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Useful Links

Sub Regional Multi-agency guidance:

https://www.proceduresonline.com/nesubregion/p_sexually_harm_behav.html#3.-aim2-assessment-framework

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Key Information

Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool

<https://www.brook.org.uk/our-work/the-sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool>

Aim Project

http://aimproject.org.uk/?page_id=16

Around 90% of children who engage in HSB are adolescent boys
Common features amongst children who present with HSB are a history of multiple abuse and disadvantage, and having a learning disability
Both perpetrators and victims must be viewed under safeguarding and child protection procedures

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What is Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)

HSB can be defined as : ‘One or more children engaging in sexual discussions or acts that are inappropriate for their age or stage of development. These can range from using sexually explicit words and phrases to full penetrative sex with other children or adults’.

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HSB Behaviours

HSB includes both contact and non- contact behaviours (e.g. grooming, sexting, taking pictures) and the young person has displayed a harmful behavioural threat (verbal, physical or emotional) to coerce, threaten or intimidate a victim.

Harmful Sexualised Behaviour

Response to children displaying HSB

Using the traffic light tool professionals assess whether behaviour is healthy, inappropriate or harmful
Any inappropriate or harmful behaviour triggers a referral to Children’s Social Care by ring 01670 536400

Identifying HSB

To help professionals to identify behaviour which might be harmful
Brook have published a traffic light tool (available on the NSSP website)
The tool provides a continuum of sexual behaviours from normal and healthy to harmful

Consent

To give consent to sex or a sexual act a person must be 16 years old or over, understand, and be able to make a choice or change their mind. If a young person is under the age of 13 years, under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 they cannot legally consent to any form of sexual activity.

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