

What happens if I do not complete my Referral Order?

If you feel that you are unable to complete any aspect of your Referral Order you should say this at your initial meeting. If you have difficulty in completing any agreed work at a later date you should speak to your YOS worker who may ask for another meeting to be arranged. If you fail to complete your Referral Order contract without good reason or fail to attend your Youth Offender Panel meeting you will be required to return to court where an alternative sentence may be imposed.

If you can't keep an appointment because you are sick you will need a doctor's certificate.

What happens if I commit another offence?

If you are convicted of another offence when completing your Referral Order you will return to court. Your Referral Order will then either be extended or it will be discharged and the court will impose an alternative sentence.

Useful contact numbers:

Luton Youth Offending Service	01582 547900
Bedfordshire Police	01582 401212
Luton Education Welfare Service	01582 546000
Luton Youth Service	01582 546000
Alcohol Services for the Community	01582 723434
Luton Social Services (office hours)	01582 546000
Social Services (out of office hours)	0870 2385465
Shared Care Drug Service	01582 657558
Parentline	0808 800 2222
Sth Beds. Dyslexia Association	01582 752444
Luton & Sth Beds. Magistrates Courts	01582 524200
Childline	0800 1111
Victim Support	01582 723 779



A Partnership between Luton Borough Council, Bedfordshire Police Authority, Luton Primary Care Trust and the National Probation Service Bedfordshire

16 Rothesay Road, Luton, Bedfordshire. LU1 1QX

Tel. 01582 547900

Fax. 01582 547901

E-mail: yot@luton.gov.uk

Referral Orders

Information for Young People and Parents



What is a Referral Order?

A Referral Order is a sentence of the court considered for most young people who have been convicted of a criminal offence and who have usually appeared before the Court for the first time.

How long does it last?

The Referral Order will last for a period between 3 and 12 months, specified by the Court at the time of your sentence. As long as you comply with the sentence the Referral Order will be considered a 'spent conviction' on completion and you will not have to return to court again.

However, if you ever wish to work with children or other vulnerable people in the future you will need to tell your employer about your Referral Order.

What happens next?

Following your court appearance, you will be contacted by a member of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) who will arrange to make an appointment to see you at home and at our office to discuss your offence with you and your family. The YOS worker will then prepare a written report for a Youth Offender Panel meeting that you and your parent or guardian will be expected to attend. You and your parent will see a copy of the report.

What is a Youth Offender Panel?

A Youth Offender Panel involves two people from your local community helping you to find ways of making amends for your crime and, where necessary, making an apology to your victim and putting right any damage you may have caused. If the victim of your crime can be identified they will be asked whether they wish to attend your meeting or have somebody else attend on their behalf.

Where is the Youth Offender Panel Meeting?

You will be required to attend a panel meeting at this office or a venue in your local community away from the court at a time convenient to your family and the victim of your offence. The meeting may last for at least an hour and will require you to discuss ways of making amends for your crime. You and your parents will need to attend unless you are estranged from your parents.

What will I need to do at the Panel Meeting?

You will need to discuss your offence in your own words at the meeting and consider any ways in which you think that you might make amends. Following a discussion with the panel members and a YOS worker you will be asked to sign a written contract that states what you will need to do to complete your Referral Order successfully.

What will a Referral Order Contract involve?

Each Referral Order contract will vary depending on your individual needs. The type of issues that will be addressed include:

- Making a direct or written apology to your victim
- Meeting with your YOS worker at least fortnightly
- Carrying out some work for the benefit of your victim
- Completing some supervised unpaid work in the community
- Working on any issues that have led to you offending
- Providing you with support and advice to help you not to re-offend
- Agreeing a date for you to return to the panel meeting to review progress