

TREES Newsletter

Together Reducing & Ending Exploitation in Shropshire



Issue 11 • Summer 2023

Welcome

...to the latest edition of the TREES newsletter.

This quarter we see that females make up the largest number of referrals, a pattern which we saw 12 months ago, contrary to the usual trend of the majority being males. CCE continues to be the main area of risk, with a higher number of children being identified as HIGH risk. Schools continue to be the highest referrers. We have seen a number of referrals being made via Bee U—which is really positive to see coordinated multi-agency recognition and efforts around exploitation.

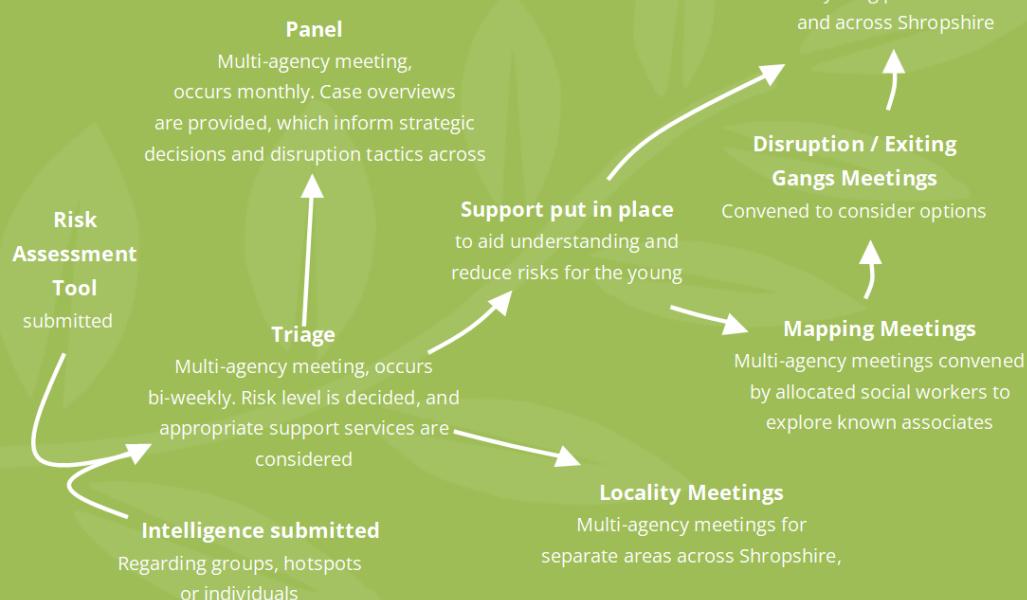
Mental health continues to feature very strongly within CE risk assessments with one example of a YP using a Teen Chat forum when she was looking for advice, to support her with her mental health as she was feeling low/suicidal—where she was subsequently groomed online to send naked pictures of herself to them.

Online harm & suicidal ideation remains a consistent theme within CE risk assessments along with ongoing concerns regarding online harm. Alcohol use—in particular the use of vodka—has also been raised within triage.

Clare Jervis, CE & Missing Operational Lead and Team Manager of the TREES Hub



How does the pathway work?



Current patterns and emerging themes

Update from Clare Jervis, CE & Missing Operational Lead

The number of CE risk assessments have increased compared to 12 months ago; especially an increase in the number of new referrals. Interestingly, we see a similar pattern of referrals being predominantly female compared to males for both last month and June 2022, and notable a decrease in the number of new referrals coming through from the local authority—this raises concerns around missed opportunities, as well as gaps in our understanding around new pieces of key information to help us to build up a picture of what happening across Shropshire.

It's been noted that we received significantly smaller number of CE risk assessments last month compared to previous months. However, we do continue to see high numbers of intel within our triage process. It is possible that we have received a very low number of CE risk assessments due to the Easter school holiday as this is where we receive many of our CE risk assessments.

