

NIAPP

TUSLA's National Inter Agency Prevention Programme (NIAPP) provides Consultation, Assessment, and age-appropriate Interventions for children and young people who have exhibited harmful sexual behaviour including contact abuse, exhibitionism, voyeurism as well as Tech-Assisted Harmful Sexual Behaviour (e.g. use of Child Sexual Abuse Materials) and/or where there is significant concern about their psychosexual development; and their parents/caretakers. NIAPP will consider such referrals with or without admission; assuming there is agreement to the referral.

Referrals will be considered for any such child or young person (aged 3 up to their 18th birthday) in accordance with NIAPP's resources and Services around the country.

Those referred must have a stable living situation and be known to the TUSLA Social Work Department. The service will consider referrals of those with intellectual capabilities ranging Mild to Very Superior; but will not consider those whose classification is Moderate or below.

In the case of children (aged 3 – 12) it should be accepted that the sexualised behaviour occurred and be persistent (not having responded to earlier interventions). In the case of young people (aged 13 -18), there must be agreement by professionals that harmful sexual behaviour has probably occurred or a level of admission to the harmful/abusive sexually behaviour.

Referral Criteria for NIAPP

NIAPP accept referrals from within Tusla, An Garda Síochána, Youth Workers, The Probation Service and any other relevant professionals once concern has been notified to local Tusla Social Work Department.

Appropriate referrals will be considered for a child or young person (aged 3 up to their 18th birthday) in accordance with NIAPP's resources and services around the country. Those referred must have a stable living situation and be known to the TUSLA Social Work Department. The service will consider referrals of those with intellectual capabilities ranging Mild to Very Superior; but cannot consider those whose classification is Moderate or below.

In the case of children (aged 3 – 12) it should be accepted that the sexualised behaviour occurred and be persistent (not having responded to earlier interventions). In the case of young people (aged 13 -18), there must be agreement by professionals that harmful sexual behaviour has probably occurred or a level of admission to the harmful/abusive sexual behaviour.

What to Expect

Any professional can contact NIAPP to enquiry about a case without providing identifying information. No file will be set up therefore record of agreement should be

kept on the enquirers file. Should you wish to refer the child or young person to NIAPP for consultation or assessment, a referral form with relevant professional reports attached must be sent to NIAPP before NIAPP can attend any meetings or begin to work with the family. The referral form will be discussed at a team meeting, and you will be advised in writing whether it has been accepted or not. If case is not accepted, alternative suggestions may be made that are more suitable to the specific case. If accepted, the case will be on a waiting list until next for allocation. Once allocated, the parent/carer and child or young person will be contacted to arrange appointments. The professional who referred the case may also be invited.

The Assessment Team allocated to the family will meet with parent/carer and child/young person separately to discuss the overall situation. We will explore the family background, what happened; what else was going on at the time; the impact of abuse on the victim(s), the child or young person and the families involved.

The Process

The Assessment is quite comprehensive and usually requires four - six appointments in order to complete. A comprehensive NIAPP Assessment includes interviews with parents/carers, the young person, psychometric questionnaires, a structured assessment framework and considers any previous relevant assessments the child or young person may have undertaken.

Feedback and Recommendations

Intervention for young people in the community may be a group or individual programme for parents/carers and young people. Intervention typically lasts 2 years. Intervention with younger children may vary depending on their needs and the family circumstances. Other Interventions including specialist residential treatment may be recommended following assessment to meet the particular needs of a young person.

Professionals

NIAPP requests that the referrer remain involved with the family until the NIAPP assessment is completed. The referrer must also ensure the case has been notified to Tusla.

A copy of the assessment report will be shared with the Social Work Department and referrer (if from another agency/service).

At the end of the process, the assessment report including treatment plan and recommendations are shared with the young person and their parents/carers in a feedback appointment. Families do not receive a copy of the report due to sensitive nature of the report however they are welcome to read report at any time in NIAPP or Tusla offices.

Working with parents/carers and or residential staff is a central part of any NIAPP assessment and/or intervention.

CONTACT DETAILS

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