

TREES Newsletter

Together Reducing & Ending Exploitation in Shropshire

Issue 15 • Autumn 2024

QUICK LINKS



Welcome to the Autumn edition of the TREES Newsletter 2024

This edition is focused on fantastic services that are provided to support young people from exploitation in Shropshire. If you are a local or national organisation and wish to increase awareness of your services—we would love to hear from you! Contact details can be found at the end of this edition.

Please continue to access the TREES Website (click the tree below on this page!) for loads of helpful support and guidance. Please be aware we have recently updated the Child Exploitation Risk Assessment which is available via the SSCP (last button on the left) which can now be used as a direct referral to With You.

We sincerely appreciate any feedback—including that of Steve Baguley, Community and Education Lead of the NWG (National Working Group) who commented;

"I am fortunate enough to work across the whole of England and Wales and your newsletter takes some beating. Its really helpful and informative in raising awareness and supporting people to identify and respond to exploitation."

The NWG is a charitable organisation formed as a UK network of over 14,500 practitioners who disseminate our information down through their services, to professionals working on the issue of child exploitation (CE) and trafficking within the UK. For further information, please [access their website](#).



TREES WEBSITE
LINK

Current patterns and emerging themes

Update from Clare Jervis, CE & Missing Operational Lead

During this quarter—total referrals received are 46% female and 54% male. As noted, there has been a drop in referrals which hopefully suggests exploitation is being identified early and mitigated through early intervention services.

Critical insights for this period are that 27% of referrals are NEET (Not in education, employment or training) which is a big increase from previous—this is always a concerning vulnerability indicator for these young people.

Two 13 year old child were found out of area and missing for 7 days, found eventually in Birmingham in a very high-risk situation.

We've seen increasing concerns around unexplained money-transfers, children NEET or late to school being coerced into exploitation and the widely used tactic of recruiting children to sell vapes. We've also noted a uptick in the methods adults use, notably violence and threats

Missing children remain one of our highest priorities. Due to resourcing issues, many children are simply not being seen after being reported missing. Extensive work with the relevant authorities is underway to address this and encourage anyone who does report a child missing to continue to do so.

We have seen many examples of social media platforms such as TikTok and Snapchat being used for recruitment for criminal exploitation (CE) and debt bondage. Snapchat and Telegram continue to be the most commonly used in instances of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

We've never worked closer with our multi-agency partners and wish to take the time to say a massive thanks to your efforts in keeping Shropshire's young people safe.

Hot Spots of concern

Recent referrals and intel have identified the following areas of concern. Disruption tactics will be considered as part of regular multi-agency meetings, but if you hear about or witness anything concerning in these areas, please be alert and report any concerns as intel (please see [Page 3](#) for more information on how to do this)

Shrewsbury

Darwin Shopping Centre, Sundorne Sports Village, English Bridge, Frankwell benches, Harlescott Retail

Other areas

Oswestry, Cleobury Mortimer, Telford Town Park, Stirchley Pools, Whitchurch, Ellesmere (number of areas in Ellesmere—high risk area currently), Macclesfield, and Wheeler Road Playground.





There may be behaviour that you witness in communities that cause you to be concerned that unknown children are being exploited, such as activity around associates, addresses or locations.

If you have information about any anti-social or criminal activity or behaviour (even where you do not know who is at risk or of concern) which indicates that child exploitation may be occurring, please ensure you pass this information to West Mercia Police as soon as possible to enable them to prevent and detect crime (s115 Crime and Disorder Act 1998). Please provide names if you are aware of them, and as much detail as possible—in particular children and young people who may already be known to children’s services or the police.

The below methods can also be used for reporting concerns:

- Where you think there is an immediate risk to a person or you witness a crime taking place, phone **999** (or dial 55 if you are unable to talk).
- Report under the **“Tell Us About” section on the West Mercia Police website** or phone **101**.
- Anonymously to Crimestoppers online at **<https://crimestoppers-uk.org>** or by calling **0800 555111**.
- Children, their families and/or other members of the community may be worried about sharing information about crime with the police, but you can encourage them to do so anonymously by signposting them to Crimestoppers, or Fearless for young people - **www.fearless.org**
- If you are a professional, please email the information directly to the Shropshire CE Team at: **CETeamShropshire@westmercia.police.uk** (please note that this inbox is only monitored on weekdays between 8am – 4pm) or call the team on 01743 237413.

