

The Bridge is for people who haven't been following the rules. The Courts and the Probation Service will be thinking about a short prison sentence as the only way of dealing with the problem.

This is when, lets face it, you've hit the buffers, and can't be allowed to carry on in the same old way. You seem to have reached the end of the line.

The Bridge is intended for someone in this position. You'll remain in the community. You'll work with people whose sole aim is to get you back on track towards making a decent future for yourself.

It will take work from you. Work from your Offender Manager. And work from The Bridge.

Are you ready for it?

The Probation Service is working with
FTC and Nacro to provide
The Bridge .



Information for people taking part





What will I need to do?

First, you'll have a mentor. This will be someone who helps you to get to grips with The Bridge, and any other orders you've got, and to understand what's going on. If you've got any problems with completing some of the tasks set by a Bridge tutor, your mentor will be there to help out.

You'll find that they will be helpful with any issues over travelling by public transport. They will want you to succeed, and to get the most out of The Bridge. This includes making sure you get to the venue!

Your mentor will keep in touch with your Probation Offender Manager, as well as with The Bridge tutors.

How long will The Bridge last?

This depends on what the court decides. An order can last up to six months, during which time you will be required to spend up to thirty days on The Bridge. Some of this work will take place at The Bridge, some in your local office. You will be expected to complete the number of days the court orders. Failure to do so will result in a return to court.

What work will I do at The Bridge?

The work will be tailored to what you need, and to the reasons why you're working in The Bridge. There are various packages, each with separate phases. What you'll be doing takes a shorter time than a normal order, but is more concentrated. You will also be helped to work out how you'll complete any other court orders.

The Bridge: what happens?

The next working day after a court appearance, you will meet with a Mentor and an Offender Manager in your local Probation Office to agree and sign up to the sentence plan.

Next you'll go to The Bridge. You'll be introduced to what goes on there, and one of the Bridge tutors will make an assessment of what you need to do, and when. Then you'll be given appointments.

You'll take part in all or some of these phases:

Phase 1: Engagement. *(Minimum 3 days' activity)*

Your housing, jobs, and skills situation will be looked at. An Action Plan will be agreed with you. What will follow will be activities aimed at helping you re-motivate, giving you a bit more confidence and helping you get something out of working with others. 'Respect' is the major issue here.

Phase 2: Following the Rules *(Min 5 days)*

This is the core of The Bridge, aimed at your own offending: what patterns it follows, and what you need to do to be able to keep to the rules better, solve problems, and improve on your own performance. We'll have a look at how your crime impacts on others.

We'll be working on obeying the law: what issues influence you when you commit crime, and we'll look at what can go wrong. How to get the most out of Probation Service supervision and keep to a Court Order will be important too.

Phase 3: Consequences *(Min 4 days)*

Here's where we deal with consequences: for victims of crime, for communities, for your family, and for you. We'll get paramedics, fire service and other groups to come and help with this issue.

We'll look at possibilities of gaining qualifications in courses such as First Responder training or Health and Safety in the Workplace.

Phase 4: Reintegration *(Min 3 days)*

This phase includes making a plan to get training for jobs, or to get a job. We'll cover things like disclosing criminal records to employers.

We can plan to get you on a course which is suited to you, and with the help of agencies like CAB and UNLOCK, consider how to improve your finances.

You'll be doing some work on your own personal responsibility before the end of this phase.

When it ends, you'll be returning to your Offender Manager, who will use information from your mentor to continue the work that you've been involved in here.