



Assessment, Intervention and Moving On – Working with Children and Young People who sexually Abuse (AIM) Procedure, including Children who Abuse Other Children

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 *"Work with children and young people who abuse others, including those who sexually abuse/offend, should recognise that such children are likely to have considerable needs themselves, and that they may pose a significant risk of harm to other children. Evidence suggests that children who abuse others may have suffered considerable disruption in their lives, been exposed to violence within the family, may have witnessed or been subject to physical or sexual abuse, have problems in their educational development and may have committed other offences. Such children and young people are likely to be children in need, and some will, in addition, be suffering, or at risk of suffering, Significant Harm, and may themselves be in need of protection. Children and young people who abuse others should be held responsible for their abusive behaviour, while being identified and responded to in a way that meets their needs as well as protecting others."* Working Together to Safeguard Children, March 2010, paragraph 11.47 (now archived).
- 1.2 Sexually harmful behaviour by young people includes a wide range of behaviours, in a variety of situations, and can be defined as:
- Child or young person who commits any sexual act with a person of any age:
 - Against the victim's will;
 - Without consent;
 - In an aggressive/exploitative manner;
 - Contact behaviours: touching, rubbing, disrobing, frottage (the act of rubbing against the body of another person, as in a crowd, to attain sexual gratification), sucking or penetrating - penile or with an object (vaginal or anal), sexual behaviours with animals;
 - Non-contact: exhibitionism, peeping, voyeurism, fetishism, obscene communication, verbal or written sexual harassment or denigration (Ryan 1991).
 - Work with children and young people who sexually abuse requires a co-ordinated multi-agency response. It is important that all agencies work closely together to enhance communication and ensure consistency of approach. The welfare of children is paramount and the primary objective is the prevention of future victims and perpetrators.
 - Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBS) and Youth Justice Service (YJS) should ensure that there is a clear operational framework in place within which assessment decision-making and case-management take place. Neither

child welfare nor criminal justice agencies should embark on a course of action that has implications for the others without appropriate consultation.

2. AIM (2) ASSESSMENT

2.1 The AIM (2) Assessment Process will provide a thorough assessment in respect of sexual/harmful behaviour and covers the dimensions of assessment/intervention and moving on.

2.2 In assessing a child or young person who abuses another, relevant considerations include:

- The nature and extent of the abusive behaviours. In respect of sexual abuse, there are sometimes perceived to be difficulties in distinguishing between normal childhood sexual development and experimentation, and sexually inappropriate or aggressive behaviour. Expert professional judgement may be required, within the context of knowledge about normal child sexuality;
- The context of the abusive behaviour;
- The child's development and family and social circumstances;
- Needs for services, specifically focusing on the child's harmful behaviour as well as other significant needs;
- The risks to self and others, including other children in the household, extended family, school, peer group or wider social network. This risk is likely to be present unless the opportunity for further abuse is ended, the young person has acknowledged the abusive behaviour and accepted responsibility and there is agreement by the young abuser and his/her family to work with relevant agencies to address the problem.

2.2 Decisions for local agencies (including the Crown Prosecution Service where relevant) according to the responsibilities of each include:

- The most appropriate course of action with the Youth Justice System if the child is above the age of criminal responsibility
- Whether the young person who perpetrated the abuse should be the subject of a Child Protection Conference
- What plan of action should be put in place to address the needs of the young abuser, detailing the involvement of all relevant agencies

2.3 The alleged perpetrator should be the subject of a Child Protection Conference if he or she is considered personally to be at risk of continuing significant harm. Where there is no reason to hold a Child Protection Conference there is likely to be a need for a multi-agency approach if the alleged perpetrators needs are complex. Issues regarding suitable educational and accommodation arrangements often require skilled and careful consideration.