Please note: Where you have child specific information which suggests that a child is at risk of or experiencing harm as a result of exploitation, you must follow the Child Exploitation Pathway and pass information related to criminal activity or behaviour posing a risk to West Mercia Police.

What is classed as intelligence?

Both information and intelligence are welcome, here is a useful summary to describe each:

Information: *Something that is learned or provided about something or someone. Information is defined as knowledge gained through experience or study; facts or knowledge provided or learned; knowledge of specific and timely events or situations, news. Information can relate to all forms of processed data and can include intelligence.*

Intelligence: *The analytics (interpretation of meaningful patterns) of information gathered from many sources. This is information that has been compiled, analysed, and/or disseminated to anticipate, prevent, or monitor criminal activity. It is information that has been subject to a defined evaluation and risk assessment process in order to assist with police decision making. This is to supply robust, verifiable information which can be evaluated, assessed for risk and then acted upon.*

Additional Support from West Mercia Police



**WEST MERCIA
POLICE**

West Mercia Police is committed to preventing harm in our communities and is refocusing on the way we deliver some of our services to young people, their families and schools to better achieve this.

Youth engagement and education

West Mercia Police is maintaining the resources it has in place for youth engagement and education across our police force area, but we are changing the way our Youth Engagement and Safer Schools officers deliver engagement and education.

Going forward, each secondary school across Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin will have a named Safer Schools or Youth Engagement Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) who will regularly visit the school and build a relationship with them. This is in addition to the dedicated Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) officers already available to all communities and schools.

West Mercia Police is introducing a consistent range of preventative educational inputs, delivered across all of our policing area, focusing on the areas that West Mercia Police sees as the greatest risk to our children and young people. These are generally the same risks that schools are seeing and dealing with.

Our preventative educational inputs have been designed in collaboration with a former secondary school teacher, merging teaching and policing knowledge to deliver the best product we can:

- Our educational inputs are designed to support school PSHE curriculums or to act as standalone inputs to students, covering topics such as knife crime, drugs and alcohol, sexual violence and consent, and hate crime.
- Our focus for education will be young people in secondary schools in Years 7, 8 and 9.
- Our preventative educational inputs will be delivered by our Youth Engagement and Safer Schools PCSOs.
- Our Youth Engagement Constables will undertake intervention work with young people in our schools who are most at risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of harm, or being reported missing to the police.
- Our Safer Neighbourhood Teams will work with primary and secondary schools to provide community engagement, getting to know the schools, the staff, the students and the parents.

Additional Support from West Mercia Police



Exploitation and vulnerability training

West Mercia Police also provides fully funded awareness training about the signs and symptoms of children being exploited, recently refocused upon delivering to people who work with children, such as teachers, as well as parents and members of the community. We need all of these people to be our eyes and ears in our communities, so by helping adults to understand what child exploitation looks like we can increase the chances of stopping children being harmed.

We offer 90-minute awareness training to those working with children, such as teachers, and 45-minute sessions to parents and communities. We encourage schools, especially those delivering secondary education, to sign their staff up for a session.

Our parent sessions are focused on online harms and how to keep young people safe. We will also soon be approaching schools asking them to promote our training to the parents of the young people at schools.

Our training is delivered online but can also be delivered in person, where available. Our training is available via the West Mercia Police website: www.westmercia.police.uk/exploitworkshops.

Steer Clear – support for children involved with knives

I wanted to take this opportunity to also tell you about Steer Clear, West Mercia Police's own award-winning knife crime intervention programme, now delivered across Shropshire, Herefordshire, Telford and Wrekin and Worcestershire by The Children's Society. The programme aims to educate young people under 18, who are on the verge of getting involved with knives or who may be carrying a knife. [Steer Clear website: Steer Clear CLIMB](#)

Climb – support for children at risk of exploitation

West Mercia Police also offers a diversionary programme for young people, under 17, at risk of exploitation.

The force-wide programme, also run by The Children's Society, aims to divert young people into funded activities, such as sport, dance, music, the arts and more, with an intention of steering young people away from harmful situations. Referrals are made to Climb through The Children's Society website: [Climb | The Children's Society \(childrenssociety.org.uk\)](http://climb | The Children's Society (childrenssociety.org.uk))

Neighbourhood Matters

We encourage all schools and parents to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters, the West Mercia Police online community messaging service. The service provides information about community issues and updates on policing engagement in the area. Sign up at www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk

We remain committed to keeping the young people of Herefordshire, Telford and Wrekin, Worcestershire and Shropshire safe from harm.



