

## In brief

Diversion is an opportunity for local family hubs to work with children, young people and their families to support them in achieving a better future that benefits the whole family.

If a young person has behaved in a way that could result in them being arrested, taken to court and prosecuted, it is most effective if they are dealt with quickly. This reduces the risk of them re-offending and they are less likely to cause harm to others.

This approach lets us support the whole family in trying to achieve a better outcome in education, family, health and positive activities.

This way, the young person avoids formal prosecution that can harm their future employment, relationships, credit, housing applications and potential positive opportunities. Research also shows that if a young person is formally prosecuted in the early stages of criminal or anti-social behaviour, they are 6-times more likely to re-offend than if they were supported through prevention and early help.



To access further support visit:  
**Victimscode.org.uk**  
**Affectedbycrime.com**  
**Victimssupport.org.uk**

If you require this leaflet translated into another language, please contact the Youth Justice Service on the details below

If you have a complaint, comment or suggestion regarding a criminal justice agency, please contact the Youth Justice Service in the first instance for advice and support.

Tel: **01472 325252**  
Email: **YOSAdmin@nelincs.gov.uk**

## DIVERSION



**Humberside Police**  
Serving our communities to make them safer and stronger



**For every victim, whatever the crime.**  
Understand your rights at [victimscode.org.uk](http://victimscode.org.uk)



**Our Children, Our Future**

**Working in Partnership**

**YJS** Youth Justice Service  
North East Lincolnshire

## DIVERSION

**Why**  
**prosecution**  
**isn't always**  
**the answer.**

**Information for victims**  
**of crime and anti-social**  
**behaviour**

## What is diversion?

Diversion is a different way of working with a young person who behaves in an anti-social or criminal way. Diversion works with the whole family, and identifies the main causes of crime. For example: a lack of positive activities, unmet health needs, poor education experience or family issues and a breakdown of relationships. By working on these problems, we can prevent the young person from future anti-social behaviour.

## Why diversion?

We want North East Lincolnshire to be a safe place, with fewer victims of crime and antisocial behaviour. We also want our young people to have a positive future. Diversion offers us an opportunity to work with young people at a very early stage in their lives to divert them away from a life of crime.

## Can I take part in the intervention?

There are ways that you can take part in the intervention. You can give the police officer or the victim liaison officer some information about how the behaviour of the young person has affected you. They will share this with the practitioner to help the young person to understand the results of their actions and how behaving in that way has affected people around them. The victim liaison officer can keep you up

to date on any progress that the young person is making and will be able to talk you through different opportunities for you to be involved in the process.

## How long does the young person have to attend for?

This all depends on the risk that they present to other people and to themselves. The programme should close when the risks are low and the family are confident that they can manage things themselves.

## What if the young person doesn't engage?

There is a risk that a young person might refuse to engage with the diversion process. If this happens, the practitioner will try to find out why. They will then try to put a plan in place to help them to engage.

If they still continue not to engage, a record will be kept and they are unlikely to be offered the opportunity to go through the diversion process in the future unless the circumstances have changed significantly.



## Does diversion work?

We know that we need to work with young people and their families as a whole. We also need to tackle the reasons that cause a young person to act and behave in this way, rather than simply punishing the young person.

Research shows that once a young person enters the criminal justice system, they are 6-times more likely to return. The results show that since using the diversion approach in North

East Lincolnshire, 86% of young people completed the process successfully and have not reoffended in the 12-months following the programme.

This is compared with only 41% previously. Is it the easy option for the young person who has harmed me or others?

No. It's just different. The young person still has to engage with services and commit to the programme, but it's more about working on what caused them to offend in the first place, rather than just why they mustn't commit that offence.

For example, witnessing domestic violence in a family, not being in education, being neglected as a child, lack of parental boundaries, trauma or being exploited by others are some of the many reasons that could cause a young person to offend.