

Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Sexually Harmful Behaviour Protocol

The following Protocol will be followed when cases of alleged abuse first come to attention of the Police.

At Reprimand / Final Warning Stage:

- A. In accordance with Police procedures, all young people subject to allegations of sexual offending will be Part IV Bailed for 28 days. The Police will also at this stage, give written information, concerning sex offender registration criteria, to the young person. YOT1s are to be passed to the YOS within 24 hours of Police interview.
- B. All YOT1s concerning sexual offences, are to be passed to the designated duty officer in the Youth Offending Service, who will then make the following referrals:
- C.
 - Standard letter/s to the Helpdesk (and to the responsible local authority where relevant), who will be required to consider whether a Child Protection Conference should be convened.
 - Standard letter to relevant Senior Education Manager – who will be required to liaise with the young person's head teacher, to consider whether a risk management and support strategy should be developed.
 - Covering letter and copy of YOT1, to go to the NSPCC Sexually Harmful Behaviour Service (known as NSPCC SHB) accompanied by the Police Summary of Evidence and witness statements.
- D. On receipt of notification from YOS, the NSPCC SHB service will accept the referral as a 'Consultation' and allocate to a named practitioner. The status of the referral within SHB will change to that of 'Assessment' when it is agreed with YOS that an initial assessment of the young person is appropriate. Once agreed and allocated within the SHB service, an initial assessment will be completed within 20 days. As part of this assessment, the NSPCC practitioner will consider themes outlined in the Child Protection Procedures and will also:
 - Review and discuss, with the young person and his/her family or carer, the written information about registration criteria etc, already provided by the Police, and local MAPP arrangements. This service will recommend that the young person / carer seek appropriate legal advice.
 - Assess willingness and suitability of young person for a voluntary programme of work with the SHB Service.
 - Liaise with Children and Young People Services regarding any outstanding Child Protection issues.
- E. Where a young person denies allegations, there may be considerable delay, while the case is processed through Police, CPS and Courts.

Throughout this period, the allocated NSPCC-SHB practitioner will liaise with, and receive information from, YOS in order to track the progress and status of the case. If 'discontinued', YOS will notify NSPCC.

- F. Following assessment NSPCC-SHB will send a short summary of work and recommendations back to the Youth Offending Service. The YOS will then use this report in discussions with police colleagues, along side other assessment procedures (ASSET) and reports used. The Police have responsibility to make the final (informed) decision re charging/diversion.
- G. If appropriate and agreed with YOS, NSPCC-SHB will carry out a voluntary programme of work with the young person to complement a Police Final Warning. (The status of the case within SHB will then, at this stage change to 'Treatment') The NSPCC will inform the Youth Offending Service of the progress of this work for the Final Warning records (the completion of this work may be outside the normal time scale of 6 weeks allowed for Final Warnings).

At Court Stage: (more serious offences) or following previous final warning etc

If Guilty plea: Court Officer to make request for adjournment for PSR preparation and referral to NSPCC for 'specialist assessment'. The court will be advised that the NSPCC SHB service require 6 weeks to undertake this assessment.

YOS will make a referral to NSPCC and agree how the assessment will proceed. Following the period of assessment, a report will be prepared and submitted to the court by NSPCC. This will complement the PSR and is a stand alone document.

If Not Guilty plea: Following a finding of guilt at trial – will proceed as above.

Children and Young People Service and NSPCC SHB will be notified of the outcome of the court case by YOS.

At Community (Supervision) Order stage:

NSPCC SHB will carry out a programme of work in accordance with recommendations of the specialist assessment and the PSR. (Referral status within SHB being 'Treatment') The YOS Case Manager will liaise with NSPCC SHB as to the working agreement (stipulating breach conditions etc), start date, and review schedule.

YOS case manager will consult with her/his line manager in cases of proposed breach of the Order.

Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

NSPCC SHB will attend and participate in appropriate level 2 or 3 meetings at the request of Police, Probation, Youth Offending Service or Children and Young People Service.