

# Youth Justice



This easy read tells you about the Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Service (YJS) which helps young people who have come into contact with the police.

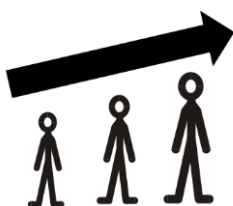
We will explain:

- [What we mean by Youth Justice](#)
- [What the Youth Justice Service does](#)
- [Youth Justice Assessments](#)
- [What people have said about the Youth Justice Service](#)
- [How to get involved and volunteer with Nottinghamshire Youth Justice](#)

# About Youth Justice



The Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Service (YJS) is a service to help young people who have come into contact with the police.



They typically work with young people who are between 10 to 18 years old who are considered vulnerable.



The service is made up of three local “**multi-agency teams**” and an interventions team which work across the whole of the county.



“**Multi-agency team**” means different organisations working together to deliver the service.



The interventions team reaches out to young people at risk of becoming involved in crime to offer support to behave within the law.

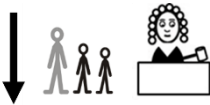
This service aims to:



- Stop children and young people from entering the criminal justice system.



This means that the service stops them from being arrested or charged with a crime.



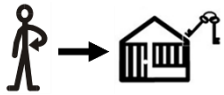
- Lower the number of children and young people in the youth justice system breaking the law again.



- Lower the number of people who are detained at a police station or a **Young Offenders Institution (YOI)**.



**YOIs** are a type of prison. If criminals under the age of 21 are sentenced to serve time, they will be sent to a YOI



- Being placed in detention in a police station or YOI is called “custody”.



You are typically put into custody if you are arrested and are “**remanded**” or “**sentenced**”.



**Remanded** means you are held in custody until a court appearance or trial.

**Sentenced** means the punishment that a judge or magistrates say you must have after you plead guilty or are found guilty of a crime.

## What Does Youth Justice Do?



The YJS service will intervene if you have been given an “**Order by the Court**”.

An “**Order by the Court**” is a written instruction from a judge telling you to do something..



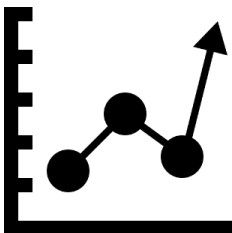
YJS will work with you and the people who are important to you to complete an assessment.



The YJS will also think about why you committed the crime.



This means looking at all aspects of your life and your circumstances to understand what caused the incident.

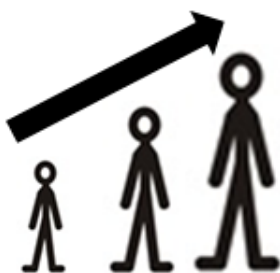


Then they will will work with you to make a plan about the things you need help with to stop this from happening again.

## Assessments



The Nottinghamshire YJS uses an assessment tool called "AssetPlus".



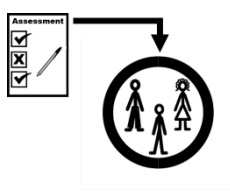
This helps the YJS make a complete assessment with just 1 record which follow the child or young person throughout their time in the system.



The YJS are interested in you, your life and what you have to say.



You can find more about AssetPlus is used for assessment and planning in the youth justice system on [the Youth Justice Board pages on the GOV.UK website.](#)



As a part of our assessment we will ask you and your family to complete our own assessment.

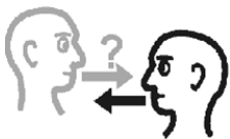


This will be an opportunity to tell us about yourself, who you are and what is important to you.



We will look at how we can help you stay out of trouble and find what support you need to get the most out of your life.

We can help you with:



- **Communication**

Making sure that you have a voice and are heard.



- **Education, Employment and Training**

Helping you get back to school as well finding you education, training and employment opportunities.



