

YJS EARLY INTERVENTION AND DIVERSION WORK

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UNDERSTANDING YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE

Role of Youth Justice Service

Its main role is to prevent reoffending by providing support, supervision, and rehabilitation programs. YJS collaborates with other agencies to address underlying issues in a child's life, while ensuring accountability and promoting public safety.

Role of CYP in Hertfordshire

The officers are responsible for issuing all under 18 out of court resolutions which includes Outcome 22, Community Resolutions, Conditional Cautions and Youth Cautions.

Court Orders Spectrum

The court system offers various orders including Referral, Youth Rehabilitation, and Detention and Training Orders.

Child First Approach

YJS ensures interventions are tailored, proportionate, and effective based on offence severity and youth needs.



Collaborative Agency Efforts

Multiple agencies work together to deliver early intervention and diversion strategies for youth justice.

Holistic Support Approach

Joint working ensures wraparound support addressing young people's needs beyond punitive actions.

Multi-Agency Panels

Panels convene to assess cases and determine appropriate interventions collaboratively.

JOINT-WORKING IN YJS

Seconded Police Officers: Appointed in each area of the county

Education practitioners: Help with education, training, or employment issues.

Substance misuse workers: Help young people understand and reduce their drug or alcohol use.

Mental health professionals: Provide specialist sessions on emotional and mental health issues, sometimes including psychologists or mental health nurses.

Speech and language therapists: Help young people with their communication and understanding.

Victim workers: Liaise with victims and organize activities to help young people repair harm they have caused

Reparation worker: Delivering reparation projects in the community

Probation workers: Supporting transition between the services



Police CYP & CCE P&D Team Overview

CYP Youth Justice and Early Intervention Team

The CYP YJ & EI team builds trust with young people in schools and communities to prevent crime using education and early intervention through such schemes as mini police and people who help us days. The specialist Youth Justice officers are embedded within the YJ Service team and provide the conduit between both services and are integral in the use of out of court resolutions.

CCE P&D Police Team

The CCE P&D team identifies vulnerable youths at risk of exploitation. They deliver educational prevention inputs to children and young people and tailor diversionary programmes to support individuals based on their interests, sometimes this is a sport.

Collaboration with Partners

Both teams collaborate closely with Youth Justice Services and partners to safeguard and support young people effectively.



GUIDELINES FOR OUT OF COURT RESOLUTIONS

Structured Decision-Making Framework

Youth Justice Service operates under a clear framework to guide fair and consistent court disposals.

Roles in Court Disposals

Case managers, legal advisors, and multi-agency panels each play key roles in the decision process.

Government Guidelines and Standards

Decisions are informed by Youth Justice Board standards and sentencing principles to ensure proportionality.

Balancing Accountability and Rehabilitation

The framework promotes outcomes reducing reoffending while supporting youth development and rehabilitation.

THRESHOLD FOR OOCR'S

Evidence of an Offence

There must be sufficient evidence that the young person committed the offence

Admission of Responsibility

The young person must admit the offence or agree with the facts outlined by the complainant

Gravity Assessment

The offence is assessed using the **NPCC Child Gravity Matrix**, considering the offence type and any presence of aggravating/mitigating factors.

Consent and Engagement

The young person (and often their parent/carer) must agree to comply with conditions of the disposal if relevant. These are often tailored to the offence type, the needs of the young person, and views of the victim.

CURRENT OUT OF COURT RESOLUTIONS FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HERTFORDSHIRE

Community Resolutions

Conditional Cautions

Simple (Youth) Cautions

Outcome 22

OOCR SCENARIO EXAMPLES



Interactive Scenario Evaluation

Participants engage in group discussions to evaluate three distinct OOCR cases with varied youth offending contexts.

Youth Justice Principles

The activity encourages applying principles like proportionality, safeguarding, and rehabilitation in decision-making.

Decision-Making Practice

Groups determine appropriate outcomes of court disposal or diversionary intervention for each scenario.

SCENARIOS

- **Case 1**

- Possession of a bladed article on school premises
- 15 year old suspect, no aggravating or mitigating factors, no previous offending history
- Suspect has entered the school in possession of a bladed article, namely a knife, where it has been confiscated
- Admission to the offence made in interview with the child stating that they wanted to look cool in front of their friends

- **Case 2**

- Criminal Damage to a building under £5000
- 15 year old suspect, in company with two others, no previous offending history
- Have entered a school premises and smashed 7 window panes using a crow bar. CCTV captures the incident
- Admission to the offence made during interview

- **Case 3**

- Racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress
- 17 year old suspect, no previous offending history
- Suspect has made an overtly racial comment to the victim while at school which has caused the victim distress. Not the first incident and feels persistently targeted. Victim now having to complete school work at home as they do not feel comfortable going to school and seeing the suspect
- Admission to the offence made in interview



OUTCOME 22 AND POSTCODE LOTTERY DISCUSSION

Inconsistent Application

Outcome 22 is applied unevenly across regions, causing concerns over fairness and justice disparities for youth.

Lack of Training and Guidance

There is no mandated training for Outcome 22, leading to variable understanding and application by police officers.

Need for Standardized Protocols

Standardized procedures and professional development are essential to ensure fair and consistent use of Outcome 22.

Promoting Youth Justice Equity

Addressing inconsistencies aims to create a more equitable youth justice framework and improve policy effectiveness.

GOALS AND INITIATIVES FOR THE FUTURE



Multi-Agency Collaboration

Enhancing cooperation among agencies improves early intervention and diversion strategies for youth justice including seeking more options through sport

Restorative Justice Programmes

Expanding restorative justice initiatives fosters healing and accountability within communities.

Data-Driven Decision Making

Improving use of data analytics supports informed and effective youth justice policies and practices.

Youth Engagement and Support

Increasing youth involvement and targeted support ensures fair and compassionate justice outcomes.