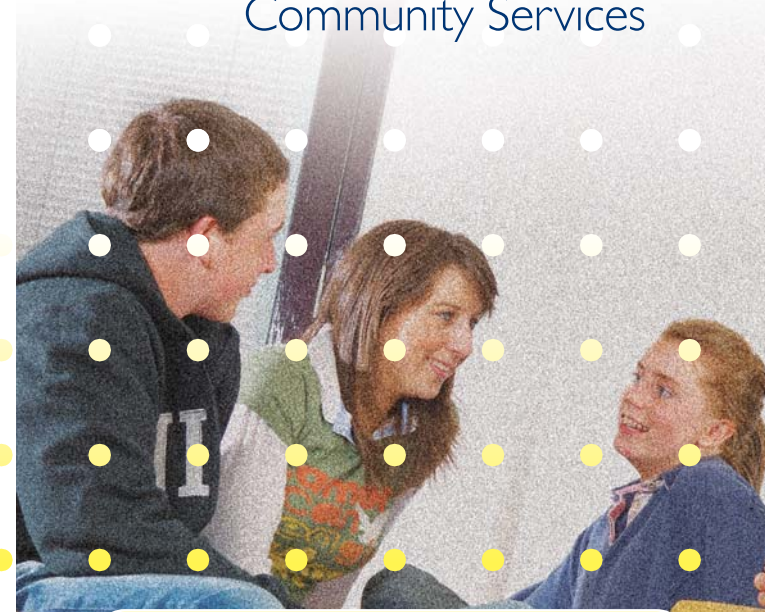




INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Youth Justice Agency
Community Services



The aim of the Youth Justice Agency is to reduce youth crime and build confidence in the youth justice system.

In support of this, each Community Services Project will:

- Help and encourage children to recognise the effects of crime and to take responsibility for their actions.
- Work with the victims of crime and take account of their views.
- Have regard for the welfare of children for whom they are providing services with a view to furthering their personal, social and educational development.

ATTENDANCE CENTRE ORDERS

**A guide for young people
and their carers**

What is an Attendance Centre Order?

This is a Court order which requires a young person to attend an attendance centre for a set number of hours.

All Community Services Projects throughout Northern Ireland are used as attendance centres.

The hours of attendance can be from between 12 and 24. They will normally be completed over a number of months through planned sessions of up to two hours at a time.

Your attendance will not interfere with school, training or work.

What is required of me?

- To attend the centre at agreed times until the number of hours made in the order are completed.
- To work with Community Services staff on an agreed programme that helps you to look at the reasons for the offence and its effect on you and others.
- If you miss an appointment you must provide Community Services staff with a reasonable explanation.
- To keep in regular contact with Community Services staff and inform us of any change of address.

Information on the Programme

Work undertaken with Community Services staff will help you to:

- Identify the reasons for your involvement in the offence.
- Look at ways to stop you from re-offending.
- Appreciate the impact of the offence on you and other people.
- Understand your responsibilities to your local community.
- Look at other areas of need which will improve your situation.
- Where appropriate, undertake practical activities to make amends.

Parents and carers will be fully involved throughout this process, and it is hoped that they will contribute to the delivery of the programme.

Our responsibilities to you

We are committed to equality of opportunity and treatment and to the elimination of discrimination of any kind.

We will at all times:

- Seek and respect your views.
- Ensure confidentiality.
- Provide a safe environment for meetings.

Who will I work with?

Staff in the Community Services Project are social workers, teachers and youth workers committed to working with young people and their families/carers. They will explain the order to you and work to enable you to successfully complete it.

At all times your views are important to us.

If you have any suggestions about how we can improve our service, or if you have any concerns or wish to make a complaint, please let us know.

If you need help or advice, you may contact us at the address on the back of this leaflet.

Will I have to go back to Court?

A return to Court is possible:

- If changes need to be made to the order.
- If you do not keep appointments.
- If you do not carry out the agreed activities in a respectful and safe way.