

Questions to Ask when Designing Youth at Risk Interventions (Dawes, A. & Van der Merwe, A. 2006)

- Does my programme have clearly, articulated objectives, appropriate activities linked to these objectives, and clear indicators for the assessment of progress and outcome?
- Is my intervention design and delivery informed by the relevant research evidence regarding the group of offenders with whom I work, and for whom my intervention is designed? Is it based on contemporary understandings of the causes of criminal conduct in children and adolescents?
- Are my participants assessed individually prior to the intervention?
- Have I assessed the needs of my participants and have I taken into account the risk factors that pertain to each child? How have I done this?
- Have I assessed the child's motivation for participation? Does my intervention take this into account?
- Are my assessments reliable and can they be used at the end of the intervention to measure whether the desired outcomes have been achieved?
- Can I show (concretely) how my intervention addresses the needs of the participants and the desired programme outcomes?
- Does my intervention target those characteristics of participants and their circumstances that, when changed, will lead to a reduction in their criminal conduct?
- Are my staff trained to do the job they do?
- Does my staff receive support and ongoing mentoring as part of their work?
- Do the interpersonal styles of my staff match participants' learning style?
- Do I have a system for monitoring programme delivery and for recording each activity completed by the participant?
- How do I measure programme outcomes? Are my outcome goals realistic?
- When I evaluate my programme, have I incorporated some form of control such as waiting list control groups where no-treatment control groups cannot be recruited for ethical and/or practical reasons?
- How do I measure impact?
- Is there an opportunity for the participants to be followed-up after the termination of my intervention? How does follow-up occur and who does it?