



Leicestershire Police

Youth Out of Court Resolutions Policy

Owner:	Head of Prevention Directorate
Department Responsible:	Diversion and Youth Justice
Chief Officer Approval:	Assistant Chief Constable
Date of next review:	August 2025
Security Marking:	OFFICIAL MARKED
This policy and procedure has been reviewed against APP and all relevant procedures.	
Moved to APP:	N/A
Rationale:	In alignment with relevant APP, this policy defines the force position beyond APP to ensure local factors are considered.

This document has been produced in conjunction with the Leicestershire Police Legislative Compliance Pack.

Review log

Date	Minor / Major / No change	Section	Author
August 2024	Creation	ALL	Sgt 541 James Wells

Note: Authorised Professional Practice (APP) has been checked.

YOUTH OUT OF COURT RESOLUTIONS POLICY

Statement

This document outlines the intention regarding Leicestershire Police's approach to Out of Court Resolutions (OOCR) for those aged under 18 and the outcomes we aim to achieve across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland (LLR)¹.

The overall purpose of youth Out of Court Resolutions is to divert children and young people from the Criminal Justice System (CJS) thereby preventing unnecessary criminalisation and maximising the opportunities to prevent future crime, harm and demand. This is achieved through delivering well targeted, child-centred disposals which also secure high-level of victim satisfaction and public confidence.

The underpinning principles of this policy are consistent with the National Police Chiefs Council's (NPCC) Best Practice Framework for Child-Centred Policing. The policy recognises the importance of avoiding criminalising children and young people unnecessarily; the primary purpose of the youth justice system is to encourage children and young people to take responsibility for their own actions and promote re-integration into society rather than to punish. Restorative justice may be of value for children and young people as it can encourage them to take responsibility for their actions, understand the impact their offence may have had on others whilst also securing higher levels of victim satisfaction.

This will be achieved through delivering an effective and efficient service relating to youth OOCRs that:

- Increases victim satisfaction and public confidence through high-quality victim engagement, use of restorative justice and the transparent and consistent application of OOCRs.

¹ The term Youth Out of Court Disposal (OOCR) is still current in NPCC guidance, in anticipation of this changing in the near future, this document will use the terminology, Youth Out of Court Resolutions (OOCR). This is in line with recently updated guidance for adults. Any reference to OOCR in national guidance documents can be read as OOCR.

- Offers a credible, robust and more efficient alternative to the formal justice system which targets the right child/young person, at the right time and with the right intervention.
- Delivers early intervention activity by supporting children & young people on the cusp of criminal behaviour.
- Diverts children and young people in a timely fashion to appropriate and evidence-based intervention activity which tackles the causes of their offending and reduces future demand.
- Maximises value in officer time, enabling officers to deal swiftly with lower-level offending and thereby diverting resources to more serious crime.

Leicestershire Police will ensure youth OOCRs are delivered in an ethical, fair and consistent way, with robust decision-making, SMART conditions and where possible through consultation with victims.

The procedures outlining our approach are contained within a later section of this document.

Aims

Leicestershire Police aims to:

1. Increase positive outcomes through offering early intervention and/or diversion opportunities to children and young people, thereby preventing, further offending and demand on the formal criminal justice system and increasing trust and confidence in the Police.
2. Build and maintain strong partnerships with key stakeholders including Youth Justice Services, Local Authorities, Crown Prosecution Service and the courts to ensure processes support the efficient and effective use of OOCRs.
3. Improve victim experience and satisfaction by involving victims in the resolution process, addressing their needs and concerns effectively throughout and providing explanations when our decision-making does not align with their wishes.
4. Ensure youth OOCRs are targeted appropriately, delivered swiftly and pro-actively managed including positive action in relation to enforcement where appropriate.

