

ORGANISED BY:



Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE



IN SUPPORT OF:



CONVERSATIONS ON YOUTH 2023

YOUTHS MATTER AMIDST CHANGE



Strengthening Community Support to Prevent Offending, Re-offending and Enhance Reintegration

National Committee on
Prevention, Rehabilitation and Recidivism (NCPR)
Conversations On Youth 2023

27 September



OVERVIEW OF THE NCPR

- Steer national efforts to prevent offending, re-offending and enhance reintegration of ex-offenders
- Co-chaired by Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of National Development and Mr Eric Chua, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development & Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth



PAST ACHIEVEMENTS OF NCPR

Family and Parenting Work

- Strengthened families' role in preventing offending, re-offending and inter-generational offending throughout entire continuum of offending, rehabilitation & reintegration through
 - Early identification of risk/ needs among affected families and children
 - Better support for family and children in the community
 - Family – centricity in re-integrating offenders and their families

Education, Employment and Upstream measures

- Reviewed and improved early identification, preventive interventions and seamless support for at-risk students and youths through
 - Focusing on upstream measures to target at-risk children
 - Developing strategies to provide seamless support for non-progressors and out-of-school youths

Offender Programmes & Intervention

- Strengthened rehabilitation and reintegration efforts to prevent reoffending
- Addressed various gaps identified in relation to capability, programme/capacity and information/data sharing.

CURRENT AREAS OF FOCUS

Breaking the cycle
of
intergenerational
offending

Preventing
substance abuse

Preventing youth
sexual offending



Focus Area 1: Breaking the cycle of intergenerational offending



PATTERN OF INTERGENERATIONAL OFFENDING

21.6% prevalence rate of second-generation offending amongst children with drug-abusing parents

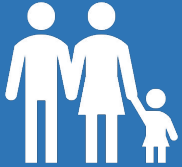
~ Prisons' study in 2019

Children exposed to parental criminality are **3 times as likely** to have contact with the criminal justice system

~ MSF's INTRACs study in 2020



PARENTAL CRIMINALITY IMPACTS CHILDREN IN MULTIPLE WAYS AND THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS CAN BE LONG-TERM



Disruptions to caregiving, family life, forming stable family bonds/ attachment



Disruptions to education, employment, placing economic stress on the family



Wide ranging negative effects on children across multiple domains such as social competence, language/cognitive skills, health/well-being



OPPORTUNITY #1: TODAY, THERE ARE MULTIPLE EFFORTS TO SUPPORT INMATES AND THEIR FAMILIES, BUT MORE CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE COORDINATION AMONGST VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS.

- Existing support services include (but not limited to) the Family Resource Centres, Family Service Centres, Yellow Ribbon Community Project, family programmes run by Social Service Agencies
- But inmates and their families may not be fully aware of the avenues for help. They may also have evolving and varied needs during the pre- and post-release stage.
- Key to facilitate early identification and holistic intervention for vulnerable families and children.



RECOMMENDATION 1: EXPAND SUPPORT TOUCHPOINTS AND IMPROVE COORDINATION

Mainstream the Singapore Prison Service (SPS) – Family Service Centre (FSC) collaboration

- Piloted in end 2020 and progressively expanded to more groups of inmates.
- Inmates whose families require assistance are referred to the FSC at the start of their incarceration.
- The referral process will now be expanded to all newly admitted inmates with young children. **01**

Enhance referral processes to Self Help Groups (SHGs)

- Currently, SPS refers inmates' families to SHGs based on inmates/families' requests or social workers' assessment.
- Moving forward, SPS will systematically refer inmates' families to SHGs for timely intervention and support. **02**

Support inmates to build and restore stable marital relationships

- Currently, inmates can request for assistance if they are undergoing marital issues.
- Moving forward, SPS will identify and refer inmates with marital issues to the Strengthening Families Programme @ Family Service Centre (FAM@FSC) for marriage and divorce support programmes and services as well as family counselling. **03**

OPPORTUNITY 2: TODAY, THERE ARE VOLUNTEERS AND BEFRIENDERS TO COMPLEMENT FSC AND SUPPORT INMATES' FAMILIES, BUT MORE ARE NEEDED TO SUPPORT MORE COMPREHENSIVE THROUGH-CARE AND OUTREACH.

