

Victim Support

*"Having the victim at my meeting made me realise that small things you do for small reasons affect people for a long time".
(A young offender's comments).*

We are able to provide information and contact with the local Victim Support scheme which provides confidential help and support to victims of crime.



For Calderdale Victim Support call **01422 344742**

www.victimsupportwestyorkshire.org.uk

For further information please contact:

Calderdale Youth Offending Team
Hoover Building, 21 West Parade
Halifax
HX1 2TE

Telephone
01422 368279

Fax
01422 368483

E-mail
info@calderdaleyot.org.uk

Equal Opportunities

At all times you have the right to be treated fairly and without discrimination. This means the Youth Offending Panels and YOT staff will treat you fairly whatever your race, colour, sex, sexuality or disability. You are also expected to behave equally fairly towards other people.

Complaints Procedure

If you feel you have been treated unfairly or unreasonably by the YOT or Youth Offender Panels you can make a complaint. To do this, contact the Calderdale YOT Manager at the above address.

Data Protection

The Calderdale Youth Offending Team deals with personal data under the Data Protection Act 1998. Some of these may be sensitive such as criminal offences, proceedings and convictions. We may share some or all of them with other Council departments, our agents, service providers or other third parties. When involving any third party we shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that they will keep your personal data secure and treat it confidentially. If you are worried about giving us your personal details or about us sharing them with others, please discuss this with the member of staff who is dealing with your case.
We will explain what you can do.

Accessibility

These information leaflets are available in a number of different formats and languages from our Halifax office, or from our website.

Calderdale
Youth Offending
Team

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Referral Order

Information for victims of youth crime



Making Calderdale Safer

What are Referral Orders?

A Referral Order will be given to most 10-17 year olds pleading guilty and convicted for the first time in court, unless the charge is serious enough to warrant custody. The order will last between 3 and 12 months depending on the seriousness of the offence and the young person will be referred to the Youth Offending Team (YOT). The YOT will organise a Youth Offender Panel meeting to consider the most appropriate course of action for the duration of the order.

What is a Youth Offender Panel?

A Youth Offender Panel is made up of two or more volunteers recruited directly from the local community. These volunteers have undertaken training accredited by the Open College. They sit on a panel alongside one member of the multi-agency YOT. The panel will meet with the young person and the parents or guardians to talk about the reasons for the offending behaviour and to discuss a way forward.

How can victims of crime be involved?

The victim is invited to attend the meeting to tell the young person how the crime has affected them, to have questions answered and to look at ways in which harm caused can be repaired. This is referred to as 'reparation'.

The views of the victims can be represented at the meeting by others, if the victim chooses not to attend in person, for example by:

- A relative or friend or someone of their choosing
- The YOT Victim Liaison Officer
- A member of Victim Support
- Or, if the victim is a shop, business or organisation (e.g. the Council or a school) a representative could attend the panel.

A statement may be submitted to the panel to be read out by the Victim Liaison Officer who will feedback responses to the victim after the panel meeting.

The victim may also choose to be kept informed by either telephone call or home visit about the progress the young person is making on their Referral Order.

Alternatively, you may decide to have no involvement at all.

IT'S YOUR CHOICE

What will the Panel decide?

With the agreement of all parties, a contract will be put together which aims to prevent further offending by the young person and which will include reparation, either directly to the victim or to the wider community.

Reparation to the community may include:

- Local regeneration projects
- Work for charities or other organisations
- Projects nominated by the victim

Direct reparation to the victim may include:

- Receiving an apology, either face to face, by letter or by video recording
- Practical work which everyone involved feels is suitable

The contract may also include other elements to tackle the young person's offending behaviour by means of interventions such as drugs counselling, anger management or understanding the consequences of offending.

The contract will be supervised by the YOT and reviewed at regular panel meetings. If the young person does not comply, they may be returned to court and given another sentence.

Are Youth Offender Panels just a soft option?

No!

- Facing the consequences of their actions is not easy.
- Youth Offender Panels give members of the community who want to make a difference the chance to help tackle youth crime in their neighbourhood.
- These panels will, for the first time, give victims a say in putting together a package, which will ensure young offenders repair the harm done.

Taking part in the panel process is completely voluntary and we will respect your wishes at all times.