

Victim Support

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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Restorative Justice

Information for victims of youth crime



Making Calderdale Safer

What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice focuses on **repairing the harm caused by crime**. Victims of youth crime can gain confidence and security through being more directly involved in decisions about what happens to young offenders.

What does the Youth Offending Team (YOT) aim to achieve?

The YOT encourages young people who commit offences to take responsibility for the harm and loss they have caused their victim.

How?

By explaining to young people how the victim feels about what they did and how it has affected them, could make the young people face up to the facts and begin to understand the consequences of their actions.

How can this help victims of crime?

Many victims of youth crime have found that by becoming involved in the justice process this helps them deal with the many emotions they can experience following the crime.

How can victims of crime be involved?

Young offenders are expected to make amends for their crime in some way, either directly to victims or to the wider community. This is referred to as reparation. The YOT, where possible, will gain the views of the victim about the level of involvement they wish to have with a young offender.

Some examples of Restorative Justice

- Receiving an apology from the young person. This could be in the form of a letter, a verbal apology or a recorded apology (for example, taped or by video)
- Meeting the young person face-to-face. This meeting would be in a supervised and controlled environment. The victim can tell the offender the effects of the crime and possible ways of repairing some of the harm
- Having views represented in a report to be read out by a third party which will explain to the young offender the effects of the crime
- Nominating community projects that young people can be involved in such as local regeneration projects or charities
- Agreeing involvement in a project which is personal to the victim or carrying out some practical work for them

It's your choice

Taking part in a restorative process is completely voluntary and the YOT will respect your wishes at all times.

Whatever you decide, Calderdale Youth Offending Team remains committed to educating young people about the effects of their actions on victims and communities through the programmes they deliver.

Who benefits from Restorative Justice?

Victims

- Victims needs are no longer ignored
- Victims may get answers to their questions
- Victims can tell their story
- Victims can participate in the settlement

Youth Offenders

- Offenders face up to the 'cost' of their actions
- Offenders are given the opportunity to make things right
- Offenders can tell their story
- Offenders are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions

Communities

- Communities are empowered to solve their own problems
- Community conflict is addressed in a positive way
- Communities become more accepting and value reformed offenders
- Communities are able to contribute to reducing offending