KNOWSLEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP

Ofsted Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges

7. Schools and colleges cannot tackle sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online, on their own, a number of recommendations have been made for multi agency partners. This includes working to improve engagement with schools and all practitioners having a better understanding of the definitions of sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online sexual abuse

6. Schools and colleges need to create an environment where staff model respectful and appropriate behaviour, where children and young people are clear about what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, and where they are confident to ask for help and support when they need it. Schools need to know the scale of the problem in their setting. 1. Ofsted have recently carried out a rapid review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges, the findings were published in June 2021. They spoke to over 900 children and young people about the prevalence of peer-on-peer sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online, on their lives and the lives of their peers..

> 2. In the past year, girls aged between 15 and 17 reported the highest annual rates of sexual abuse for those aged 25 and younger. Evidence suggests that early experiences of dating and relationship violence is associated with subsequent adverse outcomes, such as suicidal behaviours, other mental health problems and low educational attainment.

5. Children, especially girls, told us that they do not want to talk about sexual abuse for several reasons, even where their school encourages them to. They worry about how adults will react, because they think they will not be believed, or that they will be blamed. They also think that once they talk to an adult, the process will be out of their control.

4. When they asked children and young people where sexual violence occurred, they typically talked about unsupervised spaces outside of school, such as parties or parks without adults present, although some girls told us they also experienced unwanted touching in school corridors. 3. Girls told the review that sexual harassment and online sexual abuse, such as being sent unsolicited explicit sexual material and being pressured to send nude pictures ('nudes'), are much more prevalent than adults realise.

The full report can be found here:

Review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

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