

# **Hill House Guidance on Child – on – Child abuse and Child on Child Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment**

## **Child on Child abuse**

‘Children can abuse other children, this is referred to as peer on peer abuse’ (***Keeping Children Safe In Education 2021***)

At Hill House we recognise that even if there are no reported cases of child – on – child abuse, such abuse or inappropriate interactions may still be taking place

We always believe that ‘it could happen here’ and understand that such risks could take place in school, outside of school or on – line

We have a zero - tolerance approach to abuse and recognise that some inappropriate behaviours may put children at risk

All staff understand the procedures with regard to child on child abuse and receive regular training

Child on Child abuse can take on different forms;

- Bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice – based and discriminatory bullying)
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between young people
- Consensual and non – consensual sharing of nudes and semi – nudes – UKCIS Education Group Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people>
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent
- Upskirting
- Sexual Violence and Harassment
- Initiation / hazing type violence and rituals

At Hill House we believe that all young people have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. Young people should be free from harm by adults in the school as well as free from harm of other young people

We understand that at Hill House some interactions between young people may be less than positive at times and could be unintentional. We always need to take into consideration a young person's cognitive level. We do realise that the effect of a young person's interaction could leave another young person feeling sad or unsafe. Therefore, we need to always take these situations seriously and see them as a learning opportunity

Individual behaviour support plans and risk assessments along with the carefully planned environment ensure that our young people are able to spend time with others in a safe and managed way

As part of the pre-admission process, a thorough impact risk assessment of any young person who may be coming to the school is always carried out to ensure that they would not pose any potential risk to the other young people at Hill House and would not negatively affect any young peoples' wellbeing or learning

If a young person were to present a safeguarding risk to other young people then an individualised risk management plan would be implemented immediately to ensure that everyone is kept safe

All concerns are taken seriously. At Hill House we take a reflective approach and regularly review decisions and actions

We also recognise and take into consideration the developmental stages of the children involved

At Hill House we follow guidance from the Hants model policy and procedure - *'Managing allegations against other pupils'*

At Hill House our reporting systems are well promoted and easily accessible for staff

## Child on Child Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

'Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children' (***Keeping Children Safe In Education 2021***)

Harmful sexual behaviours can occur online and offline

We understand that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable and maintain an attitude that `it could happen here`

We adopt a `whole school approach`

We maintain a zero-tolerance approach and never `normalise` these behaviours

Part Five of KCSIE along with the following DfE document `*Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children in school and colleges*` – provides advice on what sexual violence and sexual harassment is, how to minimise the risk of it occurring and what to do when incidents occur

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/999239/SVSH\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999239/SVSH_2021.pdf)

We understand that young people at Hill House are most likely undergoing the same physiological sexual maturation as their peers, but it may be their emotional or social understanding which can impact on their behaviours

## How do we support the young people at Hill House

Staff role model positive behaviour and interactions

The young people are equipped with a range of strategies to support them to recognise their own emotions and communicate their needs for example; using the `Zones of Regulation` and their Talk Pads

The use of social stories and RSE programmes support young people to learn about growing up and how to interact with others in a safe and positive way

Topics on positive relationships and staying safe run through the Hill House curriculum and include;

Anti – bullying week

`Health and Wellbeing – my changing body`

`Relationships – maintaining respectful relationships`

`Staying Safe – Cyberbullying`

`Relationships – Happiness`

`Staying Safe – making decisions and finding support`

`Relationships – tolerance and kindness`

`Staying Safe – managing feelings`

## The Hill House designated safeguarding team

Staff are encouraged and supported to share any concerns they may have regarding the young people's interactions

Young people are given regular opportunities to communicate how they are feeling and to tell someone if they are feeling unsafe

The Hill House designated team work with staff to assess any interventions that may be needed and the **Hill House harmful sexual behaviours pathway** below is a helpful guide to establish what support is needed

In order to support staff to understand the topic of Child on Child abuse and Child on Child Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment, Hill House have produced a training video called 'In conversation with....' This is a Q&A based session between two Cambian Clinical Psychologists and provides an accessible resource for staff to help them to understand what this topic could mean for our young people at Hill House



