

# TREES Newsletter

Together Reducing & Ending Exploitation in Shropshire



Issue 12 • Autumn 2023

## Welcome

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

This quarter we have had a notable increase in referrals to the exploitation team compared to last year. Whilst this is a concern in itself, it's worth recognising the efforts of professionals who continue to safeguard Shropshire's young people.

During this quarter we've seen the online quagmire of anonymous social media apps continue to increase the risk to young people—in particular apps such as Omegle, Wizz, Wink and Yubo. Some of these apps allow users to select the age range they wish to talk to!

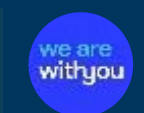
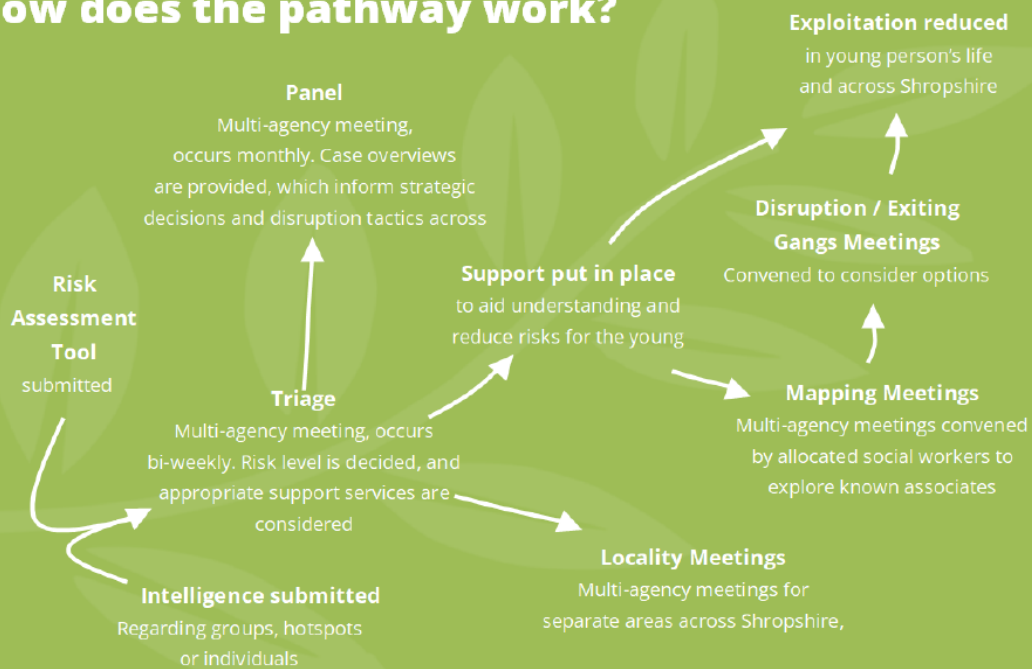
Mainstreams apps like TikTok continue to pose a risk CSE to young people—some of the children we support have made significant money using the platform.

Other trends include many exploited young people having a EHCP (23% of referrals) and a increase in out-of-area looked after children. Mental health, self-harm, overdosing, vaping, violence (including knife carrying) are all continued risks.

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

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We continue to see within this quarter a high number of young people become harmed as a result of online abuse with concerns emerging again around the use of 'Omegle app' which we have seen on two occasions this month. We have also received information regarding newer apps young people are using to connect to each other and adults. This is mentioned later in this newsletter. Positively it appears that Omegle is closing down soon, but no doubt an app of a similar model will replace it.

We have seen a notable increase in the number of referrals this quarter; 95 compared to 43 in Q2 last year; there has also been a notable increase in the number of intelligence and police reports.

One of the concerns needing to be raised this quarter is the high percentage of children who are either absent or late from education. In particular a area in Shropshire where the children were persistently arriving late needing to visit a well-known vape store. This is often an indicator that a child may be being groomed or targeted or being coerced or forced into either criminal or sexual exploitation. Information has been passed on to education access to look into this.

It would appear that drug dealers are starting to use rental cars to move around supplies, and start to use young people as debt collectors rather than 'runners' (running refers to selling/collecting smaller amounts of substances/money at the command of someone). This is clearly linked to numerous examples of children carrying knives, some as young as an example of 13-year-old female who took a knife to school.

