

TSCP Quality and Assurance Group

Multi-Agency Case Audit: Harmful Sexual Behaviour

The audit took place on 20th September 2021 with a scope of 10 children and ultimately reviewed the records of 8 who met the criteria laid out in the terms of reference which can be viewed [here](#)

The purpose of the MACA was to consider the effectiveness of frontline practice in protecting children and young people who are either perpetrating or experiencing HSB, and how well the learning from the previous [thematic review undertaken in 2019](#) (click link for report) has been embedded and translated into practice.

The eight young people whose cases were audited ranged in age from 10yrs to 19yrs, and all were male.

The young people were identified as having self-esteem issues, 4 out of 8 have an [EHCP](#), and all were noted to have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences.

Organisations that audited their involvement with the children were: Children's Social Care including the Children's Disability Team, GPs, Public Health Nursing, Police, Youth Offending Team, Education, and Special Schools

What are we worried about?

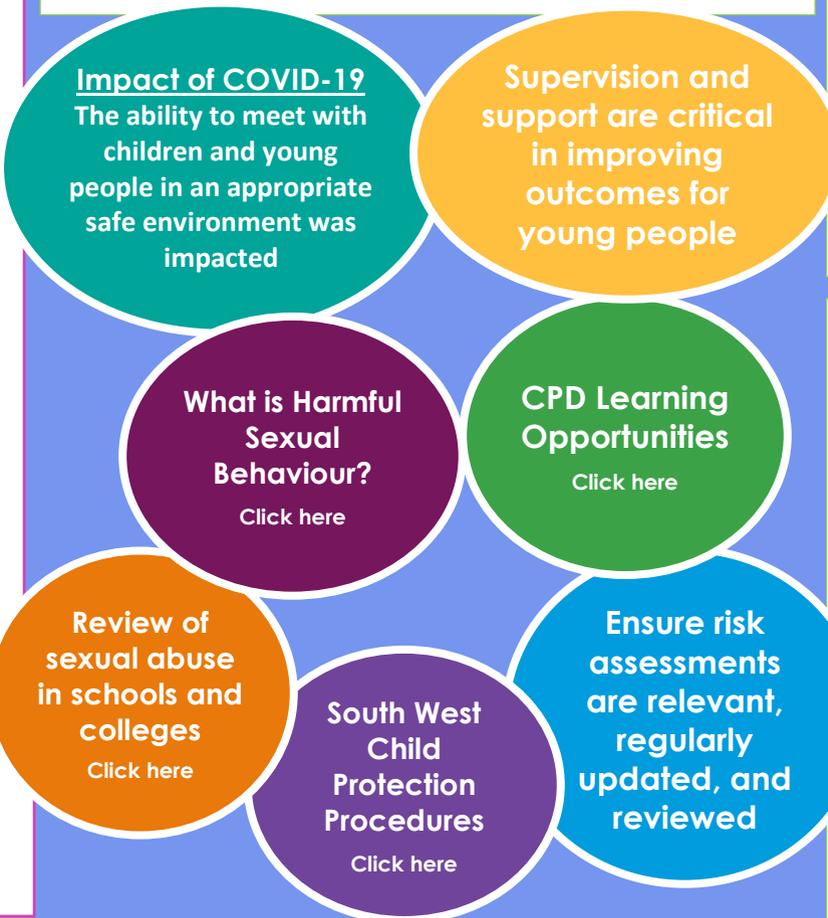
There was a concern about professionals' ability to identify and use appropriate language for addressing harmful sexual behaviour versus normal developmentally appropriate behaviour, or behaviour in response to child sexual abuse. There was a concern about the thresholds of services available to young people when transitioning into adult services.

What can I do differently?

- Take up the CPD offers on iLearn available [here](#) and [here](#)
- Commence transition planning at the earliest stage, what pathways are available to keep this young person safe
- Make use of the safeguarding leads in your organisation if you are unsure
- Ask curious questions and use the assessment tools available

What is life like for our young people?

- We don't know what our young people have to say about their experiences of harmful sexual behaviour
- We don't know how well young people are recovering from their experiences
- Practitioners should use tools and training available and ask key questions to support appropriate interventions



What Good Practice did we see?

- Evidence of professionals having good quality relationships with the young people they work with
- Effective working relationships between key partners keeping the young person at the centre of their work
- Emerging good practice of information sharing across the Partnership
- The tenacity and creativity of professionals in maintaining contact with young people through the challenges of a changing environment

Themes for Learning

- We need to value confidential consistent spaces to enable us to work effectively with our young people
- Age and ability appropriate relationship and sex education supports prevention and recovery from harmful sexual behaviour. Knowledge and skills are fundamental to professional practice across all sectors
- Encourage parents and foster carers to have discussions with their children and young people about sex and relationships to normalise and understand healthy sexual development
- The inconsistency in access to the Brook Assessment Tool is creating professional anxiety in identifying harmful sexual behaviour
- GP's were not receiving notification when children were removed or stepped down from CPP/CIN plans