



Briefing Child Sexual Abuse

All partner agencies are required to discuss/ share the briefing within team meetings as a contribution to required safeguarding updates.

Introduction - The prevention of child sexual abuse is a priority for North East Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, (NEL SCP). We believe child abuse is preventable not inevitable. The Child Sexual Abuse Strategy was developed to address this lack of understanding of the local prevalence of child sexual abuse and to incorporate learning from local and national reviews.

NEL seeks to reduce the risk of and to seek to prevent all types of child sexual abuse, including intra-familial abuse, harmful sexual behaviour, child sexual exploitation and online abuse by working in partnership with children and families, communities, professionals, and systems through the delivery of this strategy. The strategy will enable partners, agencies and staff working across North East Lincolnshire to gain a better understanding of how to identify, recognise and seek to prevent child sexual abuse and to understand the complexity of risk and need.

Why Does it Matter? Both locally and nationally child sexual abuse is significantly under-reported and un-detected. It has a significant long-term impact on children, families and communities which can lead to ongoing unresolved trauma throughout the lifespan, including severe physical, mental health and emotional difficulties, lower educational attainment, and reduced life opportunities. It has been estimated that 500,000 children and young people were sexually abused in the UK in 2019. 15% of girls and 5% of boys experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of 16. It is estimated by the National Crime Agency that between 350,000 - 850,000 individuals in the UK pose a sexual threat to children and young people.

Defining Child Sexual Abuse

The widely used definition of child sexual abuse in the UK is behaviour which: 'Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.' It includes 'contact' or 'non-contact' abuse (such as online abuse). A child is anyone under the age of 18 years.

What Does this mean for us in North East Lincolnshire. The delivery of the strategy will include all SCP member agencies. By working together and sharing information, we plan to develop an inclusive, strength based, sustainable and evidence-based approach to preventing child sexual abuse. The Child Sexual Abuse Strategy should be read in conjunction with the North East Lincolnshire Prevention and Early Help Partnership Strategy for Children and Families, and the Neglect Strategy.

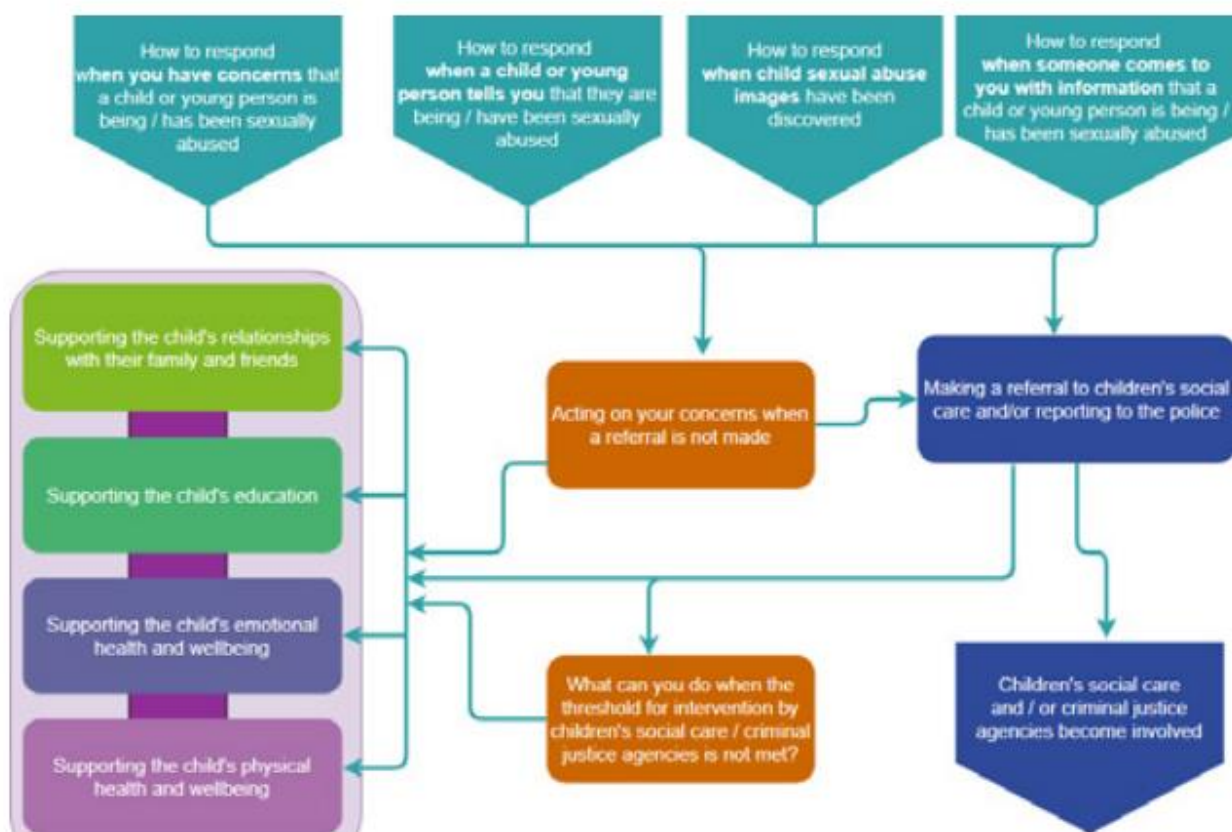
Identifying Child Sexual Abuse. Most sexual behaviour displayed by children and young people will sit within a normative development range. The challenge for carers and professionals is to identify sexual behaviours that fall outside this range and

support the young person. The following link introduces the Signs and Indicators template which can be used to log concerns of possible child sexual abuse : [Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse , Signs and indicators](#)

It's important that people who work with children are able to recognise the physical, behavioural and emotional signs that may indicate a child has experienced sexual abuse. Sexual abuse can be the most secretive and difficult type of abuse for children and young people to disclose. Sexual abuse can take place online, within the family environment and outside of the home, can be perpetrated by both males and females and by other children. Child sexual abuse happens across all social demographics, regardless of race, religion, economic status, family composition or whether or not the child/family has additional needs or vulnerabilities. Please see the table produced by the [Centre of Expertise on Child sexual abuse \(2020\)](#), in respect of indicators of sexual abuse , please also see: [Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse , Signs and indicators](#).

Responding to Child Sexual Abuse

The Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway Map (Child Centre for expertise) should be followed when there is a concern a Child's being or had been sexually abuse.



Links

[NEL HSB protocol \(trixonline.co.uk\)](http://trixonline.co.uk)

[Child Sexual Exploitation Guidance](#)

[Child Sexual Abuse Guidance](#)

[SaferNEL | Prevention and early help - SaferNEL](#)

[SaferNEL | Report a concern - SaferNEL](#)

[Multi-Agency Pathway for Suspected Child Sexual Abuse](#)

[Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway | CSA Centre](#)