- Inmates' families often require a suite of assistance as they may be experiencing various stressors.
- FSCs provide casework and in-depth interventions for families with multiple and complex risks/needs. Volunteers/befrienders play a complementary role in journeying with these families.
- But more volunteers/ befrienders are needed to support greater outreach, deepen linkages to grassroots networks of support, as well as facilitate more comprehensive through-care work with inmates' families.





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RECOMMENDATION 2: LEVERAGE VOLUNTEERS TO SUSTAIN SUPPORT TO FAMILIES



Increase awareness of the Yellow Ribbon Community Project and expand its volunteer base

- SPS will work with PA and SG Cares Volunteer Centres to create greater awareness of the Yellow Ribbon Community Project (YRCP) as well as recruit and expand the YRCP volunteer base.



Launch of family befriending initiative

- SPS and the Singapore Aftercare Association will pilot a voluntary family befriending initiative for selected first-time inmates and their families (with young children).

OPPORTUNITY 3: NEED FOR A MORE COORDINATED AND CLIENT-CENTRIC APPROACH

- Currently, there are many systems and programmes which might lead to multiple touchpoints with the same clients. Inmates' families might also find it difficult to navigate the whole landscape of services.
- There is a need to better streamline services targeted at inmates and their families through greater collaboration and data sharing. This will not only ensure they can access services in a more effective manner, but also translate into more holistic and coordinated support.



RECOMMENDATION 3: STREAMLINE SYSTEMS FOR A MORE CLIENT-CENTRIC APPROACH

01

Dovetail common functions so that impacted family members can receive comprehensive, convenient and coordinated support across multiple programmes/domains, including support specific to their family situation

02

Onboard key community partners onto system enablers (i.e. Case Connect) to allow easier case referrals and information sharing on clients.



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Focus Area 2: Preventing Substance Abuse among Youths





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RISING TREND OF YOUTH VAPING AND PERMISSIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS DRUGS



Rise in vaping trend among youths in Singapore



7 in 1,000 students caught for vaping/smoking offences over the past 3 years in 2021

4,916 caught for using and possessing e-cigarettes in 2022 – almost 4 times the number of people caught in 2020



More permissive attitudes towards drugs, particularly cannabis



50% new drug abusers arrested in 2022 were below age 30

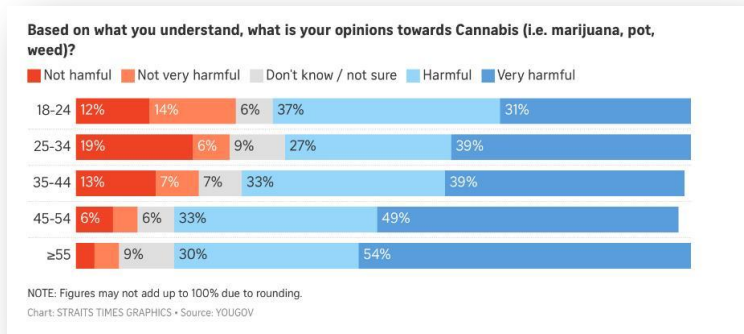
10% of new drug abusers arrested in 2022 were below age 20

RISING TREND OF YOUTH VAPING AND PERMISSIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS DRUGS



1 out of 5 youths agreed with the statement “Drug taking is fine as long as it doesn't affect others” – *Findings from the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) 2020 Youth Perception Survey*

26% of Singaporeans surveyed aged between 18 and 24 perceived cannabis to be not harmful or not very harmful - *Based on a survey of 1,055 Singapore residents conducted by YouGov in collaboration with the Straits Times (published on 13 Mar 2022)*

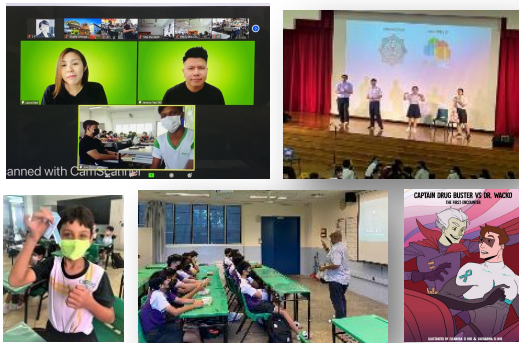


Curiosity and peer influence among top reasons for consuming drugs – *Findings from the Health & Lifestyle survey conducted by Institute of Mental Health*



