

Supporting Young People Who Self Injure





'Self injury is a sign that something is bothering and upsetting you, not a sign that you are off your head'

Truth Hurts: Report into the National Inquiry into Self Harm Among Young People 2006

Contributory Factors



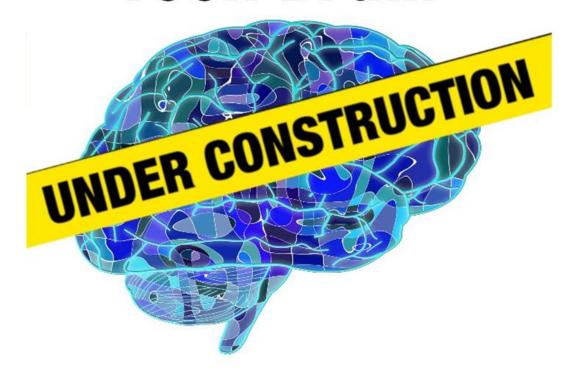
- Personal
- Family
- Social



Some Facts...



Teen Brain









- Relationships
- Bullying
- Trauma
- Exam pressure
- Expectations
- Family changes
- Identity



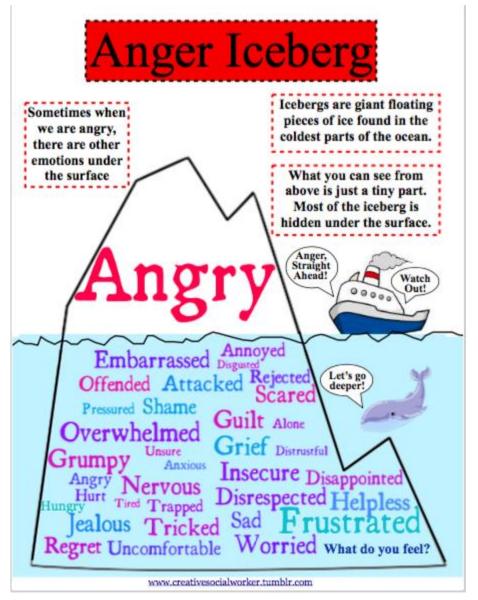
Warning Signs



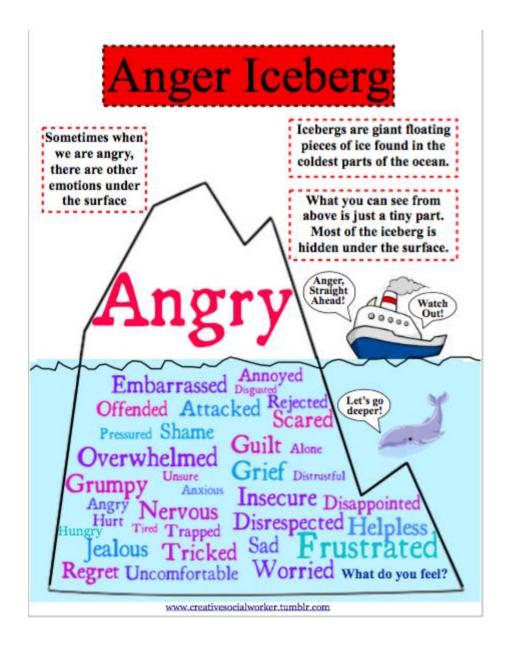
- Changes in behaviour
- Changes in eating/sleeping
- Increased isolation
- Changes in activity/mood
- Lowering of grades
- Expressing feelings of failure/hopelessness

Reasons young people say they self injure





Healthy Body, Healthy Mind



Healthy Body, Healthy Mind



One of our students explained...

"If the natural human wish is to avoid physical pain and it (i.e. self injury) is a coping mechanism, think how much pain you must be in mentally and emotionally to choose to inflict physical pain instead."



How do we respond?

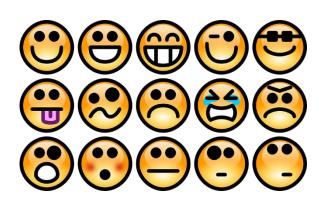
- Listening...
- Caring...
- Accepting...
- Helping...
- Safeguarding...
- Confidentiality...



Alternatives to self injury







Dealing with feelings

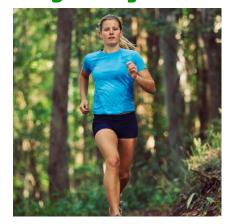




Healthy Body, Healthy Mind

Alternatives to self injury





Distraction







Healthy Body, Healthy Mind

Alternatives to self injury







Learning to problem solve



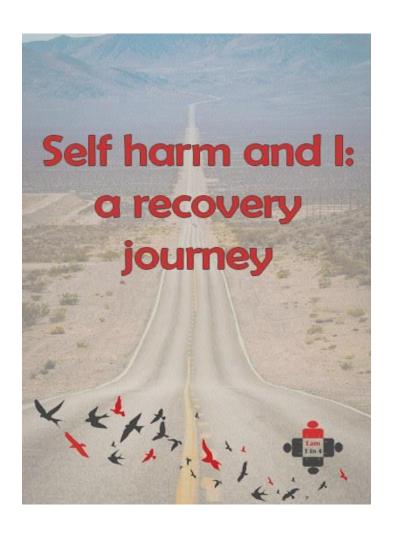






Recovering from self injury





In College...

- Pupil support and 1 2 1 meetings
- Listening
- Accompanying
- Encouraging self care:
 eating well, exercise,
 relaxation, balance in life
- Looking out for warning signs

Support Outside of College



For Students:

TESS – Text and email support services. www.selfinjurysupport.org.uk

Childline www.childline.co.uk 08001111

Off the Record www.otrbristol.org.uk

KOOTH – online counselling service for 11 – 18 year olds www.kooth.com

Calm Harm – mobile app

distrACT – mobile app

Young Minds - youngminds@ukonline.co.uk

For Parents:

MIND - parent information service www.mind.org.uk

Royal College of Psychiatry website 'You can Cope' leaflets

Oxford University help guide for parents on self harm

