



YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE

Reviewed January 2011

1. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the Youth justice Service to co-ordinate provision of youth justice services for all those in Buckinghamshire who need them.
2. The principal aim of the youth justice system is to prevent offending by children and young people. In Buckinghamshire, the Youth Offending Service (YOS) is the main vehicle by which this aim is delivered.
3. This aim requires that young people who offend are systematically assessed, have individual interventions in place to tackle offending behaviour and risk factors associated with it and encouraged to compensate the victims of their crimes through a Restorative Justice approach
4. The YOS in Buckinghamshire is based on two sites, Aylesbury and High Wycombe.
5. Under the leadership of a YOS Manager, the teams deliver a co-ordinated service for children and young people.
6. Each team is made up of representatives from the Police and Probation Services, Social Care, Health and Education Officers and other specialist workers.
7. The YOS is responsible for the supervision of children and young people subject to pre-court interventions and statutory court disposals.
8. Given their inter-agency membership, the YOS is well placed to identify those children and young people known to relevant organisations as being most at risk of offending, and to undertake work to prevent them offending.
9. The children and young people who are supervised by the YOS within the community or the Secure Estate will also be children in need, and some of their needs will require safeguarding. It is necessary, therefore, that clear links are maintained between the YOS and Buckinghamshire's Local Authority Children's Social Care, both at a strategic level and at a child specific operational level.
10. The YOS has a duty to ensure that its functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.
11. The designated lead role in child protection in this service is held by the YOS Manager.