



Families Learning About Thinking Skills (FLATS) Risk assessment and Plan

Facilitating group work with children has many benefits. It can help to:

- Provide a safe space for discussions and debates about a range of topics.
- Provide a safe space for children to learn social skills, such as negotiating, assertive behaviour and problem-solving skills.
- Provide a safe space to develop teamwork skills.

It is important that all children are provided safe spaces with safe people. This tool is designed to bring together different elements of running a group. It is not intended to replace any of your existing procedures or tools, more add an additional layer to ensure children and staff are safe whilst undertaking FLATS. Please feel free to amend this document to suit your local area, service, and arrangements.

Date of assessment/s	
Assessed by (name and position)	
Any other person involved with assessment	
Summary of what is being assessed	<p>FLATS was developed in Suffolk by Dr Kate Budge, Clinical Psychologist. The programme was informed by the existing evidence base, in addition to Dr's Budge's clinical judgement, knowledge and experience. The programme was informed by a range of established psychotherapeutic approaches and designed to target the needs and difficulties underlying children's risks and offending behaviour. FLATS provides children with an intensive 16-week programme, comprised of weekly 2-hr group sessions, weekly 1hr 1:1 sessions, and wrap-around contact with facilitators to support the application of skills within 'real life' situations.</p> <p>The age range of the cohort is between 13-17 years old. There should be no more than 6-8 children on the cohort, depending on the experience of facilitators.</p> <p>The FLATS group work will be hosted in a community venue, or office and individual sessions with a child will be at their home or an agreed location.</p> <p>An important part of FLATS is group activities as this can help to develop / strengthen relationships, improve self-belief, confidence and reinforce messages through the FLATS delivery.</p>
Categories of risk	<p>A. Individual assessment of child</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. Group dynamics assessment C. Venue for FLATS D. Transport E. Group activities
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ASSESSMENT

Section A: Individual assessment of the child

Please copy and paste this box to reflect the number of children you are considering for FLATS.

What is the nature of the risk?	Information
<p>1. Is there any know intelligence (police, school, parents etc) that the child: Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) If the child should be kept away from anyone? b) Do they carry a weapon? c) Do they have an interest in weapons / violence? d) Have they been a victim or perpetrator of an assault? e) Who do they dislike and who dislikes them? f) Any links to drug supply? 	

<p>g) Have they been excluded from school and if so, what was the reason?</p> <p>h) Any concerns around social media use? Making or receiving threats etc.</p> <p>i) Any concerns re: Siblings? Old peers? Etc.</p> <p>j) Other</p> <p>If so, please provide who holds the intelligence, relevant date, and details</p>	
<p>2. Does the Child Exploitation Coordinator / Contextual Safeguarding Coordinator (or other relevant professional) hold any information relating to the cohort (mappings of groups /relationships / hotspot locations)?</p> <p>If so, please state.</p>	
<p>3. If a child has a conviction for weapons / violence, what is the context to this?</p> <p>Please provide the date, context and any victim information etc.</p>	
<p>4. How will the child be travelling to and from the venue?</p> <p>Please consider the range of methods that could be used. For example, foot, bus, scooter.</p>	
<p>5. Diversity or communication needs?</p> <p>Please specify what they are and what adjustments may need to be made for the child to be able to access FLATS</p>	

<p>6. Has the child and their parent / caregiver consented to participate in FLATS? Are the parents briefed and supportive of FLATS? Is there a written agreement?</p>	
<p>7. Other</p>	
<p>8. Is the child suitable for this cohort of FLATS? Please give reasons for your answer</p>	

Section B: Group Dynamics Assessment

What is the nature of the risk?	Information
<p>1. What are the dynamics of the group? Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Who are the leaders in the group? b) Whether there is any known conflict in the group? c) Likes/dislikes of others attending - known rivalry? d) Existing relationships between group members? Healthy? e) Whether the group could be in conflict with other individuals or groups? f) Have they been involved in group offending? g) Are there any links to drug supply? 	

