

Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool UK



Type of intervention



Book/Guide

Target group/s, level/s of prevention and sub-group/s:

Communities
/ Families

Primary prevention

Adults (21 Years +) | Male & Female | Book/Guide | English

Communities
/ Families

Secondary prevention

Adults (21 Years +) | Male & Female | Book/Guide | English

Target population

This tool is designed for use by professionals who work with children and young people in any capacity, for examples social services, police, health professionals, teachers, charities and youth services.

Delivery organisation

Brook (www.brook.org.uk) is a charity which provides sexual health services and education across the UK for young people under 25 years, plus a range of training programmes for professionals using booklets, leaflets, posters and teaching materials. It developed and owns the Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool, adapted with permission from Family Planning Queensland (2012). *Traffic Lights guide to sexual behaviours in children and young people: identify, understand and respond*. Brisbane: Family Planning Queensland, Australia.

Brook works with thousands of children and young people each year across the UK in supporting them with their sexual health and wellbeing needs. This covers both clinical and non-clinical support, therapeutic and counselling and education and intervention.

Mode and context of delivery

The tool is available online at www.brook.org.uk/trafficlites and is accompanied by guidance and example scenarios. It uses a 'traffic light system' to categorise sexual behaviours, to increase understanding of healthy sexual

development and distinguish this from harmful behaviour. By identifying sexual behaviours as GREEN, AMBER or RED, professionals across different agencies can work to the same criteria when making decisions and protect children and young people with a unified approach. The resource has been designed to help professionals think through their decisions and does not replace organisational procedures or assessment frameworks.

Level/Nature of staff expertise required

All staff at Brook are trained in safeguarding and are experts in the field of young people and sexual health and wellbeing. Organisations which use the tool vary, as does the level of expertise of those using the tool.

Intensity/extent of engagement with target group(s)

The target group can access the traffic light tool online and Brook also offers training to support the use of the tool. To commission a trainer or to book an individual place on an open course please email training@brook.org.uk.

Description of intervention

The Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool uses a 'traffic light' system to categorise sexual behaviours, to increase understanding of healthy sexual development and distinguish this from harmful behaviour. It encourages professionals in different agencies to adopt the same criteria in a unified approach to decision-making, supporting and safeguarding children and young people.

The tool assists professionals to identify and respond appropriately to a range of sexual behaviours, using a 'traffic light' approach and through providing a range of scenarios and examples. Levels of concern are distinguished between:

- GREEN – behaviour of no concern
- AMBER – concern raised and in need of further investigation
- RED – sufficient degree of concern to activate safeguarding policy and procedures

The traffic light tool does not replace local safeguarding policy and procedure. It assists in identifying whether the presenting sexual behaviour is a safeguarding concern which needs to be further investigated using the local safeguarding policy and procedure.

Some of the resources are available online and PDF versions of the tool and the accompanying guidance can be downloaded from www.brook.org.uk/traffic-lights

Evaluation

Professionals from a range of disciplines are already using, rolling out and promoting the resource and have provided excellent feedback including: Royal College of GPs, leading child protection charities, youth offending services, care homes and charities, GPs and nurses, CAMHS, housing, youth engagement, police, helplines, sexual health services, academics and universities, parenting organisations, secure settings, LGBT organisations, child protection, social services, Brook centres and Local Children's Safeguarding Boards who have integrated the tool into their guidance.

Zoe Cameron, Royal College of GPs, said:

“There is very little guidance currently available to professionals in this difficult area. Brook's traffic light tool is a very welcome source of help and will undoubtedly build confidence and consistency in recognising children at risk.”

Jane Scott, NSPCC, said:

“This website provides clear and easily accessible information for professionals from a range of agencies and something that we have often needed to provide.”

References

www.brook.org.uk

Contact details

Brook

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