

## BREW PROJECT

### Referral Acceptance Criteria

**Brew Project Overview:** This is an early intervention and preventative service for young people aged 5-17 experiencing mild-moderate mental health and wellbeing issues.

Invictus Wellbeing is committed to making every effort to work with each and every young person referred to the Brew Project. Unfortunately, there are certain circumstances where we may not accept referrals because:

- a) we feel it is unsafe for us to work with the young person or
- b) we feel it is inappropriate and/or unethical for us to work with a young person.

All referrals are examined on a case by case basis but are less suitable for our intervention if:

Criteria	Justification
There is ongoing high risk of <b>suicidal ideation</b> , either historic or recent escalation, repeated attempts to take life, or if a serious attempt to end life has been made in the <b>last 6 months</b>	In these circumstances, young people's lives may be in danger and as per NICE guidelines, there should be a calculated safety plan implemented by NHS and Social Care teams in a multidisciplinary approach.
Current or in the last 6 months involvement of <b>CAMHS crisis team</b> or <b>ongoing mental health intervention</b> , including through CAMHS, private therapy or other.	Whilst we aim to work alongside other professionals, we also adhere to the BACP ethical framework. This framework clearly states that simultaneous interventions can be damaging and confusing for the client.
Moderate to severe self harming behaviours <b>AND</b> refusal to make/follow safety plan/no engagement with other services.	<p>Our staff are trained to work with young people who self harm. However, we are a non-clinical service and cannot support or manage young people whose self harm and/or lack of self care is putting them at risk of significant or sustained harm and/or death.</p> <p>For further information, please read <a href="#">Self-harm: assessment, management and preventing recurrence - NICE Guidelines (2023)</a></p>

<p>Ongoing displays of <b>violence towards professionals</b>.</p>	<p>We have a duty to keep our staff and volunteers safe. Whilst we want to work with all young people, our staff are not trained in working with physically abusive or violent individuals. Due to our work being 1:1 or in peer groups, we may not be able to work with young people who have previously been violent or aggressive to others.</p> <p>We therefore will assess whether we believe a CYP and our staff/volunteers will be safe in all settings and where required, create risk assessments to ensure safety i.e. another practitioner will be next door, safety alarms in the rooms etc.</p> <p>We reserve the right to refuse access to our support and premises to any individual who is violent or physically aggressive towards our staff and volunteers.</p>
<p>Involvement or links with <b>criminal activity</b>, especially linked to OCG / gangs / violent or sexual offences and animal cruelty.</p>	<p>Our wellbeing sessions are always confidential as per the BACP Ethical Framework.</p> <p>However, in the case of preventing or mitigating significant harm, we may need to inform the Police, Social Services or other relevant agencies if a crime or future crime is disclosed during sessions. Likewise, we may need to break our confidentiality agreement due to court orders, child protection matters, vulnerable adult matters, subpoenas, parental consent (without CYP consent), statutory obligations; such as disclosures of acts which are illegal as per the Terrorism Act (2000), the Drug Trafficking Act 1994, Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 or the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 etc.</p> <p>Therefore on a case-by-case basis we will assess prior information and consult with professionals around each CYP to understand the appropriateness of our support and whether the young person fully understands and can consent to our confidentiality agreements.</p> <p>For further information, please read <a href="#"><u>Managing Confidentiality within the counselling professions. BACP (2024).</u></a></p>

<p>Symptoms of mental health illness requiring specialist mental health support e.g. psychosis, schizophrenia, diagnosed eating disorders.</p>	<p>Invictus Wellbeing wants to offer support to any CYP who wants to engage with our service. However, we must see ourselves as one part of a larger partnership and system. There are clear guidelines for the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of conditions such as schizophrenia in children and adolescents. This is a statutory responsibility of CAMHS or the early intervention in psychosis service in each ICB place. Their statutory responsibility includes assessment with a consultant psychiatrist and ongoing support for up to three years.</p> <p>We may be able to work alongside or after a statutory offer in a multidisciplinary approach, but this should be discussed with our clinical lead and service manager in advance before a referral is made.</p> <p>For further information, please read <a href="#"><u>Psychosis and schizophrenia in children and young people - NICE Guidelines (2015)</u></a></p>
<p><b>Complex Trauma</b> - this is defined as, 'traumatic experiences involving multiple events with interpersonal threats during childhood or adolescence. Such events may include abuse, neglect, interpersonal violence, community violence, racism, discrimination and war' (UK Trauma Council, 2025).</p>	<p>The Brew Project is an early intervention and preventative service for young people experiencing mild to moderate wellbeing issues.</p>

### Process for not accepting referrals:

- Invictus will have a discussion with the referrer/parent carer/CYP as soon as possible to information gather on referral details, involvement of other services etc.
- Invictus Clinical Lead & Service Manager will discuss suitability in line with Risk Criteria.
- If not suitable for Brew Project intervention but in need of more specialist support, Invictus will contact parent/carers and explain we can assist with signposting.
- Invictus will send a discharge letter to parent/carers explaining the reasons for not accepting the case at this time.