We have had reports from school regarding a boy (9 years old) who is openly talking about using vapes and expresses that he is dependent on them. He has brought them into school on more than one occasion and has offered one to a peer with no clear explanation around where this is getting hold of these. Clear guidance is being distributed via Public Health, but it alludes to more of a wider national problem with youth vaping, especially given it's links to exploitation.

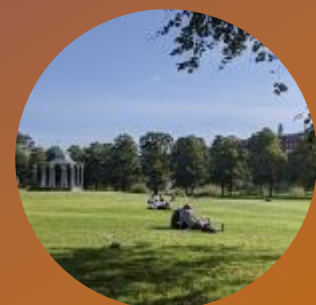
A large proportion of children whom we have discussed this quarter have been OLA children (children placed from other local authorities into Shropshire). A reminder for all professionals to ensure as much detail and information is in the CE risk assessment as possible, as well as clarifying NRM's or photos have been shared with British Transport Police (BTP); this can be a additional risk if carers are not aware of this information particularly if there is a risk of a child going missing from care.

## Hot Spots of concern

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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, bridges around the Quarry, Quarry Park, Shorncliffe drive, Frankwell, KFC town centre and Darwin Centre, Harlescott and Sundorne (rivalry).
- Other areas; Oswestry phone/vape shops, Cleobury Mortimer, Jubilee Park and Queensway Whitchurch, wider links to Chester, Shifnal, Wrexham, Wellington



# Reporting Intelligence

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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](http://www.fearless.org)
- If you are a professional, please email the information directly to the Shropshire CE Team at: [CE-TeamShropshire@westmercia.police.uk](mailto: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.

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## 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.*

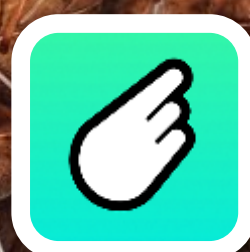
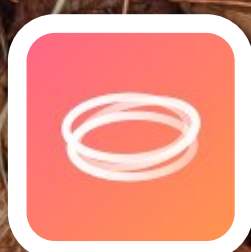
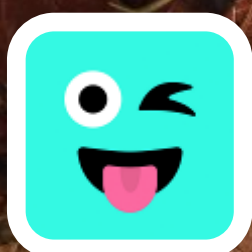
*Intelligence: The analytics (interpretation of meaningful patterns) of information gathered from many sources. This is information that has been compiled, analysed, and/or disseminated to anticipate, prevent, or monitor criminal activity. It is information that has been subject to a defined evaluation 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.*



# “it’s like Tinder for kids” - smartphone apps to look out for to safeguard young people



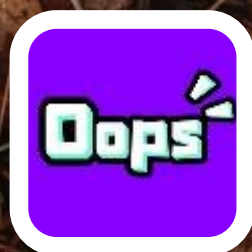
Wizz allows users to share, chat and exchange images with any other user across the world. The interface swipes left and right, (like tinder) and there are no age restrictions or checks. You can use age sliders to identify your age, and select a age group you’d like to speak to (this works both ways)



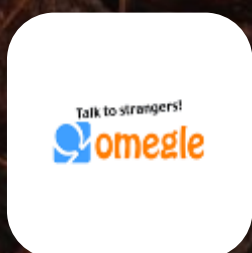
From left to right, Wink, Hoop, Yubo, Befriend, Purp

These apps are all available to users with a smartphone. They are similar in how they’re marketed - “Make new friends”. These apps do not have, or have limited age restrictions which most young people can easily bypass. Whilst they may seem innocent enough, it is a form of direct online communication from between children and adults, and vice-versa.

You are able to text, chat and share images/videos via these platforms. Some of these apps are able to connect via snapchat.



Oops is primarily targeted as a friend chat app, however the tooltip via the Play Store notes that it can be used for “one night stands”. Again, without restrictions, this app is similar to above, allowing different age users to interact, sometimes anonymously.



Omegle is literally advertised as “talk to strangers”. The platform allows users to connect via interests, hobbies or locations, or simply by age. It is widely known however for explicit sexual images and inappropriate content.



# A parents reality where their child was exploited

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Where to begin when so many months have passed to consider reflect and think about the engagement with my child through what has been an incredibly tough and challenging journey. I never thought I would be in this position navigating and experiencing uncharted waters trying to work out how to help my child and working out who to trust to help my child. Initial experience with secondary education was one of a draconian state, stick, policies and throwing the book to exclude opposed to really standing behind a support plan. It became quickly apparent this was smoke and mirrors to protect themselves and the school, not the child, even when they knew of the issue with drugs they did not call in the police I anticipate for fear of damage to their reputation above all else. I can only imagine the relief when they excluded my child and that they became someone else's problem.

