

Appendix 4: Terminology

Abuse: a form of maltreatment of a child, person, or vulnerable adult. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child or vulnerable adult by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. A child or vulnerable adult may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g., via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children. Abuse will never be tolerated or passed off as 'banter' or a 'joke.'

Physical abuse: a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child, or vulnerable adult. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child, or vulnerable adult.

Emotional abuse: the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

It may involve conveying to a child, or vulnerable adult that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.

It may include not giving the child, or vulnerable adult opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate.

It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on the child or vulnerable adult. These may include interactions that are beyond a child or vulnerable adult's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning or preventing the child or vulnerable adult participating in normal social interaction.

It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another.

It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children or vulnerable adult frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child or vulnerable adult, although it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse: involves forcing or enticing a child or vulnerable adult to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing.

They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males.

Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect: the persistent failure to meet a child or vulnerable adult's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child or vulnerable adult's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger.
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers).
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.
- include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): refers to the use of children for someone else's advantage, gratification or profit often resulting in unjust, cruel, and harmful treatment of the child. These activities are to the detriment of the child's physical or mental health, education, moral or social-emotional development.

CSE is a form of child abuse involving children and young people receiving something, such as accommodation, drugs, gifts, or affection, as a result of them performing sexual activities, or having others perform sexual activities on them. It can occur without physical contact, when children are groomed to post sexual images of themselves on the internet.

CSE is a hidden issue taking place out of public view. Practitioners often do not identify it and young people themselves frequently do not recognise themselves as the abused. It can be difficult to get an accurate picture of the risk of sexual exploitation.

The link between children being sexually exploited and children going missing is very strong.

Harmful Sexual Behaviours

"Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) is developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour, which is displayed by children and vulnerable adults, which may be harmful or abusive. It can be displayed towards younger children, peers, older children, or adults. It is harmful to the children and vulnerable adults who display it, as well as those it is directed towards." HSB includes (but is not limited to):

- Sexist jokes and comments
- Physical and sexual abuse
- Sexual harassment and violence
- Gender based violence
- Emotional harm
- On and offline bullying
- Teenage relationship abuse

- CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation)

Peer on peer abuse: Safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer-on-peer abuse. This may include:

- Bullying (including cyber bullying) and prejudice-based behaviours
- Gender based violence/sexual assaults
- Taking, collecting, and sharing of naked or semi-naked images and up skirting
- Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm
- Initiating/hazing type violence and rituals

The University takes peer on peer abuse very seriously and will always act on such matters.