



ROCHDALE AND BURY DIVISION TRIAGE Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

The Triage Model

1. The Triage model brings Youth Offending Team (YOT) expertise into the police charging centres to assist with the decision-making. Triage takes place at the point that the young person enters police custody following arrest. The concept, taken from the hospital triage model, seeks to act as a 'gateway' whereby all young people entering custody can be rapidly assessed to ensure that they are dealt with swiftly and effectively.
2. At this 'gateway', key information can be gathered and shared between the YOT, police and CPS to inform decision-making and ensure that the risks and needs of the victim, young person and the community are addressed. Where appropriate, Triage will fast-track young people committing more serious offences and/or, where there are issues of public protection, into the Criminal Justice System (CJS).

The Triage model has two prongs:

- **Triage diversion**
- **Duty triage**

Triage diversion

1. Young person arrested (this refers to 17 years old and under).
2. Brought into custody or spoken to by police at home.
3. Admits offence in interview and:
 - a) is eligible for a Youth Caution (YC)/Youth Conditional Caution (YCC);
 - b) has not previously been referred for a triage diversion.
4. DO NOT administer YC/YCC.
5. Book the young person on the next available slot in the YOT appointment diary – located on the S Drive (Rochdale S Drive > YOT Folder > YOT appointment diary).
6. Administer relevant letter to young person (Bury or Rochdale) – located in the same YOT folder on the Rochdale S Drive.
7. If the young person is already booked in the YOT appointment diary then both offences must be taken into consideration before a pre-Court disposal decision is made.

When the Triage process has been completed then YOT police officer will update the crime on OPUS.

If the young person does not accept responsibility, does not express remorse and/or fails to comply with the process then the original YC/YCC procedures will be reverted back to.

Duty Triage

If the young person:

- does not admit the offence; **or**
- the offence is considered to be beyond the opportunity for triage diversion (2); **or**
- the young person is a serious or persistent offender.

The custody staff should immediately inform the YOT.

The duty worker will then be utilised to share relevant information on the young person, particularly with regards to risk and vulnerability, to inform decision-making on the appropriate disposal/bail conditions.