



Youth Justice Service

Understanding the Youth Justice Service (YJS) process and support available

SP00118551 (7.25)



Family Support



It can have an impact on the whole family when your child has a Youth Justice Service Intervention. During what can be an overwhelming time, our Family support service is here to support you through it.

We offer the following support for parents and carers to help you understand what might be going on for your child and ways you can help them:

- Help you understand your child's intervention
- Clarify what is required of your child
- Inform you of the Youth Justice Service process
- Attend meetings, Court and various other visits with you.

Support for Families

Taking into account that every family is different, we are here to support you by:

- Tailoring a service based on what works for your individual family
- Providing a safe space for you to share your views, lived experiences and any concerns you may have
- Having conversations about challenging family dynamics and tools that may help to improve this
- Providing information on difficulties young people may be facing and how they can be supported
- Connecting you to a parent support group or other services that can support you and your family.

Other Support services

Based on your individual needs, we can:

- Signpost you to other support services in housing, employment, financial, physical health, emotional health and many more
- Help you access these services via referrals
- Advocate for you when dealing with these services and professionals.

Based on your individual circumstances, we can also signpost you to a wide range of local support services in Lambeth, including:

- Parenting groups and evidence based parenting programmes for all ages and needs
- Financial and debt support
- Subsidised food support
- Whole-family and community support services
- Therapeutic and counselling organisations
- Domestic abuse support services
- Support tailored for fathers
- Specialist services for specific communities and groups
- And many more resources to support you and your family

Get in touch

Email: YJSBusinessSupport@lambeth.gov.uk

Phone: 020 7926 2644

In Person: Our family support service can meet with you face to face at our offices, in Court, your home or somewhere in the Community.

Referral Orders

A Referral Order is given to a young person aged 10-17, who appears in Court and pleads Guilty to an offence.



Length of a Referral Order: 3 – 12 months

Depending on the offence.

What happens next?

1. Write a report

Someone from the Youth Justice Service (YJS) will meet you to discuss the offence and write a report including your needs and interests.

2. Referral Order Panel Meeting

This meeting aims to go over your offence, what harm it might have caused, as well as trying to find a solution for you and the victim.

Who attends?

At least two volunteers, your parent/carer and a worker from the YJS. The person you harmed may be asked to attend to let you know how they have been affected by your actions. They can also send someone to represent them.

What is discussed?

The panel members will ask you some questions about yourself, what you like doing, and what we can support you with to help make sure you don't get in trouble again. They will also speak about the impact of the offence on the victim or your family/loved ones.

This meeting will take place within 4 weeks of your Court appearance, and we will co-create a contract with agreed actions including:

An element of reparation (making up for the harm caused) either directly to the victim, like a letter of apology, or indirectly through unpaid work in the local community.

Activities to help you make better choices, for example, returning to school or addressing misuse of drugs.

You will be asked to agree to the contract and then you, your parent/carer and a Referral Order Panel Member (such as a member of YJS or anyone else who attended the meeting) sign it.

3. Order begins

The Order begins on the date the contract is signed, not when it was imposed by Court.



Expectations

You will be expected to attend every appointment.

More about the Referral Order Panel Meeting:

1. You will meet regularly with and receive support from a Youth Justice Service (YJS) worker to successfully complete your Referral Order.
2. If you don't follow the requirements of the Contract (also known as a 'Breach'), another Referral Order Panel Meeting will be called to decide if you should be returned to Court, the court can allow your order to continue, extend your Referral Order or revoke and resentence you.

If you finish all the elements of your Contract before the end date, we can ask the Court to end your Order early (this is called revocation).

3. If you re-offend the Court will take the old Referral Order into account when you are resented.

4. Do you have to declare it when applying for jobs?

When you have successfully completed the Referral Order, your conviction will be 'spent'. This means you do not have to declare it when applying for most jobs.



Youth Rehabilitation Order

A Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO) is a community sentence decided by the Court for young people who have previously offended or pleaded not guilty to their latest offence.

Length of a Rehabilitation Order: 3 months – 3 years
Depending on seriousness of the offence.

How is a YRO decided?

1. The Lambeth Youth Justice Service writes a pre-sentence report, which is shared with the Court for their decision. When writing this report, they take the following into consideration:

- How serious the offence is
- The risk of harm the young person might present in the future
- The needs of the young person.

This approach gives the court flexibility to sentence in a way that keeps the public safe, the young person safe and meets the needs of the young person.

2. The court then decides the length of the Order and the requirements (see list on next page), these can be added to any YRO.

3. The young person completes the order by meeting regularly with members of the YJS.

If you don't follow every requirement of the order in any way (also known as a 'Breach'), the court could re-sentence you.

If you finish all the requirements of your order before the end date, we can ask the Court to end your Order early.

Types of Requirements

These requirements provide a variety of options to support, keep the public safe, help you make better choices and repair the harm caused by your offence:

- Activity requirement
- Attendance centre requirement
- Curfew requirement
- Education requirement
- Electronic monitoring requirement
- Exclusion requirement
- Local authority residence requirement
- Programme requirement
- Prohibited activity requirement
- Residence requirement
- Supervision requirement
- Unpaid work requirement
- YRO with intensive fostering
- YRO with intensive supervision and surveillance

If more than one requirement is selected, the court must make sure that they can work with each other.



