

Think Family and West Sussex Scouts

Guidance for leaders and managers in Scouting

Sept 2014 v3



What is 'Think Family'?

Think Family is a programme that provides a key worker who is able to support the whole family in tackling challenges and difficulties and provides practical support to help the family achieve personally agreed goals.

Think Family works with families who are experiencing problems relating to:

- Crime – young people in crime and anti-social behaviour
- Education – children not in school or with poor attendance
- Worklessness – adults on out-of-work benefits, and/or
- Experiencing health and social issues.

The programme is led by West Sussex County Council in partnership with Sussex Police, Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust and the local Borough/District Councils. More information can be found at westsussex.gov.uk

Once a family is well on its way to achieving its goals and the key worker is starting to step back, the family is encouraged to think about longer term plans and goals. This is where Scouting comes in.

Think Family are partnering with clubs and organisations across West Sussex that could provide ongoing support and positive activities that can help families build new skills and increase their confidence.



How can Scouting help?

Scouting equips young people with practical skills and valuable life experiences, just the type of experiences children from the Think Family programme could benefit from. From June 2014, keyworkers will be able to support parents/ guardians to refer their child to try out Scouting. Referrals will be managed by a member of the District Team and will contact Scout Groups as and when a young person living locally is interested in getting involved.

All Scout Groups are requested to make a space for the child as soon as practically possible; in some situations this may mean creating an extra place rather than placing the child on a waiting list. This is important to help ensure the positive work started by the key worker is maintained and provides the young person with positive role models and influences.

Some families will never have considered Scouting for their children, it may not be in the families culture to engage with community groups and wider society, and there may not be other support mechanisms in place (relatives living nearby and friends to help with child care, take child on outing etc), so please bare this in mind when talking to those children and parents/guardians referred via the Think Family programme.

What support is available to help?

Financial help

A grant has been provided by the Think Family programme to West Sussex Scouts. The purpose of this fund is to help support these children whilst members of Scouting. This is a two year project with an option to extend should additional funds be available.

The grant can be used to cover the cost of uniform, subs, trips and camps. The family should be encourage to pay something towards these costs, however Groups should apply for the remaining money to ensure these children can participate in all the activities offered by the section/Group.

To access this fund please request an application form via think.family@westsussexscouts.org.uk

Practical help

County and District team members are aware of this partnership, so please contact the relevant ADC or District Leader in the first instance to talk about any concerns.

Leaders are welcome to attend a Module 15: Challenging Behaviour again if they need a refresh or new methods on how to manage any challenging behaviour presented. Leaders are encouraged to ensure their Safeguarding Awareness training is up to date and are reminded of the 'code of behaviour' contained on the ['Young People First' code of practice](#) (yellow card).

Details of the key worker will be made available when the child is referred, leaders can contact this person if they feel it appropriate.

Leaders are reminded of the rules and guidance regarding the formal suspension of youth members; [POR: Chapter 15](#) and [Factsheet FS140101: Guidance on the formal suspension of youth members](#).

Parents as helpers

Groups should engage with the parents/guardians in the same way as for all other members. If the key worker is aware of any reason a parent should not be involved in Scouting this information will be disclosed as part of the referral. All the usual safeguarding and disclosure check processes apply, so continue to follow these as normal.

Monitoring Success

In order to monitor the success of our partnership with Think Family we are required to provide a termly report, including data about the number of referrals, those that join, leave, length of engagement and funding issued.

To help with this reporting all Scout Groups are asked to keep the County Administrator think.family@westsussexscouts.org.uk.