

SEXUAL OFFENDER PROGRAMME: I AM ME

Programme Content:

The emphasis of the diversion programme is on Cognitive Behavioural Interventions based on the principles of risk, needs and responsibility. Play therapy is utilised as an approach in which games, toys, mediums such as clay, drawings and painting are used.

It helps the child to express their emotions, thoughts, wishes and needs. It helps the children to understand their muddled feelings and upsetting events that they have not had an opportunity to deal with appropriately.

Themes covered:

Self-image, relationships, boundaries, victimisation, personal hygiene, sex education personal violence, understanding the difference between the concepts of wrong and right, dreams and coping skills.

Group size: 6-8 participants.

Duration: Minimum of 3 months maximum of 6-12 months.

ANTI-SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMME: STOP TO START

Programme Content:

The diversion program focusses on Narrative therapy, which entails separating the child from the problem. Assisting and encouraging the children to focus on their own strengths and skills, minimizing the problems that exist in their everyday life.

The programme will help the child to externalise problems and react or deal with it in a more productive method.

Themes covered:

Understanding drugs abuse, drug information, how to stop using drugs, emotional intelligence, identifying trustworthy people, problem solving and understanding how to support a child with a substance abuse problem.

Group size: 6-8 participants.

Duration: Minimum of 3 months, maximum of 6-12 months.

Who to contact

For more information on diversion programmes and services rendered by the Department of Social Development contact:

Toll-free: 0800 220 250

Or a DSD office closest to you:

Metro East Region:
021 812 0980

Metro North Region:
021 483 7689

Metro South Region:
021 763 6200

Cape Winelands Overberg Region:
023 348 5300

Eden Karoo Region:
044 814 1687/1650

West Coast Region:
022 713 2272



BETTER TOGETHER.



**Diversion
Programmes
10 - 12 years**

By sharing the responsibility,
we can make the Western Cape
BETTER TOGETHER.

What is Diversion?

Diversion is the process of diverting a child in conflict with the law away from the formal court procedures towards a more constructive and positive solution. The Department of Social Development offers the following diversion programmes for children who are in conflict with the law.

These programmes empowers children between the ages of **10-12 years** with essential abilities to promote mental well-being and competence as they face realities of life. With these skills, the participants will be able to explore positive alternatives, consider the consequences of their actions and enable them to make rational decisions to help solve each problem or issue as it arises. It also equips them with the skills to be able to establish healthy interpersonal relationships with others. The programmes are facilitated by a probation officer or social worker and/ or assistant probation officer.

Why Diversion?

Diversion is based on the principles of restorative justice, which requires that offenders accept responsibility for the crime committed, make amends for their misdeeds and initiate a healing process for themselves, their families, the victims and the community.

There is the concern that children who enter the official criminal justice system will be disadvantaged with a criminal record for the rest of their lives and are more likely to resort to criminal activities in the future. By intervening at an early stage with self-development skills training, this trajectory can be avoided.

How does the diversion process work?

A probation officer must assess a child who has been arrested and, if the child is a suitable candidate for diversion, make this recommendation at a preliminary inquiry.

If the child is given a diversion order, they are responsible for making sure that the child adheres to it. If a child fails to comply with any condition of the diversion order, the probation officer must notify the court, and a warrant of arrest/ summons for the child may be issued, to determine reasons for non-compliance.

What are the objectives of diversion?

The objectives of diversion, as set out in Section 51 of the Child Justice Act are to—

- deal with a child outside the formal criminal justice system in appropriate cases;
- encourage the child to be accountable for the harm caused by him or her;
- meet the particular needs of the individual child;
- promote the reintegration of the child into his or her family and community;
- provide an opportunity to those affected by the harm to express their views on its impact on them;
- encourage the rendering to the victim of some symbolic benefit or the delivery of some object as compensation for the harm;
- promote reconciliation between the child and the person or community affected by the harm caused by the child;
- prevents stigmatising the child and prevent the adverse consequences flowing from being subject to the criminal justice system;
- 1. reduce the potential for re-offending;
- 2. prevent the child from having a criminal record and
- promote the dignity and well-being of the child, and the development of his or her sense of self-worth and ability to contribute to society.

Who is a candidate for diversion?

- any child between the age of 10 and 13 years, with proven criminal capacity, and 14 to 18 years;
- above children must voluntarily admit to the crime before being considered for diversion;
- there must be a prima facie (clear) case against the child and
- the child and his parent/ guardian consent to diversion.

Diversion programmes offered by the Department:

LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMME: PLAYING THROUGH THE FOREST

Programme Content:

The diversion programme emphasis is on Creative Arts and Play Therapy which aims to teach children valuable skills, such as logic, organisational team work and patience and incorporates the idea that failure is a critical element of discovery and learning.

Themes covered:

Communication, social skills, emotional management, creative and critical thinking, self-image, values and sense of purpose, assertiveness and decision making.

Group size: 8-10 participants.

Duration: Minimum of 3 months, maximum of 6-12 months.