We have identified a number of young people within triage, some of whom have been assessed as being 'groomed & targeted for the purposes of CCE' - where we continue to see illegal drugs, misuse of alcohol, drug debt and debt bondage remaining a consistent concern. A observation recently is of parents and young people who often feel too frightened to report incidents to the police due to repercussions—which does increase risks to a number of young people and the wider community.

A number of CE risk assessments are raising concerns around 'increased behavioural concerns within the community' for the whole of Shropshire. This is in line with a reduction in police referrals being shared with Youth Justice when young people are being arrested. This is an area that is likely in direct consequence of a focus being on not criminalising children, but this needs balancing to ensure that we try and engage young people in early diversionary work to prevent further offending and reduce further risks regarding exploitation.

We continue to see information suggesting that young people feel they are accessing drugs for free - this is an area we will look at within the next TREES newsletter to ensure that partner agencies are raising awareness to young people in school. We continue to see online coercion with a group of girls being raised within triage This quarter who have been coerced by unknown males via snap chat.

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
Town Centre, Quarry, Port Hill, Frankwell, Comet Drive, KFC and Darwin Centre, The Square, Swimming pool car park, shops in Harlescott and Sundorne (rivalry), Gains Park, Belle Vue, Ditherington,
- Other areas
Cardingmill Valley Reservoir & Church Stretton, Jubilee Park, Brown Moss & McDonalds (Whitchurch), Yellow Salt-Bins nationwide (storing drugs), Wilkos & McDonalds in Market Drayton.



Reporting Intelligence



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: CE-TeamShropshire@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.*

June 2023

Contamination Warning—Ketamine

Statement on increase in hospitalisations of CYP related to ketamine use

Families and professionals who work with young people are being asked to start supportive conversations with young people following a rapid increase in those admitted to hospital after using class B drug, ketamine.

The recent surge coincides with a spell of hot weather and the end of exam season for many young people, with gatherings and celebrations thought to have led to the increase. In particular, this has been noted at The Quarry, Doctor's Field, The Mount and other riverside locations in Shrewsbury, prompting additional concerns about river safety.

Local drug and alcohol support organisation, We Are With You, have raised concerns about a contaminated batch of ketamine that is in circulation at the moment, which may have been mixed with other toxin(s). This batch could cause someone to become rapidly very unwell, potentially unresponsive and requiring immediate medical assistance.

Ketamine is a powerful anaesthetic and has become increasingly popular as a recreational drug. It looks like a grainy, white powder and reduces sensations in the body, putting users at risk of injury.

At high doses, ketamine can cause people to hallucinate and become very confused, make it difficult to use arms and legs and cause problems to the heart.

Regular or long-term use can cause flashbacks and memory loss, as well as making existing mental health problems worse. It can also lead to damage to organs such as the bladder and liver.

Ketamine can be fatal in the case of overdose or if it is mixed with other substances including alcohol.

In response to current concerns, parents, carers and professionals are being advised to:

- Make time today to have a positive, two-way conversation with young people to raise awareness of ongoing concerns
- Know where young people are going, who with and encourage safer alternatives such as meeting in smaller groups away from locations of concern
- Make sure that you and your young people are equipped with information about the risks, signs to look out for and where to get help Ketamine | Effects of Ketamine | FRANK (talktofrank.com)
- Listen to any questions or experiences that young people want to share with you. Find answers together
- Make sure young people know actions that they can take to reduce harm. This includes looking out for their friends and having a plan for if help is needed

Know how to find support. Shropshire Council's drug and alcohol support partners, We Are With You can offer free advice and guidance, including a live web chat at this link: Shropshire - With You (wearewithyou.org.uk)

In an emergency including a risk to life and unresponsiveness, call 999.

If you need more general help and support:

- Contact your GP
- Call NHS 111
- Contact your mental health crisis team (if you have one)
- Call Samaritans free on 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.org



Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council are working with a range of partner organisations, health services and the local policing team to respond to this issue.

Bridey.davies@shropshire.gov.uk - Shropshire Council public health communications

Maria.jones@shropshire.gov.uk - Shropshire Council senior communications officer

AWARD WINNING YOUTH SERVICES

TREES!

