

The SAFE Rangatahi/Youth Service

Fact Sheet



The SAFE Rangatahi/Youth Services provide help to boys and girls aged 12 – 17 years of age who have exhibited harmful sexual behaviours towards others, including children.

The services provided include (but are not limited to):

- Individual, Group, Family and Wilderness-based treatment by trained and experienced clinicians from a multi-disciplinary team based approach
- Support and advice for parents and caregivers
- Social work consultation, supervision and support to the community, systems, agencies and services involved with a young person on the service or to agencies working with rangatahi/youth.*
- A unique partnership with Barnardos and CYF that provides specialist residential care for rangatahi/youth who need to live outside their family home while attending the treatment service

Rangatahi/Young people and their whanau/families who attend SAFE:

- Will receive evidence-based, ethical and professional treatment to a world best practise standard
- Are most likely to be referred to SAFE for assessment by CYFS following disclosures or allegations of harmful sexual behaviour, or may be facing criminal charges for this. Referrals can come from both Rangatahi/youth Justice and Care and Protection pathways, both before and/or after Family Group Conferences.
- Do not need to have been charged by the Police for a sexual offence.
- Can be referred by community organisations and by family members who make a commitment to payment of the assessment costs.
- May be referred by SAFE to CYFS for further assistance.

What does treatment involve?

All clients who attend SAFE first receive a comprehensive, initial assessment and recommendations regarding the most appropriate treatment interventions specific to the needs of the client.

Treatment duration at SAFE is 12 to 24 months. Duration of treatment is dependent upon treatment progress and is directed by an ongoing assessment of both the needs of the individual and the whanau/family.

*Tailored training packages are available to community organisations and CYF on the safest and most appropriate ways to manage young people who exhibit harmful sexual behaviours

Individual treatment

Each young person is allocated an individual clinician with whom they meet on a weekly basis (frequency of meetings may increase and is determined by the clients individual treatment needs). The task of the individual clinician includes (but is not limited to):

Each rangatahi/youth has an individual clinician in the service who meets with them on a weekly basis according to their particular needs. Among the tasks of the individual treatment are:

- Exploring in-depth the factors that underlie the young persons harmful sexual behaviour.
- Developing the strengths and protective factors in the young person's life and reducing the risk or concerning factors.
- Addressing any long-standing personal issues which the young person may have.

Whanau/Family Treatment

As harmful sexual behaviour impacts on whanau/family, it is essential that whanau/family members are actively involved in the young persons treatment. SAFE clinicians will meet with whanau/family on a monthly basis.

Whanau/Family treatment at SAFE includes (but is not limited to):

- Exploring how the harmful sexual behaviour has affected everyone in the family.
- Supporting whanau/family members through the treatment process.
- Addressing any relationship difficulties between the rangatahi/youth and their whanu/family.
- Ensuring the potential risk and safety of everyone concerned is maintained, especially any younger tamariki/children.
- Managing whanau/family reunification processes when appropriate and applicable.

In addition, a whanau/family Education Group is held for parents, caregivers and other support people to attend. Here, whanau/families learn more about harmful sexual behaviour and treatment.

Group Treatment

Weekly group sessions of 1.5 hours focus on different aspects of the rangatahi/youth and their behaviour, particularly in relationship to other people. The treatment group is a place where young people can learn from each other about appropriate ways of building relationships and living safely. The group work includes (but is not limited to):

- Developing and being able to express a clear and honest account of their harmful sexual behaviour and for taking personal responsibility for this.

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- The ongoing support of a group of peers who face similar challenges and treatment
- Understanding the underlying factors which have contributed to the development of harmful sexual behaviour
- Recognising and respecting their own and others' feelings, values and experiences.
- Understanding the impact and effects of harmful sexual behaviour on victims and whanau/families.
- Making better choices to meet their needs
- Developing new ways of functioning that support living safe lives free from harmful sexual behaviour

Treatment Intensives/Camps

As part of the group work component of the Rangatahi/youth service, each young person attends one or two treatment intensives during the treatment period. These camps last for three days each and are designed to:

- Intensify and deepen treatment process
- Provide an opportunities for clinicians to observe the behaviour of rangatahi/youth in a challenging environment.
- Deepen the relationships within the group and build group cohesion

Social Work Education

Social work support is available to all young people in the Rangatahi/youth service and their families. Support may include (but is not limited to):

- Support in accessing/maintaining educational opportunities
- Education and/or consultation to CYF social workers and community agencies
- Safety and support plans across community environments (home, school, church, sports etc)
- Supporting successful transitions from placements back into whanau/family

Systemic Collaboration.

- SAFE values the crucial contribution to successful treatment intervention with young people that is enabled by the close collaboration, communication and partnership between professionals and services with the young person and their family.
- Treatment at SAFE begins with a "Launch" meeting that includes all members of the young person's whanau/family and system. Hopes, goals and concerns are addressed collaboratively.
- Progress is monitored with regular three monthly System Review meetings.

How can I make a referral to the SAFE Rangatahi/Youth Service?

Referral forms can be downloaded from our website www.safenetwork.org.nz and posted, faxed or emailed to us.

Please ensure the party funding the assessment cost has signed the referral form.

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