

What is Headstart?

Headstart is a six-month full time attendance program tailored to meet the individual needs of youth. There is a maximum of five youth in the program at one time and youth are supervised at all times.

Headstart includes:

- Education
- Individual and group counselling
- Substance use counselling
- Life skills
- Recreation
- Independent living readiness (if appropriate)
- Employment readiness
- Healthy relationships

Family Care Homes

Youth reside with **family caregivers**. The caregivers provide ongoing positive support and supervision to youth while in Headstart.

Caregivers receive 24-hour support from the program.

Referral and Intake

Referral: Only a youth's Probation Officer can make a referral to Headstart. Referrals are accepted by fax: 250-286-6080 during regular business hours, Monday to Friday.

Screening: Each referral is screened for appropriateness. Screenings take place via conference call at regularly scheduled times. The screening committee consists of the referring Probation Officer (P.O.), two additional P.O.s, and the Headstart Program Manager and staff team members.

Intake: New youth are accepted into the program during regular hours Monday to Thursday.

Service Plan

Each youth will have a **Service Plan**. The youth participates in its development and in determining the goals that will be included.

Headstart Staff

The staff team consists of experienced, caring, and enthusiastic professionals!

Headstart has a full-time Teacher, two Key Workers, a Counselling Coordinator, and a Drug & Alcohol Counsellor.

The Key Worker is the youth's case manager, organizing meetings, helping to develop the Service Plan, and sharing information with the P.O. and any relevant professionals. The Headstart team also includes a **Family Resource Worker** and an after-hours **Activity & Supervision Worker**.

Program Outcomes

Possible outcomes:

Reconnection to school, improved family/peer relations, increase in pro-social behaviours, decrease in problematic substance use, job readiness, independent living readiness, and much more!

Headstart Full Time Attendance Program



Headstart Full Time Attendance Program is an alternative to custody for male youth ages 14-18.

While in the program, youth live in John Howard Society Family Care Homes. Headstart is open to young men living on Vancouver Island. Young men from other regions of the province may also be considered. Youth must be on a court order with a condition to attend an attendance program for at least six months. This program is funded by the Ministry for Children and Family Development.

Mission Statement

The John Howard Society of North Island is a charitable organization whose mission is to promote and foster safer and healthier communities by providing appropriate programs of rehabilitation, education, prevention and healing for those who need an opportunity to achieve, maintain or regain a balance within their communities.

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Headstart Full Time Attendance Program

**Building Safer and Healthier
Communities**

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