



Sexting case study

- Every case is unique, taking risk factors into consideration to aid decision making. No clear definite answers but safeguarding the child is paramount
- Schools and youth settings should have a protocol and risk checklist to aid decision making and ensure consistency. Access to support and advice from designated safeguarding lead



Conversation with young people

- Importance of quality of conversation, non-judgemental, calm, explaining confidentiality and need to share, assessing risk and impact on child, safeguarding the child is paramount
- What has the impact been? Is there a safeguarding risk for either child? What support do they need?
- Empowering the child to keep safe, exploring the practical issues (e.g. is the image still on their phone? etc.) and being clear about next steps



Dealing with incident

- What sort of image is it? Is it potentially illegal or is it inappropriate?
- How widely has the image been shared and is the device in their possession? Where could images be? (cloud/internet)
- Does the child/young person need immediate support and or protection?
- Are there other children or young people involved?



Reporting to the police

- How explicit/what category is the image? (boy's image was explicit – girl's wasn't)
- Were coercion or threats involved?
- The vulnerability of the parties and how they have been affected
- The police's response would be to not criminalise the young people concerned. Viewed as sexting – not sharing of pornographic images. The matter would only be taken further if there are aggravating factors.
- Outcome 21 – police ensure recording to improve information sharing and safeguarding – but not disclosed on a db (no guarantees)
- National guidance for police is coming soon to ensure consistency on police response to sexting



How should other agencies be involved?

- Existing safeguarding concerns, already been a M.A.S.H. referral
- Importance of sharing information with other agencies. Who is able to support and work with the child?
- Engagement and involvement of parents and carers is crucial to safeguarding the child



Other things to consider

- Dealing with the bullying – what other work needs to be done to address this? Consider if a restorative approach is appropriate?
- What work is needed with the other young people who have been affected? Providing follow up support/education
- Continuing to provide support and monitoring the risk
- What preventative work is needed? - reviewing how and when to provide this
- New national guidance for schools and colleges from UKCCIS :Sexting in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people
<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-council-for-child-internet-safety-ukccis>