

June 2014

Closure of work in relation to ‘Who’s looking out for the children? – A joint inspection of Appropriate Adult provision and detention after charge’

Dear Andy

I am writing to you in relation the joint thematic inspection of Appropriate Adult provision and detention after charge titled ‘Who’s looking out for the children?’

Although no recommendations were made directly to the YJB, the inspection made three recommendations to YOTs/Appropriate Adult providers. Their recommendations and the YJB’s response to them are outlined in Annex A.

In addition to this the YJB have provided a consultation response to the revised Codes of Practice C and H which ran from 25th September 2013 in relation to a change which will require an Appropriate Adult be called to help a 17-year-old and for a person responsible for the welfare of the 17-year-old (such as a parent or guardian) to be informed of their status as a detainee. We continued to work with the Home Office and others as they consider the issue of detention of children after charge, and the provision of better information to parents and carers acting as appropriate adults.

As we now consider these recommendations to have been sufficiently addressed our work in relation to them will now be closed.

Yours sincerely

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Annex A – YJB’s response to recommendations

Recommendation	YJB actions to address	Additional comments
<p>1. The YOT/Appropriate Adult Provider will ensure AA call-out arrangements are designed such that children and young people are detained in police cells for the minimum amount of time possible.</p>	<p>A webpage has been created for the YJB website providing links to the YJB National Standards and Case Management guidance which provides a guide for YOTs on delivering youth justice services and outlines the operating requirements for an Appropriate Adult provision. This will be published in the summer of 2014. The guidance will be reflected in revised Case Management Guidance for YOTs, also due for publication in 2014.</p>	<p>The work on Appropriate Adults has been jointly produced with The National Appropriate Adult Network (NAAN). The YJB webpage will provide a link to NAAN website which includes their National Standards which were updated in 2013 and take into account the recommendations from the inspection.</p>
<p>2. The YOT/Appropriate Adult Provider will ensure information flows, in both directions, between the YOT and AAs are effective and focus on the needs of the individual child or young person.</p>	<p>The YJB have identified six key principles of an Appropriate Adult scheme. Principle 1 outlines the sharing of background information for the young person where appropriate. The principles will be identified on the Appropriate Adult YJB webpage.</p>	
<p>3. The YOT/Appropriate Adult Provider will provide a quality service to children and young people in police detention including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring Appropriate Adults have sufficient knowledge of the background of the child or young person to understand their needs and promote their interests. - Ensuring Appropriate Adults are able to identify safeguarding and welfare issues and effectively communicate these needs to police and relevant agencies so that appropriate action can be taken. - Ensuring Appropriate Adults are independent, focussed on the needs of the child or young person rather than the process, and actively support them through the custody journey. 	<p>The YJB has completed a piece of work which provides YOTs with the models that are available to deliver Appropriate Adult services. It identifies the key elements and factors for consideration for each model to ensure a quality service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -As identified above for recommendation 2 the YJB principles for Appropriate Adult schemes outline that Appropriate Adults should have sufficient background knowledge the young person. - The YJB AA principles also identify that Appropriate Adult schemes should have a safeguarding policy which all AAs should be aware of in order to be able to identify issues and take the necessary actions. - The YJB Appropriate Adult webpage provides information to YOTs as to who can and who cannot be an AA. One of the key principles outlines that the Appropriate Adult service must provide core training to AAs to ensure they have the skills to meet the needs of the young person. 	<p>The YJB have provided guidance to YOTs on the amendments to PACE Code C and H. This piece of work also includes links on the YJB AA webpage to further guidance on the relevant changes.</p>