My child still excluded and was 'bounced' between provisions, however, they go to TMBSS for a short period and this had an effect, although the plan was for them to return to mainstream education. I had made it clear my child should not be in education locally as this is where all the issues were, and would only make it harder to move away from them. I was not listened to. A few weeks went by and the downward spiral started again until a more earnest, support plan in place with the school (this school did try). At this point there was reluctance from me regarding social worker involvement but rock bottom was hit as my child was excluded again.

It was crippling to see my child in a horrendous position I was bombarded, pressured, cajoled and no one seemed to stop for a moment to consider the lack of trust I may have in the various services given the complete mismanagement up to this point. It was overwhelming in all senses, people, names, services, processes, paperwork, acronyms and more. I relented and in came the social worker, my focus was my son though I had a fear of what could happen, could they take him away? All the labels and stigmas were on the surface whilst I was assessed as much as my child.

A report was written, containing the horrifying words 'child exploitation' ... and then minimal contact or nothing for weeks, although I was informed the service was overwhelmed. However, it is difficult to express that the way most of the social worker contact was made actually had a negative impact; making my child withdraw from these conversations. There is something about the approach that seems to be formulaic and not to consider the individual child and family. Every time a visit was scheduled there was a deep breath to cope with the authoritarian manner, patronising tone and to deal with the fact that they seemed to think *it was the home that was the issue* rather than what was beyond the garden gate (had they even read the notes?).

This is where the exploitation came from and continued to occur from a dark and deeply unpleasant world. I've no idea how this is resolved other than to consider each situation as unique—requiring different approaches and methods to move things forward. I would ask any professionals going into people's homes to consider this—I don't want to feel like you are judging me or my child. All I'm left with is ghosts of people and conversations in my home, which stole the comfort home is supposed to provide.

TMBSS reappeared and it was agreed my child would be with them for another fresh start to provide consistency of education and support. I cannot speak highly enough of this initial meeting and I vividly recall the calm, supportive and relaxed approach which made a massive difference. A note at this point that I wish to underline is of the importance of this provision, *the staff are quite frankly amazing and the difference they make is huge*. More investment needs to be made in services like TMBSS—not every child fits in mainstream education and needs more tailored support. If my child had remained in main stream education they would have floundered and crashed even further - instead my child has thrived.

In parallel the police formed a part of the engagement, though the distrust of the police and fear of if anything said would lead to a negative outcome so my child was careful with words and did not lean into the conversation. I would like to stress that during the most challenging of times the police were responsive, professional and caring, particularly when my child went missing it really became apparent the work they do for which I'm thankful. Perhaps there needs to be a middle ground that is not social and not police and then I heard of TREES.

TREES arrived and engaged with my child and what a palpable difference in approach, tone and that my child was listened to. Trust was fostered and open conversations (as much as can be expected) occurred and this opened up opportunities to provide wider considerations and focus to support, guide and enable my child to initiate steps for themselves. It has been valuable to have a trusted main regular point of contact opposed to a rolling change of individuals and it was apparent as social services/workers stepped in that my child responded negatively. The brilliant chap at TREES has been pivotal in his approach, showing empathy, speaking to my child as a human creating conversation, opening up a dialogue and understanding, leading to more positive outcomes. This also led to intel being gained which has been fed back and may or may not have assisted other agencies to take action.

The world is a little brighter and the last year has been transformative, not perfect but definite positive change and foundation blocks to build on. My child has a more open mind, is open to change and the future, with a college place secured and a part time job, a year ago this wasn't on the horizon. There is more work to be done and the journey continues with patience and continued engagement with TREES.

I can only say a heartfelt thank you for all the valuable work that is done and I hope that the work of TREES and TMBSS is particularly recognised and invested in further. It is a testament to these people that my child has progressed so far.

