

NIAPP

The National Interagency Prevention Programme (**NIAPP**) is a service working with children and young people who have engaged in problematic/harmful or abusive sexual behaviour towards any person directly and/or online. The age of those who can access the service are from 3 years old up to referral of their 18th birthday.

Treatment/Interventions can vary from group or 1:1 work with children and their parents/carers. We view parent/carer's involvement as important in all processes with children and young people from assessment to planning and intervention.

What is NIAPP?

NIAPP is a Tusla service providing support to young people referred from age 3 up to their 18th birthday who have engaged in problematic, harmful, or abusive sexual behaviour. Young people may live in the community, residential care, and detention centers. NIAPP accept referrals from within Tusla, and any other relevant professionals once concern has been notified to local Tusla Social Work Department.

What to Expect

A professional will have referred you to NIAPP for assessment as there is concern you have/are engaging in problematic, harmful or abusive sexual behaviour online or in person. Your case will also have been referred to the Social Work Department and An Garda Síochána as it is a Child Protection concern.

Once the referral is accepted by NIAPP, the Assessment Team allocated to you and your parent/carer will then meet with you all separately to discuss the overall situation. We will explore your 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.

Young People

Young people often don't want to attend NIAPP as they are concerned that they will be judged and shamed or they don't believe they need support. NIAPP wants to listen to the young person's voice regarding the concerns and will work openly with you regarding any issues raised throughout assessment and/or intervention. By providing the Assessment team with your full history, NIAPP will be able to recommend whether you need the service or not. It is a voluntary service but NIAPP's aim is to support young people and their parents/carers to help young people to manage their sexual behaviour in a healthy way.

The Process

The Assessment is quite comprehensive and usually requires four - six appointments in order to complete. A NIAPP Assessment includes interviews with parents/carers, a structured assessment framework and considers any previous relevant assessments you have been a part of.

Children

Children are often nervous, worried or uncertain. Being honest and open helps NIAPP to help you and your family. We believe that with help and support and you giving your best that you can make the changes you need to address this issue.

Feedback and Recommendations

At the end of the process, a report including treatment plan and recommendations are shared with the you and your parents/carers. The report and recommendations are also shared with the Social Work Department and Referrer.

NIAPP Intervention for young people in the community typically lasts 2 years. The duration of Intervention with younger children may vary depending on their needs and the family circumstances.

What Young people said...

About NIAPP,

“My counsellor was very helpful to me. I developed a great relationship with her and trusted her. I felt listened to and understood. I could tell her everything and was able to change as a person thanks to her. If I hadn’t attended NIAPP, I imagine I would be in a completely different situation today. I’m grateful for the help I got”. (Sam)

“NIAPP helped me understand why I sexually harmed. It has helped me change my ways, it taught me what’s wrong and what is right, and it has helped build the trust back in my family”. (Sarah)

“NIAPP welcomed me with open arms and didn’t judge me for my sexual assault. Everyone was so kind to me. They were able to help my family with the trauma and were able to help me with the sexual harm”. (Brian)

“I would tell other young people attending NIAPP to be as honest as they can and don’t be afraid to open up and always trust the process in NIAPP, you’re in good hands.” (Kieran)

About Group,

“The support was really meaningful and helped in so many ways. At the beginning I seen the group as a waste of time, but then I put myself forward more and loved it and took the information as important, as it is”. (Casey)

“I learned all the information about life, from emotions, STD’s contraception, it was all so fun to learn. I gained a lot of confidence from going to group and sharing my stories with everyone and getting honest feedback. I learned the reasons for my sexual abuse and how it harmed people in ways that can never be changed”. (John).