



4th August 2017

To all Duty Solicitors on Leeds and Kirklees
Magistrates' Court Duty Schemes

Dear Duty Solicitor

Duty Solicitor Schemes

This consultation is in response to HMCTS's announcement of Kirklees Youth Court work being moved to Leeds Magistrates Court. Both Kirklees and Leeds are currently served by a Duty Solicitor Scheme.

For details of the HMCTS consultation, please contact HMCTS.

We have tried to keep changes to schemes to a minimum whilst taking into account the likely impact on levels of service to clients from solicitors whose offices will no longer be local to the court dealing with their matter.

This Consultation

This consultation paper comprises two sections:

Section 1 outlines the proposed changes and Duty Solicitor Schemes affected.

Section 2 outlines the options identified to change the Duty Solicitor Schemes affected within your local region.

We are consulting on these proposals for 4 weeks, from Monday 7th August to Monday 4th September 2017.

Responses should be sent by email to philip.hanson@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk with the heading marked *Kirklees and Leeds Youth Consultation Response*.

Section 1 – Changes and Duty Solicitor Schemes affected.

In West Yorkshire, the following Magistrates' Courts will be affected:

- Kirklees Magistrates Court Youth work will move to Leeds from 2nd October 2017. This will impact on both the Kirklees and Leeds Magistrates' Courts Duty Solicitor Schemes, as after this date all Youth cases will be dealt with at Leeds Magistrates' Court. It is worth noting that there is no intention that Kirklees work will be listed separately at Leeds.



All postcode sectors are mapped into at least one Duty Scheme. The changes proposed here will not affect this.

Section 2 - Proposed Changes

1 Kirklees Magistrates Court Youth work moving to Leeds Magistrates Court

Where significant revisions are required, we set out 2 Options reflecting two different general approaches, with explanations where appropriate, of how each of those approaches will affect the different schemes.

At the end we indicate the option we favour.

Where schemes only require minor adjustments, we set these out and invite any comments or feedback you may have on these changes.

Option 1 – Amend the scheme boundaries for the Leeds Magistrates’ Court Duty scheme allowing Duty Solicitors who are currently members of the Kirklees Magistrates’ Court Duty scheme to become members of the Leeds Magistrates’ Court Duty scheme to undertake Youth work from 2nd October 2017.

Option 2 – Make no change to the scheme boundaries in place at present, i.e. Court Duty Youth work at Kirklees will cease to exist from 2nd October 2017 and providers currently eligible for membership of the Leeds Magistrates’ Court Duty Scheme will continue to access duty slots for Youth work on the Leeds Court Duty rota.

There is no intention to increase the numbers of Duty Solicitors on rota to attend Leeds Magistrates’ Court for Youth work on any given day, but this may be reviewed subject to volumes. HMCTS have confirmed that a Youth Court will run on a Tuesday, therefore a slot will be added to cover Youth work at Leeds Magistrates’ Court on a Tuesday.

Our preferred option is Option 1 to allow providers continued access to Youth duty work.

In addition if you have any other suggested options that you feel we should consider, please set these out clearly in your consultation response.

Please note that subject to the outcome of this consultation, it is our intention to re-issue the affected rotas with effect from 2nd October 2017 and to include Duty Solicitor applicants who have already submitted CRM12s for membership of the affected Schemes.



Legal Aid
Agency

Please ensure your final response is sent to Philip Hanson at philip.hanson@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk by 5pm Monday 4th September 2017 and marked *Kirklees and Leeds Youth Consultation Response*. Please ensure you confirm which court duty scheme you currently access and your preference from the proposed options.

We will aim to confirm the outcome of the consultation by 18th September 2017.