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# Language in Criminal Exploitation

The language we use around young people is so important to achieve meaningful engagement; but not only to help and support them we need to listen to the words they use. Below is an updated list of slang that we're seeing in Shropshire from young people:

<u>Guns</u>
Strap
Wap
Piece
Dottie (Shotgun)
<u>Knives</u>
Shank
Nank
Blade
Pole
Rambo
Z-K (Zombie Knife)
<u>People</u>
OG's - olders
YG - youngsters
Cat / Punny / Nitties - Drug users
<u>Money</u>
Apple method - where you send someone £50 - get £200 to spend - fraud OR being able to pay for drugs via online banking.
White card - buy for £50 online but they have £500 then to spend - fraud

<u>Drugs</u>
Sniff (cocaine)
Beak (cocaine)
Whiff (cocaine)
Sniff (cocaine)
Snow (cocaine)
Flake (coke)
Yay (cocaine)
Bud (cannabis)
Loud (good cannabis)
Smoke (cannabis)
Ganga (cannabis)
Zoogie (cannabis)
Spliff (cannabis)
Joint (cannabis)
Blunt (only cannabis)
Ziggy (cannabis)
<u>Poly-drug use</u>
'Calvin Klein' 'CK' - cocaine + ketamine
'bipping' 'crisscrossing' 'speedball' 'moonrock' - heroin + cocaine/crack
'Crunk' - cannabis + alcohol
'snow-coning' 'skiing'—alcohol and/or cocaine

For those professionals who would benefit from understanding more about the language involved in child exploitation, we have lots of helpful guides via the following links;

Children's Society Slang Dictionary

[Slang-Dictionary-A5-Booklet.pdf \(paceuk.info\)](#)

Barnardo's Language Matters (including victim blaming language)

[Language\\_Matters\\_2022\\_review.pdf \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#)

Social Care Jargon Buster

[Print \(thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk\)](#)



# Poly-drug use

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

Poly-drug use refers to using more than one substance at a time. This can include alcohol and prescription medication (even more so where the medication state do not mix with alcohol or is not prescribed to the user) as well as illicit substances.

This past season has seen poly-drug use among young people increase - it is increasingly becoming *normalised*. In Shropshire, a number of young people are deliberately doing this - seeking the adverse affects of mix. Alcohol and ketamine/ cocaine in particular has been noted.

The risks of such use are obvious—many substances simply do not interact well with each other. Poly-drug use should be discouraged in all circumstances when working with young people who are misusing substances.

## STIMULANTS + STIMULANTS

Over-stimulation is a real risk, as often these vasoconstrictors (they can narrow the blood vessels) and therefore spike heart rate, blood pressure, panic, anxiety, sweating and can cause cardiovascular problems.

Examples; Cocaine, amphetamines, MDMA

## DEPRESSANTS+ DEPRESSANTS

Depressants are often vasodilators, slowing down your nervous system, lowering your blood pressure and making users feel relaxed. Too many depressants can cause overdose or drug emergencies

Example; Alcohol, opioids, GHB, xanax

Alcohol and cocaine cause a specific toxic substance called 'coeaethylene' to form in your body, increasing the toxicity effect and strain on your cardiovascular system.

Many substance pairs, such as MDMA and alcohol, lower the user's inhibitions increasing wider risks.

Alcohol and ketamine can cause sickness, nausea and vomiting as well as lack of coordination.

