

The South Gloucestershire Youth Offending Team (Yot) brings together staff from a range of services - the Police, Social Services, Probation, Health, Education and The Youth Service.

By working together in a single team the Yot aims to cut crime committed by young people by intervening when problems first start, whether it is in the home, at school or in the community.

The Yot does this by providing a range of services and interventions to young people and their parents /carers as part of the Final Warning process.

These programmes may include help with:

- Behaviour Problems
- Family Relationships
- Educational / School Issues
- Drug /Alcohol Use / Misuse
- Health Issues
- Support for Parents

A programme will only be offered following a full assessment of the young person and their circumstances.

What does it mean to receive a Final Warning?

A Final Warning is a serious matter. It is the last opportunity to stop offending before being taken to Court. The Police will record it and if the young person offends again within two years he or she will go to Court.

Why might a young person be given a Final Warning instead of being taken to Court?

Although all crime is serious and has consequences, a young person might be

offered a Final Warning before being taken to Court when the offence is not too serious and they admit committing the offence. However, if the young person offends again within two years they will go to Court.

What Happens After The Final Warning?

If a young person keeps out of trouble they will not have a conviction. Usually they will not have to tell employers and others about the offence they have committed (if you are unsure about this you can contact the YOT for advice). If a new offence is committed within two years they will go to Court.

Will a young person have a Police/Criminal record after accepting a Final Warning?

The Police will keep a record of the Final Warning until either:

- a) the young person is 18 years old (*e.g. final warning is given at 10, 11, 12 or 13 yrs the record is spent at 18yr*) or;
- b) five years after the Final Warning is given (*e.g. final warning is given at 14, 15, 16 or 17yr the record is spent at 19, 20, 21 or 22yrs respectively*).

Does a young person have to accept a Final Warning?

A person should never admit to an offence they have not committed.

If they don't accept that they committed the offence they should speak to a solicitor.

YOT Services & Support

By law, the Police must notify the Yot of all young people who are to receive a Final Warning. In turn, the Yot must complete an assessment on each young person and (if aged 10-16), their parents/carers. The assessment forms part of the Final Warning process.

The assessment is done to determine the possible risk, if any, of further offending.

Following the assessment, if necessary a short support programme will be put in place. The support programme is intended to help the young person to avoid further offending or anti-social behaviour. This may include helping parents/carers to support and supervise their child.

The support programme may also involve improving things like school attendance, behaviour at home or in the community and use of leisure time. (i.e. risk factors) The programme will also re-enforce the already positive aspects of a young person's life, like interests and hobbies, good relationships, existing talents and ambitions (i.e.. protective factors).

The Yot can help Parents & Carers by;

- Improving parenting skills
- Improving Family Relationships
- Accessing support services (e.g. Social Services, Education, Connexions)
- Liaising with other agencies (e.g. school)

What happens if a family refuses to see anyone from the Yot?

- The Police can decide not to give a Final Warning and instead send the case to Court.
- If the young person comes before a Court in future the Court will be told of the refusal to meet with the Yot. This may result in the Court deciding on a more serious sentence.
- The Yot may apply to the Court for a Parenting Order against parent(s) to ensure they, as parent(s), do everything they can to stop their child from further offending.

Please remember the Yot wants to help. So if you co-operate with the Yot assessment and complete any agreed programme no further action is likely.

Confidentiality

Personal information acquired will be treated with the utmost care. However, South Gloucestershire Youth Offending Team cannot guarantee to keep all the information confidential - for example, if you disclose an offence or there appears to be a risk of self-harm or harm to the public. As far as possible, any intended disclosure will be discussed with you before it is made.

Equal Opportunities

The Yot aims to ensure that no service user receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, colour, impairment, marital status, lifestyle or culture, nationality, race, religion, gender, sexuality or on the grounds of economic or social status.

Complaints

We do our best to provide a professional service. However, if you have any concerns or complaints about the service, if possible please discuss them with your Yot worker in the first instance or telephone or write to:

The Operations Manager
48-50 Elm Park, Filton,
South Gloucestershire,
BS34 7PP
Tel: 01454 868558

If you would like further information on how the Yot may be able to help you, please call us.

Tel: 01454 868558
or visit our Website @
www.southgloucestershireyot.org.uk



South Gloucestershire Youth Offending Team, 48-50 Elm Park, Filton, South Gloucestershire. BS34 7PP
Tel: 01454 868559 Fax: 01454 868560
Email: sgyot@southglos.gov.uk
www.southgloucestershireyot.org.uk

South Gloucestershire
Youth Offending Team



WHAT NEXT?

A Guide to Final Warnings