

Criteria for Allocation to the Kingfisher Team

The Threshold criteria for cases to be allocated to the Kingfisher Team are based on multi-agency collaboration and not on an individual agency basis. Police, Health and Children's Social Care are all involved in the decision making process by the sharing of information and professional judgement. This is substantiated by the findings of the individual database enquiries and information sharing between agencies.

Consideration is given to the nature of the identified harm, the presenting risk, historical factors and the complexity of the presenting issues. Other issues which are taken into account are the witnessing of parental domestic abuse, parental substance misuse, parental mental health, risk of honour based violence and a history of neglect within the family home which includes maltreatment or failure to provide adequate care

The child's development within the context of their family and wider environment including education, peer groups, social isolation, and poor relationship with parents are also taken into account. Changes in appearance which can include self-neglect are also considered.

Health related factors include any special needs, such as a medical condition, communication impairment or disability, long term physical ill-health, medical conditions which include mental health issues, self-harm through overdose, cutting, food intake, or issues with food and those lacking social skills due to social isolation.

Cases that are already open to Children's Social Care beyond the assessment phase are either joint worked or advice and appropriate tools are shared with the allocated Social Worker.

Internet and phone use.

It is acknowledged that children socialise through social media sites and mobile phones. Loneliness and social isolation can sometimes lead to addictive behaviour through posting pictures and accessing social media websites.

The Kingfisher Team cannot assess all children who are engaged in risk taking behaviour through their use of social media sites due to the volume of potential referrals. These need to be managed by the referrer with support and advice from the Kingfisher Team.

The Kingfisher Team will assess referrals from CEOP, cases where the victim has had face to face contact with a significantly older person whether male or female

who they met on line and boys who are exploring their sexuality through social media sites.

The CSE Specialist Nurse will alert the appropriate school health Nurse as a response to all referrals

The Kingfisher Team will pick up some cases where no screening tool has been completed i.e. information from children where they disclose concerns about another child and information from health and the police where children are deemed to be at significant risk of harm.

These cases will be discussed at the weekly referrals meeting.

Sue Evans
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