

Speed, or the inappropriate use of speed, is a factor in a significant percentage of road traffic incidents. The greater the speed involved the more serious the incident is likely to be. It is estimated that excessive or inappropriate speed is a contributory factor in the majority of vehicle collisions.

### What is it?

The National Speed Awareness Scheme has been launched in Gloucestershire, in partnership with the Police and Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, as an alternative to prosecution for some speeding offences within an agreed threshold.

### Who is it for?

The Speed Awareness Scheme finds its legal authority in the discretion entrusted to the Police, who decide whether to instigate proceedings for offences. The Scheme is not intended to usurp the Courts authority, but is intended to broach drivers' attitude and behaviour towards inappropriate driving speeds, which in turn leads to a reduction in re-offending and ultimately contributes towards road safety and a better quality of life.

### How does it work?

The 4-hour course is no soft option for the offender.

Attendance on the course attracts a fee payable by the offender, as well as the time and effort involved. The course may vary from force to force, as some forces will adopt the theory only element of four hours duration. The course will cater for all classes of drivers and there will be no discrimination regarding age, ability, language, ethnic origin or ability.

### When does it happen?

The National Speed Awareness Scheme will allow offenders who admit the offence of speeding to be offered a course in the area of their choice, providing the Force in question has adopted the National Scheme arrangements.

Once an motorist has completed a course they will be ineligible for another course offer if they re-offend within 3 years of the original offence.

### How much does it cost?

Drivers who have been offered the opportunity by the police to attend a speed awareness course can now book and pay for a course on-line. You should be able to choose the location and the date and time of the course to suit you, and of course you can book it from the comfort of your own home and a time that fits in with you. You will need your driving licence number in order to login.

See: [www.pds-dis.co.uk](http://www.pds-dis.co.uk)

### Where do I attend?

In Gloucestershire we will be organising Speed Awareness courses at Community Fire Stations in Gloucester, Stroud, Northleach, Cirencester, Coleford and Tewkesbury.