

One minute guide



A Guide to Intensive Supervision and Surveillance for Children and Families

What is Intensive Supervision and Surveillance?

Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) is a special programme that a court may tell you to do if you have been in serious trouble, or if you keep on getting in trouble with the police. It is usually a last chance to not go to prison. You will have been told to do the programme by the court either as part of a sentence or as part of bail conditions when you have done something very serious. The programme will help you to stay out of trouble and learn good habits to turn your life around.

Main Goals of Intensive Supervision and Surveillance:

- To help you stop getting into trouble, by bringing boundaries and structure to your life.
- To figure out if there is something happening in your life that is making it more likely for you to get into trouble and see if we can help you to turn this around
- To help you learn new skills for life.
- To make the community feel safer by making sure that you follow the rules.

The Intensive Supervision and Surveillance programme will look different for everyone and it is designed to support you, as much as it is to stop you from getting into more trouble. A Youth Justice Officer will spend some time getting to know you and asking you about what you enjoy and what you think you're good at. A group of people, including you and your family, will get together to agree what your own programme and timetable should look like.

The programme will usually last for 6 months, although it can be up to 12 months long when it is part of a sentence. If you have been given the programme as part of bail conditions, there is no specific length of time for the programme to last.

Activities in Intensive Supervision and Surveillance:

You will have to do up to 25 hours of activity each week, over 7 days. Your plan will be individual to you, but it might include:

Community Work: You may do activities to help your community, which might include things like tidying up a community area such as a park or a beach or building bird boxes for a community garden. If the programme is part of a Youth Rehabilitation Order, it might include restorative work to make up for any wrongs that you have done.

Learning and Skills: Any education, training or employment that you were involved in before the programme started will usually continue, and count towards some, but not all of your weekly hours. There will be chances for you to think about what you are good at and enjoy doing, and we can support you with activities that you want to get involved in. This will give you opportunities to learn new skills and become ready for work.

Curfew and Electronic Tag: You will always wear an electronic tag that helps keep track of where you are when you are on an Intensive Support and Surveillance programme. You will have regular meetings with your Youth Justice Service worker.

Tailored sessions: Support and guidance around your individual needs, which could include sessions on drug and alcohol awareness, life and social skills, peer group pressure, education and careers.

If you make good progress, we can change your programme of activities to suit your needs, such as reducing the number of hours of activity per week.

What we will do: We will work with you and your family to prioritise your best interests. We will build on your strengths and abilities and support you to build a more positive way forward. We will always listen to your views and encourage you to take part in your programme and also in the planning. We know that this programme can be difficult and demanding so we will offer you both practical and emotional support. We will do all of this by building a strong, trusting relationship with you and by always being open and honest.

What you must do: You will need to turn up on time to school, training, sessions, and appointments that are in your timetable. We would like you to talk to us about your likes and dislikes, what you think you are good at and your hopes for the future to make sure that the programme suits your needs. You will need to work with the Youth Justice Service on why you have offended and be open and honest with us at all times.

What happens if the rules are broken? If you are struggling to turn up to appointments and do what is asked of you, you need to tell us. We want you to succeed and have a good life so we will do everything that we can to help you stay with the programme. If you don't follow the rules, you might have to go back to court. If you keep breaking the rules, court might decide to send you to prison. This is why it's important to talk to us about any worries or difficulties that you are having.