

Information for parents and carers of young people

who have concerns about a young person's sexual behaviour



If your child's sexual behaviour, either online or in the 'real world', has raised concerns about sexual harm to them or others, what can you do?

For most parents, discovering that their child has been engaging in inappropriate sexual behaviour either online, via their mobile phone or in the real world is initially shocking, and quickly followed by fears for their child's welfare and confusion about what to do.

The behaviour may result in sexual harm to the young person themselves or to other children, and it could be illegal; sometimes it is all three. Whether the discovery was made by you, or was brought to your attention by the school or the police, it is likely you will have some burning questions about how you can help your child and what might happen next.

You can talk to us – Stop it Now! Helpline 0808 1000 900

Knowing who you can talk to is the first step to getting the right help and support.

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation is a leading child protection charity working to prevent sexual harm to children. We work with adults, young people and their families about concerning sexual behaviour, both online and offline; we also work with victims of sexual abuse.

We run the Stop it Now! Helpline which offers confidential information, advice and support to any adult concerned about sexual harm to, or by, a child. Calling the helpline might be an important first step towards working out what to do next.



Working to Protect Children

The Lucy Faithfull Foundation is here to help you. Please call us on 0808 1000 900 or visit www.lucyfaithfull.org.uk

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What can the Foundation offer?

We can offer one to five sessions of work with the young person and their family, tailored to their needs. Each session will be delivered by an experienced practitioner either by telephone (through our Helpline) or face-to-face.

If the police are involved, an investigation process might still be ongoing. This is the time when young people and their families often feel 'in limbo', wanting to do something constructive rather than just wait.

Content is tailored to address issues around a young person putting him/herself at risk, as well as potentially causing harm to others. The work aims to:

- Provide information, advice and support to the young person (and parents/carers) where there are concerns about sexual behaviour
- Alleviate the young person's (and parents'/carers') distress and anxiety arising from their concerning sexual behaviour coming to light
- Give practical advice on strategies to prevent a re-occurrence or escalation of the concerning sexual behaviour – including aids to responsible use of technology (if behaviour utilised technology)
- Give sound information about the law in this context, especially as it applies to young people
- Facilitate more open communication between the young person and their parents/carers

The information shared in these sessions will remain confidential unless it raises concerns about direct risk to a child.

The sessions are educative, designed primarily to provide support, advice and information to young people and their families. In the event that the young person requires more in-depth intervention and/or safeguarding procedures need to be implemented, this will be discussed with you. The Foundation can provide additional assessment and intervention services provided funding is available.

How much does Inform YP cost?

The Foundation is able to provide this service free if certain criteria are met. Please call to discuss.

What to do now

For help and advice, please make contact by:

Calling the Stop it Now! Helpline on **0808 1000 900**

Visit **www.stopitnow.org.uk**

Information about the Lucy Faithfull Foundation and our services can be found at

www.lucyfaithfull.org.uk

The Stop it Now! confidential freephone Helpline is available for you to call and discuss any immediate issues you have with trained operators who can offer confidential and impartial advice.

They will help you explore options, including managing future behaviour. This service is available to anyone with concerns about potentially abusive situations, whether that be online or offline.



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