Louisa Burden



Kate Landells



Kirsty Marsden



Greg Jagger

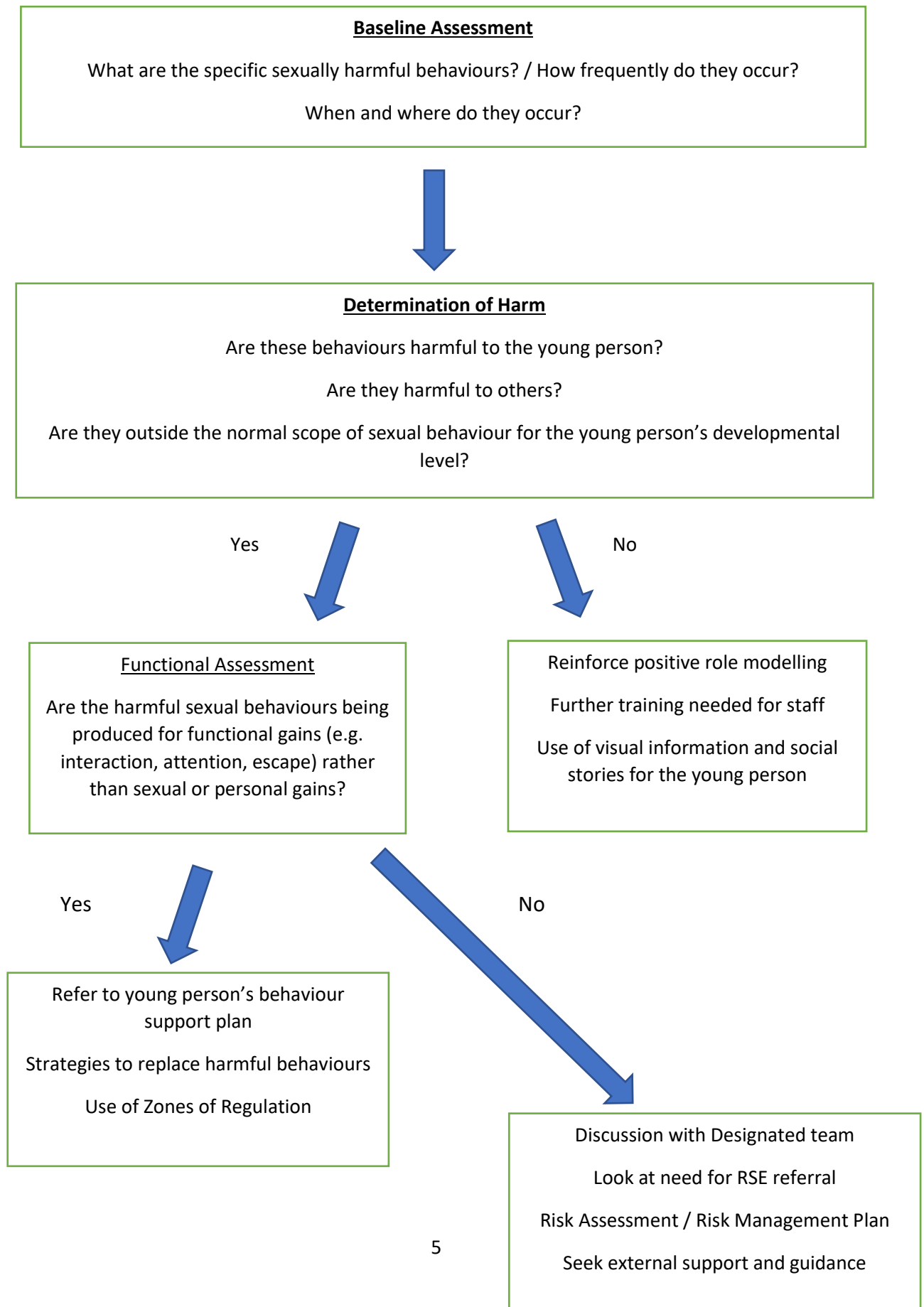
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Kirsty Marsden – (Head of Care) – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – [07917 152596](tel:07917152596)

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## Hill House harmful sexual behaviours pathway



## Monitoring and Review

This policy will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by the Principal.

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Review Date: September 2022 or as required