KNOWSLEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

7 MINUTE BRIEFING – Harmful Sexual Behaviours

7. The panel convenes four weekly and their role is to oversee the management of these cases whether the child requires a specialist assessment or whether it can be managed based on assessments already completed by existing agencies. The panel will ensure oversight of the plans to ensure the safeguarding needs of the child are met and risks to the public are considered.

6. If a case is open to Children's Social Care this must be brought to the Sexual Harmful Panel for discussion and further scrutiny. The panel is convened by the QAU and will be chaired by their manager. Reps from CSC, YOS, CAMHS, Education and Health with experience in sexual harmful behaviours sit routinely on the panel. 1 Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) is developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour which is displayed by children and young people and which may be harmful or abusive. It can be displayed towards younger children, peers, older children or adults. It's harmful to the children and young people who display it, as well as those it is directed towards (NSPCC).

> The primary objectives of all work with children who display inappropriate and harmful sexual behaviour must be the protection of the victim, the prevention of a reoccurrence of the behaviour and gaining an understanding of why the behaviour occurred.

5. Practitioners must consider the short and long term triggers of the harmful sexual behaviour. They need to consider that the child may remain at risk of actual or likely significant harm in their own right, indicating the need for dual procedures for them as vulnerable children as well as young people who display inappropriate and harmful sexual behaviour.

> 4 Some responses at a low level for example will be for a single agency to respond and others where there is more risk identified will need a multi-agency and co ordinated approach.

3 Knowsley's procedure (see below) is designed to provide guidance for all professionals within Knowsley in how to respond when there is a concern in relation to children (up to 18) who are presenting with inappropriate and harmful sexual behaviour. The procedure offers detailed guidance for professionals when differentiating between normal, inappropriate and harmfr sexual behaviour.

ACRONYMS:

NSPCC National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children HSB Harmful Sexual Behaviour CSC Chidren's Social Care QAU Quality Assurance Unit YOS Youth Offending Service CAHMS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Procedural Guidance

For more information click on the <u>NPSCC Website</u>

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