EXISTING PREVENTIVE APPROACH AND UNIVERSAL PROGRAMMES TARGETED AT YOUTHS

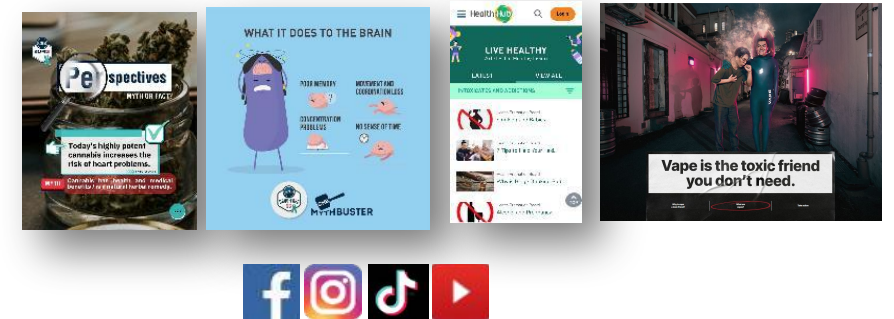
- Providing information to educate and deter youths
 - Promote healthy and constructive activities
- Engaging youths to empower them and foster sense of community



E.g. Assembly talks and exhibitions, skits, in-curricula learning, anti-drug ribbon folding activity, exhibitions, SANA Badge scheme



E.g. Community roadshows, peer-based programmes, peer-led projects, interest-based competitions



E.g. Online resources, apps, social media content



Campaigns to raise awareness, rally community support and reinforce anti-drug knowledge



Annual anti-drug abuse campaign

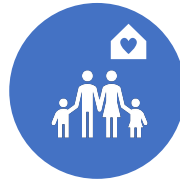
- Raise public awareness and rally support for a DrugFreeSG
- Anchor events include the DrugFreeSG Light-Up, pop-up events at public places
- Fringe events includes the school-based ribbon folding activity to engage students, ground-up initiatives by community partners and advocates



BUILDING SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION COMMUNITIES



Strengthen resilience, self-esteem and social bonds among youths in schools



Strong family and parental monitoring and support



Strong community and social support to reduce risk factors

- Preventing youth substance abuse requires a collaborative approach
- Whole-of society effort to build and sustain an effective ecosystem



RECOMMENDATION 1: AMPLIFY MESSAGES THROUGH PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS



Leverage more government platforms to amplify messages and empowering ground-up voices for stronger personal conviction



Do more with community partners





Amplify messages through public education efforts

HPB's Vape-Free Campaign targeted at youths

- Rolled out from Jan 2023 to Mar 2023
- Educate the public that vaping illegal (with consequences) and harmful to health
- Strategically targeted youths and young adults, through physical placements and media channels



Bus shelter advertisements (around schools)



MRT Station Wallscapes at Bugis MRT



The Unexpected Truth About VAPING!!! | TDK Podcast #191

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Talk show on Vaping (in collaboration with The Daily Ketchup)

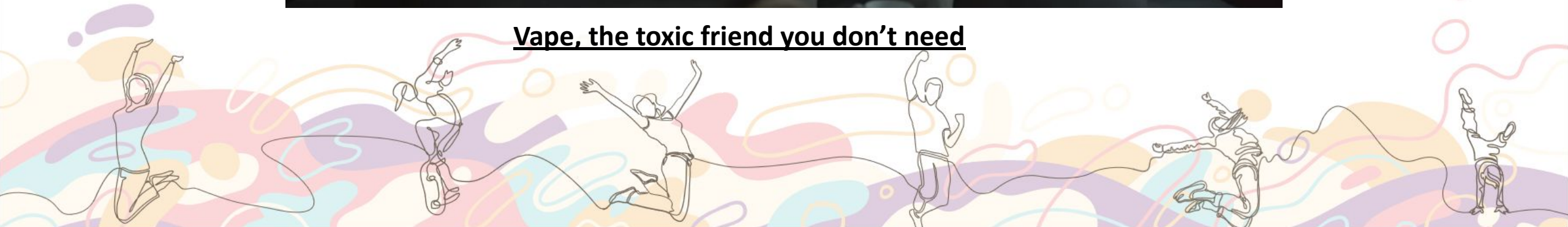


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Vape, the toxic friend you don't need





