

# How does the CYCT system work?

- An incident occurs or a concern arises and a child or young person is referred to the Convenor.
- The Convenor investigates the incident or concern by requesting information from different sources for example, the Police, Health and Social Services Department, schools and voluntary organisations.
- The Convenor evaluates the information and decides whether there may be a need for compulsory intervention. If so, the child is referred to a hearing of the CYCT.
- Before the hearing the child and family will attend a meeting arranged by the Convenor to consider the 'conditions for referral' (the legal reasons for the hearing). A hearing will only go ahead once the conditions for referral are accepted by the child and family or, if necessary, once the court has decided they have been established on the basis of evidence presented by the Convenor.

- At the hearing the tribunal members will meet with the child, family and professional staff involved – for instance social workers and teachers.
- Having heard from everyone the tribunal makes a decision on whether or not a legal order called a 'care requirement' is necessary.
- If a care requirement is made, tribunal members can attach conditions, such as where a child will live, who they will see or that they will attend a programme to address their behaviour.
- Once made, the tribunal members can review a care requirement and can cancel, continue or change it.

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 Child Youth & Community Tribunal

# The Child, Youth and Community Tribunal and the Children's Convenor

 Child Youth & Community Tribunal

For the first time in the Bailiwick, children and young people in need or in trouble will have the opportunity to have their cases heard outside of a court environment. As part of the Children (Guernsey and Alderney) Law 2008, the Child Youth and Community Tribunal (CYCT) has been established and a Children's Convenor has been appointed. The CYCT system is based on the Children's Hearing system that has been operating successfully in Scotland since 1971.

Basic principles behind the system are:

- The local community is in the best position to decide what should happen to children.
- Children who offend almost always have the same needs and background as children in need of care and protection.
- Children's needs and deeds must be tackled together if they are to be dealt with effectively.
- Children and their families should be active participants in finding the solutions to their problems.

# What is the Child Youth and Community Tribunal?

## Key Facts

- The CYCT is a new tribunal that will replace the court in many cases of child protection and child offending.
- The CYCT is independent and tribunal members are volunteers from the local community who have received intensive training.
- A hearing of the CYCT comprises of three tribunal members one of whom acts as the chairperson.
- A hearing of the CYCT is held in private and only those people who have a legal right to be there, or are allowed to be there by the tribunal, will be present.
- The CYCT will make decisions about children and young people under the age of 18 who may be at risk of harm, involved in offending behaviour or not attending school.
- Tribunal members will make informed and unbiased decisions on whether the child or young person needs to be protected, guided or controlled and will decide what action is required in their best interest.

# What is the Children's Convenor?

## Key Facts

- The Convenor is a lawyer and an independent holder of public office.
- The Convenor is responsible for deciding when a child or young person under the age of 18 is referred to the CYCT.
- Anyone, including members of the public, may refer a case to the Convenor if there are concerns about a child or young person that may need compulsory intervention (legal steps to be taken to help and support them).
- All children and young people over the age of 12 who commit a criminal offence will be referred to the Convenor by the police.
- Some other reasons that children and young people may be referred to the Convenor are: not attending school; misusing drugs or alcohol; violent or destructive behaviour; or, being abused or neglected by the people who look after them.