

A Brief History of Off the Record

Off The Record (OTR) originally opened in 1992 to meet a gap in services for young people. A Coordinator, Administrator, and 9 Volunteer Counsellors were initially recruited and the project was officially opened in November 1992. The counselling team rapidly grew to meet demand, and a sexual health clinic also started up in 1993.

Over the years, we have expanded to provide a range of services to 11-24 year olds who live, work or study within the Borough of Richmond upon Thames

- Counselling, at the Church Street premises, and schools in the borough, employing around 23 counsellors
- A drop-in supported information service (run alongside the counselling)
- A sexual health clinic on Mondays
- Crisis counselling sessions on Monday and Wednesday evenings
- Satellite counselling services across the borough.

In the past we have also provided a Life Skills Programme in schools, and a legal advice service.

For a period OTR merged to form a bigger charity, the Richmond Youth Partnership, which also ran other projects. However, when this charity closed down through lack of funding in March 2013 Off The Record, having maintained its own restricted funding, moved forward once again to form a separate charity, now officially called Off The Record Twickenham.

In 2019 the focus at OTR is still on providing counselling, information and sexual health advice. The SH clinic is run in partnership with CLCH – Central London Community Healthcare Trust. OTR has won various borough and CCG tenders since July '14 to provide an expanded counselling services in youth service and other satellite venues. These are currently at The Greenwood Centre in Hampton, Whitton Youth Zone, Ham Youth Club, Essex House in Barnes, and at Heatham House Youth Centre, Twickenham.

Off The Record employs a full-time Counselling Manager and an Assistant Manager (part-time), supported by an Administrator (part-time) and an Financial and Statistics Administrator (part-time). They manage the service, run the drop-in service alongside the volunteer counsellors' appointments, and offer line-management supervision to a team of 23 counsellors. The counsellors' clinical supervision is provided by external counselling supervisors.

OTR is registered as a charitable company with a skilled and experienced Board of Trustees.