Protect our children!

Free one hour online awareness sessions for parents, guardians, community members and professionals who work with children.



Parents and guardians: Our kids are now most commonly abused online, via their mobile phones and games consoles. Do you know how to keep your kids safe?

Learn more about the dangers of kids being online and how you can keep them safe.

Join our free one hour online parent awareness session to give yourself a head start in an ever changing digital world.

Our community: It takes all of us to protect our kids. Whether you are a postal worker, a bin worker, taxi driver, residents, a sports coach, we all need to know what kids being taken advantage of looks like and what to do about it.

Join our free one hour online community awareness session to learn how to protect our kids from those wanting to exploit them.

Professionals and people who work with children: You have a responsibility to keep children safe. You need to know what to look out for. Learn more about why kids are vulnerable and how they are manipulated into harmful situations and exploited.

Join our free one and a half hour professionals awareness session.

Scan the QR code to find out more about our awareness training and to sign up to one of our free sessions or go to www.westmercia.police.uk/exploitworkshops



Exploitation and the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has revolutionised many aspects of our lives, offering significant benefits in various fields such as healthcare, education, and security. However, it also presents risks—particularly concerning child exploitation.

1. AI in Child Exploitation: AI technologies can be misused to exploit children in several ways:

- **Deepfakes:** AI can create realistic but fake images and videos, which can be used to produce child sexual abuse material (CSAM).
- **Grooming:** AI-powered chatbots can mimic human conversation, potentially being used by predators to groom children online.
- **Data Mining:** AI can analyse vast amounts of data to identify and target vulnerable children, areas of concerns and localities, as well as create profiles so

2. Detection and Prevention: While AI poses risks, it also offers tools to combat child exploitation:

- **Image Recognition:** AI can scan and identify abusive or illegal content, helping law enforcement agencies to track and remove such content.
- **Behaviour Analysis:** AI can monitor online behaviour to detect grooming patterns and alert authorities, it could be used to alert parents if their child tries to access something illegal.
- **Content Moderation:** Social media platforms already use AI to filter and block harmful content, including blocking those who would be predatory or present a risk to children.

3. Ethical and Legal Challenges: The use of AI in addressing child exploitation raises several ethical and legal issues:

- **Privacy Concerns:** Monitoring and analysing online behaviour can infringe on privacy rights.
- **Bias and Accuracy:** AI systems can be biased or inaccurate, leading to false positives or negatives, including image generation.
- **Regulation:** There is a need for robust legal frameworks to govern the use of AI in this sensitive area—these are currently very undeveloped.

It's clear that there is a very good argument for both sides of how AI will change the child exploitation landscape.

However— AI benefits from instant machine learning. It constantly corrects itself, gets better, more efficient, and more convincing.

One thing is clear—AI is here to stay. Shropshire Council is currently developing some early stage training to support practitioners which will be available via Leap into Learning soon.

