

## **The use of the AIM2 Model of Assessment by Leicester City Youth Offending Service (YOS) in the Assessment of Children and Young People who display Harmful Sexual Behaviour**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following existing policies, procedures and guidance:

- YJB Case Management Guidance
- YJB AssetPlus guidance
- YJB National Standards
- MAPPA guidance
- Leicester City YOS ROSH Policy
- Leicester City YOS DYO protocol
- LSCB Guidance (See Tri X)
- Working Together Guidance
- Assessment Intervention and Moving On (AIM) 2 Assessment Model of Initial Assessment Guidance Document.
- LLR CUAB/HSB guidance (in draft)
- CUAB/HSB Toolkit (in draft)
- NICE Guidelines 2016
- NSPCC HSB Among CYP National Framework
- The Brook Traffic Light Tool/AIM Continuum of Sexual Behaviours

### **1. Definition and Introduction to the policy**

- 1.1 For the purposes of this policy, it is important to define what is meant by the term Harmful Sexual Behaviour. The AIM Project that developed the AIM 2 Model of Assessment and associated Guidance, states that *“harmful sexual behaviour involves one or more children engaging in sexual discussions or acts that are inappropriate for their age or stage of development. These can range from using sexually explicit words or phrases to full penetrative sex with other children or adults”* (Rich, 2011).
- 1.2 In deciding what is harmful, it is the responsibility of the practitioner to use the above definition, their professional judgement and discussion with management. Professional judgement should take into consideration factors such as consent, the presence of a power imbalance, exploitation, coercion, threats, secrecy etc and the negative effects that the behaviour has on the parties

involved. It is also useful to utilise tools such as the 'Brook Traffic Light Toolkit' (Appendix B), to aid decisions about what is 'harmful' as opposed to 'problematic' behaviour.

- 1.3 This purpose of this policy is to assist practitioners in deciding when and how to utilise an AIM2 assessment where a previous, current or future risk of HSB towards others has been identified. It should be used in conjunction with the AIM2 model of assessment guidance and national and local processes to safeguard children and young people where HSB features.
- 1.4 The AIM 2 model of assessment has been developed and in use since 2001 by the Greater Manchester Area Project (GMAP) who are a multi-disciplinary staff team who primarily work with young people who display HSB through assessment and intervention with young people and their families; The AIM 2 model can be applied to children and young people between the age of 12 – 18 years, who have displayed HSB against children, adolescents and/or adults within the family, outside the family and stranger abuse. The model is also applicable for young people with a learning disability, non-white young people and females.

## **2. Disclosure**

- 2.1 In the majority of circumstances where HSB is identified, it will be through discovery or disclosure. Any details should be carefully recorded by professionals taking the initial account and referred to Leicester City Council Children's Social Care as per the LSCB safeguarding procedures and Working Together Guidance. Checks should always be made with Children's Social Care as to their level of involvement with that young person and where necessary, a referral made. Where there are concerns in relation to the immediate safety and wellbeing of children and young people, practitioners should always call the Police. If unsure, YOS practitioners should seek guidance from their line manager or the duty manager.

## **3. When to complete an AIM 2 assessment**

- 3.1 The start point with an AIM 2 assessment should always be to contact CSC regarding any HSB. Where a social worker is involved in the case, best practice is for them to be jointly involved in the completion of the AIM 2 assessment.
- 3.2 The AIM 2 assessment framework does not replace the Youth Justice Board ASSET Plus assessment, which should always be completed prior to an AIM 2 assessment, as per national and local guidance. It should always be completed in line with the AIM 2 practice guidance, whenever the definitions of HSB contained within this document are satisfied and a young person is convicted. Common (but not exclusive) scenarios when YOS would likely be required to complete an AIM2 assessment are as follows:

\*\* A young person is convicted of a sexual offence and the Court requests a pre-sentence report to be combined with an AIM 2 assessment. In this scenario, it is imperative that the Court Officer request a 6 week adjournment, to enable the PSR author time to complete both assessments.

\*\* A young person is convicted of and sentenced to a sexual offence without prior completion of an AIM 2 assessment. An AIM 2 assessment should then be completed within 28 days of the sentence date.

\*\* A young person receives an Out of Court Disposal for a sexual offence.

\*\* Where a young person is serving a custodial sentence for an index offence of a sexual nature, they have displayed SHB prior to entering custody or displayed SHB whilst they are serving the

custodial element of their sentence. The completion of the AIM 2 assessment should be discussed in DTO/Remand reviews and agreed on who is best placed to complete the assessment and intervention. Where available, this is likely to be via specialist practitioners commissioned by the secure estate.

#### **4. Who can complete AIM 2**

- 4.1 All Leicester YOS Staff with case management responsibility are required to use the AIM2 model when working with young people who display HSB whilst open to YOS. Where they have not received the appropriate training, they should not be conducting assessments without a colleague from within the service who has undertaken the training. The AIM 2 model should always involve a young person's social worker where allocated. Best practice is for The AIM 2 assessment to be completed with at least two members of staff as per the AIM 2 model guidance. Where a young person has been working with CFST prior to YOS involvement, YOS should seek to involve the allocated worker from the CFST.

#### **5. Appendixes**

- [NICE Guidelines](#)
- [NSPCC National Framework](#)
- [Brook Traffic Light Tool](#)