

# Sexual Harm Intervention Programme

## Information for parents

**This handout is intended to inform the parents/carers of young people who have shown, or are believed to be at risk of developing harmful sexual behaviour. It outlines the assessment — often referred to as a SHIP assessment, and the intervention service itself.**

### Introduction

The SHIP works with young people who have shown, or are believed to be at risk of developing harmful sexual behaviour. The virtual team consists of professionals from Children and Family Services and the Youth Justice Support Team who have received specialist training in assessment and prevention work in this area.

### Who refers young people to the SHIP?

Concerns highlighted to Children and Family Services or notification from the police would trigger a referral to the team. Two SHIP workers would be identified to make contact with a young person's parents/carers to explain the assessment process and agree a course of action.

### What is a SHIP Assessment?

The SHIP workers will meet with the young person individually and this is usually for at least five sessions. These sessions will be held in a safe environment and will take into consideration the young person's diversity and learning needs. The work will involve activities to help the SHIP workers understand what behaviour may have occurred and how this is understood by the young person.

The workers will meet separately with the parents and other significant people involved with the young person. This information helps the workers get an overall picture of the young person's situation.

### What happens next?

Once all the relevant information has been gathered, the SHIP workers use a recognised assessment tool to consider the likelihood of any harmful sexual behaviour happening in the future.



The information is presented in a report which is shared with the young person and their parents/carers. The report will state what further work the young person may need to develop ways of managing their behaviour.

### Confidentiality

The information gathered and the report created will be treated confidentially and held on the records of Children and Family Services. It may be necessary for this report to be shared with others in order to protect others and this process will be discussed with you.

### What happens if the police are involved?

If a young person was arrested for a sexual offence the police will investigate the matter and they will decide whether to charge the young person. This may result in informal action, which would include gaining support on a voluntary basis, or the young person being sent to court. If the young person was to attend court, the SHIP workers would provide support to the young person and their family. The court may ask the SHIP workers for their professional advice when sentencing a young person.

Your young person will be working with the following SHIP workers, who are contactable on the following numbers:

### Equal opportunities

West Berkshire Council is committed to equality of opportunity. We will treat everyone with respect, regardless of race, disability, gender, age, religion or sexual orientation.

If you require this information in a different format! please contact the community Services Contact centre on 01635 503090. who will be able to help.

If you require further information regarding the Sexual Harm Intervention Programme, please contact:

**Dave Wraight, YJST Manager**

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