2.4 Children with inappropriate sexual or very violent behaviour who are re-entering the community following a custodial sentence or time in secure accommodation, or who move into an area from another local authority, require the multi-agency response (assessment/intervention) initiated at the earliest opportunity. Where a

child who has been convicted of sexual offences involving the abuse of other children is released into the community, the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) must be invoked.

2.5 The AIM (2) Process - Applies to:

- Young people aged 1- 18 years where there is no learning disability;
- Consideration as to applying this model or an alternative assessment process in respect of those children with learning disabilities to be discussed with appropriate agencies involved

3. REFERRAL BY YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE (YJS) TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SOCIAL CARE SOCIAL WORK TEAMS

3.1 Where a child or young person (12 years or over) is arrested for sexually harmful behaviour, the following options are available to the police/crown prosecution service; No Further Action, Bail relevant caution or Charge.

3.2

- **Bail:** A young person can be bailed by the Police to return to the Police station at a later date. Examples include when the Police need to make further enquiries, speak to witnesses or confirm forensic evidence;
- **Charge:** When a young person is charged with an offence with or without admitting guilt, they will appear before the youth court. If the case cannot be dealt with immediately, the court will make a decision as to whether the young person will be bailed or remanded into custody. If a young person pleads not guilty, a date will be set for the trial when the magistrates will hear all the evidence and decide whether or not the young person is guilty. If the decision is guilty, they will then decide on the most appropriate sentence. If the case is very serious, the youth court will send the case to the Crown Court for trial; and/or
- **Caution:** A first caution may be suitable for a first offence if it is not grave (NB gravity is determined via the ACPO Gravity Matrix and is not to be assessed by agencies other than the police).and the young person admits guilt. For a second offence they must either be given a second stage caution, youth conditional caution or charged to court;
- **NFA – No Further Action:** Examples include the Police taking no action as there is not enough evidence to support a charge, however no further action can also be due to other reasons such as mistaken identify.

Referral into AIM2 by Police

3.3 In some instances depending on the gravity of the offence and/or offending history/status of the young person or child, an immediate decision will be made by the Crown Prosecution Service. In those instances a strategy meeting will still be held to consider the need for an Aim2 Assessment.

3.4 In all instances the police will automatically refer to the referral and assessment service. If the young person receives Caution or Charge then the YJS will also be notified.

- 3.5 The paired workers will jointly visit the child/young person's family/carer to discuss the AIM (2) process and provide an AIM (2) leaflet.
- 3.6 Application of the AIM (2) Assessment Welfare Route in Circumstances Where a Referral is received by Children's Services Authority Social Work Teams.
- 3.7 Concerns may be referred due to a pattern of behaviour or a single action by a young person, which raises concerns about that young person's sexual behaviours.
- 3.8 The social worker on receiving the information gathers sufficient relevant information to enable an informed decision as to the appropriateness of a referral to AIM (2) assessment. This should be made with their line manager and a discussion with the Safeguarding Manager at Children's Standards Unit.
- 3.9 The decision on who will take lead responsibility for the AIM (2) assessment will be decided at the AIM (2) strategy meeting but will generally be the YJS Officer if there is a requirement to complete a Pre-Sentence Report.
- 3.10 Application of the AIM (2) Assessment Criminal Route in Circumstances where the young person:
 - Admits a relevant offence and whose behaviour is deemed so serious at the outset that the Police make an immediate decision to charge
 - Admits the offence and has previous offences and is therefore not eligible for cautioning and are immediately charged
 - Admits the offence and is likely to receive a caution
 - i. If a child or young person is subject to Family Court Proceedings, the permission of the Court should be obtained before undertaking an AIM (2) assessment
 - ii. Where there are ongoing court procedures with regards to an alleged sexual offence and there has yet not been a conviction
 - Stage 1 of the AIM (2) assessment should only be completed. This will focus on gathering information and not directly talking to the child about the offence. Proceeding to stage 2 of the process should be discussed at the AIM (2) meeting as this stage involves direct discussion with the young person about their behaviour
 - Stage 2 part of the assessment should be considered either when the court requests the Pre-sentence Report or the proceedings have been concluded in some other way
 - The AIM (2) Assessment should be completed regardless of ongoing denial of the offence by the young person

