

Hill House Guidance on Child-on-Child Abuse and Child-on-Child Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

Child-on-Child abuse

At Hill House we are aware that children are capable of abusing other children

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

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

- Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling or otherwise causing physical harm

- Sexual violence including on line elements

- Sexual harassment such as sexual comments and remarks and online sexual harassment

- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent

- Consensual and non - consensual sharing of nude and semi – nude images and/or videos
- Up skirting (Which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission)

- Initiation / hazing type violence and rituals

At Hill House we work hard to minimise the risk of child-on-child abuse and have systems in place to for children to confidently report abuse, knowing that their concerns will be treated seriously

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 and other young people

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 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 and that they themselves are not laid open to any malicious allegations. There is a need to balance the tension between privacy and safeguarding

We recognise that allegations could be made against young people by others in the school and that some young people could try and harm others. Safeguarding issues raised in this way may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. It is likely that to be considered a safeguarding allegation against a young person, some of the following features will be found;

The allegation:

Is made against an older child and refers to their behaviour towards a younger child or a more vulnerable child; is of a serious nature, possibly including a criminal offence; raises risk factors for other young people in the school; indicates that other young people may have been affected by this person

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

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

If an allegation was made by a young person against another young person the following procedures would be followed;

The DSL is informed;

A decision is made to establish if the allegation or complaint raises a safeguarding concern

If the allegation or complaint is not a safeguarding concern then a plan will be put in place to deal with the complaint and feed back to the student who raised it, ensuring that they feel listened to;

If the allegation or complaint is a safeguarding concern then a member of the designated team will contact Hampshire Safeguarding to discuss the case. The DSL will follow through the outcomes of the discussion;

The DSL will make a record of the concern, the discussion and any outcome;

If the allegation indicates a potential criminal offence has taken place, the police will be contacted at the earliest opportunity and parents informed (of both the student being complained about and the alleged victim);

In situations where neither Hampshire Safeguarding or the police accept the complaint, a thorough school investigation will take place;

A risk assessment will be implemented for all individuals involved and both the victim and perpetrator will be supported

Young people are supported to know who they can go to should they have a concern and they are supported using symbol based social stories for example

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

Young people are supported to be able to communicate how they are feeling and raise a concern. This takes place through regular ‘check ins’ and reflection sessions. Young people are encouraged to use their Talk Pad devices to let others know how they are feeling and they also have the opportunity to take part in regular ‘Keeping Safe’ sessions where they learn about staying safe

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 online. 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 2022*)

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

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

We take into consideration the children's developmental stages and also understand that our young people may face additional barriers to telling someone because of their vulnerability

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

Safeguarding procedures would be followed if we were to have any concerns about an individual being at risk from sexual violence or sexual harassment by another young person or group of young people and the pathway response below would be followed

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

How 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~

We support our young people to understand the concept of ~consent~ and help young people to be able to interact appropriately with their friends and to stay safe. Specific work is completed with young people through the use of their Talk Pads



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



Louisa Burden



Kate Landells



Kirsty Marsden



Greg Jagger

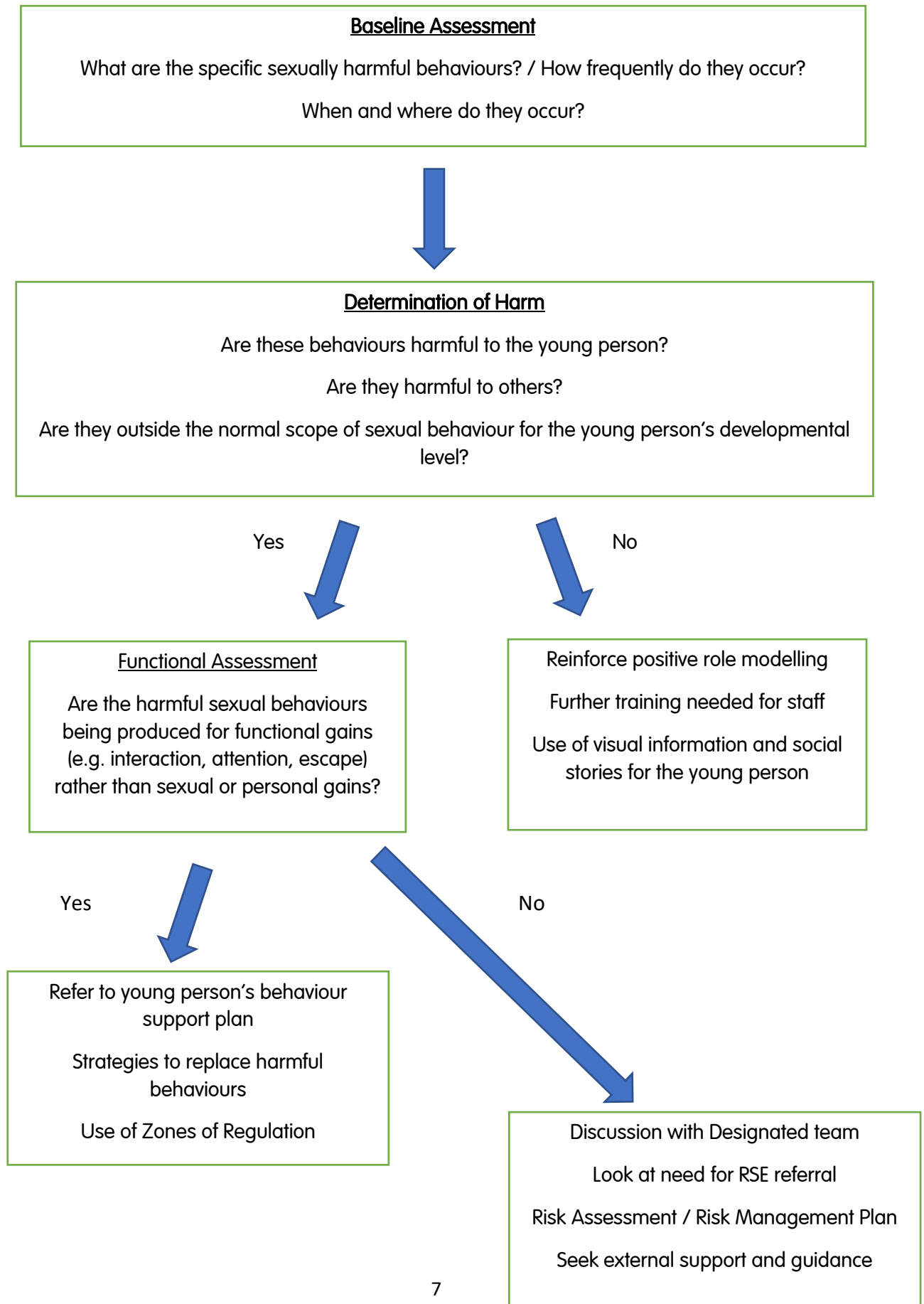
Louisa Burden – (Vice Principal) - Designated Safeguarding Lead - [07584 020825](tel:07584020825)

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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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