

National
Probation
Service



SHAFa

reducing reoffending
through positive
interventions

A Touchstone Service for the Rehabilitation of South Asian Offenders



WHAT IS SHAFI?

Shafi means renewal, restoration and healing in Urdu.

Touchstone's approach is to work with people who have offended from the South Asian community based on a recovery and strength based approach. Skilled and experienced paid staff will work with South Asian people who have committed offences to resettle them within their communities across West Yorkshire providing a comprehensive and unique range of consultancy and cultural interpretation services to the Probation Service, across West Yorkshire.

OUR FOCUS

Shafa is focused on complementing the work of the Probation Officer's to ensure People on Probation Service (PoPS) from South Asian backgrounds have better and relevant access to service provision.

Staff will work using Motivational Interviewing techniques to maximise successful outcomes and ensure their long-term impact. Probation Officers will refer appropriate individuals for 1:1 support and/ or Group work. Sessions will take place in Probation Offices across West Yorkshire as well as having scope to be delivered within the Community.

Touchstone Staff are derived from BME communities and will speak Urdu/ Punjabi/ Hindi/ Pashto thus enabling them to offer an informed culturally sensitive service. The service will also support the Probation Service rate card for high risk of harm service users as necessary. The support will include accessing local community and other resources, Employment Training and Education opportunities (including support to be job ready) , housing, family relationships issues, support to address substance misuse issues and also to facilitate attendance at the sessions where cultural issues may impact on this, e. g. Ramadan.

The Shafa service includes the role of a peer mentor to provide real and lived experience to support the process.

Workers will always take into account individual circumstances and have an awareness of all risk factors that may be present. We will also be working on the person's triggers for offending in the past, focusing in on attitudes, thinking skills, lifestyle contributors such as drugs and also the negative power of associates on a person's ability to change.

REFERRAL PROCESS

The Probation Officer will be required to complete a short referral form which will include basic details but in particular: identification of any risk issues, particularly safeguarding and lone working.

The form needs to be forwarded to the relevant Shafa Engagement Worker – details provided on the back page of this booklet.

A Shafa worker will discuss the case with the Probation Officer and it will be expected that the first appointment will be a 3 - way between the People On Probation (PoP's) , Engagement Workers and Probation Officer.

Information sharing expectations will be made clear to the People On Probation (POPS) prior and during Touchstone/Shafa engagement i.e. an escalation in reoffending and/ or risk of harm (Domestic Abuse, Safeguarding, Extremism, etc).

Please refer to relevant Shafa worker:

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