4. RESPONSE BY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SOCIAL CARE EARLY INTERVENTION AND SAFEGUARDING (SOCIAL WORK TEAM)

- 4.1 An AIM (2) Strategy Meeting, as opposed to a Strategy Discussion, is to take place within 5 working days. This is to be separate to any immediate Meeting/Discussion held in respect of the victim of abuse, and where the abusing

child or young person and the victim are siblings/members of the same household/family and immediate safeguarding issues need addressing.

- 4.2 It is essential the AIM (2) strategy meeting include appropriate agency representatives. This must include the YJS, a representative from any local specialist project, such as, the Northern Forensic Unit, NSPCC Kaleidoscope who work with children and young people who display sexually harmful behaviour.
- 4.3 Whichever lead agency brings in the information, YJS worker or social worker, a chronology of the concerns should be forwarded to the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) prior to the AIM (2) Strategy Meeting.

5. **Tasks of the AIM (2) Meeting**

- 5.1 The AIM (2) strategy is to produce a shared multi-disciplinary plan, which addresses as far as possible, on the available information:
- Child welfare concerns for this child/young person
 - The safety of potential victims including siblings
 - Risk management at home, in school and in the wider community
 - Future living arrangements for the young person
 - School attendance and related education issues
 - Support for this child/young person and their family
 - The needs of this child/young person
 - Relevant victim issues
 - Outlining roles, tasks and expectations for different professionals/agencies
 - Referral into the Public Protection System
 - Whether Section 47 are necessary in respect of this child/young person or any other children involved
- 5.2 The AIM (2) strategy meeting is to decide whether an AIM (2) assessment is to proceed. If not, the reason for and the alternative model of assessment should be decided. The Chair of the AIM(2) meeting should ensure that the meeting does not encompass agency views on the likelihood or not of the alleged abuse having taken place (e.g. comment on the nature and/or veracity of victims or perpetrators).
- 5.3 A further meeting is arranged to consider the completed assessment report. This will be either be:
- A Child Protection Conference, where this is necessary, which will monitor the progress of the AIM (2) Assessment
 - An AIM (2) review meeting - this will include consideration of whether the young person fits MAPPA procedures and this must be held within a timescale agreed at the AIM (2) strategy meeting but no longer than 35 working days
 - Child Protection Conference

- 5.4 It is not an automatic step for a child or young person who has abused, or is alleged to have abused, to be made the subject of a Child Protection Conference. This is only to happen where, following any Section 47 Enquiry:
- The child/young person is identified as being at continuing risk of Significant Harm, separate to his or her own sexually harmful behaviour
 - A sibling/other child in family is at continuing risk of Significant Harm
- 5.5 Where a Child Protection Conference is held, this must be within 15 working days of the Strategy Meeting. The AIM (2) assessment (or other) must be discussed and the progress report made available for the Conference.
- 5.6 This Conference replaces the first AIM (2) Review Meeting and undertakes the tasks of the AIM (2) Review Meeting in addition to normal requirements of a Conference.
- 5.7 If the child/young person becomes the subject of a Child Protection Plan, a date will be set for a Child Protection Review Conference within 3 months, with inter-agency Core Group meetings in between. However, the young person might also be subject to MAPPA procedures and consideration must be given to how these procedures inform each other.
- 5.8 In the event of the child not becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan or subsequent ending of the Child Protection Plan, recommendations must include that AIM (2) Review Meetings are held, for as long as necessary.