<p>h) What do we know about their online conduct? Do they post threats / or have they received any?</p> <p>i) Other</p> <p>Please provide evidence / reasons for your answer.</p>	
<p>2. Any other relevant information?</p>	
<p>3 Considering all the known information, is it safe to run a group with this cohort?</p> <p>Please provide reasons for your answer</p>	

Section C: Venue assessment

What is the nature of the risk?	Information
<p>1. Does the venue have a specific risk assessment / plan and relevant insurance?</p> <p>Please ensure you insert / attach the completed document to this tool.</p>	
<p>2. Is the venue suitable for the cohort considering the individual and group assessments?</p> <p>Consider:</p> <p>a) At the venue what is the procedure for calling help in an incident/ emergency.</p> <p>b) What other staff will be on the premises when group is run.</p>	

<p>c) Are they able to assist if there is an incident/emergency What is the location like (including outside spaces)?</p> <p>d) Good visibility, CCTV etc.</p> <p>e) Other activities that take place at the same time at the venue / in the area?</p> <p>f) Diversity issues?</p> <p>g) What members of the public could be in the area?</p> <p>h) Are there any breakout spaces?</p> <p>i) Venue staff have a good awareness of working with adolescents in contact with Youth Justice and the programme etc.?</p> <p>j) Is the venue located near to other places that could be attractive to the cohort and / or other children? For example, fast food restaurants or free wifi hotspots.</p> <p>k) Other</p> <p>Please provide reasons for your answer.</p>	
<p>3. Is the room suitable for the cohort considering the individual and group assessments?</p> <p>Consider:</p> <p>a) Diversity issues</p> <p>b) Can others view into the room (and vice versa)?</p> <p>c) What route will the group need to take to get to the room when in the venue?</p> <p>d) Could other classes / activities be disturbed?</p> <p>e) Other</p> <p>Please provide reasons for your answer.</p>	

<p>4. Do the facilities match the requirements of the group? Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Toilets b) Refreshments c) Enough space in room to allow group members to move about as appropriate d) Evacuation exits e) First aider f) Any other diversity issues g) Other <p>Please provide reasons for your answers</p>	
<p>5. Considering all the information, is the venue and room suitable to run FLATS from? Please provide reasons for your answer.</p>	

Section D: Transport assessment

What is the nature of the risk?	Information
<p>1. Does the transport method have a specific risk assessment / plan and relevant insurance? Please ensure you insert / attach the completed document to this tool.</p>	
<p>2. What transport arrangements are in place to take the cohort to and from the venue (please also consider transport for any planned activities)?</p>	

<p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What happens if the session finishes earlier / later than planned. b) An individual child needs to leave early c) Public transport is not running (bad weather etc.) d) Timetable e) Transport does not arrive f) Child wants to be dropped off in a different place to agreed location. g) Children want to travel together h) Accident happens on route i) Child displays unacceptable behaviour on transport j) Other 	
<p>3. Considering all the information, is it safe to transport children to and from FLATS? Please provide reasons for your answer.</p>	

Section E Group activities assessment

What is the nature of the risk?	Information
<p>1. Does the activity provider have a specific risk assessment / plan and relevant insurance? Please ensure you insert / attach the completed document to this tool.</p>	
<p>2. Other members of the public at the venue. Consider:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Who else may be there based on time / day of activity? b) Location of activity c) Parental / caregiver consent d) Diversity issues – suitable for all group members? e) What additional staffing is required? f) How will individual and group behaviour be managed? g) Other 	
<p>3. Considering all the information, is the activity suitable for the group? Please provide reasons for your answer.</p>	

Section F: Any other assessments that need to be undertaken

Please populate as appropriate

What is the nature of the risk?	Information
<p>Considering all the information, it is suitable? Please give reasons for your answer</p>	

CONTROL MEASURES

Section G: Control measures for Section A individual child

Please copy and paste this box to reflect the number of children you are considering for FLATS

Suggested control measures	How often? Time needed?	Comments
<p>Intelligence checks made:</p> <p>Youth Justice Y/N</p> <p>Police Y/N</p> <p>Child Exploitation co-ordinator or similar Y/N</p> <p>Education Y/N</p> <p>Social Care Y/N</p> <p>Accommodation Provider Y/N</p> <p>Parent / caregiver Y/N</p> <p>Other?</p> <p>Please consider pre, during and post group</p>		
<p>Searches to be undertaken Please specify details (when, where, how, frequency and by whom? What action will be taken if something illegal found, such as drugs? etc.)</p>		

<p>Handheld detection wand / knife arch Please specify details (when, where, how, frequency and by whom? What action will be taken if a weapon is found? Etc.).</p>		
<p>Training / coaching to be provided to facilitators by psychologist (or other, please state) to plan how individual behaviours will be managed (including any areas identified in the pre course questionnaires). Please state what specific strategies will be used</p>		
<p>Relationship / rapport building Please state how the facilitator will undertake this</p>		
<p>Complete <u>safety mapping</u> exercise with child</p>		
<p>How will issues of diversity be managed? Please state what specific strategies will be used</p>		
<p>Other measures Please state what specific strategies will be used</p>		

