

A QUICK GUIDE

Youth Produced Sexual Images (YPSI) and inappropriate sexual contact online

Risk assessment advice to safeguard children and young people



Call the police on 101

As part of Cheshire Constabulary's commitment to working in partnership with education to keep young people safe and informed, it is important we ensure that education partners and practitioners have a clear picture of the force approach to dealing with cases of YPSI and inappropriate sexual contact online.

This information aims to support schools and partners dealing with cases of YPSI or sexual contact online to determine the need to report to police for investigation or whether matters can be dealt with outside of the law by staff, the young people involved and parents, respecting that a police response will not always be necessary.

Yes

No

DO ANY OF THESE FACTORS EXIST?

The presence of any aggravating factors means the matter should be reported to police to safeguard those involved and investigate the case further.

Those involved are under 13yrs?

An adult aged 18 or over is involved?

Multiple victims/wider distribution

The level of sexual nature/type of image

Threats/coercion/harassment present

Grooming or exploitation expected

Wide age gaps in relationship cases

Where an incident has no aggravating factors, police intervention is not necessary; the matter should be resolved by staff in a balanced and proportionate way in accordance with their own safeguarding policies.

Images produced (as part of or within) a consensual relationship for romantic or attention-seeking reasons with no identifiable aggravating factors

Victim/suspect are not at high risk of CSE or other abuse and vulnerabilities

No further/persistent contact from suspect

Contact and conversation appear to be age appropriate

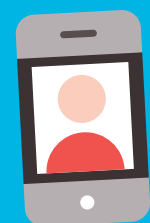
Images only distributed between each other

Type of image sent – nature/tone



Can I look at the image or content?

Only if it is completely necessary to make a full risk assessment. **Conduct only with given permission from relevant staff according to school or your organisation's protocol;** ensure it is carried out in the presence of someone else and that it is recorded clearly and accurately.



Can I seize a child's phone?

Yes you can. This may be necessary for the safety of the child, to reduce the risk of harm from content being shared or distributed and to make a full risk assessment.



Can I give the child's phone back to them?

Yes. If your risk assessment determines the case is low risk and falls under the experiential criteria, contact parents and agree whether they, you or the child in your/their presence **deletes all images before this is then recorded in school/organisation records.** Do not give the child the phone back until this has been done.



Will calling the police mean the child will get a criminal record?

Cheshire Constabulary will **not seek to criminalise a young person**, their safety and wellbeing is always the priority.

Only in serious cases would the police have to consider formal sanctions.



What do I do if the image is sent to me?

Delete it immediately, do not retain it, show it to others or share it. Report this to your manager and the police.



What if parents aren't happy with our decision not to call the police?

Ensure parents are informed why and that they have the option to make a report themselves.

Record your investigation, assessment and rationale to enable police to support you if a report is made that we need to respond to.