

MULTI-AGENCY POLICY:

GUIDELINES FOR STAFF REFERRING CHILDREN WHO DISPLAY SEXUALLY HARMFUL BEHAVIOUR TO SPECIALIST SERVICES

This document is supplementary guidance. It is to provide a local context to the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, which provide comprehensive information about this subject area. The relevant All Wales Practice Guide is comprehensive and succeeds in bringing together good practice across Wales.

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures Guidance can be found here:

[Wales Safeguarding Procedures Safeguarding children where there are concerns about harmful sexual behaviour](#)

COMMUNITY

When working with a young person with harmful sexual behaviour it is important that we assess the risk around that behaviour in a holistic way looking at the strengths of the family child/ young person, needs- what do they need support with. This at times may mean a family may need support helping to manage this risk, in a community setting; such as how to discuss any risk there may be if a child attends a recreational club or goes out in the community say to a park etc. Do they need to be supervised by a parent or monitored say by a senior member of the organisation they are attending?

You need to think carefully about what information may need to be shared and with whom as only people with responsibility for safeguarding, should be made aware of a concern with enough information to support them in managing risk and confidentiality is imperative.

Consideration also needs to be given to- can the young person still attend groups or will this need to be put on hold whilst interventions take place; to reduce the risk of this behaviour reoccurring or posing a risk to other young people. Can a risk management plan be put into place to manage the risk?

Organisations such as Better Futures and your safeguarding leads are able to give advice on this.

Useful links:

https://legacy.brook.org.uk/brook_tools/traffic/index.html?syn_partner

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2019/harmful-sexual-behaviour-framework>

REFERRING TO BETTER FUTURES

Better Futures Cymru is a service managed by Barnardo's which provides assessment and longer term therapeutic intervention services for children (5-21years old) and young people with sexualised histories across Wales, including young people who display problematic or Harmful Sexual Behaviour.

As well as providing a service intervention to the child and their family or carers, Better Futures Cymru also works with the network around the child and their family, such as schools and other support services, to encourage a trauma informed response. In addition to providing interventions, the Service will also provide consultation to practitioners to offer advice regarding potential referrals and better support children when a referral for the service isn't appropriate.

To access this service agreement is required from a senior manager in your organisation.

A referral can be downloaded from this link <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/what-we-do/services/taith-service>