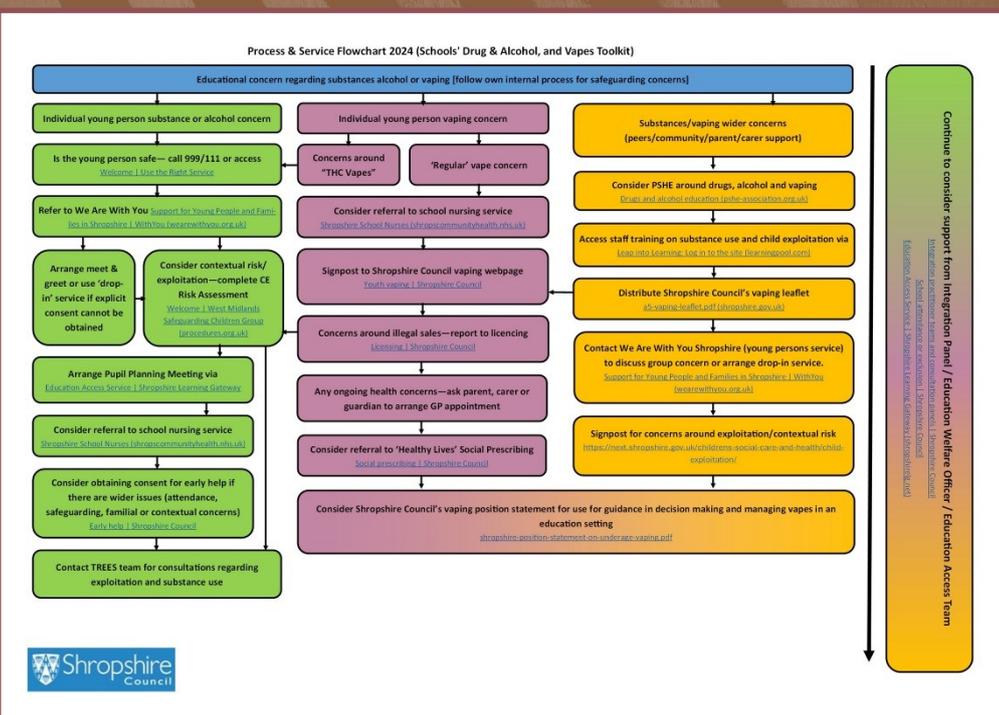


George Davies—TREES Team

Drug, Alcohol and Vaping Policy Toolkit for Schools

Shropshire Council's Public Health have recently launched the Drug, alcohol and vaping policy toolkit for schools. This has been designed collaboratively by a range of professionals from the LA and Education settings and aims:

- To enable schools to develop their school approach to responding to students who are affected by drug, alcohol, or vaping use.
- To clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of schools.
- To reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and the whole school community.
- To provide guidance and responses to managing any drug, alcohol and smoking/vaping related incidents with consistency, confidence and in the best interest of those involved.
- To promote best practice in respect of drug, alcohol, and smoking/vaping education.
- To provide guidance on evaluating and recording incidents to share learning and improve school approach.



Please use the toolkit as needed to ensure best practice for Shropshire's Young People—the flowchart is a great way to explore other options when incidents occur.

If you need a copy of the toolkit whilst it's embedded online, please contact: [<Sam.Simcox@shropshire.gov.uk>](mailto:Sam.Simcox@shropshire.gov.uk)

With You Service Update

CHANGES TO CE RISK ASSESSMENTS

The team at We Are With You have been working closely with our valued colleagues in the TREES Team.

Discussions took place in relation to Risk Assessments being submitted to Triage that had identified a young person with a drug and alcohol issue.

This would then result in an action from triage that the referrer should subsequently complete a Smarter Screening Tool in order for the young person to receive support - or if they were declining to still complete the Smarter but tick the Meet and Greet box.

We identified that completions of the Smarter Screening Tools never came to fruition and the actions were not followed up.

To assist professionals, changes to the Risk Assessment now include a We Are With You tick box.

If ticked this will be an automatic referral to We Are With You for the young person rather than having to complete a separate Smarter Screening Tool.

Once ticked—one of the team from We Are With You will contact you to discuss how to progress with the referral and support the young people you have identified.

We hope this new streamlined fast track system will assist us all to support young people with drug and alcohol related issues in a more timely manner.

Ketamine Concerns

We continue to see large numbers of young people using ketamine, especially the student populations. The risks continue to be very high, with some really serious harm caused with prolonged use from some young people we're supporting. As such—we're re-issuing our ketamine piece written for the last newsletter as it's more relevant than ever.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2024/sep/16/young-people-addicted-to-ketamine-a-national-problem-says-uk-expert>

NEW SMARTER Screening tool —easier PDF format now available [email: SRPinfo We Are With You <SRPinfo@wearewithyou.org.uk>]





By Ruth Hemmings

Young Person's Substance Misuse Worker

Exploitation Lead

Ketamine Overview in Shropshire

Here at With You YP Team Shropshire, we constantly monitor changes in our county's drug trends. We are always gathering, monitoring and sharing information regarding new substances, changes to substances, prices and effects. One of the substances that we have been monitoring closely for some time now is Ketamine.

The impact that Ketamine has on young people can be life changing

You may have heard of Ketamine being referred to as a 'Horse Tranquilizer'. Ketamine is an anaesthetic that can also have a dissociative effect. It is classified as a Class B drug. It is usually a white, crystalline powder that is most commonly sniffed. Traditionally the effects of sniffing Ketamine last roughly an hour from start to finish, but I will talk more about this later on.

