

List of Recommendations by the National Committee on Prevention, Rehabilitation and Recidivism

Focus Area 1: Breaking The Cycle of Intergenerational Offending

A) Expand existing support touchpoints and improve the coordination amongst them to bring about more comprehensive coverage and timely support for inmates' families.

Recommendation 1): Mainstream the Singapore Prison Service (SPS)-Family Service Centre (FSC) collaboration to include all newly-admitted inmates with young children.

Children exposed to parental criminality are three times more likely to engage in criminality¹. Strengthening inter-agency coordination of the identification and referral of services can help to ensure timely and holistic support for inmates' families. The SPS-FSC collaboration began in end 2020 for selected groups of newly-admitted male and female inmates with young children. SPS will mainstream the collaboration to include all newly admitted inmates with young children.

Recommendation 2): Increase access to resources for inmates' families provided by Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

Self-Help Groups can help to support inmates' families in the community (e.g., through tuition and financial assistance) at the point of incarceration. Having systematic and proactive referrals from SPS's Family Resource Centres to the four SHGs will thus be useful to enhance support for inmates' families.

Recommendation 3): Provide opportunity for inmates and families to build and restore stable marital relationships, to support future reintegration.

Stable marital relationships can help motivate offenders to change and support their reintegration. SPS will thus work with Strengthening Families Programme @ Family Service Centre (FAM@FSC) to systematically refer inmates with marital issues for marriage and divorce support programmes and services as well as marriage counselling.

B) Leverage volunteers and befrienders to support inmates' families on a more sustained basis.

Recommendation 4): Expand volunteer base of the Yellow Ribbon Community Project (YRCP).

To complement the role that social service professionals play in supporting families impacted by incarceration and sustain gains made, more volunteers/befrienders are

¹ Based on MSF and NCSS Occasional Paper "Understanding the Intergenerational Transmission of Criminality in Singapore", June 2020.

needed. They will help to support greater outreach to the families, deepen their linkages to the support network in the grassroots and facilitate more throughcare work with inmates' families, so that the families continue to be supported after the ex-offender returns to the family. To do this, SPS will work with PA and SG Cares Volunteer Centres to create greater awareness of the YRCP, as well as recruit and expand their volunteer base.

Recommendation 5): Launch a family befriending initiative for selected first-time inmates and their families with young children.

Befrienders also play a complementary role to support inmates through their incarceration journey. They help provide early intervention to enhance the families' protective factors and mitigate risks. SPS is thus collaborating with Singapore Aftercare Association on a voluntary family befriending initiative for selected first-time inmates and their families (with young children).²

C) Dovetail initiatives with existing systems so that a more coordinated and client-centric approach can be taken in serving the needs of inmates and their families.

Recommendation 6): Onboard IT system enablers to enable operational efficiency

SPS is working with MSF to engage key community partners to onboard suitable IT system enablers, such as MSF's Case Connect system, which was developed to enable inter-agency case referrals and coordination. With this, agencies can more easily share information, refer cases and be aware of other agencies' involvement, including support delivered under ComLink for relevant families. It will also help them better coordinate and serve their clients.

Focus Area 2: Preventing Substance Abuse Amongst Youths

A) Leveraging more government platforms and empowering ground-up voices to amplify public education efforts on the harms and illegality of drugs and vaping.

Recommendation 7): Review engagement approach for raising awareness among youths on harms and illegality of vaping.

HPB launched a nation-wide vape free campaign from January to March 2023 to increase public awareness that vaping is illegal and harmful to health. The campaign was targeted at youths through different media, e.g., MRT station, social media ads and HPB's owned channel. HPB is studying the subsequent engagement approach and will review the campaign responses as part of the study.

² The pilot will cover first-time inmates: (a) with sentence length of 8 to 12 months; (b) who are married and have children below 18 years of age; (c) whose spouse is not incarcerated and has not been incarcerated before; and (d) whose children are aware of the parent's incarceration.

Recommendation 8: Enhance Preventive Drug Education (PDE) in schools and institutionalise PDE programmes.

CNB is working with MOE to enhance existing Preventive Drug Education (PDE) in schools and to institutionalise PDE programmes.

Recommendation 9: Launch a series of events in conjunction with the annual DrugFreeSG Campaign.

CNB will work with various community partners to introduce a series of events in conjunction with the annual DrugFreeSG Campaign. The campaign seeks to raise awareness on the harms that drug abuse brings to abusers, their families and loved ones. Community partners will be roped in to support the various campaign activities.

B) Shore up social protective factors for youths who are likely to be more exposed to negative influences and risk factors.

Recommendation 10: Sensitising professionals and parents to issues relating to substance abuse.

Parents and the community need to be more involved in preventive education on substance abuse as well, to shore up social protective factors for youths who are likely to be more exposed to negative influences and risk factors. CNB and HPB have introduced learning programmes for social service agencies who work with parents, youths-at-risk and youth offenders to sensitise them to the issue of substance abuse. The target audience comprised Parenting Support Providers, Integrated Service Providers staff/case workers from the Probation and Community Rehabilitation Service and Youth Residential Services.

Recommendation 11: Equipping citizens with skills to identify substance abuse amongst youths.

