



RAPID REVIEW LEARNING BRIEFING

SEXUAL ABUSE PATHWAY FOR CHILDREN HARMED OUT OF THE COUNTRY

WHAT IS A RAPID REVIEW?

The rapid review process is triggered when a Child Safeguarding Serious Incident Notification (SIN) is submitted to Ofsted. The criteria for a SIN is met when a child dies or is seriously harmed in Bristol and abuse or neglect is known or suspected. The purpose of a rapid review is to gather information quickly to identify actions required by organisations to ensure children's safety in the city and to share immediate learning. This process must be completed, and a report submitted to the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel within 15 working days. Using the information gathered in the rapid review process, a decision will then be made about whether to undertake a full local or national Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR). Rapid reviews were introduced in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. Rapid reviews and CSPRs have replaced the former Serious Case Review process.

INTRODUCTION

In March 2020, KBSP undertook a rapid review into the experiences of a Bristol young person who experienced abuse and harm whilst abroad. This review highlighted that the response to children who experience sexual abuse outside of the country is an area of learning. The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership have created this learning briefing to improve knowledge of this area of practice.

LEARNING FROM THE RAPID REVIEW

It was a finding of the rapid review that the young person's experience of being sexually abused was a turning point for the young person and the family and from this point there were multiple indicators of dysregulation. The school put in place counselling and supported the young person to stay in school which was an example of good practice. However, the disclosure did not trigger the sexual abuse pathway which may have supported the family to better manage the impact of the disclosure. The review found that this was because the abuse happened in another country and therefore there was a lack of clarity about the most appropriate pathway.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

If children experience sexual harm whilst abroad, they should still be offered support through the sexual abuse pathway with advice and support available through [Bristol's Sexual Assault Referral Centre \(SARC\) The Bridge](#). The Bridge offer medical care, emotional and psychological support, and practical help to anyone who has been sexually assaulted. Children and young people impacted by recent or past sexual abuse, including abuse that happened abroad can be referred to the [Star Clinic](#), a consultant led medical service. Referrals are received from Police, Children & Young People's Services (CYPS) / Social Care, GPs and Consultants/Doctors from any Trust. When faced with types of abuse or legal frameworks you are less familiar with it is even more important to talk to managers and colleagues across the partnership. Remember you can always refer to the [South West Child Protection Procedures](#) if you are unsure on how best to respond.

SEXUAL ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICES

Children, young people and their families can also be offered sexual abuse support from specialist sexual abuse services.

[The Green House](#) provide free counselling for anyone who has experienced sexual abuse at any point in their lives.

[Somerset & Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support \(SARSAS\)](#) provide support for people who have experienced rape or any kind of sexual assault or abuse at any time in their lives.

[The Survivor Pathway](#) is an online resource for anyone wanting to know more about specialist sexual violence support services in the South West.

[We Stand](#) provide help for non-abusing parents and carers whose children have been sexually abused.



CHILDREN

ADULTS

COMMUNITIES