



Young people who display sexually harmful behaviour

What is it?

Young people who commit sexually harmful behaviour or offences against other young people or adults. In assessing the needs of the young person involved and the interventions to be carried out we follow the AIM 3 (Assessment, Intervention, Moving On) process using practitioners trained in the use of AIM 3 and a combination of Children's Social Care social workers and Youth Justice Workers.

Why do we have it?

Young people can become involved in sexually harmful behaviour for many reasons and a comprehensive and appropriate assessment methodology is vital to assess risk and to provide protective factors to reduce the risk of further harmful behaviour. If the behaviour is not tackled early evidence suggests that the behaviour will continue and quite possibly escalate in seriousness.

What does the law say about it?

The law requires that a young person convicted of an offence has a supervising officer provided by the Youth Justice Service (Crime and Disorder Act 1998). Local authorities under the Children Act 1989 and 2004 have overarching responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children – including those who display sexually harmful behaviour or are victims of such behaviour.

What do we have in Bolton?

Using the AIM 3 model where a young person is accused of committing a sexual offence they will be assessed under the AIM process by the Youth Justice Service at either the out of court disposal or pre-sentence stage. The assessment will determine the level and type of intervention. In certain exceptional circumstances a specialist provider may be used to provide a therapeutic intervention. Where the allegation does not enter the criminal justice system the AIM 3 assessment will be carried out by a Social Worker from Children's Social Care. Again this assessment will determine the level and type of intervention.

There are social workers in both the Youth Justice Service and Children's Social Care who are trained in the use of the AIM 3 model. In all cases a strategy meeting will be held before an assessment is undertaken.

Key contact...

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