uk) and you will be removed from our records. Non-Member email addresses are only used for circulating this newsletter.

## AYM Regional Representatives

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

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

<b>East</b>	<b>Pat Jennings</b> <i>Bedfordshire YOS</i>				
<i>pat.jennings@bedford.gov.uk</i>					
<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>Nominations required</b>		<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>Celia Payne</b> <i>Wolverhampton YOS</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>Roni Checksfield</b> <i>Hartlepool YOS</i>		<b>North West</b>	<b>Kathy Gill</b> <i>Wirral YJS</i>	
<i>roni.checksfield@hartlepool.gov.uk</i>			<i>kathygill@wirral.gov.uk</i>		
<b>London</b>	<b>Brendan Finegan</b> <i>Hackney YOT</i>		<b>Yorkshire &amp; Humberside</b>	<b>Sarah Goddard,</b> <i>Bradford YOT</i>	
<i>brendan.finegan@hackney.gov.uk</i>			<i>sarah.goddard@bradford.gov.uk</i>		