Leveraging more government platforms to amplify messages and empowering ground-up voices for stronger personal conviction

Enhancing Preventive Drug Education (PDE) in schools

- Institutionalise PDE programmes - All primary and secondary schools to conduct at least one PDE programme annually
- Infusing prevention into school curriculum and syllabus
- Enhancement and refreshment of PDE contents



Interactive skits



Classroom learning



Anti-Drug Ambassador Activity (AAA) Booklets



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Do more with community partners

CNB's annual campaign will rope in more community partners

- Community partners to champion ground-up initiatives in support of the campaign to raise awareness on the harms that drug abuse brings to abusers, their families and loved ones.
- Campaign content feature more personal stories to increase the audience's personal conviction against drugs.



Ground-up prevention activities and events led by community partners in support of the campaign



RECOMMENDATION 2: SHORE UP SOCIAL PROTECTIVE FACTOR FOR YOUTHS



Community as a social protective factor

- Community can do more to protect youths against substance abuse by building and enhancing social protective factors in other domains beyond preventive education
- Create a protective environment by promoting youth participation in constructive activities e.g. sports and civic engagement

Protective factors*

- Psychological and emotional well-being
- Personal and social competence
- Strong attachment to caring and effective parents, and to schools and communities that are well resourced and organised

**Known protective factors to drug abuse and other negative behaviours cited by United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime, 2015*





Community as a social protective factor

Leveraging SPF's Citizens on Patrol volunteers

- Joint training session with volunteers for SPF's Citizens on Patrol (COP) to sensitise them to the issue and equip them with the knowledge on what they can do if they encounter such incidents.
- Information on substance abuse weaved into the basic crime prevention training for COP members nation-wide.

Other Resources – Substance Abuse Prevention

- COP members may also help spread drug abuse prevention messages and strengthen awareness about substance abuse and its dangers during COP patrols
- If you come across any drugs, or suspicious drug activities, you should:
 1. Report to the Police or CNB (**1800-6325-6666**)
 2. Observe from a safe distance to ensure personal safety and avoid alarming the suspects
 3. If you are approached or challenged, do not engage further to steer clear from disputes or confrontations
- For more resources on substance abuse prevention, the **Preventive Drug Education Info Package** can be downloaded via the QR code on the right:

Learn more about Singapore's drug policy and laws, and how we can collectively help Singapore remain drug-free




PROTECTING OUR YOUTHS FROM SUBSTANCE ABUSE

CNB's and HPB's
preventive education
programmes &
resources

Interventions and
programmes address
protective factors
and reduce risk
factors

Community involvement and
support

SUSTAINED EFFORTS



Positive
prevention
outcomes





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Focus Area 3: Preventing Youth Sexual Offending



YOUTH SEXUAL OFFENDING IS A KEY CONCERN

Slight increase in the number of youths who committed outrage of modesty and rape offences from 2018 to 2021.

The ease of access and availability of sexually offensive materials has also garnered significant public attention.

Sexual offences bring deep psychological harm to its victims.



RECOMMENDATION 1: EARLY PREVENTIVE EDUCATION TO EMPOWER YOUTHS TO ATTAIN HEALTHY SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT AND PRACTISE SELF-PROTECTIVE SKILLS

- Currently, sexuality education is taught in the context of values and aims to help students develop positive self-identities and healthy relationships, and make responsible decisions on sexuality matters.
- More needs to be done to educate youths on current trends in youth sexual offending and sexual crime prevention to enhance current sexuality education efforts to allow youths to protect themselves against sexual offending as well as victimisation.





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Increase capabilities of professionals in managing concerns of pornography presented by youths

MHA, with support from MOE and MSF will develop practice guides and conduct training for practitioners on the concerns with pornography (i.e., porn literacy).

The content would include educating youths on the **inaccurate depiction of consent in porn, sexual violence, and deviant sexual scripts**, among other topics.

By training the professionals, at-risk youths who present with issues with pornography use may be identified and supported earlier to prevent offending.

