

Sexual Violence / Abuse

What it is

- Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve, physical contact, including assault by penetration (rape or oral sex), non penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. Can also be getting young people to look at or what sexually activities as well as encouraging them to to behave in a sexually inappropriate way. This can be conducted by women and men or other children.

Signs

- Unexplained changes in behaviour or personality, becoming withdrawn, seeming anxious, becoming uncharacteristically aggressive, lacks social skills and has few friends, poor bond or relationship with parent, knowledge of adult issues, running away, always choosing to wear clothes which cover the body, scared of anyone going near them, medical conditions or needing to access the toilet a lot.

What to do

- Log your concerns on cpoms pass the slip to one of the DSL's
- Ensure you are factual and detailed in what you log do not add personal feelings just facts
- Listen to the student if they talk to you, do not judge and do not question them, let them talk but explain you will need to pass it on

Useful Websites

- www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse
- www.childwelfare.gov
- www.nhs.uk/spotting-signs-of-child-abuse
- www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/identntifying

Questions

- What is meant by sexual abuse
- How can you spot sexual abuse
- What is the difference between sexual abuse and sexual violence
- What should you do if you suspect sexual abuse