

Introduction

I will research the occurrence of mental health issues in teenage boys that are under the provision of local youth offending teams.

I've chosen this subject as I plan to work within the youth offending service.

Mental health among children and young people has become an increasingly significant public health concern in the United Kingdom. Recent national surveys indicate that one in five young people aged eight to twenty-five years have a probable mental health disorder, highlighting the scale of psychological difficulties affecting this population. (NHS England 2023.)

Within this broader population, young people involved in the youth justice system represent a vulnerable group.

Task1

Selection of a research topic

The current issue is the level of mental health problems in teenage boys under local provision from youth offending teams.

It affects a group of vulnerable people, particularly teenagers.

If this group of teenagers are suffering underlying conditions that are not addressed, it could lead to further criminal activity as they mature. Maybe if the problems are identified and addressed, the incidence of offending may not increase.

This subject interests me as I feel teenagers are vulnerable and the incidence of crime rates could be possibly decreased if the teenagers were to be given the right support and interventions at a crucial time of their lives and their individual needs considered could make a big difference.

I would like to explore existing evidence, potential risk factors, and implications for youth justice and mental health services.

I chose this study as i feel teenagers deserve a chance in society and an opportunity to get support and guidance.

“Mental health issues are a major issue, affecting teenagers in the Uk “

(NHS website 2023)

“Around 45% of children in the youth justice system have a diagnosed mental health disorder (youth justice board for England and Wales,2025)

This information suggests that there is a link between mental health issues and youth offending statistics.

I would like to work in the youth offending system as a youth offender worker. Looking at UK government websites, the information I have been researching about the specific role seems to me to be very ideological. The statistics suggest that there is improvement to be made in the system that is currently used.

Task 2

Evaluating information sources

Source 1

Youth justice board for England and Wales

Source 2

Nhs health research authority

Source 3

Prison reform trust