5. Include appropriate, SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely) conditions which protect victims and tackle the causes of the child or young person's behaviour.
6. Identify where there could be racial disparity in the OOCR processes and work with internal and external stakeholders to capture this and put in place new mechanisms which work towards reducing this.
7. Empower officers to 'get it right first time' through improving the efficiency of process, providing high-quality guidance, training and continuous professional development opportunities and regular feedback through a robust audit and dip sampling regime.
8. Invest in digital capability to increase efficiency in process, reduce demand, improve services to victims and other stakeholders and increase our ability to monitor compliance and effectiveness.
9. Work with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to ensure commissioning of diversion and youth OOCRs interventions is data-driven, evidence-based and meets the needs of victims and children/young people thereby making a tangible contribution to reducing crime, harm and demand.
10. Collaborate with providers of commissioned and non-commissioned interventions to ensure good communication, the end-to-end management of OOCRs and sharing of data to facilitate the monitoring of effectiveness.
11. Capture and monitor multi-agency data to improve needs assessments, track and report on compliance and facilitate evaluation activity to strengthen our understanding of impact and further improve trust and confidence.
12. Proactively seek the views of children/ young people, victims and other stakeholders to continuously improve process and practice and engage in external scrutiny of our OOCR decision-making through the OPCC's 'OOOCR Scrutiny Panel'.

Scope

This policy relates to children and young people under 18 years of age.

Leicestershire Police is focused on ensuring accountability and utilisation of best practice throughout the Youth OOCR process. We recognise APP and will ensure we adhere to the best standards via continuous monitoring, evaluation, and external scrutiny via our independently chaired 'Out of Court Resolution Scrutiny Panel' and supported by a robust sampling regime. We will also create and maintain training documentation that is fit for purpose and seek to achieve all aims outlined within this policy.

Where the child or young person is under 18 the options available to frontline officers without consulting the Youth Justice Service are limited to issuance of a first Community Resolution. Circumstances where this is appropriate will be the resolution of minor offences, and where proportionate with no wider safeguarding concerns present as outlined in procedures.

It is the policy of Leicestershire Police that a Community Resolution for drugs possession can only be issued via the Substance Misuse Team in partnership with Turning Point.

In line with our statutory obligations, the latest guidance and evidence and in adherence with Child Centred Policing principles the majority of OOCR decisions will be made by the Joint Decision-Making Panel (JDMP). The panel is a joint decision-making body comprised of representation from Leicestershire Police and the Youth Justice Service (YJS) and other appropriate agencies.

Legal Basis

This policy and its supporting procedure documentation will consider the requirements of the following areas:

[Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Child or young persons Act 2012 \(LASPO\)](#)

[Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#)

[NPCC Community Resolution Guidance \(2022\)](#)

[APP - Charging and Case Preparation](#)

[APP - Enforcing Sentences and Managing Child or young persons](#)

[APP - Hearing and Trial Management](#)

[APP - Prosecution and Case Management](#)

[APP - Victim and Witness Care](#)

[APP - National Decision Making Model](#)

[APP – Domestic Abuse](#)

[APP – Hate Crime](#)

[APP – Knife Crime](#)

[APP - Possible Justice Outcomes Following Investigation.](#)

[NPCC Child Gravity Matrix v2.2](#)

[NPCC - Outcome 22 Updated Guidance V3.5](#)

[Sentencing Council - Overarching Principles and Offence-Specific Guidelines for Sexual Offences and Robbery Consultation](#)

[DPP Guidance 6th Edition](#)

[NPCC - National Strategy for the Policing of Children and Young People](#)

[NPCC - Child Centred Policing Strategy](#)

[YJB Strategic Plan 2021 - 24](#)

Monitoring

The Head of the Prevention Directorate will be responsible for ensuring the implementation of the ongoing effectiveness of this Policy. They will also be responsible for any review of this document and its contents.

They will be responsible for monitoring overall compliance with this policy by drawing together auditing information from other departments and producing quarterly and annual information reports where required.

These documents will feed into the organisational governance structure and satisfy the Chief Officer Team that the policy remains adherent to expectations.