

**Westminster Legal Policy Forum Keynote Seminar:  
Reforming the youth justice system - courts, custody and rehabilitation**

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Venue: Glaziers Hall, 9 Montague Close, London SE1 9DD

Agenda subject to change



- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**David Burrowes MP**, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Child and Youth Crime Group and former Shadow Justice Minister
- 9.05 - 9.35 **The future of the Youth Courts System - priorities for reform**  
*Key findings and recommendations following the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Youth Courts System. What are the principal strengths and weaknesses of the current framework, and what more can be done to improve its effectiveness?*  
**Lord Carlile of Berriew QC**, Chair, Parliamentary Inquiry into the Youth Courts System  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 10.30 **Reforming the youth courts - structure, sentencing and child welfare**  
*In what ways might youth sentencing guidelines need reform, particularly in relation to avoiding custody and promoting restorative justice where appropriate? What challenges do Youth Offending Teams face in enforcing court outcomes - such as ensuring sufficient engagement with Youth Offender Panels - and how can communication between sentencers and community stakeholders be improved upon? How warranted are concerns that courts too often respond to youth offending without considering the welfare needs of a child? In what ways might Youth Offending Teams and Courts need to play a greater strategic role in addressing the needs of children within the criminal justice system, and what can be learnt from cases such as the 2009 Edlington attack in South Yorkshire in this respect? How adequately is the Youth Court currently structured to deal with children involved in criminal proceedings, and should policymakers consider joining youth and family court jurisdictions to deal with care and crime together?*  
**Penelope Gibbs**, Chair, Standing Committee for Youth Justice and Director, Transform Justice  
**Kathryn Harrison**, Chair, Youth Courts Committee, Magistrates' Association  
**Aiman Elal**, Divisional Manager for North West London, Victim Support  
**Aika Stephenson**, Solicitor, Hodge Jones & Allen and Director of Programmes, Just for Kids Law  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 - 10.50 **Youth justice in Wales**  
*Perspective from Wales on effective implementation of UK Government strategy, and latest assessment of the All Wales Youth Offending Strategy.*  
**Theodore Huckle QC**, Counsel General for Wales  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.50 - 10.55 **Chairman's closing remarks**  
**David Burrowes MP**, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Child and Youth Crime Group and former Shadow Justice Minister
- 10.55 - 11.25 Coffee
- 11.25 - 11.30 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**Rt Hon Elfyn Llwyd MP**, Member, Justice Committee
- 11.30 - 12.00 **Reforming youth custody - next steps for reform following consultation**  
*Key findings from the Transforming Youth Custody consultation, and priorities moving forward for implementation.*  
**Paul Candler**, Deputy Director for Youth Justice, Ministry of Justice  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.55 **Improving youth custody & delivering secure colleges - education, rehabilitation & custody-to-community transition**  
*What challenges do Government's recently outlined plans to establish a network of secure colleges face - particularly in relation to the funding that would be required for national roll-out? How might such establishments be able to focus more on educational attainment whilst also addressing offending behaviour, and to what extent would they differ from existing secure training centres in this respect? How can expertise from education and security sectors be most effectively brought together, and in what ways would placing education leaders at the core of leadership teams across the custodial estate impact on strategy and outcomes in practice? What barriers do private and voluntary sector providers face in competing for provision within public sector YOIs, and to what extent would proposals to double the number of hours of contracted education within custody provide increased scope for their involvement? What examples are there of best practice in ensuring effective transition between custody and community, and what can be learnt from recent work to develop partnerships between local authorities, custody providers and community stakeholders - such as the creation of resettlement consortia? Is Government right to consider accommodating all young adult offenders in mixed institutions, and what evidence is there from the existing use of Dual Designated Institutions that this would better target resources on rehabilitation and resettlement?*  
**Sally Garratt**, Director for Young People, The Manchester College  
**Charlie Jones**, Youth Offending Team Manager, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council  
**James Gordon**, Youth Rep, User Voice and **Mark Johnson**, Founder, User Voice  
**Peter Spearman**, Manager, Atkinson Secure Children's Home  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**  
**Rt Hon Elfyn Llwyd MP**, Member, Justice Committee  
**Marc Gammon**, Senior Producer, Westminster Legal Policy Forum