

aberlour



MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR SCOTLAND'S CHILDREN

ROC SERVICES

REFUGE & OUTREACH



Shelter

Working together to house Scotland's children

24th March 2009

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Research, Policy and Legislation

- Still Running- York University (1999)
- Missing Out - York University (2002)
- Evaluation of ROC Refuge - University of Stirling (2006)
- A Scoping Study of Services For Young Runaways - University of Stirling (2007)
- Vulnerable Children and Young People Guidance Pack. Scottish Executive (2003)
- Children (Scotland) Act 1995 - S 38

Research

Missing Out showed:

- 6000 - 7000 young people under 16 run away every year in Scotland for the first time
- 1 in 9 young people under 16 run away
- 9000 young people run away each year
- 80% run because of family problems including abuse, neglect, persistent conflict and parental problems
- whilst running, 1 in 6 physically/sexually assaulted

ROC Outreach

2001 ROC Community Based Outreach Service

Outreach Service

- 1:1 support, advice and advocacy
- Can be accessed independently of Refuge, with outreach support also available following period in Refuge.
- P.S.E. lessons in S2
- Aim to prevent further running

ROC - Aims

- To minimise the risks associated with young people running away
- To link young people and families to appropriate support in order to improve outcomes

ROC Refuge

- Refuge opened July 2004
- 3 bedded Refuge with access for young people with mobility issues
- Service Manager - Outreach & Refuge,
2 Assistant Service Managers - Refuge,
8 Refuge Workers and pool of sessional Staff

ROC Refuge - Admission Criteria

- Runaway
- Priority 12-15 years (vulnerable 16/17 yrs)
- Young person seeking Refuge - purpose
- Risk assessment
- Not requiring other accommodation

ROC - Working in Partnership

- Need to liaise with services as soon as young person accesses refuge due to short time scale
- Listening to young people - ROC and SWS
- Assessment is ongoing throughout refuge period
- Working alongside each other to determine the best outcome for young person

ROC Refuge - Usage

To date
198 young people have accessed Refuge
over 274 periods.

Usage varies with no apparent patterns in
respect of time of year

YOUNG PEOPLE

- 15 year old girls are the main users of refuge
- Glasgow young people and young people from South Lanarkshire are at this stage the main group
- Referrals can come from any source although the young person has to consent and understand.
- All referrals are received over the telephone and thereafter if it is deemed appropriate a face to face contact is initiated to progress the assessment

ROC Refuge - Issues identified

- Relationship difficulties with parent/carer
- physical abuse
- at risk sexually
- substance abuse issues
- Self-harm
- Eating disorders
- Offending
- Bereavement and loss
- Mental health issues

ROC Refuge - Assessment

- “This stay highlighted what was going on in the young person’s life. In actual fact it uncovered much deeper issues. Assessment highlighted emotional abuse - turned things around - we realised it wasn’t safe for the young person to go home, something we wouldn’t have noticed previously”.
Social Worker

ROC Refuge - Mental Health

- A significant amount of young people accessing Refuge have self-harm issues
- Around 1/6 are involved with mental health services
- Refuge staff work to introduce young people to appropriate supports

ROC Refuge - Outcomes

- A safe place to go
- Time to plan for safe supported future
- Access to services
- Ongoing appropriate support
- Developing resilience

Outcomes - Young People's Views

- "A lot is different, I have done better in school and improved physically"
- "My current placement is more stable and more comfortable. Hope to stay here for a bit"
- "Get on with my parents better"
- "I've improved, broken a few bad habits"
- "Situation is a lot calmer, that's how I'm feeling"

Outcomes - Agency Views

- "The fact that she stayed and was safe. While in the refuge she attended school every day despite the difficulties with her family and being so unsettled. I think she was encouraged and supported and that was really important for her".
(social worker)

LEGISLATIVE BASIS

Section 38 of The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 affords young people under the age of 16, who are deemed 'at risk' to seek refuge accommodation.

The Refuge is registered with the Care Commission as a Care Home for Children and Young People and is subject to the standards and inspection processes this incurs. It is designated by the host Local Authority as a refuge for young people.

The Future

- Secure funding for existing provision
- Continue to disseminate information and research
- 1 in 9 - The Scottish Coalition for Young Runaways

CONTACT

To refer young people to Outreach

Monday - Friday 0900-1700hrs

0141 550 2398

To refer young people to Refuge

08702 40 38 24 -24 hours

Freephone Number for Young People

0800 783 6686

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