

The Risk Intervention Team

The Purpose of the Risk Intervention Team

The Risk Intervention Team was established in 2007 to support University staff who have concerns about students who may be a potential risk other students, to staff or to the teaching and learning environment.

The purpose of the Risk Intervention Team is to establish an effective structure within the University, able to identify and respond to students whose behaviour may be impacting on a number of areas across the University.

The intention of this co-ordinated approach is to enable services within the University to work together so that difficult situations can be constructively addressed before they escalate.

How the Team works

Those most likely to observe concerning behaviour are academic staff but they may be unaware of the impact of this behaviour in other areas of the University. It is therefore crucial that academic staff have a point of contact when they have concerns about particular students. The Proctor (proctor@auckland.ac.nz, 027 8393832) is the initial point of contact when concerns arise. Appropriate people within the team are immediately contacted as required, while taking care to ensure that the procedures followed safe-guard Privacy issues.

There have been numerous examples of situations in which staff in a School or Department have been concerned about the behaviour of a student, but unaware that other areas have also experienced similar problems with the student. When this information is co-ordinated, a much more rigorous response has been possible, often enabling Academic Head, managers or the Proctor, to communicate a very clear set of guidelines to the student in question, with warnings of possible consequences should these guidelines not be adhered to. In a number of situations, this action has been very effective in de-escalating difficult behaviour.

Composition of the team

The team consists of a small Core Group and a wider Network. The Core Group is:

- Proctor
- Manager, Security Services
- Counselling lead, University Health and Counselling Services
- Medical Lead, University Health and Counselling Services
- Manager Student Disability Services
- Associate Director, International Student Support Services.
- Member of the Auckland City Police Area Prevention Team

The Risk Intervention Network consists of the Student Development and Engagement Manager (or equivalent) from each Faculty, Assistant University Librarian Access Services, Accommodation Manager Campus Life, are involved as required, Student Contact and Support Manager, member from Examinations, member from School of Graduate Studies. Members of the Network are consulted confidentially about referrals to RIT and may be involved as appropriate in determining and carrying out management plans.

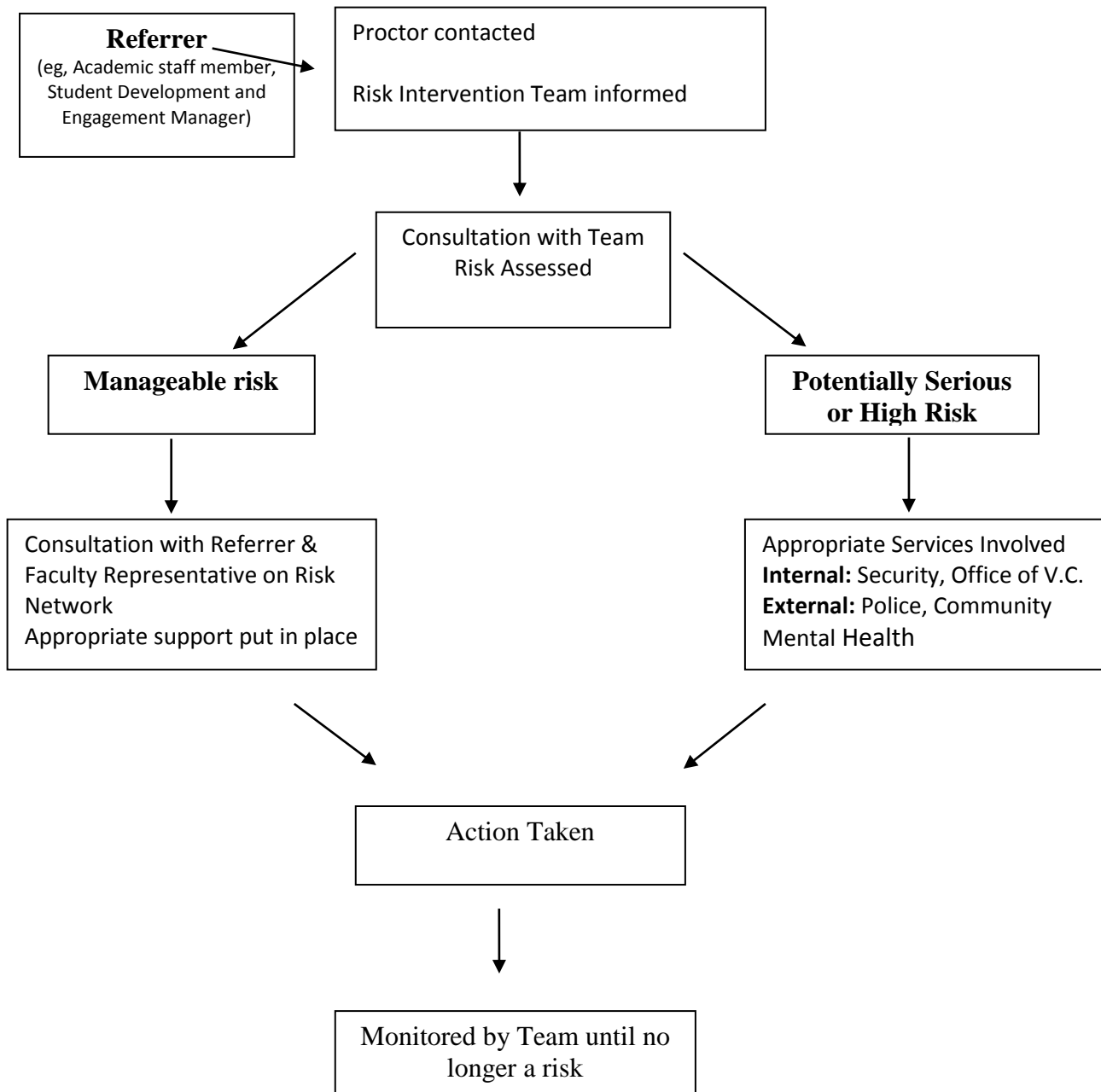
Referrals to the Team

- There have been, on average, 30 referrals per year.
- More recently, over half of these referrals have been by Academic staff.

The Most Frequently Presenting Issues

- Aggression/Threatening Behaviour
- Harassment/Stalking
- Serious Mental Health Issues
- Inappropriate Behaviour

The Referral Process*



* In situations of emergency or immediate risk, contact Security on 966 (Internal) or 0800 373 7550 (External), or Police on 111