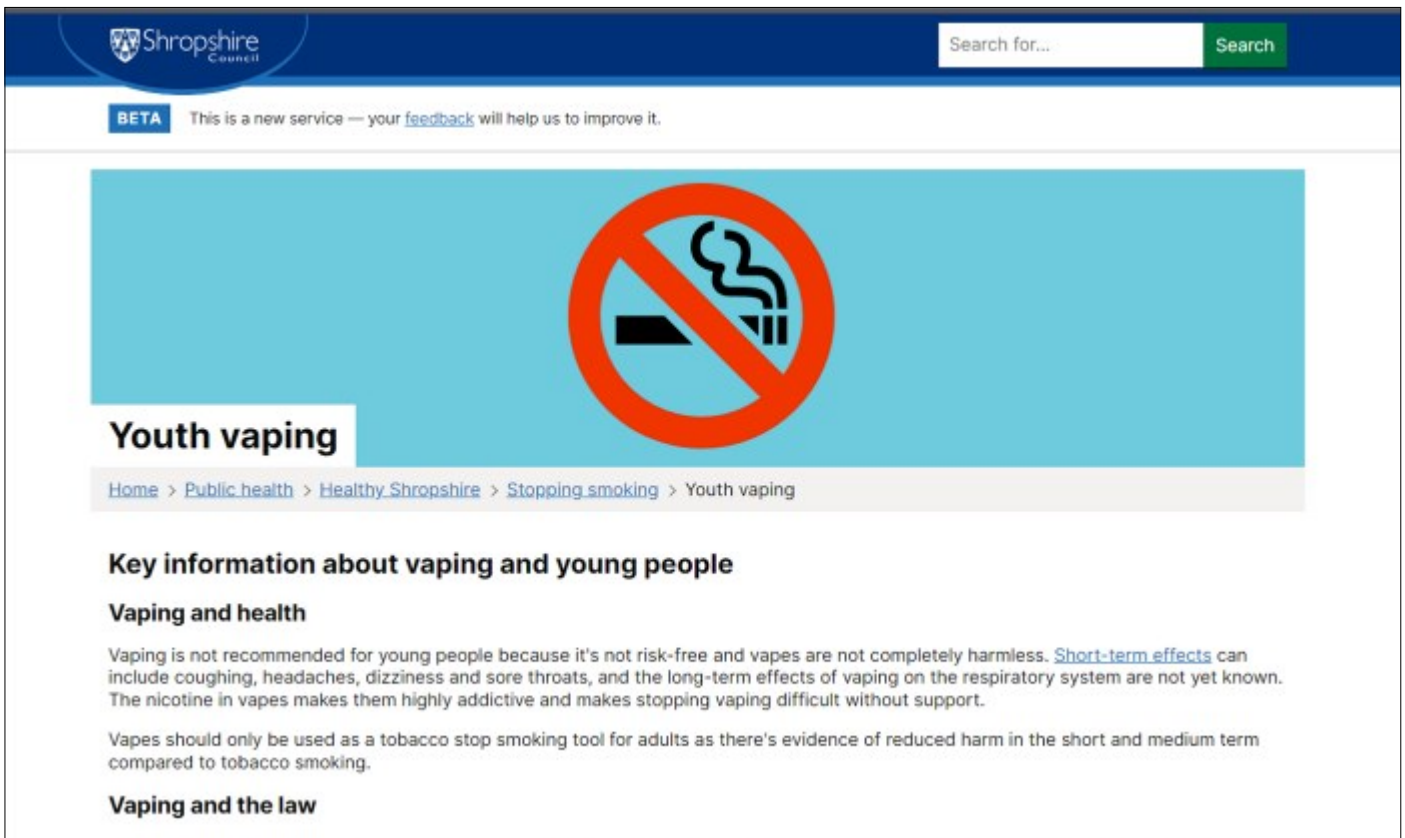
## STIMULANTS + DEPRESSANTS

Stimulants and depressants cause a polar strain on the body, as one stimulates and the other depresses. Ketamine, cocaine and MDMA can be very unpredictable.

Examples; MDMA with alcohol, or cocaine, use of benzos (Valium, diazepam, Xanax)

# Shropshire Council Public Health launch new vaping resource website

A new informative website has been launched to tackle the growing issue of youth vaping. Publicly accessible, we encourage services to access and share this resource with families they support.



**Shropshire Council** Search for... Search

**BETA** This is a new service — your [feedback](#) will help us to improve it.

## Youth vaping

[Home](#) > [Public health](#) > [Healthy Shropshire](#) > [Stopping smoking](#) > Youth vaping

### Key information about vaping and young people

#### Vaping and health

Vaping is not recommended for young people because it's not risk-free and vapes are not completely harmless. [Short-term effects](#) can include coughing, headaches, dizziness and sore throats, and the long-term effects of vaping on the respiratory system are not yet known. The nicotine in vapes makes them highly addictive and makes stopping vaping difficult without support.

Vapes should only be used as a tobacco stop smoking tool for adults as there's evidence of reduced harm in the short and medium term compared to tobacco smoking.

