Overview of Youth-at-Risk in Singapore

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Outline

• Who we are – NYGR and CYGO, Youth-at-Risk
• Who we work with – definition of YARs
• What we do – Management of Youth-at-Risk and Youth Offenders
National Committee on Youth Guidance and Rehabilitation

• Whole-of-Government committee on youth delinquency and crime
• Chaired by MOS (HA & FA), Mr Masagos Zulkifli
• Has representation from agencies with a stake in reducing youth delinquency:
  – Education, community and social services, health, police, prisons, Central Narcotics Branch, National Youth Council, Attorney-General, the Courts.
  – Representatives also from the academia, ethnic self-help groups
Central Youth Guidance Office

• Executive arm of the National Committee on Youth Guidance and Rehabilitation (NYGR)
• Office formed in July 2010 – set up in MCYS, with officers seconded from MOE and MHA.
  – To set policies and strategies across the entire (youth) offending spectrum
  – To conduct research into evidence-based programming and be a platform for information sharing.
  – Target: Youth-at-risk from 12 to 21 years old
CYGO - Integrated Approach to Youth-at-Risk

Strategic Overview

Partner Agencies

Strategic Focus

Legislation

Programme Development

Evidence-Based Research, Review and Evaluation

Information Management

Inter-agency collaboration– NYGR and Inter-ministry meetings

Education

Employment and Financial Security

Family, Community, Society

Health

Security

VWOs

Self-Help Groups

Partner Agencies

Inter-agency collaboration– NYGR and Inter-ministry meetings
Youth-at-risk

“Those who have been subjected to a combination of interrelated biological, psychological, and social factors that result in a greater likelihood for the development of delinquency, substance abuse, or other related anti-social and self-destructive behaviours”

- Inter-Ministry Committee on Youth Crime (IMYC), 2002

**Individual/ Interpersonal**
- Aggressive
- Impulsive
- High daring
- School failure
- Academic difficulties
- Antisocial behaviour
- Distant relations with parents/guardians

**Situational/ Institutional**
- Family criminality
- Poverty
- Poor parenting
- Convicted parent
- Young mother
- Disrupted family
- Not in Employment, Education and Training and low school attainment

Central Youth Guidance Office

- Formed in July 2010
- Separate office from the Rehabilitation, Protection and Residential Services Division, MCYS
- Inter-agency office with overview over at-risk and offending issues
- Supports the National Committee on Youth Guidance and Rehabilitation and its recommendations
Landscape of Services

At young age

- ComCare GROW Pillar
- Student Care Centres
- MOE Schemes:
  - Financial Assistance Scheme
  - Independent Schools Bursary (ISB) Scheme
  - Learning Support Programme (LSP)
  - Intensive case management (ICM)
  - Child Protection

- Beyond Parental Control, and Beacon Works
- Enhanced STEP-UP
- Honorary Voluntary Special Constabulary (VSC) (School) Scheme
- NCPC initiatives
- NPCC Youth Crime Prevention Ambassadors (PYA) Programme
- Youth Crime Prevention Roadshow (YCPR)
- School Community Safety & Security Programme (CSSP)
- Prison Visit Education Programme for Schools (PVEPS)
- Youth Hanging Out Late (YHOL) Letters
- Project Greenleaf

School
- Full time school counsellors
- School Family Education (SFE)

Health
- CDC Career Centres
- MOE’s Youth Apprenticeship Programme
- HPB Programmes
- IMH Programmes

Employment

Post-offence

Addressing crime behaviour and postcare

- Guidance Programme
- Probation
- Juvenile Homes
- StreetWise Programme
- VRU/MCYS

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Gaps identified through consultations

- Youth falling through the cracks, not supported by programmes
- Lack of comprehensive and coordinated post-care
- Lack of coordination across services
- Silo information databases across agencies
- Lack of youth work capability
- Lack of alternative pathway to success
Strategies

1. Creating alternative pathways to success
2. Building Youth Outreach Services
3. Going the extra mile – Youth Guidance Support
4. Developing skilled youth workers
5. Evaluating programmes & Research
6. Building shared information databases across agencies
7. Planning and Matching the needs
8. Engagement Through Sports & Arts

http://www.freedigitalphotos.net
1. Creating alternative pathways to success – Youth Employment

- Framework for the training, apprenticeship, career assessment, job-mentoring and employment for at-risk youth

- Current initiatives:
  - Ongoing pilot by MOE – Youth Apprenticeship Programme
2. Building Youth Outreach Services

- Youth GO! Programme
- Youth-centric, family-focused and community based programme
  - Outreach
  - Case Management
  - Service Coordination
- 1st pilot in NE District – Jan 2012
- 2nd pilot in NW District – May 2012

3. Going the extra mile – Youth Guidance Support

- YGSS will extend the continuum of support in the community for youth till 21
- Currently, support for youth ceases upon completion of the programmes
- Support through phone calls, visits to homes/workplaces, face-to-face meetings, FaceBook etc.
4. Developing skilled youth worker

- Improving workers’ capability
- Level up service standards
- Target workers who provide services in state-funded programmes
5. Evaluating Programmes & Research

- Strengthen programme evaluation and research to support policy and programme development
- Identify Research gaps
- Build a shared repository of research and data among agencies
- Ongoing work led by Dr Maliki Osman
6. Building shared information databases across agencies

- To create inter-agency system (MCYS, MHA and MOE) for seamless sharing of data
- Research Database Module – to guide policy and programme development
- Programme and Outreach Module – monitoring YARs through the different intervention programmes
7. Planning and Matching the needs

• Overview of all youth organisations, facilities and services for at-risk youth
• Determine optimal level of infrastructure and programming to meet the needs
8. Engagement through Sports and Arts

3 key Strategies for Engaging At-Risk-Youths Through Sports & Arts

Strategy 1
Strategic Narration

Underlying Philosophy:
Sports & Arts provide a real and positive difference and experience for individuals and as vehicles for reaching out to and engaging at-risk-youths

Strategy 2
Capability Development

Pedagogy:
- Establishing norms and standards required for working with at-risk-youths
- Training of Coaches, Instructors, Artists, Social Workers etc
- Curriculum and resource development

Strategy 3
Outreach Initiatives

Implementation
- Identifying potential platforms (i.e. Social challenge, leagues, tournaments etc) to engaging stakeholders
- Develop service models that allow for easy adoption & implementation
- Review & Evaluate

Ongoing Engagement with VWOs, SSC, NAC, MOE, & relevant stakeholders
8. Engagement through Sports and Arts

The framework aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- ✓ P1: Pathway For Success
- ✓ P2: Positive Health Development
- ✓ P3: Positive Youth Development