

Sexual Harm Intervention Programme

Information for Young People

This handout is intended to inform 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 who people think might show harmful sexual behaviour. The virtual team is made up of professionals from Children and Family Services and the Youth Justice Support Team. They are specially trained in understanding why young people may behave in this way and helping them behave differently.

How do SHIP know about you?

Parents, teachers, social workers or the police might be worried that you are involved in harmful sexual behaviour. They will ask two SHIP workers to contact you and your parent or carer to explain and decide what will happen next.

What is a SHIP Assessment?

The SHIP workers will meet with you by yourself at least five times. These sessions will be held in a safe place and when working with you we will think about the way you find it easiest to learn and other needs you may have. The workers will not judge you but will ask you to take part in activities to help them understand what might have happened and what you think about it.

The workers will meet separately with your parents/carers and other important people in your life. This information helps the workers understand more about you and your life.

What happens next?

Once the workers have got information from everybody they will think about it carefully to consider whether they think you might be involved in any harmful sexual behaviour in the future.



SHIP Information for Young People

They will put the information into a report which will be shared with you and your parents/carers. The report will explain whether the SHIP team need to do some more work with you to help you to develop ways of managing your behaviour.

Confidentiality

The information that is collected will be treated confidentially. A copy of the report will stay in a secure file at Children and Family Services. It may be important for some people to read this report to keep you and other people safe. If we need to do this we will tell you first.

What happens if the police are involved?

If you were arrested by the police they will investigate what happened and they will decide whether to charge you. This may mean you are asked to work with the SHIP team on a voluntary basis, or you may be sent to court. If you are asked to attend court, the SHIP workers would help you and your parents/carers understand what might happen at court. The court may ask the SHIP workers for their advice if you are given a court order.

You 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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