Director's Special Recognition

Children's Services
People Directorate Staff
Awards 2023



"I'm delighted that our youth service team has been recognised at the Shrewsbury Town Council's Mayor Awards, for their contribution to supporting young people in the town.

"This award is a testament to the team who go above and beyond to help address the concerns and issues that affect young people. Congratulations to all, and thank you for supporting young people's wellbeing."

- Kirstie Hurst-Knight,
Shropshire Council's Cabinet
Member



Youth Support Team

Youth Award

Shropshire Town Council's
Mayor Awards

Helena Williams, Bethany
Falconer, Becky Whatmough, Sian
Makin

Launch of the Shropshire's Professional Information Network (PIN)

The Shropshire Professional Information Network, or 'PIN', was launched in April 2023 by the Drug and Alcohol team within Public Health. A PIN is an interactive online network of local professionals who are likely to encounter new and/or novel, potent, adulterated or contaminated drugs, or the people who use them. In Shropshire, the PIN operates through the MS Teams platform.

The purpose of the network is to

- Feed in local information and send drug alert forms to the Lead Development Officer
- Act as a checking mechanism, i.e., monitoring whether a similar issue has been noted by PIN members.
- Cascade alerts to specific target audience of professionals and service users.

There are currently over 40 members of the Shropshire PIN from a range of organisations including West Mercia police, probation, Shropshire Recovery Partnership, Shropshire Council (including housing, public health, education & schools), MPFT, SaTH and primary care. It is anticipated that this number will continue to increase over the coming months, as the PIN represents a real opportunity for the rapid and efficient sharing of information between professionals in Shropshire, to facilitate action where needed to minimise risk and reduce harm as far as possible.

The PIN also serves as an effective and speedy communication route to share drug alerts, to keep professionals informed about new and/or novel, potent, adulterated or contaminated drugs in order to best safeguard the people who use them.

For professionals who become aware of new and/or novel, potent, adulterated, or contaminated drugs and who are not members of the PIN, information can be shared initially by e-mailing drugalerts@shropshire.gov.uk

Summer is coming...

Update from George Davies, Young Person's Substance Misuse Advisor

This issue I'll be focusing on alcohol specifically—given that the momentum throughout the last year hasn't slowed down. With the summer holidays around the corner, this is unlikely to stop.

Due to some prevalent A&E admissions, reports from the Quarry in Shrewsbury, intelligence and information sent into children's services, many young people are gravitating towards alcohol, which generally increases this time of year.

Young people open to services are admitting using alcohol alongside another substances (poly-drug use); typically cocaine, ketamine, MDMA or even opiates.

Alcohol and exploitation have well-established links, but this isn't commonly used for criminal purposes, but rather as a coping strategy.

There are notable tools available online or through your GP to comfortably challenge, understand and plan alcohol use. Understandably, as alcohol is societally acceptable, the general thought with young people is that if something is legal—it's safe.

If you're worried about the substance misuse of a young person—get a SMARTER screening done or speak to We Are With You to get further support.

A few tips for staying safe this summer with alcohol use;

- Alcohol and sunshine increase the risk of heat related illnesses and dehydration.
- Alcohol lowers your inhibitions; young people may take increased risks—jumping off bridges into water, drowning, sexual activity, taking other substances, drink driving etc.
- Alcohol does not interact well with many substances—in particular cocaine and ketamine. If you're going to drink, don't mix with anything else.
- Look after your friends—don't be afraid to call for help.

Shropshire Council warns families about the risks of vaping for children



Shropshire
Council

Rachel Robinson, Shropshire Council's director of public health, said:-

"Vaping is not for children and is not risk free. Much of the current research focuses on adults using vape devices as a 'quit smoking' tool, where there is less harm in the short and medium term compared to tobacco smoking. There are, however, higher risks of exposure to harmful substances from vaping compared with not using a vape or not smoking at all."