#### Vaping and the law

## [Youth vaping | Shropshire Council](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/public-health/healthy-shropshire/stopping-smoking/youth-vaping/)

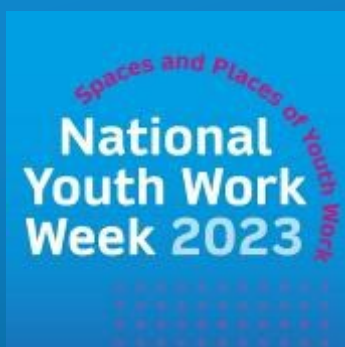
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/public-health/healthy-shropshire/stopping-smoking/youth-vaping/>

The UK government's [Stopping the Start command paper](#) was published 4 October 2023. The paper includes a number of key announcements, including a commitment to consult on and introduce legislation to tackle youth vaping (see pages 27-33). The proposals the government is looking at include:

- restricting vape flavours
- regulating vape packaging and product presentation
- regulating point of sale displays
- restricting the sale of disposable vapes
- introducing an age restriction for non-nicotine vapes
- exploring further restrictions for other nicotine consumer products such as nicotine pouches
- preventing industry giving out free samples of vapes to children



# Youth Service updates



Link to FULL article: [Shropshire Youth celebrates National Youth Work Week 2023! - Shropshire Council Newsroom](#)

The annual Youth Work Week campaign, hosted by the National Youth Agency, aims to raise awareness of the life-changing difference youth workers have on young people aged between 8 –25 years of age. This year Youth Work Week is focusing on the breadth of youth work taking place across the country: in youth centres, hospitals, outdoor activity centres, cultural spaces and so much more.

Follow us on Instagram [@shropshireyouth](#)

The youth survey was launched Tuesday 7 November 2023. Deadline for feedback is Friday 1 December.

To take part visit – [Shropshire Youth Survey November 2023 | Shropshire Council](#)



**Shrewsbury**  
Town Council

## YOUTH CLUB

5TH SEPT-20TH DEC

**2023**

**FREE!**

<b>MON</b>	<b>THE GRANGE-JUNIORS 6.30-8.30PM</b>	year 7 - year 10
<b>TUE</b>	<b>YOUTH CAFE @ THE HIVE 4-6PM</b>	year 7 - year 10
<b>WED</b>	<b>SUNDORNE YOUTHIE 6.30-8.30PM</b>	year 7 - year 11
<b>WED</b>	<b>THE GRANGE-PRE-JUNIORS 6-8PM</b>	year 5 - year 6
<b>THUR</b>	<b>MONKMOOR REC. FOOTBALL &amp; TENNIS 5-6PM</b>	year 7 - year 11

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

to book & for more info.

andy 01743 344800 or 07976 020819 [andy.hall@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:andy.hall@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk)



# Climb

**Together, we can keep young people safe from exploitation.**


**Every child deserves to feel safe, secure, and hopeful. But right now, thousands of children across the country are in danger.**

At Climb, we work to empower young people, intervening early to reduce the risks they're facing and prevent them from being exploited.

For the last three years, we have been working across West Mercia to support 10- to 17-year-olds who are at risk of exploitation. We offer one-to-one support and positive diversionary activities that are tailored to young people's individual interests and needs and open up new opportunities.







We also provide direct support for parents and carers whose children are engaged with Climb, focusing on how to spot the signs of exploitation and how they can support young people. We'll also soon be offering early intervention support for primary school-aged children, aiming to prevent exploitation before it happens.

Climb is delivered in partnership with the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner.

For more information or to refer a young person to Climb, please visit our website at **[childrenssociety.org.uk/climb](https://childrenssociety.org.uk/climb)** or email **[climb@childrenssociety.org.uk](mailto:climb@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 shearling-style coat, and a lanyard with an ID 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](mailto:steer.clear@childrenssociety.org.uk).



# With You's approach to Trauma Informed Care

we are  
withyou

By Gemma Baker

Young Person's Substance Misuse Worker

Social Work Practice Educator and Placement Practice Lead

## Context

It is recognised that there is a high incidence of trauma in the young people who use our services. The impact of trauma on the mental health, physical health, emotional wellbeing and recovery outcomes is well documented. In order to be sensitive and responsive to the needs of the young people we support, it is important that our approach is trauma informed. Recent research indicates that 31% of young people in the UK had experienced trauma in childhood (Lewis et al, 2019) and those who were exposed to trauma were twice as likely than their peers to have substance misuse issues. In addition to this, young people are more vulnerable to the effects of trauma due to ongoing neurobiological, emotional and social development. We, as young people's services, have the opportunity to intervene at the earliest point possible and prevent or reduce the impact of trauma into adulthood, by providing early identification and intervention can help minimise the wide range of negative impacts on young peoples' lives. .

