

Practice guide

Family Help & Children's Social Care

Harms Outside the Home - In the Zone, Wirral

Background, purpose and rationale

There are several initiatives that have been run in Wirral Youth Justice Service (YJS) and the wider Harm Outside the Home Service (HOTH). Within Wirral, we are always looking at ways to add innovation, education, training and support to children in our services, to improve outcomes for the children and their families and listening to the voice of the victim and child. We wanted to look into a number of elements and launched numerous projects. This practice guide is about a project called In the Zone.

What we did to improve children's outcomes

In the Zone multi-agency school programme is a Wirral project that has been running for four years. The programme is delivered to the majority of Year 9 pupils in schools and alternative provisions, by several agencies. These are led by Youth Justice Service (YJS) and include Merseyside Police, Youth Services, Drug and Alcohol Services and the Exploitation Team. The programme delivers fun and interactive sessions to improve knowledge and safeguarding awareness to young people on Harm Outside The Home (HOTH). Funded at a very small cost by Merseyside Violent Reduction Partnership, the programme offers a one-day event on subjects such as:

- Drug and Alcohol awareness
- Exploitation
- Peer Pressure
- Cyber Safety
- Crime and knife crime

All sessions are run in class sizes with interactive games so that the young people enjoy the sessions which helps them to remember them. All sessions are age appropriate, fun and developed to improve young people's knowledge to keep them safe and gives advice on where to go for support if they need help. The project does take a lot of organising with co-ordinating dates / times with schools and ensuring that all agencies are available, but the benefits for young people are ten-fold with regards to what they learn from the sessions.

What was the impact?

We have had an evaluation completed on the Programme by John Moore's University.

To date we have delivered In the Zone programme to over ten thousand young people on the Wirral and feedback through evaluation has been excellent. (See 'Resources' on the linked page). In the Zone

has been seen on the BBC Northwest politics programme, as well as local press such as the Liverpool Echo. The impact is what we hear from the young people through evaluations. They tell us that they have learnt new things, that they understand the dangers and know the risks in specific areas such as drugs, alcohol, exploitation and peer pressure as they move into their teenage years. Along with understanding risks and what makes them vulnerable in matters of harm outside the home.

Resources



In the zone
review.pptx



In The Zone Info
Sheet.pdf

Find out more Contact

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