



Legal Aid
Agency

Merseyside Regional Office

6th Floor
The Capital
New Hall Place
Liverpool, L3 9AF

To all firms with Duty Solicitors on the
Liverpool/Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens and
Wirral Duty Schemes

Date: 1st December 2017

Dear Sir / Madam

Response to Consultation with scheme members following HMCTS announcement to centralise Merseyside Youth cases at Liverpool Magistrates' Court

On 6th November 2017, the Legal Aid Agency issued a consultation regarding possible changes to the Liverpool/Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens & Wirral Duty Solicitor scheme(s) affected by the HMCTS decision to centralise Merseyside Youth cases at Liverpool Magistrates' Court.

The deadline for responses to the consultation was 20th November 2017 and the timetable for the consultation exercise indicated that following consideration of any responses, all affected parties would be notified of the outcome.

Summary of Responses

No responses to the consultation on proposed changes to the Liverpool/Knowsley, Sefton, St Helens & Wirral Duty Solicitor Scheme(s), as a result of the centralisation of youth cases across Merseyside, were received.

Decision

The Legal Aid Agency have decided to proceed with the changes proposed in the Consultation paper.

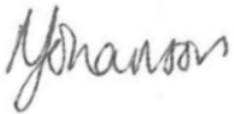
Liverpool & Knowsley, St Helens, Sefton and Wirral rotas will be amended so that duty slots for the Merseyside Youth court are shared across all providers that qualify for the 4 schemes. This approach allows for a duty solicitor to attend all youth matters listed and for court efficiencies to be realised.

Youth Court work (CJSSS/Remand combined) will be listed in Liverpool Magistrates Court on Tuesdays & Wednesdays (with Youth Trials listed on a Thursday).

Next steps

- The changes proposed in the consultation document will take effect on 15th January 2018.
- New rotas will be issued to cover the period 1st January 2018 to 31st July 2018.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'N Johanson', written in a cursive style.

Nicola Johanson
Area Contract Manager