

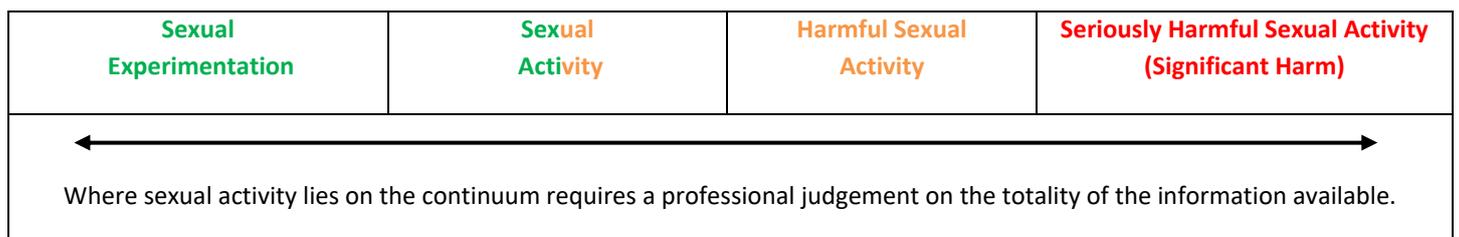
Kent and Medway Risk Assessment Tool for Sexually Active Children and Young People

Consideration for Assessment

Indicator of Risk or Harm	Consideration for Assessment
1. Age of child or young person	Sexual activity at a young age is a very strong indicator that there are risks to the welfare of children and young people, whether boy or girl, and possibly others. This is particularly relevant if one of the parties is pre-pubertal. Children under 13yrs cannot lawfully give consent to sexual activity and there must be referred to the Local Authority Children’s Services.
2. What is the attitude, level of maturity and behaviour of the child or young person?	Is the child or young person withdrawn or anxious? Is there a pattern of casual sexual relationships with different partners? Are there more than two people involved in the sexual activity? Does the child or young person deny, minimise or accept the concerns? Is the child willing to work with the professional to reduce the concerns? Is this realistic?
3. What are the living circumstances or background of the child or young person? Is a Social Worker involved?	Has a Child in Need (Section 17) or referral (Section 47) been made in respect of the child or young person, or their siblings. Do cultural or religious beliefs have an impact on their circumstances and/or on sharing information?
4. Is the child or young person in education, employment or training?	If not, do you need to take any action.
5. Are there any disabilities or learning difficulties impending choice?	Disabled children and young people are more likely to be abused than non-disabled children. However, disabled children and young people have a right to a private life, which should be respected.
6. Is the relationship being kept a secret from parents/carers or friends? If yes, is there a reason for this?	Has the sexual partner attempted to secure secrecy beyond what might be considered usual in a teenage relationship?
7. Is the evidence of coercion, bribery or a power imbalance in their relationship? Does this include child sexual exploitation or domestic abuse?	Has the child or young person been encouraged to exchange sex for favours or other inducements such as supply of alcohol or substances? Is there evidence of persuasion, emotional blackmail, threats or use of pornography? Is the relationship reasonably equal and consensual? Power imbalances can occur in many different forms including threats and aggression. Is there an age differential greater than 3 years?
8. Is the child or young person’s use of internet and social media placing them at risks of abuse?	Consideration needs to be given as to whether the young person is being bullied or groomed online. Is the child or young person planning to, or has, met someone as a result of online contact? Is there sharing of inappropriate texts and images using social media, including mobile devices?
9. Sexual grooming – are there behaviours consistent with grooming?	If you are unclear as to whether grooming may be occurring, consider consultation with the Designated Safeguarding Lead for your organisation or the Local Authority Children’s Services.
10. Does the child or young person’s use of drugs or alcohol cause concern?	The child or young person’s own behaviour in misusing substance or alcohol may place them at increased risk of harm as they may be unable to give them informed consent. Is alcohol or drugs being used as a dis-inhibitor? Consider if a referral to another service should be discussed.

11. Are there indicators of self-harm?	If yes, have they had Kent Children and Young People’s Mental Health Service (CYPMHS) intervention? Does the child or young person need to be referred to another service?
12. Is the partner known to agencies i.e. Local Authority Children’s Services, Police or Probation etc.?	Does one or more of the agencies already know the sexual partner? Does this information raise concern? Are there sufficient concerns about the sexual partner that information is needed from other agencies to support the risk assessment? Follow service procedures of seeking advice from the Designated Safeguarding Lead and consider consultation.
13. Are any family or friends know sex offenders or considered to pose a sexual risk to children?	Is any family member considered to be a risk to children, or have convictions for sex offences? Does the sexual partner fall within any of the following categories beyond the normal family relationships? Step-parent, foster carer, step-sibling who live in the same household or have been regularly involved in caring for the child, or care workers such as nannie or au pairs if they live with or regularly care for the child. Consider the Kent and Medway Sexual Exploitation Guidance.
14. What is the age of the child or young person’s partner? Length of time of the current relationship? If 16-17yrs, is there a breach of trust?	Is the child or young person competent to consent to the sexual activity? The law and procedures are gender neutral. Is there an age differential greater than 3 years? If so, consider additional risk factors. Although same age relationships may still be exploitative. Is there a relationship of trust? A legal definition is provided at Section.27, Sexual Offences Act 2003.
15. Have you referred to the Fraser Guidelines? If over 16yrs MCA 2005 applies.	Remember that the Mental Capacity Act 2005 applies to Young People over 16 years.

The Sexual Activity Continuum



The Risk Assessment Tool should be based on and read in conjunction with these procedures.