

Minutes



Youth Justice Board
Bwrdd Cyfiawnder Ieuencid

Meeting: **Board Meeting**
Date: **13 September 2017**
Time: **10:00-13:00**
Location: **102 Petty France**
Protective marking: **Official**

Attendees

Charlie Taylor (YJB Chair)	Carol Homden (Board member)
Alan Wood (Board member)	Neil Rhodes (Board member)
David Banks (Board member)	John Wrangham (Board member)
Gillian Fairfield (Board member)	Tony Sewell (Board member)
Chris Davies (Board member)	Rob Butler (Board member)
Seamus Oates (Board member)	Brian Tytherleigh (Board member)
Colin Allars (Chief Executive)	Dusty Kennedy (Director of YJB Cymru)
Louise Falshaw (Director of Partnerships and Performance)	Stephanie Dilloway (Head of Chief Executive's Office)
Martin Skeats (Director of Finance and Business Assurance)	Poppy Harrison (Head of Strategy and Safeguarding Governance – item 6)
Alex Randall (ALB Governance, MoJ)	Paula Williams (Head of Policy and Strategy – item 6)
Sean Cotter (Senior Policy and Strategy Adviser - item 4)	David Wells (CEO's Office – minutes)

Agenda Ref.	Item	Action
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1	<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>1. Charlie Taylor welcomed Brian Tytherleigh to his first meeting as a YJB Board member.</p> <p>2. Charlie stated that the transfer of functions took place as planned on 1 September 2017, and that the process had been handled well with the latest staff 'pulse survey' showing encouraging results in regard to staff morale.</p> <p>3. Charlie reported that a secure schools event took place last week, with a good level of interest and good range of interested parties. Charlie added that he also visited Medway STC this week.</p>	
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4. Charlie stated that the future governance of the system is now clearer, with agreement that there will be a distinct youth secure performance board chaired by the Permanent Secretary, and a further youth justice oversight board that he will chair, which will help to generate feedback and advice to Ministers. Charlie added that the process for appointing new YJB Board members continues, with an encouraging field already emerging.

5. Charlie stated that a sub-group of the Board will meet at a workshop in October to further scope the future functions of the YJB.

2 **Board minutes / Actions / Committee Minutes / Board Member Activity Schedule / Register of Interests / Gifts and Hospitality Register**

6. The minutes of the previous meeting (14 June 2017) were agreed without change, and the updates provided against actions on the log were noted.

8. The Board noted the following:

- the Performance Committee minutes of 2 August 2017 and the accompanying report;
- the Wales Youth Justice Advisory Panel minutes of 26 July 2017;
- the Finance, Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (FARAC) minutes of 5 July 2017;
- the Board activity schedule;
- the Board member register of interests;
- the gifts and hospitality register.

3 **Chief Executive's Report**

9. The written report was noted. Colin Allars drew particular attention to the section on the transfer of functions, reporting that it had gone ahead on 1 September as planned and that no staff had objected to their transfer. Just under 50% of staff have moved. Colin reported that a good discussion was held at a special Finance, Audit and Risk Assurance Committee last week looking at the workarounds in place and any risks. David Banks stated that generally speaking the Committee took a lot of assurance from the meeting.

10. Rob Butler stated that the YJB has struggled to gather remand income in the past, and asked how the YJB will

ensure that it is not caught in the middle between local authorities and the Youth Custody Service. Colin Allars agreed that this represents a risk, but that the financial position on income collection was positive and that he was confident that the risk would not materialise.

11. Carol Homden asked how and where the cost of the transfer of functions will be borne. Colin Allars stated that the MoJ has not revised the budgets for the three organisations yet and that the budget allocated to the YJB at the beginning of the year remains the budget until a re-allocation takes place. Colin added that the YJB has absorbed the costs to it of the transfer, and that the YOT grant will not be effected.

12. Chris Davies asked for more information on the youth justice oversight board to be chaired by Charlie Taylor, and its relationship with the YJB board. Colin Allars stated that the intention of that board will be to bring together all providers of services, and that it will then feed-in to the YJB board and provide further scope for the YJB to advise Ministers.

13. Colin Allars reported on the latest staff “pulse survey” results, stating that the response rate has increased which was pleasing. There remains a high degree of motivation among the staff group, albeit the numbers have come down slightly. Charlie Taylor welcomed the results of the survey, adding that the Executive had managed the transfer of functions very well.

14. Colin highlighted the section of his written report around child X, providing further details around the background to the case. The experiences will be discussed with MoJ commercial so that the learning can be applied in the next contracting round. Alan Wood noted paragraph 4.5 of the paper in relation to whole system SCH capacity and the need for work on this to be taken forward with the Department for Education (DfE). Charlie Taylor agreed that the YJB will need to follow this up further with the DfE.

