



Sexual health safeguarding pharmacy update

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Safeguarding – everyone's responsibility

- "Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part." (HM Government, 2013)
- "Pharmacists have a professional, legal and moral duty to protect children from abuse or neglect and to work with other organisations and authorities to safeguard children." (Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 2011)





Legal issues

- Heterosexual Sexual consent 16 years
- Homosexual Sex consent 16 years
- Lesbian Sex inferred consent 16 years
- Anal sex legal between couples legal

Remember that although the age of consent is 16 years young people are legally protected until 18 years (Children Act 1989)





Sexual Offences act 2004

- Sexual Offences Act 2004 which established for the first time a clear definition of consent.
- Put simply, rape and other sexual assaults are sexual acts carried out without the consent of one of the people involved.
- Consent means making an active decision to say yes, an assumption of consent is not enough
- Illegal to have sex under the age of consent
- Emphasis on protection of children and young people from grooming or exploitation
- No legal identification of "appropriate" age gaps in relationships
- Views sex with under 13's as statutory rape





Sexual Abuse – a definition

"involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

The activities may involve:

- Physical contact, including assault by penetration;
- Non-penetrative acts;
- Non-contact activities;

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males.

Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children."

HM Government, 2013



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Provision of contraceptive advice to children?

- Whilst 16 remains the legal age of lawful sexual intercourse, health professionals are able to provide contraceptive help and advice to all young people (including those under the age of 16) when they are assessed as Fraser competent.
- However, the possible safeguarding needs of the child should be taken into consideration along with their need for contraceptive help and advice.



Fraser Guidelines

The Dr/Nurse must ensure:

• The young person is aware that it is illegal to have sex under 16 years

• The young person is encouraged to discuss with parents/carers

- The young person understands the information given and demonstrates maturity
- The young person's physical/mental health will suffer without treatment

YSH YorSexuesex Health • It is in the young persons best interest to receive



In addition to Fraser best practice suggests:

Always work within local and national policies/ guidelines
If in doubt seek advice / talk to a colleague

When working with a young person:

•Consider age and gender of partner and length of relationship

•Consider nature of relationship e.g. gifts/ where does sex take place?

•What sort of sex?

•Drugs and alcohol use

•Mental health issues?

School or college

YSH Health



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Definition of sexual exploitation



 Sex exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive 'something' (eg. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, gifts, money, affection) as a result of them performing, and or another or others performing on them, sexual acts





Sexual exploitation



 Child sexual exploitation (CSE) can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, eg, being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.





Thinking about vulnerabilities and

alerting features

- Learning disability;
- Older "boyfriend";
- Young person not permitted to be seen without partner;
- Use of drugs and/or alcohol;
- Homelessness;
- Association with other young people believed to be in exploitative relationships;





Thinking about vulnerabilities and alerting features

- Young people in care;
- Young person presented with gift/cash by partner after accessing pharmacy;
- Multiple presentations for EHC/STD treatment/pregnancy tests;
- Any features of abuse or coercion within relationship;
- Migrant children (potential for trafficking);
- Any evidence that sexual activity was not consensual.





Behavioural indicators

- Frequently missing from home/staying out late
- Not attending school
- Isolated from family and friends
- Sexually risky behaviour
- Misusing drugs or alcohol
- Unintended pregnancy /STI's
- Have unexplained money or possessions
- Are secretive in the use of the internet or mobile phone
- Unexplained injuries
- Age gap with partner of 5 years or more







Also consider abuse within teenage relationships

- Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality
- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial









- Check it out with colleague, safeguarding advisor, Children's Social Care or the Police (Vulnerable Persons Unit);
- Make **referral** to Children's Social Care;
- Consider sharing "soft intelligence" even if referral not indicated.





What about confidentiality?

In summary:

We all have a right to expect our personal information to be obtained and processed fairly, to be accurate, to be held securely and to be confidential.

However, this right is **not** absolute and may be breached in certain circumstances:

- with the individual's consent;
- upon the order of a court;
- for the prevention of a crime;
- in the wider public interest.





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Safeguarding Children App



- Search "iPhone app store for "nyscgc"
- App available to download free of charge
- Android and desk top versions due for release shortly



Safeguarding scenarios

- 15 year old female who lives with her 18 year old male partner of one year at home with mum and dad. she has not been using any contraception for the year and is accessing oral emergency contraception today.
- What key questions would you ask?





Further reading and sources advice and support

- <u>Brook</u> Provides a free and confidential sexual, health advice and contraception by young people up to the age of 25. Helpline: 0808 802 1234.
- <u>ChildLine</u> Provides a free and confidential service for children. Helpline 0800 1111.
- <u>Kidscape</u> Provides advice, run training course and produce helpful booklets and information about bullying.
- Family Lives Parentline offers help and advice to parents bringing up children and teenagers: 0808 800 2222.
- <u>Talk to Frank</u> Free confidential drugs information and advice line. Tel: 0800 776600.
- <u>Young Minds</u> Free advice and support for parents worried about their children's behaviour, emotional problems and mental health. Parents Helpline: 0808 802 5544.
- Your Teenager Website which focuses on how to handle teenage behaviour and build a positive parent/teem relationship.



<u>NSPCC</u>- website including serious case review details, contact details of helpline and advice.