

## **Case Studies/Activities**

### **Chapter 13: Risk assessment**

#### **Commentary**

It is worth noting that outside the sphere of social work, people engage in what they would consider to be positive risk taking all the time. There are obviously very clear risks where a person climbs to a great height, ties a rope around his or herself and jumps towards the ground. Nevertheless, those engaged in risk-based pleasure seeking, although very much aware of the potential consequences of a bungy jump gone wrong, consider the potential benefits of stimulation and a sense of achievement to far outweigh the negatives. It can be argued that for adults out with the social work sphere, with full decision-making capacity, risk management is largely at the non-interventionist side of the spectrum. These principles have also been applied with some success to work with young offenders, where pleasure seeking can be viewed as at least one driver of offending or anti-social behaviour. By finding more constructive ways of risk seeking which do not constitute anti-social or offending behaviour, young people can achieve the benefits from positive risk taking without the unhelpful consequences of law breaking.