

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)

To be used at Team Meetings – 7 MINUTE BRIEFING

WHAT IS CSA - When a child or young person is forced or tricked into sexual activities. They might not know it is abuse or that it's wrong. And they might be afraid to tell someone

It is not the responsibility of a child to stop sexual abuse and it is never a child's fault if they are targeted. Offenders take advantage of the inherent vulnerability of CYP, exploiting their age and the power imbalance between children and adults in order to abuse them

What to do when a child discloses:
Listen actively; be open and curious; do not ask leading questions
Record exactly what the child says
Thank them for telling you
Do not promise you can keep it a secret
Discuss with a colleague such as a safeguarding lead
REFER TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES

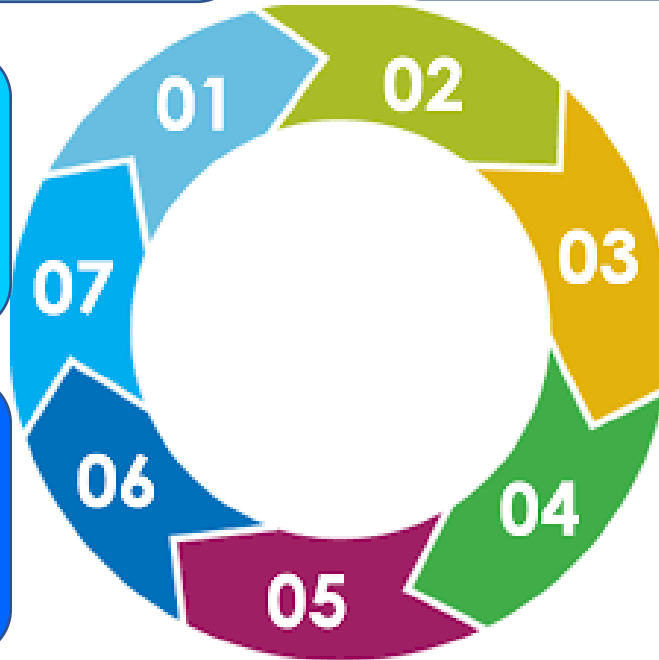
Some of the Signs

- Being frightened of some people, places or situations
- Bring secretive or withdrawn
- Sharp changes in mood or character
- Unhealthy or inappropriate sexual behaviour
- Physical signs of abuse, like bruises or bleeding in their genital or anal area
- Self-harm or eating difficulties

Here are some of the facts
Two thirds of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by a family member or someone close to the child e.g., babysitter, teacher (OCC 2015)
Many CYP do not tell – only 1 in 8 children who are sexually abused are known to the police and CS.
The Herts Sexual Abuse Referral Centre (SARC) offers free support and practical help to anyone who has experienced sexual violence/abuse
Video – [Understanding the forensic medical examination](#)

Some barriers to disclosing

- Fear they will not be believed
- Fear the abuse will get worse
- Shame and guilt; Concern about the impact on the family
- Fears about other peoples' prejudice against their culture, race, age, sexuality, gender
- Previous distrust of agencies, e.g. Police



SEE. HEAR. STOP THE ABUSE
Learn how to spot the signs of child sexual exploitation
[Watch the video](#)