The effects of Ketamine are quite wide ranging from initially feeling very sociable and in the mood to party, to then really slowing down. People under the influence of Ketamine will typically begin to talk very slowly-like they are considering and delaying a response to your questions. They will struggle to take information in. They may slur their words. They will lack coordination and can experience 'Ket Legs'. Someone who is experiencing 'Ket Legs' will appear wobbly when walking as they will find it difficult to move their legs and may be feeling numb. They may also feel nauseous.

Ketamine users sometimes experience 'K-holes'. A k-hole is comparable to an out of the body experience where the user will describe feeling like they are being lifted out of their bodies. This can be a very scary and unpleasant experience.

In Shropshire there is a wide ranging cohort of young people using Ketamine. We are often told by clients that Ketamine is a very concerning issue in our county, especially in and around the Shrewsbury area. Our team has often compared it to Crack and Heroin due to its availability, moreish nature and affordability.

Our team here at With You YP is vastly experienced, however we are learning new Ketamine information on a daily basis from our clients, who are happy to share it with us knowing that we are trying to raise awareness amongst people about this substance.

Ketamine continued...

Increasingly, we are seeing young people experiencing bladder problems caused directly from their Ketamine use. Clients frequently tell us that they are unable to hold their bladders and have an urgency to urinate. Passing urine can be an exceptionally painful experience often accompanied by sticky mucus, blood and tissue. Ironically, clients tell us that the only painkiller that is effective enough to manage their bladder symptoms is Ketamine. It is a catch 22. Alongside this, it is common for Ketamine users to experience painful 'Ket cramps' in their stomach and backs.

Historically young people in Shrewsbury would travel over to Telford to purchase Ketamine. Until recently, Ketamine in Shrewsbury was £20 per gram and half the price in Telford at £10 per gram. It made financial sense for clients to pool their money together and fund a train ticket to purchase substances for a group of young people. The price of Ketamine has reduced in Shrewsbury recently to £10 per gram but there are always deals to be had, for example, 12 grams for £80. Young clients in the Oswestry area will often travel to Wrexham to purchase Ketamine as in Oswestry it costs £20-25 per gram compared to the more affordable £10 per gram in Wrexham. At £10 per gram it is 'pocket money prices'

Ketamine users have also noted that whereas in the past the effects of Ketamine would traditionally last about an hour from the initial sniffing to then feeling 'sober' again, more recently it is lasting about 3.5 hours. They have also noticed that it is much stronger, everything feels more distorted and they are disorientated, it is more 'shardy' and therefore more painful to sniff, often causing nosebleeds. Interestingly, although our clients are usually careful about cleaning their noses, the Ketamine often makes its way back down the nostrils so is visible-if you care to look closely.

Here at With You YP we have noticed some very alarming trends in the link between Ketamine, sexual assault and rape. This again mirrors the trends that we have witnessed in the past Crack trade of males raping females when they are under the influence, then giving them Ketamine when they become distressed as a method of control via addiction.

We also have experience of clients sustaining physical injury following accidents caused by having 'Ket Legs', broken noses and teeth following falls, liver damage and teens being referred to Urology for their Ketamine related bladder issues.

The effects of Ketamine on both the family and finances stretch far and wide. Not only are we seeing young people burdened with debt bondage and having to sell items precious to them to pay off 'ticks', but also the effects on their families where they can no longer cope with the stress of their child being controlled by the drug and how it controls the family dynamic. This has led to some clients no longer being able to reside in their family home.

If you have any substance related concerns for a young person-up to the age of 19, then please contact us. Don't forget, if a young person is unsure if they want to engage in the service we can always offer a meet and greet to alleviate any concerns and talk through harm reduction advice. The service we offer is confidential and non judgmental.

Referral is via a SMARTER. Clients are usually allocated on the same day and contacted within 24 hours. We also have great social media, if you fancy a nosey. You can find us on Facebook and Instagram.

Community Support for Young People

YOUTH CLUBS

TERM-TIME 2024

FREE!

MON GRANGE JUNIORS 6.30-8.30PM
year 7 - year 10

TUE YOUTH CAFE @ THE HIVE 4-6PM
year 7 - year 10

WED DITHERINGTON YOUTHIE 6.30-8.30PM
year 7 - year 11

WED GRANGE PRE-JUNIORS 6-8PM
year 5 - year 6

THUR MONKMOOR FOOTBALL & TENNIS
year 7 - year 10

sports, arts & crafts, music, movies, cookery, performing arts etc



to book & for
more info.

andy 01743 257651 or 07976 020819
andy.hall@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk



Shrewsbury
Town Council



BRIGHTSTAR PROGRAMMES

Our mission is to Empower a brighter future!

