

Gateshead Youth Offending Team

Pre sentence report

Information for young people
and their parents/carers

The court has asked for a pre sentence report (PSR) to be prepared. This leaflet explains briefly what a pre sentence report is and what will happen next.

What is a pre sentence report?

A pre sentence report is a report that the court has requested which gives information about you and the offence(s) that you have committed.

Why does the court need a pre sentence report?

The court has to decide on the most appropriate sentence for the offence(s) committed. This is based on:

- how serious the offence is
- how suitable a particular sentence will be for the offence

Some community sentences cannot be given unless a report has been prepared first.

Who prepares the report?

A Youth Offending Team worker will prepare the report with you. They will interview you and will ask you relevant questions. Your parents or carer would also normally be involved in the interview. You may have to be interviewed more than once to get enough detail for the report. The YOT worker may also want to talk to other people that know you such as teachers, social workers, youth workers, health workers and any professionals that may be able to provide specialist services to you.

It is important that you co-operate with the YOT worker so that the court is given all the information they need to make the most appropriate sentence to help you to not re-offend and for you to repair the harm that you have caused.

What happens at the pre sentence report interview?

You will be given an appointment for a pre sentence report interview. It is important that you attend this or the report can not be written. If the time is not convenient please contact the Youth Offending Team, as soon as possible, to arrange a new time.

When you come for the interview you must not:

- Attend under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Have alcohol or illegal drugs with you
- Behave in a violent, aggressive or threatening way
- Use offensive or racist language
- Be unwilling to assist with the preparation of the report.

What does the report include?

The report gives information about:

- the details and circumstances of the offence(s)
- the seriousness of the offence(s)
- an assessment of the consequences of the offence(s) including the impact it had on the victim
- an assessment of your attitude to the offence(s) and the consequences
- personal circumstances which may be relevant to the offence(s)
- the suitability of a particular sentence

Is the report confidential?

Any personal information that we get when we prepare the report will be treated with the utmost care. However, we can not guarantee to keep all the information confidential. For example if you disclose another offence or we are concerned about the safety of other people we may need to pass on the information. Where we can we will discuss any action we need to take with you first.

Who can see the report?

- you (if the report is about you), your parents/carers
- your solicitor
- the judge or magistrates
- the court legal advisor
- the Crown Prosecution Service
- the YOT worker at court
- the prison or secure unit, if the sentence results in custody
- your social worker if you have one

Who can comment on the report?

The report will be shown to you before your court appearance. If you feel it contains anything that is unfair or untrue, you should say so. These comments can then be made to the court.

The report will not be read aloud in court, although the defence solicitor may refer to the contents. The court may also ask questions regarding the contents of the report, or make comments on it.

Where is the Youth Offending Service?

Former Felling Police Station, Sunderland Road, Gateshead, NE10 9NJ

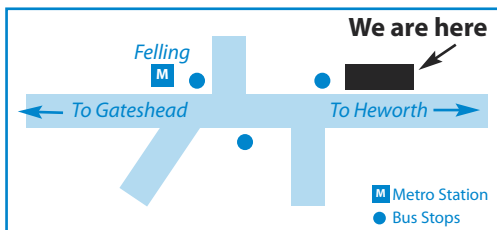
Contact us

Monday to Thursday 8.30am – 5pm

Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm

Tel: (0191) 440 0500

Fax: (0191) 440 0501



Useful directions

- Former Felling Police Station is opposite the Old Council Building and Felling Park
- Felling Metro is less than 5 minutes walk away
- If arriving by Metro from Newcastle Central Station, Felling Metro is the third stop south bound
- If arriving on bus from Gateshead, you can get bus numbers 27 and 27a

Feedback and comments

If you have any comments or feedback on the service which we provide please contact the YOT management team on 0191 440 0500. It is important that we are made aware of any comments you may have so we can provide the best service possible to victims, communities and young people and their families.