## What is trauma?

Psychological trauma is often defined as a wide range of traumatic, abusive or neglectful events or series of events in childhood and/or adulthood, which are experienced as being emotionally or physically harmful or life threatening. This could be a single incident such as rape, bereavement through suicide, a serious accident, or repeated trauma that takes place over a prolonged period of time, such as child abuse or neglect, or domestic abuse and other forms of gender-based violence where coercive control is a factor. Complex trauma is usually experienced in the context of close relationships, and persists over time. Whilst living through trauma is relatively common, the experience and its impact is often hidden. Evidence suggests that people who use alcohol/ drugs often do so as a coping response to experiences of past or ongoing trauma. We also know that people who have experienced trauma who are also using a and alcohol and drugs, face an increased risk of experiencing further trauma and adversity.



# Guidance and principles

In terms of national guidance, the Department of Health, Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK Clinical Guidelines (2017) and Dame Carol Black Review – Part Two (2021) both highlight the importance of responding to trauma as part of drug and alcohol treatment and underpins our practice.

The key principles underpinning trauma-informed practice, services and systems are; safety, collaboration, trust, empowerment and choice.

The principles of 'Trauma Informed Care'

**Safety** – refers to both a safe environment and feeling safe with the worker, who takes time to get to know the young person and their interpersonal interactions promote a sense of safety.

**Trustworthiness** – This involves creating clear expectations with young people about what the support will involve, being clear about roles, with no surprises.

**Choice** – Aiming to strengthen the experience of choice for young people, family and carers in their work with us. It is recognised that everyone's experience is unique and requires an individualised approach. For example, Young people could be empowered to make choices about where we meet, what time, who sits where.

**Collaboration** – Working together with young people and their families/carers, avoiding use of jargon, and utilising good listening skills. The importance of avoiding jumping to actions, listening is helping.

**Empowerment** – Identifying the strengths and interests of young people, building on these to empower them in the development of their support plan.

With You is continually developing as a trauma informed organisation and work is ongoing.

My role as a trauma informed lead is to provide support and disseminate information to the organisation so we can continually embed the principles of trauma informed care and ensure it's ongoing change and growth as trauma research evolves in the future.

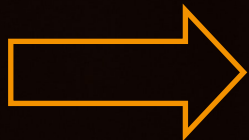
**Pick up the phone... you're not alone**

# We'll be open throughout the festive period

- Call Samaritans for free – **116 123**
- For anyone struggling to cope **Text SHOUT – 85258**
- For young people under the age of 35 or concerns a young person is thinking of suicide Call Papyrus Hopeline247– **0800 068 4141** or **Text 07860 039967**
- For more support and advice visit **<http://bit.ly/3SSbK9M>**

**Scan me**

You're not alone







**WE DON'T  
BUY CRIME**



## 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](mailto:trainersWDBC@westmercia.police.uk)

## Other info/updates



Please see our new leaflets for Steer Clear and service updates. Our service is continually growing and looking at new ways to meet the needs of our clients.



For further information or booking enquiries please visit [www.purpleleaf.org.uk](http://www.purpleleaf.org.uk) or contact us on [enquiries@purpleleaf.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@purpleleaf.org.uk) or 01905 677444.



To make a referral to The Branch Project, please visit: [www.wmrsasc.org.uk/referrals](http://www.wmrsasc.org.uk/referrals)

# Child Exploitation Consultation Sessions

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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 weekly every Tuesday/Friday 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
- Nadia Ayub, CLIMB Project
- Carrie O'Keefe, Branch Project

To book your ½ hour slot, please email [george.r.davies@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:george.r.davies@shropshire.gov.uk)

**THE  
BRANCH  
PROJECT**





# Useful Links

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## 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](mailto: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](http://www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk)

Early Help - [www.shropshire.gov.uk/early-help](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/early-help)

West Mercia Police - [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)

West Mercia Youth Justice Service - [www.westmerciayouthjustice.org.uk](http://www.westmerciayouthjustice.org.uk)

We Are With You - [www.wearewithyou.org.uk/services/shropshire](http://www.wearewithyou.org.uk/services/shropshire)

Branch Project - [www.wmrsasc.org.uk/the-branch-project](http://www.wmrsasc.org.uk/the-branch-project)

Purple Leaf - [www.purpleleaf.org.uk](http://www.purpleleaf.org.uk)

Climb - [www.childrensociety.org.uk/climb](http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/climb)

NWG - [www.nwgnetwork.org](http://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](mailto:clare.jervis@shropshire.gov.uk)

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