Through our programmes we specialise in working with young people to thrive, using the combination of boxing, community and education. Here are some of our programmes that can support:

FUTURES

Our Futures programme offers alternative education for young people struggling in traditional settings, providing specialised support to help them achieve their potential. Each group includes a teacher, youth worker, and boxing coach, combining education, qualifications, mentoring, and boxing. Schools must refer students to this programme, which is available at venues across the West Midlands.



BOXING CLUB

We now have venues in Shifnal, Shrewsbury and Wolverhampton where we offer evening boxing sessions. We offer sessions for people of all ages and there is no need to complete a referral form.

Its £6 a session or £35 a month. The timetable is available on our social media and website.



MAKE SPORT WORK

We have partnered with Shrewsbury Town in the Community, Shropshire Cricket Board, and Embrace PE to offer a fully funded programme for individuals aged 16+ who are not in education, employment, or training. This 6-week programme combines qualifications, sport, and mentoring, running one full day per week to build confidence and prepare participants for employment. It's available at various locations across Shropshire, and participants need to be referred into the programme.



BELIEVE

Believe is a 12-week programme for young people aged 8-16, combining boxing and mentoring. Based in Shifnal, participants learn about control, emotions, thoughts, relationships, role models, and triggers, while also working towards their boxing awards. The programme runs on Tuesday evenings from 4-5:30 PM, with 12 places available and three staff members per session. The cost is £150 per participant, and referrals are required.



COUNTERPUNCH

Counterpunch is a mental health support programme for young people aged 11-16 and is based in our Shrewsbury site. This programme combines boxing and mentoring and is every Tuesday 5:30-6:30. This programme is £4 per session and there is no booking required.



TO FIND OUT MORE CONTACT JOE LOCKLEY ON JOE.LOCKLEY@BRIGHTSTARBOXING.CO.UK

WWW.BRIGHTSTARBOXING.CO.UK



Shropshire
Council

TREES Website

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/childrens-social-care-and-health/child-exploitation/>

Please continue to use the website to signpost, refer, use the resources and as a central place for our newsletters. Any feedback is always welcome so please get in touch using the contact details at the end of this edition.





CLIMB

Let's keep young people safe from exploitation.

CLIMB is here to prevent young people from being drawn into criminal exploitation and other forms of criminal activity.

We work across West Mercia supporting 10 to 17 year olds at risk of exploitation.

We provide one to one support sessions and diversionary activities to divert young people from exploitation and criminal activity.

If you would like more information or would like to refer a young person to Climb, please visit childrenssociety.org.uk/climb or email climb@childrenssociety.org.uk



**The
Children's
Society**

Climb



Climb is an early intervention service for children and young people living in West Mercia. It helps to build their confidence and resilience and recognise things that might be a risk to them.

Climb runs fun group work sessions in schools, designed to educate children to make safe choices in their community and online. We also support children on a one-to-one basis.

We aim to help children to:

- understand healthy and unhealthy relationships
- build a positive sense of themselves
- feel confident in managing their emotions (for example, with anger or anxiety) and their behaviour at school

- understand risks in the community
- understand how to ask for help and who to ask for help if they need it
- join in with fun activities that can help them to meet other children their own age and to build their self-esteem.

For more information or to make a referral to our under-10s project, please visit **childrenssociety.org.uk/climb** or get in touch at **climb@childrenssociety.org.uk**.

Service update from Steer Clear

Criteria:

- ✓ 10-17yrs across all areas in West Mercia
- ✓ For YPs who are on the periphery of coming involved in knife crime—e.g. showing an interest in knives, hanging around associates known to carry, or YP who has been carrying a knife but no knife crime related offences
- ✓ Must have no knife crime related offences OR will be NFA'd if Steer Clear take the YP on (although please make this clear on a referral form)
- ✓ We are able to work with YPs who are LAC, who have SGOs and social workers etc
- ✓ Other offences or bail - please get directly in contact to discuss first

Steer Clear is an early intervention programme which supports YP aged 10-17 living in all areas of West Mercia who have been referred to the service due to intel that they are/on the periphery of carrying knives. We are able to work with YPs (including those who have social workers, LAC, SGO etc) as long as they have not previously accessed the service and have no knife-crime related offences in place.

