



# youth services

## Intensive Support Team

## Aims & Objectives

## **Intensive Support Team**

The Intensive Support Team will work with and support young people aged between 12 and 17 and their families to resolve concerns at home, school and community. In exceptional circumstances the age range may be flexible to accommodate those young people who present High Risk Behaviours.

### **Criteria**

- There is evidence that the young person has recently displayed (within the past 4 weeks) the following:
  - High Risk Behaviours
  - Susceptible to exploitation
  - There are significant family challenges in maintaining the young person at home
  - Young people, who have previously displayed any of the above behaviours, currently placed out with the family home and are transitioning back to their communities.

### **Aims**

- Provide a service to young people and their families, where the young person is presenting with high risk behaviours and/or vulnerability concerns.
- Work in partnership with other agencies to support young people and their families.
- Ensure that each young person who comes into contact with the Intensive Support Team is dealt with without delay and in a manner that meets their needs.
- Work intensively with young people and their family to address particular issues that impact on risk and/or vulnerability.
- To support young people, their families and communities to maintain young people in their home and communities.
- Minimise the need for young people to be accommodated away from their family home.
- Raise awareness with young people and their families to the potential consequences of the presenting concerns.
- Encourage consultation with young people to ensure that the service they receive reflects and values fairness, equality and diversity.
- Opportunities for young people to develop their social and emotional skills through participating in positive activities and informal learning.

### **Outcomes**

- Access for all young people to information and advice which raises their aspirations and equips them to make safe and informed choices.
- The right support as soon as possible for vulnerable young people, in order to help them to turn their lives around and to prevent any issues becoming more serious.
- Opportunities for all young people to have a real influence over provision and actively participate in its delivery.
- Young people with encouragement and opportunities to volunteer and contribute within their communities.

- That young people are maintained within their homes where possible, where this is not they are transitioned back to their communities when safe to do so along with the support to sustain the transition.

## **Definitions**

### **Risk**

Risky behaviours are those that potentially expose other people to harm, or significant risk of harm which will prevent them reaching their potential. Some risky behaviour is normal and part of growing up. However, when this behaviour is beyond normal/curious/experimental and where the behaviours continue when told to stop or sanctioned by appropriate adults. These behaviours put children and young people or others at risk where there is the potential to cause hurt or harm to others. In this instance the behaviors are those that are violent, sexual and/or High tariff jointly referred charges.

### **Sexual**

'The sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 years involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them sexual activities.

Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example the persuasion to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones with no immediate payment or gain. In all cases those exploiting child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. (The National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People, 2008)

### **Emotional/Financial**

The financial exploitation of children and young person under 18 years involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where they are susceptible to emotional or financial abuse. This is likely to be related to the impact of their family background and/or emotional wellbeing (although not exclusively). In all cases those exploiting child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.

The Intensive Support Team is able to provide the following services:

**Consultation:** the opportunity to discuss presenting behaviours and future planning.

**Assessment Reports:**

- Persistent/prolific offending
- High Tariff Offences (Jointly Referred to Reporter and Procurator Fiscal)
- Violent behaviours
- Sexualised behaviours
- Vulnerability/Exploitation

**Discrete Pieces of intervention:** a focussed and time limited intervention based on the case holders Care Plan and agreed through the Resources Panel (between 6 weeks and 3 months).

**Time Limited Intervention:** where the family are in significant and enduring crisis and the young person meets the criteria detailed above (between 3-6 months).

**Case Hold:** Where the young person is assessed as High Risk/Vulnerability and it is anticipated that the intervention is likely to exceed 6 months.