6. AIM (2) REVIEW MEETINGS

- 6.1 The first AIM (2) Review Meeting is to be held within 35 working days of the AIM (2), unless a Child Protection Conference is being held.
- 6.2 The AIM (2) completed assessment (or other) report should be made available for the Chairperson and those invited to attend the meeting, 2 working days prior to the date of the meeting.
- 6.3 The assessors and any other relevant professionals such as Education and Health must attend the meeting. At least one person involved in the assessment should attend. The Chairperson should give consideration to specialist advisers attending.

7. TASKS OF THE AIM (2) REVIEW MEETING

- 7.1 The first AIM (2) Review Meeting is to consider the completed AIM (2) (or other) Assessment Report and produce a shared multi-disciplinary plan, which addresses or updates information re:
- Risk management at home, in school and in the wider community
 - Child welfare concerns for the young person
 - The safety of potential victims including siblings

- Future living arrangements for the young person
- School attendance and related education issues
- Support for the young person and their family
- The needs of the young person
- Relevant victim issues
- Intervention/treatment issues/identification
- Outlining ongoing roles, tasks and expectations for different professionals/agencies
- Any need for further assessment/or Section 47 Enquiries
- Whether there should be a referral into the public protection system (MAPPA)

7.2 Further AIM (2) Meetings are to be arranged between those involved, to oversee the ongoing implementation of the plan, review its effectiveness and make changes as necessary. These meetings should be held as often as deemed necessary by those involved, based on the outcome of the AIM (2) (or other) assessment. However at all times the issue of risk management must be considered, including the question of whether it needs to be referred into MAPPA.

8. ROLES AND TASKS (YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE AND EARLY INTERVENTION AND SAFEGUARDING - SOCIAL WORK TEAM)

- 8.1 It is essential that only professional people trained in the use of the AIM (2) model undertake assessments, or at least one co-worker should be trained in its use.
- 8.2 If a Youth Justice Officer or their representative acts as the 'appropriate adult' in a Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) interview of a child or young person, it is not appropriate for that worker to subsequently undertake the assessment.
- 8.3 Where there is an immediate decision to charge the child or young person, the Youth Justice Officer who undertakes the AIM (2) assessment will also normally complete the Pre-sentence Report.
- 8.4 If the victim has a social worker, he/she must not be directly involved in the assessment of the young person subject to the AIM (2) Assessment.
- 8.5 An AIM assessment must be completed on all young people who have committed sexually harmful behaviours before being sentenced by the Youth Court/Crown Court. If necessary an adjournment must be requested in order to carry out the assessment, which will inform the Pre-sentence Report.
- 8.6 In those cases where a young person commits a further offence whilst on bail, the Police will review their bail status. If an immediate decision is made to charge the young person, the YJS worker who undertakes the AIM assessment will also complete the Pre-sentence Report.

9. AIM (2) ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

- 9.1 The AIM (2) assessment framework and procedures are designed to assist professionals in assessing children and young people who have committed a sexual assault or undertaken sexually harmful behaviour.
- 9.2 The framework adopts a partnership approach, which is essential for the development of effective practice. It incorporates the concepts of the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families used by Children and Families Social Care and other agencies, as well as the ASSET framework used by Youth Justice Service. Its use is intended to fit within the timescales agreed by the Criminal Justice and Child Welfare Systems.
- 9.3 The AIM (2) initial assessment model is the first stage in gathering and analysing information, which will assist practitioners to consider what further assessments and interventions might be required to support the young person and their parents/carers.
- 9.4 It recognises the importance of parents and family support for the child or young person throughout, therefore adopts a holistic approach to assessing the young person and their family.
- 9.5 The framework provides a model to assist all professionals within Children and Families Social Care, Youth Justice Service and other agencies or services, who have contact with children and young people, to conduct an assessment in order to:
- Identify potential risk of re-offending
 - In child protection terms identify risk to either the young person or their actual/potential victim(s)
 - Identify the young person's needs
 - Assess the young person's motivation and capacity to engage in services and plans
 - Identify the capacity of the parents/carers to support the young person
 - Suggest priorities for initial response
 - Consider referral into the Public Protection System
- 9.6 In assessing the distinction between behaviour that is experimental in nature and behaviour that is abusive, the notions of consent, power, equality and authority need to be considered by the assessors.
- 9.7 It may be that the child or young person cannot remain living with their family during the assessment and/or treatment process as they may be considered a risk to other children in the household. The AIM (2) model recognises the importance of parents and family for the child or young person throughout, therefore adopts a holistic approach to assessment.
- 9.8 The model does not make decisions for assessors but will support decision-making by focusing on strengths and concerns.

