

Child Sexual Abuse Factsheet

The WSSCB carried out a survey asking you to tell us about your knowledge, understanding and confidence around identifying and tackling child sexual abuse. You told us that you had some awareness and the resources available to support you in your work, but that you didn't feel confident when identifying, referring and the follow up process. This factsheet brings together information around key indicators, the referral process and the range of resources available to support you as a professional.

What is child sexual abuse?

Child sexual abuse involves persuading or forcing a child to take part in sexual activities, or encouraging a child to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. Sexual abuse happens to boys as well as girls. Acts of child sexual abuse can be committed by men, women, teenagers and other children. It is important to know that just because the victim 'didn't say no' does not mean that they meant 'yes' or that they consented. Click [here](#) to read more about this.

How do I identify child sexual abuse?

- Starting to behave differently – aggressive behaviour, sleep problems, bed-wetting or soiling, risk-taking behaviour during adolescence, negative thoughts, not looking after themselves, problems with school or skipping school
- Avoiding particular adults – avoiding being alone with a particular family member, fear of an adult or is reluctance to socialise with them
- Sexually inappropriate behaviour – displaying sexual behaviours that are not in line with the child's developmental stage/age, becoming sexually active at a young age, promiscuity, use of sexual language or information that you would not expect them to know
- Physical symptoms – anal or vaginal soreness, bleeding, an unusual discharge, pregnancy
- Disclosure (although these can often be brief)
- Click [here](#) and [here](#) to read more about possible behaviours and signs of child sexual abuse.

What should I do if I do if I suspect child sexual abuse?

If you suspect a child is being sexually abused, don't wait until you're certain. Report your concerns to your designated safeguarding lead and ensure you record your concerns accurately and promptly. Contact the [MASH](#) to report your concerns. If you believe a child is in immediate danger call 999

What tools and resources are available to support me?

- Click [here](#) and [here](#) to refer to the Pan Sussex Procedures around CSA
- **Pebble House is the sexual assault referral centre (CSARC)** for children and young people across Sussex.
They see children and young people up to and including the age of 13 years. (Up to 19 years in special circumstances)
Referrals can **only** be made by the police or social care; referrals are taken 7 days a week between the hours of 9am and 5pm.
Tel no: 01273 242288
Appointments for medicals are between the hours of 10am and 4pm weekdays.
Urgent daytime medical appointments can be arranged on weekends and bank holidays.
Click [here](#) to find out more about the Sussex Children's Sexual Assault Referral Centre (Children's SARC)
- **The Saturn Centre SARC** see children aged 14 years and above.
Tel; 01293 600469 (9am-5pm) There is a 24 hour answer phone. Click [here](#) to find out more about Saturn Centre
- **Lifecentre** provide Specialist counselling support. Click [here](#) for more information about Lifecentre services.
- **The Children's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (CISVA)** offers information and support to children aged 0-13 who have experienced rape and sexual assault and to their families. For more information please contact the CISVA on: 01273 203380 OPTION 2, or call 07402372707, email michele@survivorsnetwork.org.uk or visit www.survivorsnetwork.org.uk
- Click [here](#) to view WSSCB training on supporting children with Harmful Sexual Behaviours