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What is it.....

Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) can be defined as: 'One or more children engaging in sexual discussions or acts that are inappropriate for their age or stage of development. These can range from using sexually explicit words and phrases to full penetrative sex with other children or adults'.



Harmful Sexual Behaviour

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HSB behaviours.....

HSB includes both contact and non-contact behaviours (e.g. grooming, sexting, taking pictures) and the young person has displayed a harmful behavioural threat (verbal, physical or emotional) to coerce, threaten or intimidate a victim.

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Useful Links.....

Brook Traffic Light Tool (website)

<https://www.brook.org.uk/training/wider-professional-training/sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool/>

HBB (Cymyl Addysg)

<https://hwbwave15.sharepoint.com/sites/668/safeguarding/Healthy%20Relationships/Forms/AllItems.aspx>



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Consent...

To give consent to sex or a sexual act a person must be 16 years old or over, understand, and be able to make a choice or change their mind. If a young person is under the age of 13 years, under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 they cannot legally consent to any form of sexual activity.

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Key Considerations.....

Around 90% of children who engage in HSB are adolescent boys.

Common features amongst children who present with HSB are a history of multiple abuse and disadvantage, and having a learning disability.

Both perpetrators and victims must be considered under safeguarding procedures

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Responding to children displaying HSB.....

Using the guidance document and Brook traffic light tool professionals assess whether behaviour is healthy and developmentally normal, inappropriate or harmful.

Any inappropriate or harmful behaviour should trigger advice from Education Safeguarding or CCAT.

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Identifying HSB.....

To help professionals to identify behaviour which might be harmful Brook have published a traffic light tool (available on the Brook.org website). The tool provides a continuum of sexual behaviours from normal and healthy to harmful and provides a resource to identify, assess and respond appropriately to sexual behaviours.