- **Drugs and Alcohol work**

If you have issues with drugs and alcohol, Youth Justice can help you understand your struggle with that issue.

They will help you come to terms with how substance use affects your behaviour and can cause you to offend.

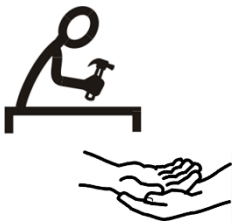


- **Support from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)**

CAMHS will help you with managing your emotions and **trauma** you may have had in the past.



When we talk about **trauma** here, we mean a strong emotional response to a deeply distressing or upsetting experience.



- **Use of your time**

Helping you develop a skill or get involved in something you are interested in.

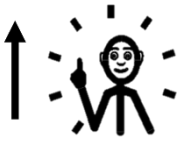
This could either be for pleasure or to help you build a career.



- **Staying Safe**

Helping you understand how to stay safe and supporting you to do so.





- **Increasing your understanding**

This includes looking at what you have done and how it affects other people.



- **Reparation**

Reparation is an opportunity to fix any harm you may have done to those people to make up for the harm you have caused.

This is sometimes called “Restorative Justice”.

## **What Do People Say About Youth Justice?**



People who have been helped by the Youth Justice team have told us about their experience.



We listen to this to learn how we can improve the way we help to improve the lives of young offenders.



This is what some of the young offenders and their parents and carers have said:



- “They really enjoyed working with you and clearly understood the consequences of knife crime”



- “I can never thank C enough for doing an amazing job in working with B, she has taught him so much about life! B is now on a drug and drink program and is working with others due to G's advice in trying to get him on the right track. He is a healthier, happier kid, and this is definitely down to what you all provided for B and my family!”



- “Having role models helped. Even though we fell out sometimes, I know you were just doing your job and following the rules and we were okay!”



- “We discussed what social media I used online and to help keep me safe on these sites.”

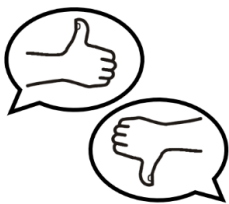


- “I feel like I now have a chance to become what I want to be, an architect.”



- “Learning about consequences to my actions made me realise what I do affects me and others.”

## Get Involved



Nottinghamshire youth justice gathers feedback on the service in a range of ways.



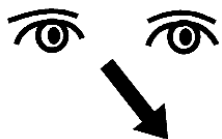
The service works closely with children and young people to ensure they have a voice.



We achieve this through the involvement of “community panel members”.



Community panel members are volunteers who work alongside youth justice staff to help children aged 10 to 18.



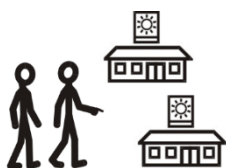
The community panel members help children look at the problems which have led to them offending.



Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and make amends for the offence.



In looking at these problems, the volunteers support the children towards a safe and crime-free life.



We have opportunities for volunteers to get involved with community panels in Nottinghamshire.



You do not need to have any experience to take part in volunteering for the community panel.



You just need a good attitude and want to make a difference in the community.



We will give you all the training you need.

You can find more information on [the Nottingham YJS website](#)



or: Email: [RJVolunteering@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:RJVolunteering@nottsc.gov.uk).

## Links in this document

### **GOV.UK – AssetPlus**

[gov.uk/government/publications/assetplus-assessment-and-planning-in-the-youth-justice-system/assetplus-assessment-and-planning-in-the-youth-justice-system](https://gov.uk/government/publications/assetplus-assessment-and-planning-in-the-youth-justice-system/assetplus-assessment-and-planning-in-the-youth-justice-system)

### **Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Service website.**

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/youth-justice/get-involved>

---

For plain English web page version of this information, go to:

[Youth justice service \(Nottinghamshire County Council\)](#)

[nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/youth-justice](https://nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/youth-justice)

This easy read was first published 9 September 2025

This information was last updated 9 September 2025