

# SAFEGUARDING ADOLESCENTS

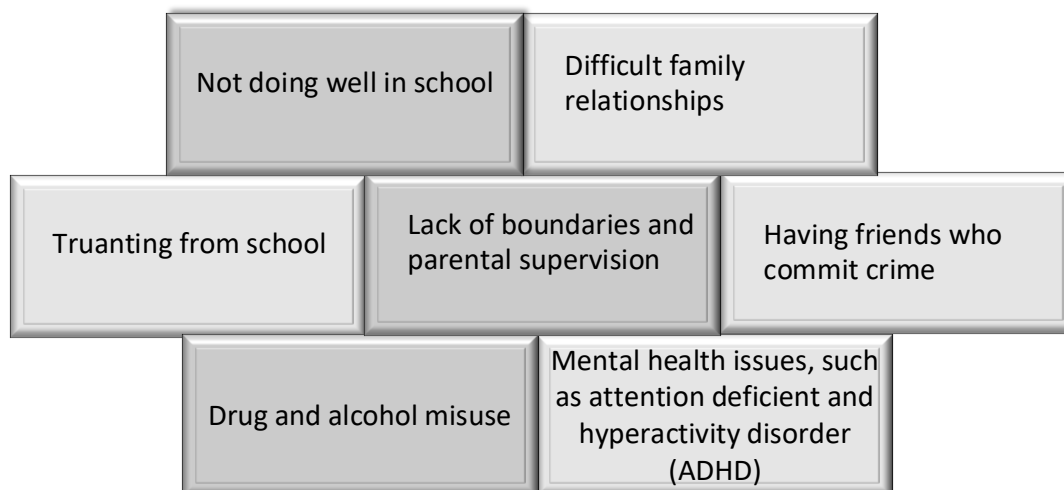
## AGENCY PROCESSES

### Agency Process: Enforcement

#### Introduction

During childhood, children can, on occasion, face a range of problems and behave in challenging ways which may result in the police and other people needing to become involved to support them and stop further anti-social and offending behaviour from happening.

There is generally no simple reason why children become involved in offending. Certain circumstances happening simultaneously can cause children to commit crime. This includes, but is not limited to:



#### Hampshire and Isle of Wight Youth Offending Team

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight (IOW) Youth Offending Team (YOT) works with children to help stop offending, maximise their full potential and help them become responsible, crime-free members of the community.

#### Who are YOT?

Following the [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#), Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) were established in all local government areas in England and Wales.

The Hampshire and IOW YOT are multi-agency teams that bring together the experience of professionals from the police, social care, probation, education, restorative justice and health sectors, in order to prevent offending and re-offending by children.

The rationale behind having such a comprehensive team of people is to be able to assist children across all levels of their lives.

Six key objectives of YOTs:

The swift administration of justice so that every child accused of breaking the law has the matter resolved without delay

To confront children with the consequences of their offending

To put in place interventions that tackle the specific factors which put a child at risk of re-offending

To make sure that the punishment is proportionate to the seriousness of the crime

To reinforce the responsibilities of the parents and to provide advice and guidance to them

To make certain that children are encouraged to make reparation to their victim(s)

The work of YOT involves just some of the following:

- Offering a prevention service to support children who may be 'at risk' of offending (Youth Crime Prevention (YCP)).
- Supervising children who given either Out of Court disposals or who are sentenced to any kind of order by the court.
- Help young people and their families at court.
- Supplying bail information and bail support services.
- Preparing reports for the courts.
- Work with parents and carers to help them understand their responsibilities
- Offer victims of crime the opportunities to have a voice and the chance to take part in restorative justice.
- Providing through-care and post-release supervision of young persons sentenced to custody.
- Giving support to children who are remanded to local authority care or custody.

## What is the impact on safeguarding adolescents?

There may be times that, despite best efforts, some extra support is needed to help keep children out of trouble. It is more useful to provide early help when problems first arise, than to intervene later. Enforcement and early help for anti-social and offending behaviours can help to prevent further problems from developing.

Offering support at the time of the concerning behaviours can help to:

### Early help for anti-social and offending behaviours

Protect children from harm

Improve their long term outcomes

Help develop their strengths and skills

Promote diversion from offending

## Additional Resources and Information

[Youth Out-of-Court Disposals](#) - Government guidance for police and YOTs on youth out-of-court disposals.

[The Work of Youth Offending Teams to Protect the Public](#) - An inspection by HM Inspectorate of Probation.

[Youth Offending Teams](#) - An overview of the role of Youth Offending Teams.

[Youth Justice Board](#) - Information about the Youth Justice Board.

[Police and Crime Commissioner](#) - An overview of the projects that the Commissioner currently supports to achieve the aim of supporting policing by preventing crime and reducing offending.

[Sentencing Children and Young People](#) - An introduction to sentencing children and young people from the Sentencing Council.

[Children and Sentencing](#) - A guide for adults supporting children facing sentence in the criminal courts in England and Wales.

[Unlock](#) - Provides a voice and support for people who are facing stigma and obstacles because of their criminal record, often long after they have served their sentence.

## Glossary

[A-Z legal terms for young people \(yjlc.uk\)](#) - Provided by the Youth Justice Legal Centre.