

Support guide in responding to children who display sexualised behaviour

This Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Guide is intended to provide a point of reference and a guide for anyone who may have observed sexualised behaviours by children that causes them concern. It is not intended to be used as a screening or diagnostic assessment, but practitioners may wish to use the guide to support their rationale when answering the question, “Does this child need further support at this time?” This support guide does not replace professional judgement. The guide should be used in conjunction with agency safeguarding protocols and other guidance, such as Stockports Multi Agency Response to Need and Working Together 2023.



The guide is based upon the work of the NSPCC and Professor Simon Hackett (2010). [Hackett, S. (2010) Children, young people and sexual violence. In Barter, C and Berridge, D (eds) Children behaving badly? Exploring peer violence between children and young people. London: Blackwell Wiley].

Why?

Throughout various stages of birth to adulthood, children may display behaviour which is normal and in line with expected development.

Sometimes there are instances where such behaviour may be outside of these "norms" and as such, may be problematic or harmful.

How?

Child or young persons name (right click & add text):

Age and D.O.B (right click & add text):

For each behaviour you have observed, put a cross in the corresponding box. To do this right click in the box and text & add an X. Remember to save your document and store in line with agency protocols and send securley as part of any referral you make.

	Developmentally typical	Problematic		Harmful	
		Hackett Continuum			
	Age appropriate	Inappropriate	Problematic	Abusive	Violent
Pre-school (0- 5 years)	- Asking questions about body parts or the difference between boys & girls - Trying to look or touch genitals of other children of a similar age - Touching adults in their breast, bottom or genital area - Playing games such as mummy's and daddy's - Playing with or holding their own genitals - Like being naked	- Pulling other peoples pants, skirts, shorts down against their will - Taking clothes off in public spaces	- Describing sexual acts seen on tv/online, Using adult sex words in context - Consistently trying to touch the genitals of others - Following others into the toilets to look at or touch them - Engrossed with adult sexual behaviour - Constantly trying to touch the genitals of adults	- Consistently touching the genitals of other children - Re-enacting of sexual activity in play	- Sexual behaviour between young children involving penetration with objects - Forcing other children to engage in sexual play
Primary (5-9 years)	- Inquisitive about sex and relationships- ie. how sex happens, where babies come from, same-sex relationships - Interested about other children's Genitals - Using swear words or slang for parts of the body during conversation - Don't want you to look at them while they get changed - Feeling and touching own genitals	- Persistent questions about sexual activity which have been given an answer - Engaging in mutual masturbation	- Using sexual images & ideas in talk, play & art persistently - Using adult slang language to discuss sex	- Sexual bullying face to face or online - Simulating oral or penetrative sex - Frequently masturbating in front of others - Looking for pornographic material, online	- Forced sexual behaviour engaging younger children - Forcing other children to take part in sexual activities

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	Age appropriate	Inappropriate	Problematic	Abusive	Violent
Pre-teen (9-13 years)	Consensual kissing, hugging, and touching with similar age peer	Uncharacteristic & risk-related behaviour, e.g. change in dress style, friends, access to money	Worrying about being pregnant or having STI's	Distributing naked or sexually provocative images of self and others	Forcing other children to take part in sexual activities
	Use of sexual language including swear and slang words in daily conversation	Sexual aggression/ bullying which is verbal, physical or cyber	Masturbating or exposing genitals in public	Sexually explicit talk with younger children	Forced sexual behaviour engaging younger children
	Having girl/boyfriends who are of the same, opposite or any gender	LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) targeted bullying		Sexual harassment	Genital injury to self or others
	Wanting privacy regularly	Exhibitionism – flashing or mooning			
	Solitary masturbation	Arranging to meet with an unknown person from online			
Teen (13-17 years)		Viewing pornographic material			
		Giving contact details online			
	Consenting oral and/or penetrative sex with others of the same or opposite gender who are of similar age & developmental ability	Joining adult- only social networking sites and giving false personal Information	Repeated occurrence of peeping, exposing, mooning or obscene Gestures	Making and sending naked or sexually, provocative images of self or others	Forcing other children to take part in sexual activities with them or other people
	Sexually explicit conversations with peers	Accessing exploitative or violent pornography		Use /acceptance of power and control in sexual relationships	Forced sexual behaviour engaging younger children
	Sexual activity including hugging,kissing, holding hands	Giving out contact details online		Non-consensual sexual activity	Genital injury to self or others
	Use of internet/e-media to chat online	Single occurrence of peeping, exposing, mooning or obscene gestures		Sexual contact with others where the is a big difference in age or ability	Sexual contact with animals
	Having sexual or non-sexual relationships	Arranging a face to face meeting with an online friend alone			
	Solitary masturbation				
	Interest in pornography				

Additional comments (Please give some context. Are you worried about anything? What are the protective factors?)

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Age appropriate	Inappropriate	Problematic	Abusive	Violent
				
Local Response	Local Response		Local Response	
Whilst Green behaviours may not indicate initial concern there should be a response. This may take the form of discussions with children & parents, ensuring to capture the voice of the child. Consideration should be given to responses under "Getting advice" or "Getting Help" by signposting to resources & support services like below. Ensure that you record your actions in line with agency policy and consider discussion with MASSH if any escalation of concerns. Some suggestions below for support. <u>Example responses below dependent on role and circumstances</u> CEOP Pants are Private/ Pantosaurus NSPCC.org.uk O2/NSPCC netaware Referral to SRE Team Education based support-PHSE https://www.locala.org.uk/services	Amber behaviours will need further exploration and discussion. Consider support under "Getting Help" and "Getting more help" Consider undertaking an Early Help Assessment with the family. Consider discussions with safeguard leads and with Stockport MASSH. Consider if Youth Justice Service can support with preventative work. Whilst the behaviours here are not viewed as "Getting Risk Support" or "red", they may be indicative of safeguarding concerns and practitioners should refer to their own procedures and the Stockport response to need document. <u>Example responses below dependent on role and circumstances</u> https://www.csacentre.org.uk/ https://www.lucyfaithfull.org.uk/ https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/concerned-about-a-child-or-young-persons-sexual-behaviour/ https://swgfl.org.uk/helplines/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/ https://www.manchesterrapeccrisis.co.uk/ https://www.stockport.gov.uk/contacting-the-massh https://www.locala.org.uk/services/sexual-health EHA or EHCP assessment? Check if assessment & lead professional already Team around the Early Years and Team Around The school Specialist Safeguarding nurse Referral to Emotional Wellbeing Panel Support from CAMHS Referral to SRE Team 0161 549 6111 Greater Manchester Rape Crisis Workbook		Red behaviours indicate an immediate response "Getting Risk Support" may be required. Whilst there may be the need for therapeutic or programmes of work, any immediate safeguarding issues should be addressed via your agency safeguarding procedures in line with local partnership/WTG 2023. Child on child image sharing is something that schools in particular deal with regularly. There is specific guidance for education settings linked below, which others will also find useful. Judgement is required in a decision to contact the MASSH or police. Where harm is suspected or has occurred, a safeguarding referral should be made to Stockport MASSH using the Response to Need guidance below. Please also refer to GM Safeguarding Procedures online for guidance and pathways. <u>Example responses below dependent on role and circumstances</u> Contacting-the-massh Police 999 or 101 Strategy discussion, social care, police, youth justice, health, education AIMS assessment (Youth Justice Service) Greater Manchester Rape Crisis Workbook Banardos NSPCC CAHMS referral RASASC / SARC-St Marys Rape Crisis Centre https://www.stmaryscentre.org/ https://www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/stockport-when-to-call-the-police Sharing of images guidance for education https://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/	