

Frequently Asked Questions

Localised Community Network (LCN)

1) Why is Boon Lay/Jurong West chosen for the Localised Community Network pilot? Do the children/youths in this area have higher needs or risks?

We will pilot the Localised Community Network in Boon Lay/ Jurong West to leverage on and draw synergies from ongoing pilots and initiatives in the same region. For example, our newly announced Community Link (ComLink) in Boon Lay to support families living in rental flats.

2) What are the issues or challenges that such at-risk students may face?

Students may be affected by family issues such as parents being absent and unable to provide adequate support and supervision, coupled with financial difficulties and family conflict. They may display at-risk behaviours such as chronic absenteeism, anti-social behaviour, low self-esteem and lack of resilience. Through the pilot, we aim to better understand how government agencies and community organisations can best support these students to meet their potential.

3) How many schools will be involved in this pilot?

We are identifying suitable primary and secondary schools that would benefit most from the LCN pilot.

4) Are there plans to expand this pilot to other areas?

An implementation group will assess the outcomes of this pilot, before exploring whether other schools or other target groups of children/youths could benefit from this approach. We will share more details when ready.

Frequently Asked Questions

Lengthening of Post-Care Support for Youths Discharged from MSF Youth Homes

1) What are the key issues in the current post-care support that have propelled MSF to propose the extension of post-care support?

Some youths have shared that they are lost and at times not able to approach any trusted person to seek advice and assistance after their discharge from MSF Youth Homes. The extension of post-care support from two months to one year will better support these youths by smoothening their transition and strengthening their reintegration into community. We will work towards better sustaining their engagement in schools, training and employment.

2) How are youths selected for the post-care support pilot?

We will identify residents who are soon discharging, with at least 6 months prior to their discharge from MSF Youth Homes.

3) What are the role differences between the caseworkers from MSF Youth Homes and the post-care officers?

Both caseworkers and post-care officers are important case managers at different phases. Caseworkers focus on the in-care phase when the youths are residing in MSF Youth Homes. Thereafter, the post-care officers will assume the role of the case manager in the community after the youths are discharged from our Homes.

Establishing a strong rapport between the youths and post-care officers is critical for effective post-care support. For a smoother transition, post-care officers will start engaging the youths at least 6 months before they discharge from the Homes to build trust and establish an early connection to build on.

4) Who are the post-care officers and what is their main scope of work?

MSF will partner VWOs with assigned post-care officers to support the youths.

The post-care officers will play 3 key roles:

- (1) **Enabler:** to reiterate skills learnt during in-care phase; provide emotional support and affirmations; provide suggestions to resolve issues.
- (2) **Resource person and navigator:** Identify and link youths and families to services; nudge and encourage youths and families to follow-up with the

services; link up youths with schools, training and employment opportunities to ensure that they are meaningfully engaged.

(3) **Coordinator:** Share relevant information with key stakeholders (e.g. schools, employers, volunteers) to provide the youths with coordinated support.

5) How does the youth justice system work?

The youth justice system in Singapore is broadly premised on a gradation of interventions. As far as possible, youth offenders are diverted away from the youth justice system altogether. Where youths are brought before the Youth Court, they are first considered for probation and rehabilitation outside of residential facilities. This is to prevent their development from being unduly disrupted. This means that the youths who are required to reside in places of detention and juvenile rehabilitation centres generally exhibit higher-risk behaviours, complex needs or have a weak family environment that does not support rehabilitation.