"There is limited research on how vaping can affect the health and development of children and young people; the safest option for children is not to vape or to smoke."

"In the UK it is illegal to sell nicotine containing vapes to anyone under the age of 18 years, or for adults to buy these products for them. There are concerns that the colourful packaging, designs and flavours of vapes are appealing to children, and that they have become too easy to buy online. Some of the products that can be bought in this way may also fall below the required safety standard and could have batteries or chargers that are hazardous to use."

"There are also national and local concerns that vapes can be used by organised criminal gangs and drug dealers to attract young people into criminal activity, or to get someone interested in misusing drugs. Parent and carers should be aware of this and observe and respond to any changes in their children and young people. This could include noticing a child receiving vapes as gifts or rewards, becoming more secretive, or a decline in their mental health due to pressures from criminals or peers."

"Shropshire Council are working with partners to better understand and respond to local concerns about underage vaping, and will be sharing more information as further research becomes available."

USEFUL VAPING RESOURCES

[Vapes | FRANK \(talktofrank.com\)](https://www.talktofrank.com)

[ASH resources on youth vaping – ASH](#)

[NHS Better Health | Vaping to quit smoking](#)

If you have concerns about illegal sales of vapes to children and young people or about product safety of vapes—please contact;

Citizen's Advice Consumer helpline: [Get advice – Citizens Advice Shropshire \(cabshropshire.org.uk\)](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

Shropshire's Position Statement on Vaping amongst Children and Young People is available via the image below (click for hyperlink)





SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE TO SAY 'NO' TO KNIFE CRIME

Anyone can get in touch

Our team work with young people aged between 10-18 who we believe could be exposed to knife crime and the harm associated with it.

We will strive to educate and support each referred young person whilst tackling knife-related crime in order to protect our communities from harm.

This voluntary programme is completely free. By getting in touch, you could help keep a young person safe from harm and assist in preventing the criminalisation associated to it.

STEERCLEAR

WORKING TOGETHER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Please contact our team if you suspect a young person is involved in knife-related crime:

steerclearshropshire@westmercia.pnn.police.uk



The work of We Are With You; a focus on Motivational Interviewing

By Gemma Baker

Young Person's Substance Misuse Worker
Social Work Practice Educator and Placement Practice Lead

Those of us working with young people must strike the difficult balance of accepting that adolescence is a time of exploration and risk-taking, potentially including the use of drugs and/or alcohol, and at the same time protecting them from immediate dangers and the long-term damage of problematic use. Substance misuse in young people is often associated with mental health concerns, traumatic and/or adverse experiences, adversity within the family and community, developmental issues, and attachment difficulties.

In addition, impulsivity, difficulties in reasoning and judgement, as well as seeking out new experiences are common features of the adolescent brain. Treatment and interventions therefore need to be carefully tailored to the individual needs of young people, being mindful that the young people will often have other serious and complex problems in their lives.

An evidenced based tool, which can be tailored to the developmental context of the young people we work with, and is regularly used by We Are With You practitioners is, 'Motivational Interviewing' (Miller and Rollnick, 2013). The extensive evidence base tells us this is an effective intervention in working with young people using substances and in reducing risky behaviour (Kavanagh et al, 2004, Grenard et al, 2006, Miller et al, 2004, Marden et al 2006. Jenson et al 2011).

These are the four main underlying principles of motivational interviewing (MI) in the context of substance misuse work:



EMPATHY - The substance misuse worker exhibits empathy toward the young person rather than displaying any criticism. This is crucial for the relationship as the young person is usually expecting negative judgments for their substance misuse.

DISCREPENCY - The substance misuse worker helps the young person see the contrast between current behaviour and desired behaviour. Young people must develop their specific goals and understand how their current behaviour will not help them achieve them. This helps to motivate change.