All YPs are triaged by The Children's Society, Police, Children's Services—and if accepted, they will be allocated 1-2-1 or group work.

We have 1-2-1 practitioners across West Mercia who will work with YP for up to 6 months, educating them on the dangers and consequences of carrying knives, exploring self-regulatory skills and building positive/healthy relationships and support them into sustainable diversionary activities funded by The Children's Society.

When allocated group work young people will attend a 1x2hr session; the session invites parents along too where they will receive a talk from somebody with lived experience around knives and talks about the risks/consequences of carrying. The second half of the session is around learning self-regulatory skills. Our group worker will also offer free online workshops for parents. We plan our group workshops dates according to the number of referrals we get in each area as and when they come in.

If you would like to refer any YP, please access this link; [Steer Clear | The Children's Society \(childrenssociety.org.uk\)](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/steer-clear)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.
Rachel Barry
Steer Clear Service Manager, West Mercia
The Children's Society

Email: rachel.barry@childrenssociety.org.uk

Steer Clear

Together, we can help young people say 'no' to knife crime.

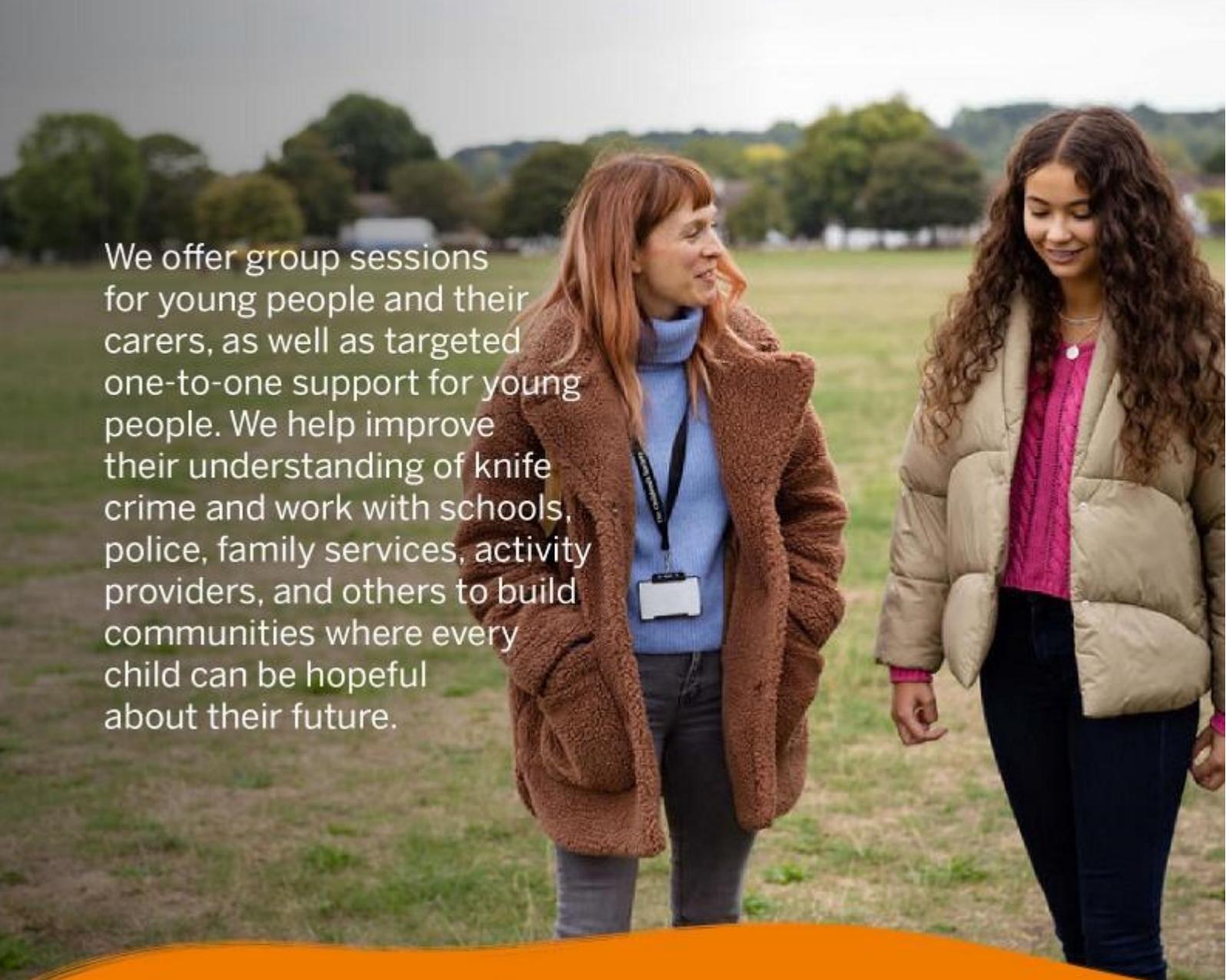


Sometimes, young people can feel they have no option but to carry a weapon if they live somewhere that they don't feel safe.

At Steer Clear, we want to try and change that. We work with young people aged 10 to 18 across West Mercia who are

at risk of being exposed to or involved in knife crime and help them to find alternative solutions.

We focus on education and support, aiming to tackle knife-related crime and create safer communities for everyone.

A photograph of two women walking in a grassy field. The woman on the left has long reddish-brown hair and is wearing a blue turtleneck sweater, a brown fuzzy coat, and a lanyard with a badge. The woman on the right has long dark curly hair and is wearing a pink top and a beige puffer jacket. They are both looking towards each other and smiling.

We offer group sessions for young people and their carers, as well as targeted one-to-one support for young people. We help improve their understanding of knife crime and work with schools, police, family services, activity providers, and others to build communities where every child can be hopeful about their future.

The service is free of charge, and anyone can make a referral. If you're concerned about a young person, get in touch today. You could help keep them safe from harm – today and tomorrow.

For more information or to make a referral, contact us at steer.clear@childrenssociety.org.uk.

It's important to check in
about the mental health of
those we care for.
That includes you.



Find out more at
www.hubofhope.co.uk



Child Exploitation Consultation Sessions