Increasing understanding on personal safety and respect for boundaries amongst youths

SPF, with support from MOE, to deliver assembly talks to Institutes of Higher Learning on personal safety and respect for boundaries as prevention messaging for youths in secondary schools, Junior Colleges/Centralised Institute, and Institutes

MOE has revised relevant Character and Citizenship Education Primary and Secondary level lessons to include a stronger stance on 'saying no' and respecting boundaries in lessons, in addition to the already existing aspects about personal safety and building respectful relationships.

RECOMMENDATION 2: PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN SERVICE PROVISION AT MULTIPLE TOUCHPOINTS TO PREVENT SEXUAL OFFENDING AND RE-OFFENDING.

- Current responses to Youth Sexual Offending tend to be criminal justice interventions that occur only after the youth has engaged in sexual offending.
- Upstream education and prevention efforts must be enhanced, to complement efforts downstream and curb early sexual misconduct before it escalates to sexual offending.
- Early interventions, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts can co-occur at multiple touchpoints (e.g. schools, SSAs, families) to collectively prevent sexual offending and reoffending.





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Increase capabilities of professionals managing youths showing at-risk sexual behaviours

Early Identification and Intervention Resource Package for Youths with at-risk Sexual Behaviours.

Increase awareness and knowledge of community agencies in the rehabilitation of youth sexual offenders

Practice guides on rehabilitating youth sexual offenders (including those with intellectual disabilities or autism spectrum disorder) for community partners.

Strengthen capabilities and enhance service provision of suitable community agencies to support the rehabilitation and reintegration of youth sexual offenders in the community

Identify and train suitable social service agencies to support youth sexual offenders in the community.

Sharing of best practices amongst government agencies

Community of Professionals (COP) to continue conversations and collaboration on best practices in the prevention of youth sexual offending and re-offending.



RECOMMENDATION 3: PROVIDE STRONGER SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIC POPULATION.

- There is limited awareness on how to adequately support and intervene for specific populations with nuanced needs; youth victims of sexual crimes and individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) and autism spectrum disorder who present with at-risk sexual behaviours or sexual offending behaviours.
- There is a need to improve the capabilities of professionals and systems managing these specific populations to protect against further sexual victimisation and sexual offending.





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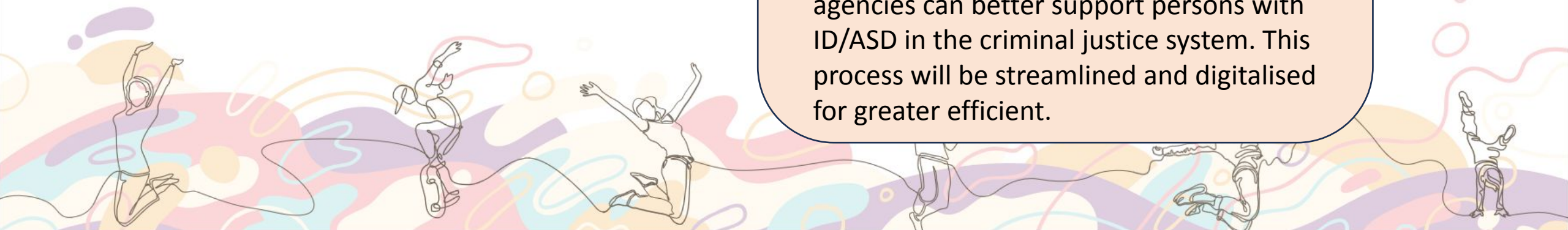
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Strengthen support for victims of youth sexual offences

Develop a resource guide and also train agencies on how to respond to, and support youth victims of sexual violence.

Increase rehabilitation efforts for youth sexual offenders with intellectual disabilities (ID) / autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

- Review how case management services may be enhanced to better support offenders with ID.
- Enforcement agencies have existing processes to check with MSF on the disability status of persons during their investigations, so that enforcement agencies can better support persons with ID/ASD in the criminal justice system. This process will be streamlined and digitalised for greater efficient.



CONCLUSION

- The various recommendations have been progressively rolled out by the relevant government agencies and partners.
- The NCPR will monitor the implementation progress and effectiveness of the various initiatives.





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