

Liaison and Diversion: case identification checklist for young people



Children and young people with poor mental health, developmental, communication or neuro disabilities are more likely to be identified through individual and environmental risk factors than through clear cut symptoms of poor health. The more risk factors a young person accumulates, the greater their chance of poor health and social outcomes. Many professionals and volunteers may have an opportunity to identify vulnerability in children in (or on the edge of) the youth justice system. This checklist aims to help non health specialists identify who might require further assessment.

Scope of youth liaison and diversion work

Children and young people will be eligible for Liaison and Diversion services only if they have had contact with the police and are believed to have committed an offence.

Which children have higher risk of health vulnerabilities?

Some groups of children are more at risk of mental health difficulties than others. In addition, children with hidden disabilities such as learning disabilities, developmental problems or communication needs may be more effectively identified through external signs that they might not be progressing well. The following checklist outlines key risk factors which should prompt further follow up and screening. Any 'yes' response should result in more in- depth screening by Liaison and Diversion teams.

The young person:

Yes

has special educational/mental health/learning disability/speech and communication needs or poor attention

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has suffered trauma, significant loss/bereavement(s)

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has a history of behavioural problems before the age of 12 (e.g. substance misuse, ASB, aggression, sexual activity or exclusions)

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has a parent with a mental health problem; drug or alcohol dependency or criminal record.

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has been a Looked After Child/or is on a Child Protection Plan

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has previously lost consciousness due to a blow to the head

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has a history of self-harm/ or is at risk of suicide

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is a young carer

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is known to be misusing drugs or alcohol

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is homeless/frequently sleeping away or missing from home/at risk of remand

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has been arrested for a sexual/ violent/ particularly worrying offence

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is a suspected victim of sexual violence/exploitation

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has been excluded from school or has low attendance

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has experienced bullying or has bullied others

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has experienced racism, racial harassment

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he/she or a family member/boyfriend is suspected of involvement in local gang activity

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has low self-esteem (a particularly important risk factor for female victimisation)

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