

The Courts Team

The Courts Team represents the YOT in court. It recruits and manages remand foster carers and works with remanded and sentenced prisoners at Ashfield Young Offenders Institution.

What is the Courts Team?

- It's a small team consisting of a team manager, court officer and a co-ordinator to recruit; train and support remand foster carers and appropriate adult volunteers.
- The team also has a senior practitioner; two remand workers and a probation officer based at Ashfield Young Offenders Institution.

What does the Courts Team do?

- Provides a court duty service to criminal courts in Bristol and surrounding areas.
- Prepares pre-sentence reports as ordered by courts about young people from Bristol.
- Recruits and manages remand foster carers and appropriate adult volunteers
- Provides a remand review service at Ashfield Youth Offenders Institution to arrange, where appropriate the discharge of young people to community remand placements.

What is involved in court work?

The Courts Team represents the YOT in court and:

- Advises the courts and presents pre-sentence reports
- Explains YOT services and possible sentence options, including bail and secure placements.
- Assists and advises young people and their families, helping them to understand the process and communicate with the court.
- Managing the YOT's relationship with the courts.
- Taking action against young people who breach their supervision.

Members work closely with other parts of the Youth Offending Team. This includes providing advice on legal and court matters.

There is a close relationship with the YOT's Bail Support fosterand Supervision Service. When a young person is at risk of custodial remand, court officers and bail workers work together to prevent bail information to the courts.

What does the team do at Ashfield Young Offenders Institution?

- We have four members of staff at Ashfield: A Probation Officer senior practitioner, Probation Officer and two remand workers.
- Seconded YOT staff work with sentenced and remand prisoners.
- Our work with sentenced prisoners includes contributing to the sentence planning process, delivery of group work programmes, complete parole and

other reports, and working with young people at risk in a custodial setting. Facilitating liaison between the prison and YOTs outside Bristol is an important element of our work.

- Our work with remanded prisoners has a particular focus on reviewing the reasons for the remand and where appropriate liaising with the home YOT to facilitate a bail application. For those who remain on remand at Ashfield, remand staff assist with the planning and review process and assist with group work programmes.

For more information about our work at Ashfield telephone 0117 903 6480.

What is the Appropriate Adult Scheme?

- A scheme providing trained adult volunteers to accompany young people who are in police custody and whose parents are unavailable.
- The scheme currently has 26 volunteers.
- Last year they attended 268 interviews with young people.

Could you consider becoming a volunteer with us? To find out more telephone 0117 903 6480.

What is a Remand Foster Carer?

Many young people in trouble with the law have nowhere to live. This can be the reason they got in trouble or why they find it difficult to change their behaviour.

We need people to provide temporary homes for young people in this situation. We're looking for people who are:

- Experienced in parenting, caring or working with young people aged 10 to 17
- Flexible and willing to provide a home for a young person at short notice in a spare bedroom
- Able to work with a young person in a crisis
- Available during the day or have a partner who can be available
- Willing to be trained, supported and work as part of a professional team

What support is provided?

- Our carers are motivated by concern for young people and a commitment to helping them break away from crime and make a success of their lives.
- To do an effective job they also need support and payment.
- We offer a full range of support, training and fees.

To find out more about remand fostering carer telephone 0117 903 6480.