

Informing a Young Person and/or Their Family of TWB's Involvement and Suicide Risk

(v2.03 2018)

All young people involved with the TWB programme should be informed about TWB's involvement and all families or caregivers should be informed at the same time about any concerns regarding suicide risk.

Where resistance towards service involvement is high/and or you are concerned that informing the family and/or the young person may increase their risk, professional judgement as to when and how this information is best given to the family is needed. Discuss with your supervisor and your TWB Clinical Advisor how best to manage this, record in CYRAS why the family or young person was not informed and revisit this as the situation changes.

The following are important to note:

- Informing a young person and their family of TWB's involvement should occur as part of a conversation around concerns about suicide and managing their wellbeing.
- It needs to be an open conversation where suicide concerns are openly talked about not just general wellbeing.
- Resources should be given at the same time which offer further information the family/young person can look at in their own time. Your TWB advisor can provide you with these resources.
- Resources provided need to be clear about where the young person/family can seek help/support as needed.
- Information provided needs to take into account cultural needs and the best way the family/young person will understand the information (e.g., written/video/website)
- It is important to follow up with the family the next time you see them to ensure they have understood the information and if they have any concerns/queries.

How to inform them:

It is useful to begin by acknowledging the young person's distress and/or the stressors they are experiencing as this gives a context as to why TWB is involved. This can include both immediate and historical stressors and information taken from their SKS/suicide risk assessment.

The following script may be useful to explain (using your own words) TWB's involvement:

When working with a young people who presents with issues/concerns such as these (name them if appropriate) there is a specialist team that I (Oranga Tamariki social worker) can access who provides me/us (social worker) with advice/support/supervision. Whilst you will not meet this group of professionals I want you to know that they are in the background helping me (social worker). Together we try to put in place the best possible plan to address these issues (name them) with the goal of improving your safety & wellbeing/helping things get better for you. This team works for Oranga Tamariki and just like with me (social worker) your information is confidential and not shared.



If appropriate:

Follow up with a discussion with the young person and the family about the young person's risk/vulnerabilities/protective factors and the strategies/plan to help manage these. Information from the SKS, Suicide Risk Assessment, Tuituia Assessment, Risk Management Plan and discussion with the TWB Clinical advisor can contribute to this.