10. AIM (2) PROCESS

- 10.1 Where the young person and/or their families have a different first language from the assessors, or there are mental health issues, learning disabilities or physical health issues, arrangements must be made to ensure equal access to service provision e.g. interpretation or advocacy services.
- 10.2 The young person and their parent/carers must be asked by the assessors to sign an AIM2 consent form agreeing to participate in the process. If consent is not given, but concern remains, the assessment must continue drawing on any existing information and involving the same relevant professionals.

11. AIM (2) ASSESSMENT REPORT

- 11.1 The assessment report will comment upon whether the child or young person poses a risk, either to children currently identified, or to others, whether children or adults and consider whether referral into the public protection system is necessary.
- 11.2 The assessors will share the report with the young person and their parents and note any areas of disagreement before sharing it with other professionals.

12. AIM (2) FOUR DOMAINS OF ASSESSMENT

- 12.1 The AIM (2) initial assessment model is based on a clear theoretical framework and is a research-guided clinical judgment framework incorporating a simple scoring system.
- 12.2 The AIM (2) model is based on four domains of assessment and considers both strengths and concerns in these areas. The assessment model seeks to identify both static and dynamic factors in all these areas, which will enable professionals to develop their understanding of the young person's circumstances and also inform planning for further interventions.

12.3 The Four Domains

Sexually and Non-sexually harmful behaviour issues

Including: the nature of the sexual offending, attitude to victim, offence planning, and use of violence, previous professional involvement, and motivation to engage with professionals

Developmental Issues

Including: the nature of the sexual offending, attitude to victim, offence planning, and use of violence, previous professional involvement, and motivation to engage with professionals

Family Issues

Including: level of family functioning, attitudes and beliefs, sexual boundaries parental competence, current parent situation

Environmental Issues

Including: opportunity for further offending, support networks, attitude of community toward the young person

12.4 Further information regarding the development of the AIM (2) Initial Assessment Model can be found in the AIM (2) Initial Assessment Manual.

12.5 **Offence specific**

Offending History

- Has the young person committed previous offences (sexual or non-sexual)?
- If yes, did this result in a conviction, caution, reprimand or final warning?
- If no further action, state the reason why?

Nature of the sexual offence/s

- Was the offence an isolated incident or part of a series of offending?
- Did the behaviour escalate over time?
- Did the offence involve penetration
- Was the offence of experimental or peer influenced nature?

Attitude to victim

- Did the young person know their victim?
- Does the young person show any feelings of remorse or guilt?
- Does the young person accept any responsibility for the offence?

Offence planning

- Did the offence involve detailed and careful planning?
- Did the young person prepare (groom) the victims over time?
- Did the young person have persistent thoughts about the offence before it occurred?

Violence

- Has the young person a history of violence or aggressive behaviours?
- Did the offence involve violence or sadistic behaviours?

Previous professional involvement

- Has the young person received help for previous sexual behaviour in the past?
- If yes what were the outcomes of previous assessments /treatment?
- Did the young person complete or drop out of treatment?
- If they dropped out of treatment, at what stage and for what reason?

Motivation to engage with professionals

- Does the young person consider that they have a problem?
- Is the young person worried that the problem may impact on their future?
- Does the young person believe that they might benefit from professional intervention?
- Is the young person willing to accept professional help?
- Does the young person have a history of absconding, failing appointments or non-compliance?

