Safeguarding young people using online sexual health services

Identify risk and manage transition

Adam Black*, Mollie Courtenay, Stuart Amos-Gibbs, Gillian Holdsworth, Elena Ardines, Paula Baraitser
In person vs remote safeguarding

Online Clinic

Anonymity Face-to-face

Lack of guidance Established procedures

Identify risk and manage transition
Online order form – all under 18’s

Extra support
As you are under 18 we would like to ask you some more questions.

If you tick any of these boxes an NHS advisor will call you to offer you extra support.

Have you ever been made to feel scared or uncomfortable by the person(s) you have been having sexual contact with?
- Yes
- No

Has anyone ever given you gifts, money, drugs, alcohol or protection for sex?
- Yes
- No

Do you often drink or take drugs before having sex?
- Yes
- No

Do you feel down or suffer from feelings of depression?
- Yes
- No

An SH:24 clinician will call you to offer you extra support. We will send you a text to check when it would be a good time for you to talk to us.

Is your partner a lot older or younger than you?
- Yes
- No
Hello. We noticed that you ticked one of our extra support boxes when ordering your test kit. An SH:24 advisor will call you soon to offer you support. Text back if there is a good time to call you.

Thanks, SH:24
Case management & governance

8.3% (122/1473) of 16-18yrs
186 issues
Case management & governance

- Safeguarding
- Sexual assault
- Under 18

8.3% (122/1473) of 16-18yrs
186 issues

25% (19/76)

3 miles

75% (57/76)
Safeguarding user demographics

- Gender: 74.2% Female, 75.4% All 16 & 17 yrs old
- Age: 67.2% 17 yrs, 62.3% Safeguarding alert users
- Ethnicity White: 78.6% All 16 & 17 yrs old, 77.9% Safeguarding alert users
- Sexuality Heterosexual: 82.0% All 16 & 17 yrs old, 69.7% Safeguarding alert users
- Didn't attended sexual health clinic before: 60.2% All 16 & 17 yrs old, 53.3% Safeguarding alert users

All 16 & 17 yrs old are marked as blue, Safeguarding alert users are marked as red.

Statistical significance: p < 0.001
### Distribution of safeguarding issues reported:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safeguarding measure (n=186)</th>
<th>Safeguarding flag frequency</th>
<th>Safeguarding issues</th>
<th>Successfully contacted?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression/ low mood</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner's Age</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drink &amp; drugs</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressured into sex</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual assault</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bribed</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When we can’t contact
Safeguarding issues/ cases: Our perspective

16% High

20% Medium

64% Low
### Kit return & positivity rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Testing / infection</th>
<th>All 16-17</th>
<th></th>
<th>Safeguarding</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returned kits</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>72.5</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>55.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive results</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia positive</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhoea positive</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion

Identify risk and manage transition

• young people regularly report safeguarding online
• most are effectively supported and sent a kit
• where appropriate, transitioned to face-to-face care
• continuous evolution achieved through working with key stakeholders and users, and data sharing.
Thank you, any questions?

Thank you to the entire SH:24 team & our partners; particularly the clinical team (Stuart Amos-Gibbs, Charlotte Sullivan, Emma Fletcher, Gillian Holdsworth, Paula Baraitser), Mollie Courtenay & Elena Ardines