

To: Chairs of YOT Management Boards in England  
Directors of Children's Service in England  
Governors/ Directors of secure establishments in England  
cc. Heads of Youth Offending Services (England only)

30 September 2016

Dear Colleague,

**Department for Education funded project to improve outcomes for young people in the youth justice system who have special educational needs or disabilities**

The prevalence of young people with special educational needs in the youth justice system is high. Every front line professional will attest to this. For every young person with an EHCP (formerly known as a Statement) there may be five or six young people with additional needs that are either unidentified or deemed not severe enough to trigger the statementing process- and yet their needs are clear.

Whatever the result of the Charlie Taylor Review, whatever the changes that are going on at local and national levels in terms of organisation and funding, these young people will still be in the system, in our care. Our moral imperative is to secure better outcomes for them, in line with the intent signalled by the recent SEND Reforms.

The Association of Youth Offending Team Managers, in partnership with the national education charity Achievement for All and Manchester Metropolitan University, has embarked on a DfE-funded project aimed at improving outcomes for young people in the youth justice system who have special educational needs and disabilities, through awareness-raising, building the knowledge and skills of front-line professionals, and securing more effective partnership working locally, and through the commissioning process.

There will be a series of regional training events running across the country during the autumn and spring. Please encourage managers from LA SEND Teams, Health and Welfare to attend with their YOT Manager counterparts. These workshops will be an opportunity to identify key challenges and share creative and sustainable solutions, as well as giving the results of a national survey and research.

Every YOT will be given free access to a comprehensive training and staff development on-line service, built especially for this project by Achievement for All, which will help your managers and front-line staff to develop their skills and knowledge.

**Edward Timpson**, the Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families, who has funded this joint initiative and workshops said, "This new resource offers opportunities for better multi-agency working to more effectively meet the complex needs of children and young people in the youth justice system. Improving these key local partnerships between Special Educational Needs Teams, YOTs, Health and Care services enables them to offer more comprehensive support, giving these young people a better future and breaking the reoffending cycle."

Here are the important links to the newsletter and website, the survey, and the on-line registration service for booking places at the workshops:

**Youth Justice Board for England and Wales**  
102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ

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**Project website:** [http://afaeducation.org/programme\\_youth\\_justice\\_send\\_project](http://afaeducation.org/programme_youth_justice_send_project)

**Link to the on-line survey:** [https://mmuqstep.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0DHhapTRFOBxXB3](https://mmuqstep.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0DHhapTRFOBxXB3)

**Dates for workshops:**

22 November 2016 **North West** - Manchester Metropolitan University  
9 December 2016 **South West** - Holiday Inn, Taunton, Devon  
14 December 2016 **East Midlands** - Nottingham City Council  
11 January 2017 **West Midlands** - Civic Centre, Stoke on Trent  
18 January 2017 **Merseyside/Lancs** - Neuro Support Centre, Liverpool  
25 January 2017 **London** - The Foundry - A Place for Learning  
1 February 2017 **South East** - Brighton Town Hall  
8 February 2017 **Yorkshire & The Humber** - The Carriage Works, Leeds  
15 February 2017 **East** - Cambridge Professional Development Centre  
22 February 2017 **North East** - One Trinity Green, South Shields

**Workshop registration:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/youth-justice-send-workshops-various-locations-around-the-country-tickets-27752345011>

Thank you for supporting this project and for sharing this letter with members of your team.

Yours sincerely,



**The Rt Hon Lord McNally**  
Chairman  
Youth Justice Board for England and Wales

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