DON'T FIGHT RESISTANCE - Professionals often challenge young people when they display defensive or ambivalent attitudes. The instinct is to try to correct or convince them that their perspectives are flawed. In MI, however, the worker accepts, rather than fights, resistance. MI comes from the perspective that the more you try to tell a young person they are wrong, the more they will become entrenched in their position and unwilling to change. The goal then is to help young people work out on their own that change is to their benefit, rather than trying to force them into the behaviour the professional imposes. This might be communicated to a young person by saying "I am not here to tell you what to change or how to change, but rather to understand any concerns you have about your substance use".

SUPPORT SELF EFFICACY - Self-efficacy is the belief that you can accomplish something through your behaviour. For example, if you believe that you can stop drinking alcohol by taking the appropriate steps, then you possess self-efficacy. As you might imagine, self-efficacy is integral to change. If you don't believe in yourself, you won't succeed in altering your behaviour. It is the substance misuse workers job to boost self-efficacy if the young person has doubts about their abilities.

Recently, I have been using MI with a 16-year-old male who had been using ketamine and alcohol heavily. He didn't have a daily routine and felt he was lacking purpose, on top of already very low self-esteem. Using MI, it was possible to discuss his reasons for change without advising him to do so. Concerns about his substance use and its future impact on goals or values were talked through and used to explore the pros and cons of his use. I asked him questions that encouraged him to consider how he had dealt with difficult situations in the past to help identify coping strategies that worked well for him previously. It was important he could see examples of and believe that he had the skills, ability and drive he needed to make positive changes.

Young people tell us they value professionals who are respectful, non-judgemental, and demonstrate genuine interest in their lives and empathy with their problems; who talk with them, not at them, this enables them to talk openly about problems in their everyday lives, including how to manage their substance use. This is why MI can be so effective in working with adolescents in guiding them towards positive behaviour change. In addition, as a 'trauma informed' organisation, MI aligns perfectly with the principles of trauma informed care and offers young people a sense of choice and control, empowerment, collaboration and safety, which we will discuss in more depth in the next addition of the TREES newsletter.



[wearewithyoushropshire](https://www.facebook.com/wearewithyoushropshire)



[wearewithyoushropshire](https://www.instagram.com/wearewithyoushropshire/)



[@withyoushrops](https://twitter.com/@withyoushrops)



Well done Sonya!

Sonya Jones, Service Manager and Safeguarding Lead at With You Shropshire, has been awarded an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire Medal) for services in tackling child criminal exploitation.

Sonya has worked in the drug and alcohol support sector for over 20 years and at With You Shropshire for almost eight years. During that time Sonya has led the charity's work in providing non-judgemental support to young people exploited by drug dealing gangs.

Sonya and her team have been on the frontline of supporting victims of county lines – the term used for when gangs from cities expand illegal drug networks to other areas of the country using dedicated mobile lines. These gangs often prey on vulnerable young people to transport drugs throughout the UK.

The award of an MBE, announced in the King's honours list on Sunday 18 June 2023, recognises Sonya's ongoing commitment to ensure that all young people who are groomed, coerced and controlled into crime are recognised as victims of trafficking and exploitation.

Sonya also advocates the adoption of a new public health approach to drug prevention that works with schools, pupil referral units and providers for those outside of mainstream education. This advocacy work has been recognised by the UK Parliament and the House of Lords.

Sonya Jones, Service Manager and Safeguarding Lead at With You, said:-



"I'm honoured and shocked to receive an MBE for doing the job I love. I accept this award on behalf of my team past and present who have worked tirelessly for the victims of child exploitation, as well as the thousands of children and families who are tragically impacted.

"I have an obligation to continue the work I'm being recognised for and I'm inspired to continue my journey to raise awareness of child exploitation nationally. I'd like to see the role of young people substance misuse services being recognised as part of vital support and call upon the need for a standalone child criminal exploitation national strategy. I'm passionate, as are With You colleagues, about adopting a public health approach.

"With You are at the forefront of this work and have supported me by giving me the platform to be able to raise these issues. I will continue to call for a wider recognition that all young people who are groomed, coerced and controlled by exploiters are recognised as victims of trafficking and exploitation, not criminals."

