

Parenting support



What is parenting support?

The youth justice service, including the youth crime prevention service, works with parents of young people who have offended. We make sure we offer a suitable level of support to parents. We offer this as well as working with the individual young person.

We will allocate parents their own parenting support officer, who can provide them with a range of support including:

- one-to-one sessions;
- group work sessions;
- signposting to other services;
- information about the youth justice system
- support in attending court, meetings and appointments.

Referral criteria

If a young person is currently open to the youth offending team, we can take referrals for parents, carers, or any family member who is directly involved with the children.

Referrals can be made by:

- court;
- youth justice service staff;
- children's services staff;
- or parents can contact the parenting support officer directly.

Referral process

We will contact the family for a first discussion about the referral and about what support may be suitable.

We will then offer a thorough assessment to understand their needs as a parent and identify existing strengths. Other agencies that are working with the family may be contacted as part of the assessment process, this would be discussed with the parents prior to the contact being made.

Using the information from the assessment we will agree a plan with the parents and the parenting support officer of what provision is to be offered.

Frequently asked questions

If I am offered parenting support does it mean I am a bad parent?

No. The aim of the work carried out by the parenting support officer is to help parents recognise their strengths as a parent and offer intervention to work with parents to develop skills and knowledge in the areas that they identify as needing support with.

Do I have to do group work?

Group sessions are available and provide an opportunity to share your experience with other parents. However if you are concerned about group work you can discuss this with the parenting support officer and if we need to, we can deliver work to you one-to-one.

Do I have to engage with parenting support?

If a referral has been made by the courts as part of a Parenting Order then engagement is mandatory – that is, you have to take part, and this will be explained to you as part of the court process.

If the courts have not made a Parenting Order then engagement is voluntary: you can choose if you want to get involved.

Any support we offer is intended to make life better for your child and family and we will do everything we can to make this a positive and useful experience.

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If you have difficulty understanding this document, please contact us on 01983 823011 and we will do our best to help you.