



Operational policy

Early intervention programme

Goal

To provide identified high-risk drivers with education and strategies that promote a change in their attitude and behaviour to prevent them from becoming recidivist traffic offenders.

Aims

- To change and/or modify participants' attitudes to driving.
- To provide strategies to modify skills, attitudes and behaviours.
- To enable participants to re-examine their attitudes and decisions about driving.
- To create awareness of road safety and road risks.
- To increase knowledge of road rules.

Priority (target) group

Drivers who are identified as high-risk through one or all of the following:

- crash statistics (eg high-risk demographic group)
- outstanding traffic fines
- community concern
- Police concern.
- traffic convictions

Contract delivery

Courses can be contracted directly to the Land Transport Safety Authority (LTSA), territorial local authorities or other organisations with an interest in achieving road safety outcomes for the target group.

Partnerships

Partnerships with key agencies and stakeholders are essential and will be considered prior to funding approval.

Length of courses

Courses take place over a period of several weeks. Usually six to 12 sessions are needed.

Content

For the early intervention course to be really effective, it is essential that it includes:

- a behavioural and cognitive approach (ie teaches certain skills such as new behaviour and thinking skills, and encourages their use by selective reward)
- an educational and practical skills focus
- role-modelling and reinforcement examples to teach skills
- a behavioural contract
- some parental/guardian participation, wherever possible
- a look at the influences of peers and family.

Courses should be culturally appropriate for the priority group.

Delivery methods

A variety of methods should be used and examples are detailed in the full operational policy document.

Facilitators/tutors

Facilitators/tutors should be chosen for their ability to relate to the participants. They will ideally have facilitation skills and experience in working with young people.

Systems/records

The name, driver licence number and dates attended must be kept for all participants.

Funding

Budget applications may include some or all of the following:

- facilitator/tutor fees
- venue fees
- expert speaker fees/expenses
- transport costs
- resources
- evaluation.

Monitoring

Monitoring will take place as part of the LTSA's contractual obligation as in Section 2 of the Community Road Safety Programme contract.

Evaluation

A programme report must be submitted to the LTSA at the end of the financial year or within a month of completion of the programme, whichever is sooner.

It would be beneficial to evaluate how effective this programme is in the long term. This could include ongoing monitoring of participants' re-offending rates or attitudinal surveys.

Guidelines and resources

These are listed in the full operational policy document.

Brief guidelines