

Young People Under 16 Involved in Sexual Activity

Summary checklist of the Fraser and Bichard Guidelines for professionals working with young people.

Fraser Guidelines

Can you give contraceptive and sexual health advice and information to under 16 year olds without parental consent?

Are you satisfied that:

The young person can understand the advice and has sufficient maturity to understand what is involved in terms of the moral, social and emotional implications.

You can't persuade the young person to inform their parents, nor allow you to inform their parents that contraceptive advice is being sought.

The young person would be very likely to begin or to continue having sexual intercourse with or without contraceptive treatment.

Without contraceptive treatment the young person's physical or mental health or both would be likely to suffer.

The young person's best interests requires the professional to give advice without parental consent.

Bichard checklist

Should you tell the police and social services?

Do any of the following apply:

- Age or power imbalances
- Overt aggression
- Coercion or bribery
- The misuse of substances as a disinhibitor
- Does the child's own behaviour, because of the misuse of substances, place him/her at risk so that he/she is unable to make an informed choice about any activity?
- Has any attempt to secure secrecy been made by the sexual partner, beyond what would be considered usual in a teenage relationship?
- Is the sexual partner known by one of the agencies (n.b. police)?
- Does the child deny, minimise or accept concerns?
- Are the methods used consistent with grooming?