

How is their progress measured?

- Your child will be assessed at the beginning and end of this programme, and again after a further three months. This will help them to see the progress they have made.
- During the Award Ceremony at the end of the course they will be able to invite guests, to see how they have developed over the duration of the course.
- They will also receive a detailed report and portfolio at the end of the programme outlining what they have learnt and how effective they have been in applying these new skills.

Notes

Instructors

Andy Balfour: has worked extensively for the fire service and childcare sector; as a qualified practitioner he has worked in various settings including outreach, project management and development, supported housing, training, and as an assistant manager of a residential therapeutic behavioural unit, delivering cognitive solutions based on the resilience model.

Liz Warren: coordinator of Evolution, has used her community media degree to creatively consult in various settings; residential youth homes, homeless hostels, within the travelling community and with alcohol / substance misusers. She is also qualified to psychometrically test candidates.



Contact Details

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Information for Parents and Guardians

Evolution: Youth Offender Project

This leaflet will help to answer any questions you may have about the programme and explains what is expected of your child.

ROYAL BERKSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING

What is Evolution?

Evolution is a group-based programme aimed at young adults, like your child, who have been involved in offending.

It is based on problem solving techniques which aim to teach effective thinking skills. It will take the form of both interactive classroom sessions and practical activity days.

The practical days include activities such as fire service exercises (drills, breathing apparatus (BA) exercise, hose running), drama, role play, outdoor adventure activities (woodland based rescue) and games (board games and brainteasers).

How will it help your child?

Your child will:

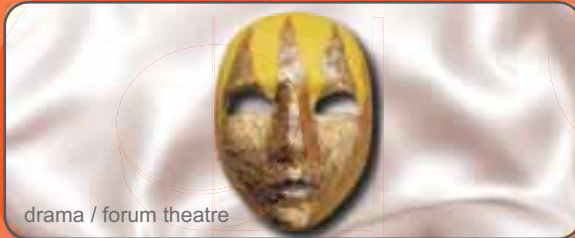
- Learn and practice new skills to help cope with problems.
- Improve their self control and general social skills.
- Learn and practice new ways of developing choices and making decisions.
- Improve their ability to see the point of view of other people, and take this into account when problem solving.

How long is the programme?

Evolution will run over a four-week period and your child will be required to attend three full days a week for theoretical and practical input.

They will be given short assignments to complete during the course to show their understanding of the skills.

Three months after the course they will be asked to attend a recap session, where they will be reminded of the skills taught.



Who is it for ?

The course is designed for both males and females, aged between 13 to 18.

Referral onto the course will be made by your child's caseworker and then your child will be assessed through an intelligence test and an interview to ensure it is appropriate for them to attend.

There are limited spaces so it is important to note that a referral does not guarantee a place on the course.

How can you help?

In order for your child to apply the skills taught in everyday life they will need encouragement and support from you.

The process of thought and behaviour change may be difficult and it is important to assist your child with the process by helping to motivate them and praising them for the progress they make. You need to support your child from the initial stages of the programme to beyond its completion.

Missing a session

- If your child misses a classroom session they will need to do a catch-up session.
- If they miss two or more sessions, with an acceptable reason, they may have to start the programme again.
- If they miss two sessions, without good reason, they will have broken the conditions of their order and will be taken back to court.

Use of video

Sessions are recorded on video tape to ensure the programme is being run in the right way. The tapes are confidential and are securely stored.