Expectations

The young person must **meet regularly with YJS members**.

If you do not follow the rules on behaviour, do the work, or attend appointments without a proper reason you can be sent back to court for a 'breach'.

If this happens, the court could extend your YRO or revoke (cancel) the YRO and re-sentence.

The YJS is responsible to the court for making sure that your court order is carried out.

Involving the Victim

The YJS has a process to ensure all victims of crime referred to the YJS are listened to and given an opportunity to receive help that meets their needs. The following options will be discussed with them:

- Face to face meeting
- Letter of explanation
- Direct or indirect reparation
- Updating of progress

This is an important part of YROs and is part of an approach known as Restorative Justice.

Custody

At court, after you are sentenced, you will be taken down to the cells. A member of the Youth Justice Service (YJS) will come and see you. It is important you are honest with the Youth Justice Officer and tell them how you are feeling, any concerns you have about your mood or any conflicts you have which may impact you in custody. The Youth Justice Service will then speak to the Youth Custody Service to arrange the most appropriate Youth Detention Accommodation (custody) for you, this can be one of the following:

- Young Offenders Institute
- Secure Training Centre
- Secure School
- Secure Children's Home.

Where you are placed will depend on:

- How old you are
- Where you live
- Whether it is your first time in custody
- Any health issues/additional needs you may have
- Any safety concerns

You will be taken to a **Youth Detention Accommodation** by secure transport. Your parents/carers cannot go with you. The YJS will tell them where you are going and provide details for how to get in contact with you.

When you arrive, you will be expected to follow their rules. You will be asked some questions and be given a case worker. You may also have a medical check. It is important you are honest and tell staff about any worries and how you are feeling. It is their responsibility to make sure that you have food, drink, clothes, somewhere to sleep, are safe and have any medical care that you might need. You will be able to contact your family and let them know how you are.

Your Youth Justice Officer will visit you within the first two weeks of your sentence to find out how you are getting on and help plan for when you leave. Your Youth Justice Officer will visit you regularly.

Feedback

We know there will always be room for improvement, and complaints can help us improve our work, however feedback lets us know what we are doing well.

Lambeth Youth Justice Service (LYJS) aims to provide a high quality and professional service to all the young people and families we work with.

Please provide feedback if you are happy or unhappy with something at the YJS.

Feedback can be provided in relation to the whole of the YJS, members of staff or volunteers.

What to include in your feedback?

Please tell us as much as you can about your experience, including:

- What went well/didn't go well
- When it happened
- Who was involved
- If the feedback is a complaint, how you would like the matter to be resolved
- Your full contact details: Name, address, e-mail, phone number

How to provide feedback

1 Speak with the worker working with you/your child about the experience

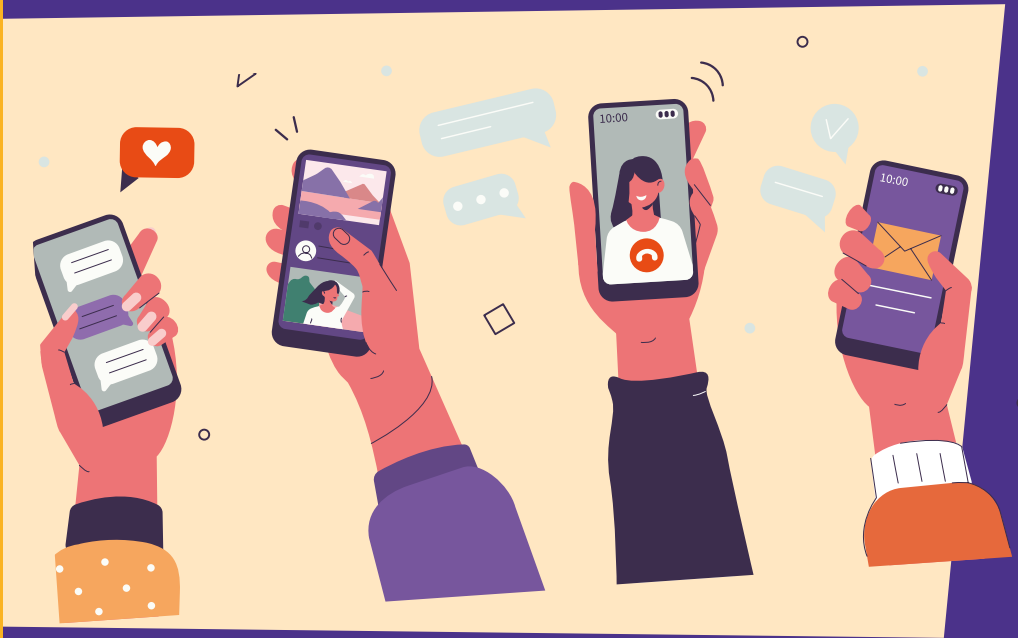
2 If you wish to provide more formal feedback about your experience, **speak with the Line Manager** for the member of staff **or the Duty Manager via phone or email:**

Telephone: 020 7 926 2644

Email: YJSBusinessSupport@lambeth.gov.uk

Provide feedback

We also carry out End of Intervention surveys, because your views matter and help us improve our service.



**Visit our website by
scanning the QR code**