15. In relation to the section on street crime and mopeds, Colin Allars reported that at present this appeared to be mainly an issue in London, and that the Home Office held a meeting on the matter yesterday. The available data is limited and Colin was keen to avoid interested parties making assumptions. The YJB will remain plugged-in to the issue. Rob Butler noted that as the people committing these crimes are likely to be reoffenders then there is a higher likelihood of those that get caught receiving a custodial sentence. Carol Homden emphasised the need

The YJB to follow-up with the DfE on the issue of SCH system capacity.

to avoid the 'social norming' of such crimes and the need to avoid adding to misconceptions, stating that in reality the vast majority of young people live crime free lives.

16. Colin Allars drew attention to the publication of the Lammy Review, stating that the launch event went well. John Wrangham stated that there was little in the report that the YJB had not already identified, and that there is a need to think further how to get messages out for the future.

17. Rob Butler agreed that the YJB needs to 'shout louder', citing the fact that the BAME population is 14% of the total population yet BAME children account for 41% of the youth custodial population. Furthermore, despite the drop in numbers in the youth justice system over recent years the proportion of BAME children in the system has risen. Rob added that one reason for the focus on youth justice was because the YJB collects more data than other areas of the system, which is positive. Rob suggested that more consideration also needs to be given to the impact of poverty and children coming from single parent families, as black boys are more likely to come from such backgrounds than the population as a whole.

18. Tony Sewell highlighted the suggestion made in the report that local youth offending panels should have greater community involvement. Tony stated that there is also a case for YOTs to show greater innovation in relation to prevention and rehabilitation. Tony added that there may be greater scope for providing BAME children with more opportunities for work experience, particularly in London.

19. Carol Homden highlighted the need to recognise the over-representation of BAME children as victims of violent crime, and of the need to prevent a deepening cycle. Chris Davies stated that where it is known that a local area bucks the trend on BAME disproportionality then an analysis needs to be done to find out why, and to spread any good practice. Gillian Fairfield added that links also need to be made with mental health services, as BAME males are over-represented there too. Carol Homden stated that the YJB, and others, also need to ensure that the lessons from previous programmes are learnt, and to be willing to adapt structures to address the issue.

4 **The Board then had a discussion on a specific item of confidential policy advice to ministers**

5 **Counter-Terrorism Update**

20. Neil Rhodes gave a presentation on the work that the

YJB has been involved in over the last year or so in relation to counter-terrorism, highlighting the need to ensure this work carries on through the transition of functions and beyond. Neil emphasised the need for a continuity of leadership and to sustain and build the relationships across the youth justice system. Seamus Oates suggested that for staff working in the system annual training in prevent should be a base requirement, to keep staff alive to the risks. Charlie Taylor stated that the Board should receive an update at its next but one meeting on how the work has been transferred. Seamus Oates added that the Board may want a similar level of assurance in relation to child sexual exploitation and safeguarding.

The Board to be updated on the transfer of counter-terrorism work at its meeting on 17 January 2018

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YJB Functions

21. Poppy Harrison gave a presentation on the work to date on determining the future functions of the YJB and how these will be carried out. It was noted that a sub-group of the Board will be having a further workshop on the subject in October. This work will look at the future organisational design of the YJB as well as the functions.

22. David Banks stated that there needs to be an emphasis on outcomes and how the YJB can achieve maximum impact – and that this is where money needs to be targeted. Rob Butler stated that the YJB must not lose sight of its unique selling point, and that the voice of the child and addressing BAME disproportionality needs to be embedded in any future work. Chris Davies highlighted the need to avoid duplication in the new governance structures, and Carol Homden asked what behaviours and attributes will the YJB exhibit in relation to its values, adding that the future YJB will have to be ‘multi-lingual’ and to navigate the boundaries between different organisations.

23. Paula Williams then presented the Board with an update on the work to date on how the future YJB will provide advice to Ministers. Paula asked that if Board members were aware of any good models in this regard then could they please forward the details to her. John Wrangham stated that whatever model is used, the advice needs to go directly to Ministers. In relation to the definition of ‘advice’ shown in the slide pack, Chris Davies stated that advice has to be rooted in evidence and intelligence, and to be robust. Neil Rhodes echoed the point about the importance of advice going directly to Ministers. Tony Sewell stated that Ministers want solutions, and that it will be vital for the YJB to understand their agenda and priorities.

- 7** **Any Other Business**
24. Charlie Taylor thanked attendees for their input, and YJB officials for their administration of the meeting. There was no further business. The meeting closed at 13.00.

David Wells
Chief Executive's Office
22 September 2017