12.6 **Developmental**

Resilience factors

- How isolated/sociable is the young person?
- Does the young person have goals and ambitions?
- Is the young person involved in social activities and hobbies?
- Can the young person express their feelings adequately?
- Does the young person communicate reasonably?
- Does the young person have positive reports from school or employers?
- Is the young person able to understand the possible consequences of their behaviour?

Health Issues

- Does the young person have any history of serious physical ill health?
- Has the young person ever suffered depression or any other form of mental ill health?
- Have they ever been diagnosed as suffering a psychiatric illness?
- Does the young person have any difficulties in concentration, learning or communication?

Experienced physical/sexual/emotional abuse or neglect

- Has the young person been subjected to any form of abuse?
- If yes, what was the nature of the abuse?
- How long did it continue?
- Who perpetrated the abuse?
- How old was the young person when the abuse began?
- What impact did the abuse appear to have on the young person?
- Has the young person suffered abuse due to racial, cultural, religious reasons or because of disability?

Witnessed domestic violence

- If the young person has witnessed domestic violence within the home:
- Who was involved?
- What was the nature of the violence?
- How long did it continue?
- How frequently did it occur?
- How old was the young person when the violence commenced?
- Does the violence still occur?

Quality of the young person's early life experiences

- What attachments did the young person form with carers?
- Has the young person experienced consistent 'good enough' care?
- Has the young person experienced harsh or inconsistent care?
- Has the young person been in substitute care? If so, why, when and for how long?
- Has the young person experienced a supportive community environment?

Behaviour problems

- Does the young person exhibit a range of problem behaviours?
- What was/is the nature of the behaviours?
- When did they commence/stop?

- Where did they occur?
- How were they dealt with?
- Has the young person ever been diagnosed with a conduct disorder or impulsive or compulsive behaviour traits?
- Does the young person regularly engage in substance abuse?

Sexuality

- Has the young person's sexual development been appropriate (including sexual education, puberty and sexual experiences)?
- Is the young person confused about their sexual identity?
- Does the young person have persistent thoughts about abusive sexual behaviours?

12.7 Parenting Capacity

Level of functioning

- Does family function in a positive/caring manner or is it chaotic with high levels of dysfunction?
- Is there a history of abuse in the family/extended family?
- Can parents/carers demonstrate appropriate support for the young person?
- Do the parents have a positive social network?

Attitudes and beliefs

- Do parents/carers accept that the offence occurred?
- Do they accept that the young person was responsible for the offence?
- Do they express a degree of concern for the victim?
- Do they have positive protective attitudes?
- Do they believe that professional intervention may benefit the young person?
- Do they accept they have a role to play in further intervention?

Sexual boundaries

- Are parental/carers attitudes towards sexual abuse reasonable?
- Do they employ appropriate boundaries in the home e.g. regarding privacy?
- Can they communicate positively about sexual matters?
- Are there additional or frequent periods of crisis or trauma in the family?

12.8 Family and Environmental

Opportunity for further offending

- How easily will the young person gain access to the victim or other potential victims?
- Are plans for the supervision of the young person reasonable and responsible?
- Are those who will act in a supervisory capacity able to appropriately exercise this role?
- Is the young person willing to comply with supervision/management plans?

Community support

- Are those in the community who 'need to know' aware of the offence and management plans e.g. teachers?

- Is there support for the young person in the community e.g. teachers, friends etc?
- Is there support for the parents in the community?
- Is the young person or family likely to be at risk of aggressive or retributive actions?

13. CHILDREN WHO ABUSE OTHER CHILDREN

- 13.1 There should be a coordinated approach on the part of all agencies working with children, including those concerned with Youth Offending, Child Welfare, Education, Educational Psychology and Health (including Child and Adolescent Mental Health). Any action taken by any agency must be done with appropriate consultation.
- 13.2 The needs of a child/young person who abuses must be looked at separately from the needs of their victims. The victim's safety must be addressed at all times.

