

An overview of the Adolescent Service



AST Teams and Districts

AST North

- Sevenoaks, Swanley, Gravesham, Dartford
- 4 social workers and 4 social work assistants (SWAs)

AST West

- Maidstone, Tunbridge and Malling, Tunbridge Wells
- 3 social workers and 3 SWAs

AST South

- Dover, Ashford, Shepway
- 4 social workers and 3 SWAs

AST East

- Thanet, Canterbury, Swale
- 4 social workers and 5 SWAs

Who do we work with?

Young homeless (Southwark Judgements)

- Ages 16 – 18, young person has presented as homeless and is seeking accommodation and a Joint Housing Assessment is required under the Southwark Ruling
- Our work is set out as per the joint housing assessment protocol, we have the duty to assess and provide support that meets that young persons needs.
- This could involve rapid response because the home situation at the point where family breakdown is imminent without immediate, intensive intervention
- It could also involve provision of signposting or referrals to services, to prevent family breakdown
- We will utilise partner agencies as part of a support plan to enable that young person to remain at home, or identify a safe place to live
- We will work with the local housing teams to ensure that the young person is able to understand their options and make an informed decision about what they wish to happen

Case holding

- Ages 13- 18 (11-13 will be considered if presenting with family breakdown due to high risk adolescent behaviours)
- Young person's aggressive/disruptive/anti-social behaviour causing family breakdown
- Young person's substance or alcohol abuse causing family breakdown
- Parents expressing inability to manage CYP's behaviour
- Regular occurrences of truancy which is impacting on family relationships
- Family dynamic showing clear signs of deterioration
- Young person's mental health issues or additional causing family breakdown
- Index referred child is the adolescent - not part of a family requiring social care or the parent of a child requiring social care
- Not Child protection (although we will work a case up to an initial child protection conference if CP concerns arise on a case we are already holding)

Non case holding: SWA support (an agreed plan of intervention must be in place)

- Possibility of family breakdown due to CYP behaviour
- Index referred child is part of a family requiring social care or the parent of a child requiring social care
- CYP subject to CP Plans

Adolescent Early Help Units

6 Units offering Area coverage based in Deal, Ashford, Margate, Sittingbourne, Gravesend and Maidstone

Early Help Units specialising in supporting vulnerable adolescents

Criteria: high risk adolescents (13+) such as but not limited to; Adolescent to Parent Violence; Extra-familial risk; substance misuse; offending behaviour; multiple missing persons episodes; out of court disposals

Approach; flexible; strengths-based; whole family; focused on changing thinking and behaviour; preventative; build resilience in families; prevent family breakdown.

Timescales: Flexible and averaging about 20 weeks

Diverse staff group

We welcome referrals from Housing Officers for support to avert homelessness

Youth Offending Teams

4 Teams offering area coverage based in Folkestone, Margate, Gravesend and Maidstone

Court ordered interventions with young people including resettlement support after custodial sentences

Out of Court Disposals

Prevention of offending

Support for young people in court

Approach: Desistance and Restorative Justice; Risk Management

Youth Hubs

Universal and targeted Support for young people 8 -18 and up to 25 for additional needs