Background information

National Committee on Prevention, Rehabilitation and Recidivism

- The National Committee on Prevention, Rehabilitation and Recidivism (NCPR) was set up on 1 April 2018 to maintain an overview of national efforts to prevent offending and re-offending, and enhance the rehabilitation of offenders.
- With the formation of NCPR, the National Committee on Youth Guidance and Rehabilitation (NYGR) has been subsumed under it. NCPR has a broadened scope to cover at-risk children and youths (7 to 21 years old), as well as youth/adult offenders, and their families.
- Under NCPR, there are three work groups formed to look into (i) family and parenting work, (ii) education, employment and upstream measures, and (iii) offender programmes and interventions. The work groups are chaired by Deputy Secretary/MSF, Deputy Secretary (Policy)/MOE and Deputy Secretary (Policy)/MHA respectively.
- NCPR comprises representatives from the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Social and Family Development, Government Parliamentary Committee, Members of Parliament, Attorney-General's Chambers, State Courts, Family Justice Courts, Institute of Mental health, National Council Against Drug Abuse, National Council of Social Service, National Crime Prevention Council, National Youth Council and Self-Help Groups.
- NCPR collaborates with government agencies, community organisations and volunteers to develop and implement an integrated and coordinated approach to address offending and re-offending issues. In doing so, the journey and voices/perspectives of at-risk children and youths, offenders, and their families are considered.
- Prevention, early intervention, rehabilitation and post support are critical factors to prevent and break cycles of offending. Support is also provided beyond at-risk populations and offenders to cover their families.
- NCPR continues to develop and enhance the capacity and capability of community organisations to ensure that at-risk populations, offenders, and their families are well-supported.
- NCPR facilitates data sharing, collaborative research and evaluation to understand emerging trends, risks and needs, and effectiveness of programmes to achieve better outcomes for our target populations.

MSF Youth Homes

- MSF manages the Singapore Boys' Home and Singapore Girls' Home. They serve as 'Juvenile Rehabilitation Centres' for youth offenders, as well as 'Place of Safety' for youths under Beyond Parental Control Order and children and youths under Care and Protection Order issued by the Youth Court.
- These MSF Youth Homes provide the youths with a structured environment for them to learn, reflect and do better in lives. Youths are engaged through academic, vocational and rehabilitation programmes. They are supported by caseworkers to restore and strengthen their relationship with their families. This prepares them for the eventual return to their families and the community. The caseworkers also provide referral services for the youths and their families to meet their needs, as well as work closely with schools and employers to keep the youths meaningfully engaged.
- Currently, upon completion of their Court Orders, youths are provided with post-care support for up to two months. Many youths do not have a continuity of support beyond this period and may experience challenges thereafter. To better strengthen the transition and reintegration, MSF will lengthen the post-care support from two months to one year.

Translated Terms

Guidelines for Case Master Action Planning (Case MAP)	个案援助总体规划指导原则	Garis Panduan bagi Perancangan Tindakan Utama Kes	கண்காணிப்புகளுக்கான பெருஞ்செயல்திட்டத்திற்குரிய வழிகாட்டிகள்
National Committee on Prevention, Rehabilitation and Recidivism	防止犯罪、重犯和改造跨部门委员会	Jawatankuasa Nasional bagi Pencegahan, Pemulihan dan Kesalahan Jenayah Berulang	தடுப்பு, மறுவாழ்வு மற்றும் மீண்டும் குற்றம் புரியத் தலைப்படும் தன்மைக்கான தேசியக் குழு
Localised Community Networks	社区合作联系网	Rangkaian Masyarakat Setempat	உள்ளடக்கப்பட்ட சமூகக் கட்டமைப்பு
Post-care support	改造后续支援	Sokongan selepas keluar dari pusat pemulihan juvenil	பராமரிப்பிற்குப் பிந்திய ஆதரவு
At-risk youth	边缘少年	Belia Berisiko	ஆபத்து ஏற்படும் தறுவாயில் உள்ள இளையர்கள்
In-risk youth	误入歧途的青年	Belia yang sedang dalam Risiko	ஆபத்தில் உள்ள இளையர்கள்
Juvenile Rehabilitation Centres	青少年改造所	Pusat-pusat Pemulihan Juvenil	இளங்குற்றவாளிகளுக்கான மறுவாழ்வு நிலையங்கள்
Place of Safety	庇护所	Tempat yang Selamat	பாதுகாப்பான இடம்
At-risk behaviours	濒临犯罪行为	Tingkah Laku Berisiko	ஆபத்து விளைவிக்கக்கூடிய நடத்தைகள்
Criminogenic needs	犯罪因素	Keperluan Kriminogenik	குற்றவியல் சார்ந்த தேவைகள்