

## Introduction to the Youth Justice Service

### About the Youth Offending Service (YOS)

There are three teams within Derbyshire Youth Offending Service, these are known as the North, South and County teams. The North and South teams work with young people who are subject to Orders made by the Courts. These teams are made up of representatives from the Police, Probation Service, Social Care and Health with additional workers dealing with, for example, drug and alcohol misuse. The County Team works with young people who have been referred by the Police who have committed an offence but have not met the threshold to be dealt with by the Courts. The teams assess each young person to identify factors that may be contributing to the young person's offending as well as measuring the risk they pose to others. This enables YOS staff to identify suitable interventions to address these factors and hopefully prevent the young person offending again.

North Team: 56 Cobden Road, Chesterfield, S40 4TD. Telephone: 01629 537615

South Team: Mercian Close, Ilkeston DE7 8HG. Telephone: 01629 531975

County Team: Mercian Close, Ilkeston DE7 8HG. Telephone: 01629 531975

### Pre-court Interventions

#### Divert

The Divert Programme is a Restorative Justice Intervention delivered to young people by the Youth Offending Service and is considered to be the preferred alternative (where appropriate) to the more formal out of court Disposals such as a Youth Caution and a Youth Conditional Caution.

Referrals are sent by the police to YOS for consideration at a Youth Justice Panel currently held fortnightly with representatives including Police, YOS, Substance Misuse, Safeguarding Manager and Remedi

#### Youth Caution

Youth Cautions are a formal out-of-court disposal that can be used as an alternative to prosecution for young people between the ages of 10 to 17. A Youth Caution may be given for any offence where the young person admits an offence, there is sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction but it is not in the public interest to prosecute.

Youth Cautions aim to provide a proportionate and effective resolution to offending and support the principle statutory aim of the youth justice system of preventing offending by children and young people.

#### Youth Caution with conditions

A Youth Conditional Caution allows an authorised person to decide to give a caution with one or more conditions attached. When a young person is given a Conditional Caution for an offence, criminal proceedings for that offence are halted while the young person is given an opportunity to

comply with the conditions. Where the conditions are complied with, the prosecution is not normally commenced. However, where there is no reasonable excuse for non-compliance, criminal proceedings may be commenced for the original offence and the conditional caution will cease to have effect.

### Post court sentencing

Community sentences for young people are different from those given to adults. Courts have a range of different sentences they can give young people aged 10-17. These include:

Discharge – absolute or conditional – these are the same as those for adults;

Fine – as with adults, the fine should reflect the offence committed and the person's ability to pay. For those under 16 years, paying the fine is the responsibility of a parent/guardian and it will be their ability to pay that is taken into account when setting the level of the fine.

Referral Order – this requires the young person to attend a panel meeting with people from the local community and a worker from the Youth Offending Service. A contract is agreed, containing certain commitments, which will last between three months and a year. The aim is for the young person to make up for the harm caused and address their offending behaviour.

Reparation Orders – when the young person makes up for the harm caused by their offence. This could take the form of directly addressing any harm caused to the victim or by completing some work of benefit to the community.

Attendance Centre Order – the young person will complete specific programmes to address an identified area of need, for example anger, social media, knife crime, weapons, peer influence.

Youth Rehabilitation Order – this is a community sentence which can include one or more of 18 different requirements that the young person must comply with for up to three years. Some examples of the requirements that can be imposed are a curfew, supervision, unpaid work, electronic monitoring, drug treatment, mental health treatment and education requirements.

Custodial sentences – young people can receive custodial sentences but they will only be imposed in the most serious cases. When they are given, they aim to provide training, education and rehabilitation to support the young person not to reoffend. Sentences can be spent in secure children's homes, secure training centres and young offender institutions.

As part of any sentence the young person may also be asked to speak to the victim and listen to their side of the story apologise to them, either in writing or, if the victim wants, face-to-face.