

Young Review Update

September 2016

Introduction

Welcome to the first of what will be a bi-monthly update from the Young Review.



[The Young Review](#), chaired by Baroness Young of Hornsey, is an Independent Review seeking to improve outcomes for black and/or Muslim young men in the criminal justice system in England and Wales.

We are now focussed on the recommendations contained in the Review. The Young Review team comprises:



Jeremy Crook OBE
Chief Executive of BTEG



Dale Simon CBE,
Advocate/Consultant



Mark Blake
Project Development Officer

Following the launch of the Young Review report in December 2014 an Independent Advisory Group (IAG) was formed. It regularly meets with officials from the Ministry of Justice and the National Offender Management Service.

The YR Independent Advisory Group

The Independent Advisory Group has met twice since members were appointed on initial three year terms in February 2016. Details of the group members can be found [here](#).

The IAG has established two task and finish groups:

The first is working on a proposal for a Data Analysis Group, a collaborative structure with

NOMS/ MOJ and external partners from civil society, faith groups, academia and user groups to work together on improving the quality and use of data across the offender management system to improve outcomes for black and/or Muslim young offenders and to reduce ethnic disproportionality.

The second is developing a charter on race equality for Probation service providers.

News

Working with the Lammy Review



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David Lammy MP is leading an independent government sponsored review of the treatment of, and outcomes for, black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people in the Criminal Justice System. It aims to establish the facts and make recommendations to ensure everyone in contact with the CJS is treated equally, whatever their race or ethnicity.

The Young Review welcomes the Lammy Review and hopes it can accelerate the delivery of actions that initiate sustained reductions in the numbers and proportion of people from BAME communities within the CJS. As part of the process, the Young Review has made [a written submission](#) to the Lammy Review.

From its inception the Young Review has worked closely and collaboratively with David Lammy MP and his team.

Baroness Young has had positive meetings with David Lammy MP and he spoke with the

Young Review IAG shortly after the February announcement of the review by the then Prime Minister, David Cameron.

We support the Lammy Review in two areas:

Firstly, in its efforts in getting a more detailed understanding of the drivers behind the increase in the numbers of Muslim prisoners. We will be organising focus groups with the review later in the year.

Secondly, we held a roundtable with David Lammy and some former offenders who discussed how they managed to turn their lives around, the barriers they faced and how the system should change if it is to support BAME prisoners more effectively. He is keen to meet this group again and we hope this will happen in December.

More details on [the Lammy Review](#)

Read [Mark Blake's blog](#) about the Lammy Review.

Youth Justice

The issue of the disproportionate numbers of BAME young people held in custody has been a focus of the work Young Review IAG as custody figures in the youth estate highlight a long term trend of a growing proportion of young people coming from BAME communities. The figures are currently 43%.

In June, Baroness Young and members of the Independent Advisory Group met Charlie Taylor who has been leading a review into the Youth Justice System. The review was instigated by the former Justice Secretary, Michael Gove MP. We await the launch of the report and the new Secretary of State Liz Truss' response to its proposals.

Jeremy Crook and Mark Blake met Lord McNally (YJB Chair), Dr Tony Sewell CBE (YJB board member) and Colin Allars (the new YJB CEO) in September to discuss the board's efforts in tackling ethnic disproportionality.



Lola Young spoke at the joint London Council's BTEG event on ethnic disproportionality in London's Youth Justice System. A number of IAG members attended.

Links to the event presentations can be found on [this page](#) and David Lammy has written [an article](#) on the speech he gave on gangs policy.

With a new Mayor for London, who will hopefully bring some fresh impetus to the agenda, we hope the conference will contribute to addressing ethnic disproportionality amongst the London boroughs who run youth offending services in the capital

Government and prison reform



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The new Secretary of State for Justice, Liz Truss, confirmed her commitment to the prison reform process but has put a stop on further developments to enable time to assess and take stock of the process. Both she and the Prime Minister have publicly stated their commitment to addressing ethnic disproportionality. The Justice Select Committee has undertaken [an inquiry into the prison reform process](#).

There is still a lack of clarity if the prison reform process will prioritise improving outcomes for black and/or Muslim young offenders and reducing ethnic disproportionality in its strategies and operational plans.

BTEG will have meetings with relevant officials in this area over the coming months and we will be responding to the Inquiry's call for written evidence.