

Coventry Intranet

Spotlight on... The Multisystemic Therapy team

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Spotlight on is the feature where we shine a spotlight on some of the hard and often unseen work that teams around the Council do.

This week's team in the spotlight is... **the Multisystemic Therapy team.**

The Multisystemic Therapy team (MST) are made up a multi-agency collaboration between Social Care, NHS CAMHS (Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services) and YOS (Youth Offending Services). The team runs a family-focused and community-based treatment programme for juvenile offenders and violent youth.

The team can be a vital support for those young people aged 11-17 years who are assessed as being 'at the edge of care'. This means that they are at risk of being placed in care or custody due to offending or severe behavioural problems.

The goal of the team is to break the cycle of anti-social behaviours by keeping young people safely at home or school and out of trouble. They achieve this by increasing the skills and resources of the parents and carers to manage their young person's behaviours more effectively.

The team focuses on the world of young people, including their homes, families, schools, teachers, neighbourhoods and friends. The team regularly visit families and work with them, as well as the other people in a young person's life, several times a week for three to five months.

They then begin working with parents and carers to empower them with the tools and resources to manage the young person's behaviours, increase young people's engagement with and success in education training, promote positive activities, improve family relationships and tackle any underlying problems that the young person or the family may have, such as substance misuse.

Sandra Kerr, who is the Service Manager for North West Children's Social Care and the Operational Manager of the MST, recently won two awards for all her hard work.

Dr Lucy Brennan (MST Supervisor and Forensic Psychologist) said "we are really proud of Sandra's achievements. She has been instrumental in the success of the team and Coventry's MST outcomes speak for themselves, achieving this award is recognition by the MST community of Sandra's commitment and hard work".

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