Belinda Phipps, Chief Executive at With You, said:-

"Sonya is an inspirational leader within With You, driving our vital work with victims of child exploitation for almost eight years. During this time Sonya has supported hundreds of victims throughout the UK, giving them and their families the chance to get their lives back on track. She has also been a tireless advocate for change, positively influencing the UK conversation around child exploitation.

Sonya is determined, modest and inspires other people in the organisation. Speaking on behalf of With You staff, I would like to pass on our congratulations for this honour, and thank Sonya for her continued passion and dedication to the children and their families."



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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





**WE DON'T
BUY CRIME**



**West Mercia
POLICE**

Raising awareness of exploitation and vulnerability

FREE training funded by John Campion, Police & Crime Commissioner

Free training sessions are available to anyone who requires a raising awareness of vulnerability and exploitation. The sessions are 2 hours long and are interactive with the use of Slido, and are hosted either face-to-face or online via Zoom or MS Teams. The course is certificated and enhances safeguarding training, and is free to access - any number of sessions can be booked.

On completion of this course you will be able to:

- Identify the vulnerability factors and adverse childhood experiences, understanding the grooming cycle used to draw those into exploitation
- Explain what the various forms of modern day slavery are and how the NRM can support those identified as being exploited
- Recognise the signs, symptoms and indicators of exploitation for adults and children
- Understand how it impacts on a young person and on adults
- Know how to respond, record and report concerns

If you are interested in this free training offer, please email: trainersWDBC@westmercia.police.uk

Other info/updates

The Children's Society Climb

Purple Leaf

**THE
BRANCH
PROJECT**

We are currently in the process of recruiting for a number of posts and these should be proceeding to interview shortly, increasing our reach and capacity across West Mercia.

For further information or booking enquiries please visit www.purpleleaf.org.uk or contact us on enquiries@purpleleaf.org.uk or 01905 677444.

To make a referral to The Branch Project, please visit: www.wmrasc.org.uk/referrals

Pop Up Youth Spaces are back this Summer!

Aiming at the 13-19 age group—we are taking Youth Work and Youth Spaces directly out to young people in their communities. These are created on green spaces, and are an opportunity to chill out with your friends, take part in an activity, such as rounders or quick cricket, have a conversation with a youth worker about anything that might be a problem, concern, interest. Also food will be available too! These spaces have been kindly supported by the Holiday Activity Food Programme and Shrewsbury Food Hub. [Dates, times, locations and activities are on the next page!](#)

**SAFER
STREETS**

This is the first summer for the Safer Streets Team. The team of youth workers will be out in Shrewsbury, Monday to Saturday nights - working within the river loop delivering detached youth work.

WHAT IS DETACHED YOUTH WORK?

- to make contact and be available to young people in the settings of their choosing
- to work with young people through programmes of personal and social education, which help them gain knowledge and recognise new opportunities in the world around them
- to build effective and meaningful relationships with young people through regular contact, mutual trust, respect and understanding
- to identify and respond to the needs and agendas of individuals and groups of young people by developing appropriate strategies for action which are both educational and fun;
- to support and challenge young people's attitudes and action towards issues such as unemployment, drugs, poverty, racism, sexism, disability, health, sexuality, criminality, peer, parental and community pressure;
- to enable young people to take more control over their lives and create experiences with them which enable them to make informed choices;
- to support appropriate action that young people take resulting from their own ideas and suggestions
- to bridge the gaps in understanding between the local community and young people
- to highlight issues affecting young people and act as advocates for and with them within the wider community and world

We will be providing harm reduction and stay safe messages whilst engaging young people in conversations around other topics they wish to discuss, such as sexual health, substance misuse, community, identity and belonging plus anything else they may need help and support with

