

Assessment/Education Phase Information for Parents and Caregivers

- We understand that the comprehensive nature of the assessment/education process is likely to be both demanding in terms of time and emotions
- Assessment will involve the following components:
 1. A joint intake meeting with parents and young person with an Individual clinician and Family Clinician who are trained specialists in this area.
 2. Individual meetings with young person and their assigned Individual Clinician. These meetings will generally be once weekly for between 6- 10 weeks. The young person will be asked to talk about personal information and about themselves and about their behaviour.
 3. Separate meetings with parents/caregivers and the Family Clinician. The information gathered during these meetings relates to the developmental history of the young person and family background.
 4. An eight week education group with other parents and young persons who are also in assessment is facilitated by STOP clinicians. This provides information to increase your awareness and understanding about sexually abusive behaviour. It is important to note that this is an Education Group not a therapy group and that no personal information or stories of abuse will be discussed in the group.
 5. Completion of questionnaires and psychometric tests focused on the young person
 6. An assessment report will be prepared. This report will summarise all the important information obtained during the assessment and will make recommendations regarding treatment. The report will be discussed with you and the young person before a copy is forwarded to the professional who made the referral. If there are factual inaccuracies in this report they will be changed before the report is sent to the referral professional.
- Safety Issues are fundamental considerations for staff in the STOP Adolescent Programme. Clinical experience and research shows that both the young person who has sexually abused and children who have been abused need to be living in a safe and supportive environment in order to be able to benefit from treatment.
- In circumstances where a young person has sexually abused another child living in the family or there is a risk to another child living in the family home, that young person **will be required to live out of the home** at least, until a risk assessment has been completed (a minimum period of 3 – 4 months). Moreover the young person may also be required to live outside of the family for a longer period while attending the STOP Adolescent Treatment Programme if there is assessed to be an ongoing risk.

A safety plan alone is not considered to be a sufficient measure to protect the safety of both the young person who has abused or the child / children who have been abused, or may be at risk of abuse. Child victims require both physical and psychological safety to facilitate the healing process.

- The STOP Programme recommends that the healing for children who have been sexually abused may be enhanced by:-
 - a* Their having an Evidential Interview with Child, Youth and Family or Police Child Abuse Unit, and
 - b* Receiving counselling by a trained professional.

- The STOP Programme are committed to family reintegration and will work towards a young person who is required to leave the family returning home within the earliest time frame. Such decisions will usually be made by Child, Youth and Family based on recommendations from the STOP Programme, and the counsellor of the child who has been abused.