

Intersections Story

Intersection was created by over 150 cross-sector partners that made up the Champlain Youth Justice Service Collaborative (CYJSC), part of the *Open Minds, Healthy Minds: Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy*.

Police in the Champlain region reported receiving calls for social service-related issues, ongoing crisis incidents, and mental health problems for children under 12. The community wanted to create an early intervention model that would help police redirect children and youth to the right services with the hope of reducing police contact in the future.

Looking at available evidence, the CYJSC narrowed down to three interventions. A model from the UK best aligned with the criteria set out by the group and was adapted to Champlain's unique needs.

The Intersections Worker listened to me and talked to my son. Yes, that was the biggest piece. And now we have help, and it is working. I could not be happier.

— Family member



For more information, contact Tania Breton, Justice Lead, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Provincial System Support Program at tania.breton@camh.ca



Right support, right provider, right time

FAQs



What is Intersections?

Intersections is an evidence-informed, early intervention program that focuses on navigation and coordination of services for young people who are at risk of becoming justice-involved. Intersections helps police redirect children, youth and their families to the right support, by the right provider, at the right time. *Intersections is not an alternative to diversion; not a way to fast track waiting lists; not a mandatory program; and, not a crisis response program.*

Who is it for?

Intersections is voluntary. It is for children and youth who come into contact with police, but police feel that their behavior isn't criminal. They likely require support around mental health, substance use, or may have developmental disabilities. A community that implements Intersections has flexibility in determining age groups and populations eligible for the program.



What are the benefits?



How does Intersections work?



Who should be involved in Intersections?

A strong cross-sector community partnership including people with lived experience, police, justice, education, mental health and addictions, primary care, child welfare, and priority populations. In addition, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's Provincial System Support Program can lend a wide variety of expertise to help with the successful implementation of Intersections.