

The Youth Offending Team

The South Gloucestershire Youth Offending Team (Yot) brings together staff from a range of services – the Police, Probation, Health & South Gloucestershire Council.

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

Working With Parents & Carers

Parents, carers and families are the most important influence on children and young people. They should be supported and valued for the crucial role they play in bringing up children.

The Yot is committed to supporting parents & carers in the vital role they play in bringing up their children.

The Yot will seek to work with everyone involved in a young person's life including parents or carers in a bid to stop any future anti-social or offending behaviour.

Working with you as parents/carers and involving you in any Yot programme is very important because of the key role you play in the life of your child.

In addition to working with your child, the Yot may offer you help and support. This support includes:

- Family support & advice
- Individual counselling
- Referral to Specialist Worker
- Attending groups with people who have similar problems, such as: Parenting groups, Parents of young people who use drugs, Specialist support groups for women, men and carers

Why Work With The Yot?

The aim of any of work with the Yot is to help stop your child re-offending. A big part of this work is to include family and friends working with the Yot towards this aim.

Involving Parents/Carers

The first time you and your child meet with a Yot worker will be at Court when your child is given a Court Order. They will talk you through what happens next, this will usually be the writing of a **report** for the Court or the Referral Order Panel.

The Yot Worker

After Court, you will be contacted by the Yot to arrange for a Yot worker to meet with you and your child. The Yot worker will need to write a **report**. To do this they will need to ask you about your child, about their life and the offence(s) committed.

The Yot worker will ask questions about school or work, family and other things that may be happening in both your lives.

Try to be as honest as possible, the Yot worker will listen to what you have to say and will not jump to conclusions or make any assumptions.

The Yot worker will consider your needs and circumstances including any reasons that make it difficult for you to be involved.

Reports

The information from the meeting will be used by the Yot worker to write a report for the Court. If your child has received a Referral Order at Court the report will be for the **Referral Order Panel**.

Referral Order Panel

A Referral Order Panel consists of two volunteers from the local community and a Yot worker. The Panel will meet with you and your child to discuss why the offence was committed and suggest a way forward.

The Referral Order Contract

At the panel meeting a contract is agreed by you, your child and the Panel members. The contract includes an element of reparation, either to the victim directly such as a letter of apology or to the community.

The contract also includes work to help prevent your child re-offending. This work may include help with alcohol / drug misuse, education or employment. The **contract** is supervised by a Yot worker and reviewed at regular panel meetings.

Report For The Court; Action Plan, Reparation & Supervision Orders

The Court will make a decision based on the report written by the Yot worker.

The report will be used to help the Yot worker to put together a programme of work for your child. The aim of the programme is to set targets to help your child with things such as:

- Helping them avoid further offending
- Education
- Employment
- Health/Substance use
- How to spend their leisure time
- Managing money
- Reparation to those harmed/community

Ground Rules For All Court Orders

At the start of any Court Order the Yot worker will discuss the programme with you and your child. Before starting the programme your child will be asked to agree to do the following things;

- Attend and take part in appointments as arranged by the Youth Offending Team.
- Attend appointments in a fit state, not under the influence of alcohol or any other substance.
- Not to bring alcohol or any illegal substance to appointments or into Yot buildings.
- Not to use any violent, threatening, abusive behaviour or language when attending appointments.

The Yot must be informed if your child;

- Is unable to attend an appointment and why
- Changes their home address
- Changes their school or job

Keeping To The Rules

It is important that there are rules about working with the Yot, these rules are to help your child successfully complete their programme.

If an appointment cannot be kept for any reason the Yot must be told at least 1 day before the appointment or as soon as you know.

Breaking The Rules

The Yot worker will need your help in making sure your child keeps to the rules. If appointments are missed, your child refuses to take part, or misbehaves there will be an opportunity to provide an explanation.

However, if a good reason **is not** provided the Yot worker will give a **written warning**.

Court Orders - Receiving Formal Warnings

During the Yot programme, if 2 written warnings have been given, the next time an appointment is missed **without a good reason** Breach action may be taken.

This means your child will have to go back to Court, and may be re-sentenced. Breach of an Order/Bail is a criminal offence for which a person can be arrested.

If your child finds the programme too hard or has any problems you should discuss this with the Yot worker immediately.

Bail Support Programmes

If your child is taking part in the **Bail Support Scheme** and fails to comply with the Bail Conditions this may affect any future decisions the Court make.

As A Parent/Carer Will I Stay Involved?

It is important that the Yot worker can involve parents/carers at every opportunity. However, when a young person reaches the age of 17 the law prevents Yot workers discussing progress without the consent of the young person.

If your child becomes 17 during the course of their Yot programme, the Yot worker will ask them if you can continue to be involved and/ or updated with their progress. You should discuss this with your child and the Yot worker.

Confidentiality:

Personal information acquired during the preparation of your assessment 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 868565



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?

*Working with
The Youth
Offending Team:
Information for
Parents & Carers*