CNB and HPB have introduced learning programmes to volunteers with the Singapore Police Force (SPF)'s Citizens on Patrol and who are attached to neighbourhoods with higher incidences of youth substance abuse. The programmes focused on sensitising the volunteers to the issue of substance abuse and equipping them with knowledge on what they can do if they encounter such incidents. SPF has since incorporated the learning materials (on substance abuse) into the basic crime prevention training for Citizens on Patrol members nation-wide.

Focus Area 3: Preventing Youth Sexual Offending

A) Empowering youths through early preventive education on factors contributing to sexual crimes and emphasise ways to attain healthy sexual

development, practice self-safety and self-protective skills to prevent offending and victimisation.

Recommendation 12: Increase capability of professionals to manage concerns of pornography pertinent to youths.

MHA, with support from MOE and MSF will develop practice guides and conduct training for practitioners on the issue of pornography. Practitioners in schools and community agencies would be equipped to educate youths who present with issues arising from consuming sexually explicit materials. The content would include educating youths on the inaccurate depiction of consent in porn, sexual violence, derogatory depiction of women, deviant sexual scripts (i.e. distorted thought processes guiding sexual and intimate behaviours), and impact on the adolescent brain, among other topics. By training the professionals, at-risk youths who present with issues with pornography use may be identified and supported earlier to prevent offending.

Recommendation 13: Increasing understanding on personal safety and respect for boundaries amongst youths.

(I) SPF, with support from MOE, will conduct assembly talks on personal safety and respect for boundaries for youths in secondary schools, Junior Colleges/Centralised Institute and Institutes of Higher Learning. The content will be customised based on the age profile of the target audience. This aims to increase youths' understanding of factors contributing to youth sexual offending, with a focus on personal safety and respect for boundaries.

(II) MOE has reworked the relevant Character and Citizenship Education curriculum at Primary and Secondary levels to include a stronger stance on 'saying no' and respecting boundaries, in addition to existing aspects about personal safety and building respectful relationships. These lessons have been updated for schools' use in 2023.

B) Promote and strengthen service provision at multiple touchpoints to prevent sexual offending and re-offending.

Recommendation 14: Increase capabilities of professionals managing youths showing at-risk sexual behaviours.

MHA and MOE, with support from MSF, will develop an Early Identification and Intervention Resource Package for Youths with at-risk Sexual Behaviours. Those who work closely with youths (e.g., school and community agency counsellors) will be trained and familiarised with this Package, that will enable them to identify inappropriate behaviours at an earlier stage, and where they can refer youths with at-risk sexual behaviours if the youths require further specialised intervention beyond what they themselves are able to provide. At-risk youths can thus be identified and supported earlier, to prevent offending.

Recommendation 15: Increasing awareness and knowledge of community agencies in the rehabilitation of youth sexual offenders.

MSF, SPS and MOE will develop practice guides for community partners on rehabilitating youth sexual offenders. The practice guides will cover: (i) risk and protective factors that contribute to and mitigate the risk of sexual offending among youths, (ii) principles of effective management for youths who commit sexual offences, and (iii) management and monitoring strategies in the community.

Recommendation 16: Strengthen capabilities and enhance service provision of suitable community agencies to support the rehabilitation and reintegration of youth sexual offenders in the community.

MSF and SPS, with support from the State Courts, will identify suitable social service agencies and provide them with training and relevant resources to support youth sexual offenders in the community. Referral workflows will also be established between possible referring agencies and social service agencies who can manage youth sexual offending cases to ensure seamless support for the rehabilitation and reintegration of youth sexual offenders in the community.

Recommendation 17: Sharing of best practices amongst government agencies.

MHA and MOE will set up a Community of Professionals to continue conversations and collaborations on best practices in the prevention of youth sexual offending and re-offending. The Community of Professionals will comprise members from different agencies who work with youths and will be a platform to encourage the increase in knowledge and skills on prevention and intervention for youth sexual offenders among members. At the same time, it will develop and coordinate relevant initiatives (e.g., sharing of case studies, masterclass training by international experts, and cross-attachments at different agencies that work with youth sexual offenders).

C) Provide stronger support for specific populations.

Recommendation 18: Strengthen support for victims of youth sexual offences.

MHA, with support from MOE and MSF will develop a resource guide and train agencies on how to respond to, and support youth victims of sexual violence. The resource guide will be developed and disseminated to relevant practitioners/agencies (including law enforcement officers, parents, youths' peers, professionals who have regular contact with youths).

Recommendation 19: Review the Community Forensic Service (CFS) to enhance support for offenders with intellectual disabilities.

The CFS, a pilot programme introduced in 2021 under the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS), provides case management to support offenders, victims and witnesses with intellectual disabilities through the criminal justice system. MSF will review the CFS with a view to enhance support for offenders with intellectual disabilities.

Recommendation 20: Streamline data sharing processes to better support persons with Intellectual Disabilities/Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the criminal justice system.

Enforcement agencies have existing processes to check with MSF on the disability status of persons during their investigations, so that enforcement agencies can better support persons with ID/ASD in the criminal justice system. MSF will streamline and digitalise these processes with enforcement agencies, to make such checks more efficient.
