

Memorandum of Understanding between the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales and Clubs for Young People

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Introduction and background

This memorandum of understanding is made and entered into by and between the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) and Clubs for Young People. A memorandum of understanding is not a legally binding document.

The YJB oversees the youth justice system in England and Wales. It works to prevent offending and reoffending by children and young people under the age of 18, and to ensure that custody for them is safe, secure, and addresses the causes of their offending behaviour. Specifically, the YJB:

- advises the Secretary of State on the operation of, and standards for, the youth justice system
- monitors the performance of the youth justice system
- purchases places for, and places, children and young people remanded or sentenced to custody
- identifies and promotes effective practice
- makes grants to local authorities and other bodies to support the development of effective practice
- commissions research and publishes information.

At a local level, youth offending teams (YOTs) ensure that children and young people who offend are properly supervised and that mainstream services are delivered through multi-agency activity. YOTs are made up of representatives from the police, Probation Service, social services, health and education services, and other specialist workers and volunteers. Each YOT is managed by a YOT manager, who is responsible for co-ordinating the work of the youth justice services. While YOTs are part of the criminal justice system, they also co-operate under the local children's services arrangements arising out of Every Child Matters (and its Welsh equivalent) and as such support the five outcomes for children and seven core aims in Wales.

Clubs for Young People is one of the UK's leading voluntary youth organisations, aiming to promote the involvement, enjoyment and achievement of all young people.

Over 3,000 youth clubs and projects belong to Clubs for Young People's affiliated UK network, providing structured activities for 400,000 young people in the community, supported by a full-time professional team and 30,000 volunteers.

Clubs for Young People deliver structured activities to young people across the UK. In partnership with our members, we work with young people from low income backgrounds and marginalised and excluded communities. At a national level, the organisation is:

- the intellectual champion of structured, community-based youth work in clubs
- at the centre of the debate about youth work
- a national reference point for its direction and future.

Aim of the memorandum of understanding

The memorandum of understanding establishes a framework, for mutual benefit, that will guide both parties in forming a co-operative working relationship for planning and accomplishing agreed projects and activities across England and Wales that will contribute to a reduction in offending and reoffending rates among children and young people under 18 years of age. The national alliance aims to drive more widespread partnership-working between local Clubs for Young People and YOTs.

Both parties should ensure that the programmes for which it is responsible and in which offenders and ex-offenders participate, whether in custody or in the community, are fit for purpose, quality assured and aligned to related activity.

Both parties will develop an effective communication strategy to ensure that all YOTs and local Clubs for Young People are aware of this agreement. The YJB, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and Department for Children, Schools and Families, will ensure that YOTs are informed about the local services that are provided by Clubs for Young People.

Both parties aim to share any benefits with third parties where appropriate.

Agreement

To enable effective joint work at local levels, the YJB will pass information to YOTs about the resources and opportunities of engagement that may be available locally through Clubs for Young People. Clubs for Young People will do likewise, providing information about YOTs to their local clubs and helping foster good relations.

In order to achieve these aims, Clubs for Young People and the YJB agree to:

- work together in a strategic alliance
- facilitate the development of regional and local relationships between the two organisations, and with local services whose concerns they represent
- publicise jointly the resources and services available to each other and to YOTs
- develop joint bids and proposals as funding opportunities arise
- provide input into each organisation's activities and events on topics of special/mutual interest
- share relevant data within the confines of data protection legislation
- agree public statements and press releases where they are of mutual concern
- develop other national and regional joint communication activities, and share joint platforms to promote best practice, outcomes, and to share opinions
- encourage local Clubs for Young People and YOTs to develop protocols and service level agreements at a local level to promote joint working
- ensure that YOTs will provide support and carry out risk assessments on young offenders in order to give Clubs for Young People confidence to provide access to their network for this client group.

Partnership outcomes

Expected partnership outcomes include:

- better outcomes for children and young people
- greater mutual understanding of shared interests
- more effective working relationships at all levels of organisations
- an increase in the number of appropriate cross-referrals from YOTs
- promotion of the partnership in each others aims and objectives, including joint activities and events
- greater capacity for joint strategic planning.

Evaluation and review

The YJB and Clubs for Young People agree to review this agreement in May 2009 and annually thereafter to assess the effectiveness of the alliance and progress achieved towards expected outcomes.

Administration and management

Simon Antrobus (Director of Young People's Services, Clubs for Young People) and Nishi Nathwani (Strategy Manager - Inclusion Team, YJB) are the leads for the administration and management of this document.

Signed by



Ellie Roy
Chief Executive, YJB



Simon Antrobus
CEO, Clubs for Young People