Young People with Learning Disabilities

- 13.3 If the abuser has learning disabilities, any investigation or assessment should be informed by specialist advice from professionals who are knowledgeable about the particular needs of this group of young people and who can apply the knowledge to this particular young person.

Race, Religious, Linguistic and Cultural Considerations

- 13.4 As with all aspects of these procedures, there should be sensitivity to racial, cultural and linguistic differences and needs.

Physical Abuse

- 13.5 Minor physical assaults by a child on another child (the equivalent to schoolchild disputes) will not normally come within Child Protection Procedures, whether the child be resident in the community, Local Authority accommodation or elsewhere, unless the assault is one of a serious nature, there is a significant age difference, there appears to be an issue of intimidation or the victim can be shown to be subject to systematic bullying.

Sexual Abuse

- 13.6 Work with adult sex abusers has shown that many of them begin committing their abusive acts during childhood or adolescence and that significant numbers have suffered from abuse themselves. It is therefore an important safeguarding function to ensure that such behaviour is treated seriously and is always subject to a Referral to Children and Families Social Care – children and young people who are abusers are themselves in need of services.

Sexual Activities between Young People

- 13.7 Sexual activities between young people below the age of consent, coming to the attention of an agency, should be referred to Children and Families Social, especially where there is concern that this is abusive for either young person.
- 13.8 Where a young person is sexually active, consideration should be given to the ability of the young person to genuinely consent to the act when a decision is being made whether to make a Referral.
- 13.9 Incestuous relationships or any suspicion that coercion has taken place will always require a Referral.

Investigation Process

- 13.10 An assessment should be carried out in each case consideration developmental as well as behavioural issues. Relevant matters for assessment include:
- The nature and extent of the abusive behaviours, with expert advice called on if required
 - The context of the abuse behaviours
 - The child's development, family and social circumstances
 - The need for services, specifically focussing on the child's harmful behaviour as well as on other significant needs
 - The risk to self and others, including other children in the household, extended family, school, peer group or wider social network
- 13.11 Risk is likely to remain present unless:
- The opportunity to abuse is ended
 - The young person acknowledges the abusive behaviour and accepts responsibility
 - There is an agreement by the alleged abuser and his/her family to work with professionals to address the problems
- 13.12 If a child/young person is abused by another child/young person this must constitute a referral and the safety of both victim and perpetrator must be ensured immediately.
- 13.13 A Strategy Meeting will be convened as soon as possible to discuss:
- All relevant information regarding the incident
 - All relevant information regarding the alleged perpetrator
 - The plan for further investigation
 - The likely course of action within the criminal justice system if the alleged abuser is above the age of criminal responsibility. If appropriate information from the Crown Prosecution Services should be included in this decision
 - Whether or not the alleged abuser should be the subject of a Child Protection conference (if information available)

- What plan should be put in place to address the needs of the young abuser, including accommodation, education and behavioural, with details of the responsibilities of each agency
- 13.14 With regard to the victim of the abuse, the Section 47 Enquiry needs to indicate if there should be a Child Protection Conference to determine if further risk of abuse is still likely for the child or young person (if information available).
- 13.15 If indicated by the Section 47 enquiries there should be a Child Protection Conference in respect of the alleged abuser to address current knowledge of:
- The alleged abuser
 - The family circumstances
 - The offence committed
 - The level of understanding he/she has of the offence
 - The need for further work
- 13.16 Care should be taken when making plans for the safeguarding of the alleged perpetrator that other young people are not put at risk or left at risk. Protecting other children or young people who are especially vulnerable, e.g. by virtue of their age, gender, disability or because they have previously been victims of any form of abuse, must be a priority.
- 13.17 In cases where there is a Child Protection Conference in respect of both the victim and the alleged abuser, the same person should (where possible) chair the Child Protection Conference for both.