

Harmful Sexual Behaviour – Resources to assist professionals

You may be aware that the interagency safeguarding procedures supporting professionals working with children and young people to identify, understand and respond appropriately to sexual behaviours were previously complemented by signposting to the Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool. We have recently learned that access to the tool, which was previously freely available, has been limited to professionals who have completed the Brook's Traffic Light Tool training. Brook have advised that they have made this decision to ensure that professionals can safely use the Tool. They state that the Tool cannot be shared with people who have not completed the training. This training is available by the website but does incur a cost.

As a Partnership we are urgently reviewing the options available to support professionals. The procedures have been updated to signpost to [alternative resources](#) to support frontline professionals to be able to distinguish normal sexual behaviours from those that may be harmful, and make sure children get appropriate support. We would ask safeguarding leads to review their own organisation's child protection procedures to ensure they are not reliant on professionals having access to the BTL tool and signpost professionals to the [NSCP resources](#) and the [Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\) guidelines](#) on harmful sexual behaviour among young people (NICE, 2016). We also continue to offer multi agency training via the NSCP on HSB which is always highly rated by participants and has been adapted to ensure that professionals are not reliant on the BTL tool. The NSPCC framework may support this review. <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1657/harmful-sexual-behaviour-framework.pdf>

The NSCP is looking at other options and aims to make recommendations regarding updated procedures and assessment tools by summer 2021.

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