Anymore information on the above please contact youthworks@shropshire.gov.uk

Date	Time	Where	What
24/07/2023	3pm—6pm	Wheatfields Park, Shifnal	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, music
26/07/2023	3pm—6pm	Catherton Park, Cleobury Mortimer	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, music
28/07/2023	3pm—6pm	Skate Park, Ludlow	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, music
01/08/2023	2.30pm - 5pm	Meadow Farm Drive Rec, The Lantern Shrewsbury	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, ROAR Martial Arts
02/08/2023	3pm—6pm	Catherton Park, Cleobury Mortimer	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, music
02/08/2023	3pm-5pm	Meole Brace, Shrewsbury	Pop-up youth space, variety of activities, Golf, Martial Arts (11+)
03/08/2023	3pm—6pm	Wheatfields Park, Shifnal	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, music
03/08/2023	2.30pm - 5pm	Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury	Pop-up youth space, free food and drinks
04/08/2023	5.30-8pm	Frankwell Park, Shrewsbury	Pop-up youth space, variety of activities, free BBQ
08/08/2023	3pm—6pm	Jubilee Park, Whitchurch	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, football coaching, music
08/08/2023	2.30pm-5pm	Greenfields, Shrewsbury	Pop-up youth space, variety of activities, sports activities with Embrace
09/08/2023	3pm-5pm	Meole Brace, Shrewsbury	Pop-up youth space, variety of activities, Golf, Martial Arts (11+)
10/08/2023	3pm—6pm	Skate Park, Oswestry	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, football coaching
10/08/2023	3pm—6pm	Skate Park, Ludlow	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, music
10/08/2023	2.30pm-5pm	Monkmoor Meccy, Shrewsbury	Pop-up youth space, free food and drinks
15/08/2023	3pm—6pm	The Zone, Market Drayton	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, football coaching, music
15/08/2023	2.30pm-5pm	Town Centre, Shrewsbury	Pop-up youth space, free food and drinks
16/08/2023	3pm—6pm	Recreational Ground, Wem	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, football coaching, music
16/08/2023	3pm—6pm	Wheatfields Park, Shifnal	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, music
16/08/2023	3pm-5pm	Meole Brace, Shrewsbury	Pop-up youth space, variety of activities, Golf, Martial Arts (11+)
17/08/2023	3pm—6pm	Skate Park, Oswestry	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, Shropshire Cycle Hub
17/08/2023	3pm—6pm	Skate Park, Ludlow	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, music
17/08/2023	2.30pm-5pm	Shorncliffe Drive, Shrewsbury	Pop-up youth space, free food and drinks
22/08/2023	3pm—6pm	Jubilee Park, Whitchurch	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, music
23/08/2023	3pm—6pm	The Zone, Market Drayton	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, music
23/08/2023	3pm—6pm	Catherton Park, Cleobury Mortimer	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, music
23/08/2023	3pm-5pm	Meole Brace, Shrewsbury	Pop-up youth space, variety of activities, Golf, Martial Arts (11+)
24/08/2023	3pm—6pm	Recreational Ground, Wem	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, music
24/08/2023	3pm—6pm	Skate Park, Ludlow	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, music
24/08/2023	2.30pm-5pm	Harlescott Grange	Pop-up youth space, variety of activities, free BBQ
29/08/2023	3pm—6pm	The Zone, Market Drayton	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities, music
31/08/2023	3pm—6pm	Skate Park, Oswestry	Pop-up youth space, food and drinks, creative arts, outdoor activities

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 monthly consultations on the first Tuesday of each month, between 2pm - 4pm.

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

- Clare Jervis, Exploitation & Missing Operational Lead
- George Davies, Young Persons Substance Misuse Advisor
- Stafford Mason, Exploitation Lead for Early Help
- Jo Smith, Education Access Service
- Sonya Jones, We Are With You
- Carrie O'Keefe, Branch Project

To book your ½ hour slot, please email george.r.davies@shropshire.gov.uk

THE
BRANCH
PROJECT



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://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/24227/ce-in-shropshire-leaflet-for-parents-carers.pdf>

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/24226/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://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/21754/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.childrenssociety.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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