



Terms of Reference (TOR)

Youth Justice Trauma-Informed Practice Working Group

Role/purpose

While the primary responsibility of the Youth Justice Division, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI), is the supervision of community and custodial mandates issued by South Australian Courts, Youth Justice has a broader vision which is guided by international convention and national Principles. This vision is that children and young people in the justice system are inspired to change and positively participate in their community.

The service delivery model for Youth Justice is oriented towards encouraging young people to take responsibility whilst recognising that children and young people have specific developmental needs different to those of adults and consequently require a youth (criminal) justice response.

The need to address trauma is being increasingly viewed as an important component of effective service delivery. Trauma is widespread, harmful and costly and can occur as a result of violence, traumatic experiences, abuse, neglect, loss, disaster, war and more. It is known that addressing trauma requires a multi-agency approach inclusive of education and awareness, prevention and early identification, and effective trauma-specific assessment and treatment.

DCSI Youth Justice has identified a need to examine what we do well in working with children and young people who have experienced trauma, and where the opportunities are to improve our services. There is a strong body of evidence that trauma-informed practice contributes to the rehabilitation of youth involved with the justice system.

Creating a trauma-informed setting is a process that requires not only knowledge acquisition and behavioural modification, but may also require cultural and organisational paradigm shifts, as well as policy and procedural change.

To express a commitment to evidence based trauma-informed practice, DCSI, Youth Justice has identified, as part of the 2016-17 Division Business Plan to review evidence of Trauma-Informed Practice across Youth Justice. This review will involve an analysis of practice, procedure and workforce training from a trauma-informed practice approach, will consider action in other jurisdictions and make recommendations for future policy direction.

The Youth Justice Trauma-Informed Practice Working Group (TIPWG) has been established to conduct this review and oversee any recommendation implementation.

Members

The group will be comprised of internal Youth Justice representatives who will contribute their knowledge in relation to their business area.

The TIP WG will comprise:

- Manager, Strategy, Policy and Reporting, Youth Justice (Chairperson)
- Senior Project Officer, Strategy, Policy and Reporting (Executive Officer)
- Senior Aboriginal Advisor, Youth Justice
- Assistant General Manager, AYTC

- Manager, Assessment and Case Coordination, AYTC
- Principal Program Officer, Youth Justice
- Psychologist x 2, Youth Justice
- Principal Practitioner, CYJ
- Supervisor, CYJ
- CYJ Representative
- AYTC Representative

Roles and Responsibilities

To support the overall Youth Justice vision and mission, the TIP WG will:

- develop a project plan;
- provide guidance and advice in relation to opportunities for improvement in the delivery of a trauma-informed practice in Youth Justice;
- act as business unit representatives by informing the TIPWG, and their business units, to meet project goals and aims;
- act as business unit representatives to guide the implementation of any improvements identified and recommended.

Meeting Frequency

The TIP WG will meet monthly (or on an extraordinary basis if required) and is chaired by the Manager, Strategy, Policy and Reporting, Youth Justice.

Members are responsible for communications to their respective areas of business about matters discussed by the TIP WG.

A quorum is defined as 50% of the membership.

The Director, Youth Justice, will routinely receive minutes of the meetings. The Chair will be responsible for reporting to the Director, Youth Justice on matters relating to the TIP WG, and informing the Youth Justice Leadership Team of project progression.

Amendment, Modification or Variation

This Terms of Reference may be amended, varied or modified in writing after consultation and agreement by TIP WG members and the Director, Youth Justice.

Endorsed (Director, Youth Justice)



Date:

24/11/16

Review Date:

As required (or minimum 12 months)