



Government of Bermuda
Ministry of Youth, Community, Culture and Sports

**Department of Child and Family Services
Office of the Director**

TO: The Minister of Community Culture and Sport
The Honourable Patricia Gordon-Pamplin, JP, MP

FROM: The Director of Child and Family Services
Alfred Maybury

DATE: June 17, 2015

Parliamentary Question – Answers

- 1. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House as to the aims and objectives of the "High Risk Program" in the Department of Child and Family Services which was in operation during financial year 2014 /15?*

Answer: In August 2010, approval was granted for the creation of four (4) temporary additional positions to meet the increasingly complex demands on the Department of Child & Family Services, for intensive assessment and intervention with high risk families. In November 2010, in response to increasing occurrences of antisocial behaviour involving adolescents, Government recognized that the country needed more socially conscious and specialized interventions that recognised the symptomatic nature of much of the anti-social behaviour that was becoming prevalent in our community. As a result, a High Risk Adolescent Intervention Team was implemented through a realignment of the duties of the four (4) temporary additional positions within the Department of Child & Family Services. The four (4) temporary additional positions allowed the Department to restructure personnel resources to meet the remit of the government.

The High Risk Intervention Team provided intervention for youths and their families who are confronted with imminent danger such as violence, threats and/or conflicts that jeopardize the child and/or the family safety. They are an integral component of the Department of Child & Family Services strategic plan in providing enhanced services to meet this community need. The High Risk Intervention Team has also provided post incident trauma council to families affected by firearm shootings and other traumatic incidents.

The primary aims and objectives of the team were to;

- Decrease deviant trajectory by providing direct intervention and prevention, whilst providing education and support for their families.
- Engaging high risk populations by way of the Outreach High Risk Model; through intensive case management.
- Identify gaps in accessing appropriate resource opportunities and assist in youth achievement

2. *Will the Honourable Minister Please inform this Honourable House as to how many young Bermudians were enrolled in the "High Risk Programme" in the Department of Child and Family Services prior to March 31, 2015?*

Answer: Prior to March 31, 2015, 26 percent of referrals to the Department of Child & Family Services for family assessment/intervention fell into the High Risk Behavioural category - children involved in or suspected to be involved in gang related activities and behaviour beyond parental control. 75 percent of these clients had confirmed gang affiliations and 89 percent presented with significant behaviour beyond parental control.

At the end of September 2014 a more specialized team from other areas within the Department was assembled to give increased support to the young people who were finding themselves at a significantly higher risk than had previously been seen, and required more intensive services. Between October 2014 and December 2014, twenty-seven (27) referrals were made to this Intensive High Risk Team, two (2) withdrew from the program. By March 31, 2015 there were thirty two (32) young people actively involved in the program.

3. *Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House as to how many young Bermudians are currently enrolled in the "High Risk Programme" in the Department of Child and Family Services as of June 10, 2015?*

Answer: As a result of programme re-alignment there are no children enrolled in the High Risk Program, within the Department of Child and Family Services. Young people seeking assistance are able to receive counseling and lifeskill services through Bermuda Youth Counseling Services.