Section H: Control measures for Section B Group Dynamics

Suggested control measures	How often? Time needed?	Comments
<p>Training / coaching to be provided to facilitators by psychologist (or other, please state) to plan how group behaviours will be managed. Please state what specific strategies will be used</p>		
<p>Group members discussed at relevant multi-agency risk meeting Please specify if cohort undertaking FLATS and associated activities supported by partners and reasons.</p>		
<p>Complete <u>peer group mapping exercise</u></p>		
<p>Facilitator's ratio to children</p>		
<p>Agreement that children do not post on social media (live streaming, location tagging etc.) when on FLATS or associated activities are running in real time.</p>		
<p>Facilitators to monitor for changes in group dynamics throughout all interactions and raise any concerns to</p>		

<p>a Youth Justice Service Manager and psychologist immediately if there are serious concerns, or as soon as practicable.</p>		
<p>Facilitators have a safety word to indicate if a session needs to be ended due to any concerns. This should be a rehearsed procedure for doing this and know what to do should the word be used (pre-planned reason to stop session).</p>		
<p>How will issues of diversity be managed? Please state what specific strategies will be used</p>		
<p>Other measures Please state what specific strategies will be used? For example, manager on call?</p>		

Section I: Venue control measures for Section C Venue assessment

<p>Suggested control measures</p>	<p>How often? Time needed?</p>	<p>Comments</p>
<p>Visit the venue, group room, outside space etc. at different times, including times you intend to run the session. Please state what days / times you will visit and what areas</p>		

Hold regular meetings with venue to ensure they have not identified any concerns Please state what is agreed		
Speak with staff at the venue and agree responses to any inappropriate behaviours.		
CCTV measure in place Please state where and whether operational		
Other measures Please state what specific strategies will be used		

Section J: Transport control measures for Section D Transport assessment

Section D Transport assessment Suggested control measures	How often? Time needed?	Comments
Facilitators can make alternative arrangements for transport for any child should any issues arise Please state what the arrangements are and in what circumstances		
Facilitators do not drive any child without another professional being with them		

<p>Please state the reason a facilitator would need to transport a child</p>		
<p>Transport arrangements do not take child through areas that are unsafe for them Please state what areas child should not be taken through and what arrangement have been made. For example, instructions to taxi firm</p>		
<p>Safety advice / plan to be produced as part of safety mapping Please state what specific strategies will be used. For example, keep care door locked, driver to park in visible areas with CCTV, First Aid Kit in vehicle, child taken to bus stop and waited with till bus arrives etc.</p>		
<p>Other measures Please state what specific strategies will be used</p>		

Section K: Activities control measures for Section E Activities assessment

<p>Section: E Group activities assessment Suggested control measures</p>	<p>How often? Time needed?</p>	<p>Comments</p>
<p>Visit the activity provider and view any spaces the cohort will be etc. Please state what days / times you will visit and what areas. Is there CCTV, suitable exit routes etc.</p>		

<p>Checks to be made with activity provider about other groups of children who may attend on same date / time. Consideration should be given to arranging the activity in quiet times</p>		
<p>Other measures Please state what specific strategies will be used. For example, activity provider has insurance for activity provided. Is properly skilled/qualified to provide activity.</p>		

Section L: Other assessment control measures for Section F Other Assessment

<p>Section F Other assessment Suggested control measures</p>	<p>How often? Time needed?</p>	<p>Comments</p>
<p>Other measures Please state what specific strategies will be used</p>		

Section M: Existing policies / procedures

<p>In addition, please specify what existing policies / procedures you will also be following. For example, Lone Working, Undertaking Home Visits, Health and Safety (including that your organisation has adequate insurance and public liability etc.).</p>
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Section N: Conclusions

Considering all the known information, are the arrangement in place adequate to run a safe FLATS group? Please provide reasons for your answer

Assessment and plan agreed date	
Signed Manager/s	

Review date	
Changes to above plan and reasons	
Signed Manager / s	

Review date	
Changes to above plan and reasons	

Signed Managers	

Review date	
Changes to above plan and reasons	
Signed Managers	

This tool is a product of the County Lines Pathfinder, an initiative funded by the Youth Justice Board.

