

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Among Children and Young People

NICE guideline

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Glebe House were invited to give evidence for the above NICE guidelines and are pleased that they are now published.

Overview

The guideline covers children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour, including those on remand or serving community or custodial sentences. It aims to ensure these problems don't escalate and possibly lead to them being charged with a sexual offence. It also aims to ensure no-one is unnecessarily referred to specialist services.

'Young people' refers mainly to those aged 10 to 18 but also includes people up to 25 with special educational needs or a disability.

Who is it for?

- Social workers, social and residential care practitioners and foster carers
- Child and adolescent harmful sexual behaviour and mental health services
- Neighbourhood and community support police officers and youth offending teams
- Schools and youth services
- National adolescent forensic services
- Primary care, sexual health, drug and alcohol services
- People who exhibit harmful sexual behaviour, their families and other members of the public.
- Harmful sexual behaviour among children and young people (NG55)

Current practice

The Glebe House model, a specialist children's home, is an example of residential practice in this area. It is based on a therapeutic community model for adolescent males with a known history of harmful sexual behaviours. The Committee noted that the Glebe House model is not usual practice in this area, and that the types of interventions offered at Glebe House are very different from those offered by custodial services.

We were pleased to note that the report recommended the use of therapeutic approaches, such as those used at Glebe House. It also noted that some young people displaying HSB may warrant placement in a specialist residential setting and it

drew on the submission of Glebe House's expert paper as an example of a specialist Children's home that uses a Therapeutic Community model.

The Committee agreed that, if possible, residential settings should draw on the values and approaches of a therapeutic model originally developed in the field of social psychiatry by Rapoport and Roscow. This is based on 5 social psychology principles: attachment, containment, communication, involvement and agency.

The Committee agreed that interventions in residential settings should be based on the principles outlined in the Guideline.

The Committee agreed that residential settings should also provide a range of services, including ongoing support, to enable a child or young person to successfully integrate back into the Community. This fits in with our own findings from our longitudinal research study which resulted in us setting up a Circles of Support service to support young people once they have moved on from Glebe House.