We are here to support you :)

Do you have a particular young person who you would like to discuss in more depth? If so, we are offering weekly consultations every Tuesday 2pm – 4pm.

The following professionals will be on hand to offer advice and support regarding all CCE, CSE and substance misuse queries:

- Clare Jervis, CE & Missing Operational Lead, TREES Team
- George Davies, Young Persons Substance Misuse Advisor, TREES Team
- Stafford Mason, CE Lead for Early Help
- Jo Smith, Education Access Service
- Bob Powell, West Mercia Police
- Sonya Jones, With You Shropshire

To book a 30 minute timeslot, please email the TREES Team at ss-trees@shropshire.gov.uk



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Useful Links

Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Tool

To be completed if you have concerns about a particular young person (parental consent required):
<https://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/local-content/4cjN/exploitation-tools-and-pathways/?b=Shropshire>

Reporting Intelligence

Professionals are welcome to email non-urgent information directly to the police CE Team at:
CETeamShropshire@westmercia.police.uk

For full guidance on Intelligence Reporting please visit:

<https://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/local-content/4cjN/exploitation-tools-and-pathways/?b=Shropshire>

Child Exploitation Leaflets

A leaflet has been produced to provide an overview of CE, and Shropshire's CE Pathway for parents & carers, there is also a similar leaflet available for local communities:

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/xqcizqif/ce-in-shropshire-leaflet-for-parents-carers.pdf>
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/2mpefun0/ce-in-shropshire-leaflet-for-local-communities.pdf>

Child Exploitation Directory

Designed to outline the support available to children and young people in Shropshire who are victims of, or at risk of CE, as well as their families and the professionals who support them:

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/l4vlhdqx/ce-directory.pdf>

Smarter Screening Tool

To be completed if you have concerns regarding a young person's use of substances:
<https://shropshire.gov.uk/media/21573/with-you-smarter-screening-tool-vnov21.doc>

Partner Organisations

Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership - www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk

Early Help - www.shropshire.gov.uk/early-help

West Mercia Police - www.westmercia.police.uk

West Mercia Youth Justice Service - www.westmerciayouthjustice.org.uk

We Are With You - www.wearewithyou.org.uk/services/shropshire

Branch Project - www.wmrsasc.org.uk/the-branch-project

Purple Leaf - www.purpleleaf.org.uk

Climb - www.childrensociety.org.uk/climb

NWG - www.nwgnetwork.org

For support or advice, or to be added to the mailing list for this newsletter, please contact
clare.jervis@shropshire.gov.uk

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