



ANDERIDA ADOLESCENT CARE

YOUNG PEOPLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

PROCEDURE

PREPARATION FOR GOING TO SCHOOL

Day Before:

- Remind young person that they have school tomorrow, discuss from the principle that you believe they will intend (expecting this makes it more likely the young person will comply).
- Prepare young people for what they have on, refer to timetable, contact the educational coordinator/school if you need confirmation of anything to be prepared before approaching this with young person.
- Paint a positive picture of the school by expressing that “everyone will be really glad to see you, you’ve got such an interesting day planned at the farm,” etc.
- Ensure equipment/ uniform / overalls / packed lunch is prepared. Encourage students to do this but offer help and make suggestions. Ensure that lunch items are included on shopping lists.
- Ensure arrangements for young person getting to school are all in place.
- Ensure you do all the above regardless of the young person’s commitment to attending. This sends a clear message that we do not think school is negotiable; not attending is not an option!

Night-Time:

- Follow current guidelines in place for settling individual young people.
- Inform and remind young person what time they will be knocked.
- Where appropriate remind the young person to set their alarm.
- Continue painting positive picture of school.

Morning:

- Carers up.
- Ensure breakfast is available, where appropriate take a drink and breakfast into the young person’s room.
- Knock young people with enough time to have breakfast and get ready to leave for school on time.
- Tell them that breakfast is on the table if not in their room.
- Join young people for breakfast.

Where young people are regular school attenders, the home will ensure that they are rewarded and praised for their attendance, and that mentors celebrate their achievements and encourage the

attendance at school celebrations of their significant others. In addition to their positive reinforcement schemes, small gestures to be used to encourage further engagement.

When knocking on the door to encourage a young person to get up we should be saying things like:

- You need to be getting up.
- You need to get up for school.
- We are ready to go and will be waiting in the car.
- I've left your overalls outside the door.
- Here is a fresh towel ETC.

It is very important that we do not ask 'Are you going to school?' School is compulsory, and the option should not be given. Be very aware at all stages how you are discussing school. If at any point you inadvertently ask a young person whether they are attending school e.g. 'you will go tomorrow, **won't you?**' rather than simply stressing they must be at school, the young person will hear it as a question and may make the decision not to go. If you hear your colleagues slip into the wrong kind of phrases help them by alerting them to this.

If the young person is a persistent non-attender this can sometimes feel wearing and repetitive and all carers need to try hard not to show signs that they are deflated, powerless or have given up, as this will reflect how the young people will feel about themselves and school. Remain **assertive and caring** demonstrating to the young people that you are completely expecting they will attend school and shocked/baffled that they should even consider not going an option. The more we genuinely believe that young people do not have a choice to not attend school, the more we are going to gradually change the young person's attitude to education.

Young people are truanting if they do not attend.

ONGOING SCHOOL TIME PROTOCOL

The above should continue throughout the school day. Young people should be able to attend school all the way up until their last lesson which is 14:00. By not attending school the young person is truanting and they should be told this. They will be reported as AWP if they leave the home and may be picked up by the police for being absent from the home/school without permission.

If young people are leaving the home during education, they should be followed and encouraged to go to school. You can discuss how much better the day would be if they were at school where they are supposed to be rather than being followed round the streets.

POST SCHOOL TIME PROTOCOL

After 3pm carers should still be asking young people why they did not go to school using questions like the restorative questions. Mentors should be ensuring that their support plan is followed regarding consequences (e.g. no privileges or wifi) and NVR action is taken through campaigns, the support network or further NVR interventions planned.

The style of questioning should be restorative:

- What happened?
- What were you thinking when you decided not to go to school?
- What were you feeling when you decided not to go to school?
- What could you do to ensure that you go in tomorrow?
- What could we do to help you wake up?

If you get a positive outcome to these questions where the young person seems intent on going the next day, explore how you can help them still feel this motivated in the morning as good intentions can get lost on a cold early morning!

The responsibility for knocking and encouraging young people should be shared and all carers should be doing the same. Avoid showing frustration or desperation when knocking young people.

GENERAL

If late night TV or games on tablets and mobile devices seem to be a significant contributory factor to not getting up/non-attendance, please consider as a team and discuss with young people how we have and may suspend access to games. This could involve net nanny, removal of televisions and tripping power switches after bedtime.