FOI_0714_2022-23 – FOI Request Concerning – Technology Facilitated Sexual Abuse

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

1. **When sexual abuse is disclosed (at any point in assessment/treatment) is there a local policy or a standard way in which this should be recorded (e.g., description within case notes)?**

   Safeguarding policy. CRIPP framework recommended for the written recording of any safeguarding concern.

a. **Do these policies refer to sexual abuse that occurs online (e.g., social media, internet contact made, sharing images)?**

   Yes

2. **List all assessment tools that make references to a patient's online life (i.e., assessment mentioning young people engaging with social media, frequency of use of the internet) Exploitation Toolkit, PREVENT,**

a. **Indicate if assessment tools ask about:**

i. **Online child sexual exploitation (colloquially referred to as 'online grooming'):**

   Yes

ii. **Youth-produced sexual image**

   - **Sextortion**

     Yes

   - **Non-consensual sexual images**

     Yes

iii. **Live streaming**

   Yes

iv. **Abuse through production, dissemination, or possession of child sexual abuse material (videos or images)**

   No

3. **What support and interventions do you offer to a service user who has experienced technology-assisted sexual abuse?**

Mental health treatments where indicated, no specific interventions.

a. **Is the support or intervention offered specifically to technology-facilitated sexual abuse?**

No

4. **Is training provided to staff on online harm and the impact of technology-assisted sexual abuse on young people?**

Through the local Safeguarding board, not internal to Solent NHS Trust.

a. **If yes, what does the training cover?**

N/A

5. **Any further comments.**

Completing this FOI has triggered a discussion around the need for amending our assessment paperwork and patient system to include these risks.

Our safeguarding policies refer to the Hampshire, IOW, Southampton, and Portsmouth (HIPS) procedures manual.

The HIPS procedures manual has a whole section on Children exposed to abuse through Digital Media.

The contents include the types of abuse online, impact and issues, risks, protection, and actions to take.

It has links to CEOP, and Hampshire constabulary, NSPCC guidance, DOE guidance and UK safer internet centre advice.

It is also referenced within the HIPS contextual safeguarding strategy.

Training is provided internally by Solent NHS Trust safeguarding team at a level 3 on child exploitation which includes online abuse, however more specific and detailed training has periodically been provided by the safeguarding partnerships.

All relevant staff have had access to training on the use of the HIPS CERAF risk assessment (Child Exploitation Risk Assessment form), there is guidance on HIPS procedures manual and also accessible via Solent intranet and safeguarding pages. The Solent safeguarding team sends regular updates and reminders on the use of the CERAF, we have also undertaken a weeklong bespoke lunchtime training in 2021, open to all staff on the CERAF. The CERAF has indicators set at medium and high risk that reference concerns regarding internet use including the dark web.

For those children that are identified as low- medium– high risk there are clear actions that are required to manage and assess risk further, these will include consideration of MASH referral, referral to MET team, local intervention, and referrals etc. All completed and updated CERAF are required to be recorded on the child's records and within progress notes.

Solent NHS Safeguarding policy and record-keeping policy provide staff with an understanding of their responsibilities in recording safeguarding concerns and risks.

Solent NHS Trust provides internal level 3 training open to all staff on record keeping and reports writing in relation to safeguarding.

The Solent safeguarding team has a dedicated advice line for all staff to access to discuss any safeguarding concerns, this will and has included concerns regarding internet use/ abuse.

The safeguarding team regularly promotes external partnership training and CEOP.

Internal training includes:

- Types of contextual abuse include online abuse, undertaking CERAF, assessing risk, actions and record keeping. Linking to this is our MASH and Early help training that provides more detail on when to undertake a referral including to MET.

SARC

1. Are there policies or a standard way to record technology-assisted sexual abuse when it is disclosed (at any point in assessment/treatment)?

We collect forensic evidence and provide wrap-around care; we are not a treatment centre. Please refer to the attached Treetops leaflet to get a better understanding of what we do at SARC. We do not work directly with people who contact SARC for historical sexual abuse, we would refer to other services such as counselling.

a. If yes, please list the policies.

No policy - we ask it during the assessment. We record this in the patient file/record.

Did this incident involve non-fatal strangulation? *If yes provide SOE with NOF Proforma*	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Not known

Location of Incident		
☐ Client's Workplace	☐ Other Residential Address	☐ Shared Address
☐ Client's Home	☐ Outdoors	☐ Vehicle / Transportation
☐ Entertainment Venue	☐ Perpetrator(s) Home	☐ Unknown
☐ Hospital / Care Home	☐ Public Building	☐ Other
☐ Hotel	☐ School	Details:

Location of incident / address? *If overseas, please state what country.*	
Incident linked to the night-time economy?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not known
If yes geographical location and name of venue:	
Is incident related to the internet? Has the victim had contact with the perpetrator(s) via dating sites/chat rooms/webcam etc prior to the event?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not known
If yes which sites?	

2. **Are there assessment methods that are used to assess for technology-assisted sexual abuse?**

   N/A, and therefore we are unable to answer the below.

a. **If yes, list the assessment methods that reference the following:**

i. **Online child sexual exploitation (colloquially referred to as 'online grooming')**

ii. **Youth-produced sexual image**

   - **Sextortion**

   - **Non-consensual sexual images**

iii. **Live streaming**

iv. **Abuse through production, dissemination, or possession of child sexual abuse material (videos or images)**

3. **What support and interventions do you offer to a service user who has experienced technology-assisted sexual abuse?**

   N/A, and therefore we are unable to answer the below.

a. **Do these support or interventions involve referral to mental health services?**

   - **If yes, are these mental health services located outside or within the NHS system?**

4. Is training provided to staff on online harm and the impact of technology-assisted sexual abuse on young people?

This training is provided by Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.

- **If yes, what does the training cover?**

    1. Develop or strengthen understanding of safeguarding in the context of children's lives and their use of social media.

    2. Become more confident in identifying how our most vulnerable children can be supported by going online.

    3. Explore a range of applications currently used by children.

    4. Develop an enhanced awareness of how children can be exploited and/or abused online, including the tactics and technology used by perpetrators.

    5. Develop ability to support children in staying safe online, formulating prevention and intervention strategies with children and their families.

    6. Explore the role of parents/carers in keeping children safe online, including the importance of consent when posting content and images (sharenting).

    7. Explore how professionals can raise awareness around online safety and support families with online risks and behaviours.