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Y-05 Sexual Health Services Policy

Version	Date of change	Changed by	Trustee approval	Notes
1.00	28/12/2018	KBG		Transferred to new template
1.2	10/02/2021	ASB		Updates made via track changes
1.3	01/09/2021	ASB		Yearly updates and branding update
1.4	04/09/2023	AS		Finalised updates for trustee approval
1.5	09/08/2024	AS	✓	Further updates for Trustee Approval

The Haxby & Wigginton Youth & Community Association (HWYCA) Youth Staff will be facilitating the distribution of condoms, sexual health advice, and referring young people onto further sources of information and services regarding sexual health.

HWYCA currently has three members of staff who are trained in condom distribution and sexual health awareness through the YorSexual Heath Sexual Health Awareness course which includes training on chlamydia screening and condom distribution. These are the only staff members who can be offering these services and all other staff should refer young people looking for advice or condoms to the named people. This service is designed to support young people in making healthy decisions about their sexual health, whilst also keeping them informed about safe sex and healthy relationships. This policy should be strictly followed by all HWYCA staff, ensuring that the team is offering a fair and consistent service.

Trained staff members: Yasmin Husain Mairi Taylor-Gibson Amy Shephard

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Recording of Information

The trained Youth Workers must record the services that each young person accesses in order to create an accurate profile of their individual service needs. This should include their name, age and service accessed if they have requested condoms or a chlamydia test for our monitoring purposes. This record should be kept in the locked cabinet in the office and in line with GDPR.

A separate record should be kept of the number of young people accessing sexual health services such as leaflets or signposting but names are not necessary for this information.

It should be made clear to each young person that all forms which are not associated with sexual health require parental signatures and contact details.

The information that is collected should be stored in a confidential, lockable filing cabinet. Only staff members with a full and enhanced DBS may have access to this information, and it must remain locked at all times.

Confidentiality and Disclosures

All Youth Workers must ensure that the young people are made aware of confidential practice, and the times when confidentiality must be broken. This information should be given at the start of a sexual health session or service. All sexual health services accessed and conversations with Youth Workers will be held as confidential, unless the situation falls under any of the circumstances below or the Youth Worker believes there is a Safeguarding risk, at which point the Safeguarding Policy should be followed.

- The young person is in a life threatening situation (including life threatening self-harm)
- Inaction might place them or someone else in a life threatening situation
- If a young person is threatened by an abuser
- Where the rights of other young people who have not been consulted would be infringed
- Where someone else could be harmed

Disclosing Sensitive Information

If a young person discloses any concerning or worrying information to a Youth Worker (compliant with the guidelines above) this information should be passed onto the staff responsible for Safeguarding. The young person must be informed that the information will be shared (ideally before the disclosure itself has taken place) and a statement should be written using the words of the young person.

Any disclosure must be taken seriously, and with sensitivity. No promises should be made to the young person, other than an offer of appropriate support. In the event that a disclosure is made, this should be passed onto the Safeguarding Team detailed below and the Safeguarding Policy should be followed going forward.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Alysha Smith Emergency Contact: 07804 500684

Safeguarding Named Person: Mairi Taylor-Gibson Emergency Contact: 07975 941344

Informing Parents

When it is appropriate, Youth Workers should encourage a young person to confide in a parent or guardian about their Sexual Health, however a young person's wishes and rights to confidentiality have to be respected. Particular care should be taken when the parent of a young person is personally known to a staff member. Young people must have the right that anything that they say or do within a Youth Work unit should not be passed home, unless their behaviour threatens the safety of other young people, staff and volunteers, or themselves, or the Safeguarding Team deems it appropriate to inform a parent for the safety of the young person.

If parents seek disclosure of confidential records or information relating to their young person's sexual health, the parent should not be given access if the young person was deemed competent at the time when the record was made without the young person's consent. If a parent requests this information, Youth Workers should approach the young person first, in a sensitive and unbiased manner. Should the young person decline their parent access, the Safeguarding Team will explain this to the parent and ask that they follow up with the young person.

Young People Accessing Information and Services

Privacy

Services of a sensitive nature (such as sexual health and condom distribution) should be delivered in a private and secure location. If a Youth Worker is working alone with a young person, at least one other Youth Worker must be aware of their location. Condom distribution should not be delivered to groups of young people, unless this is done for demonstration purposes only.

Accessing Condoms

It should not be assumed that a young person wishing to access condoms should be immediately given access. The trained Youth Workers should follow the condom distribution guidelines from YorSexual Health. Their recommended number of condoms is 18 per month.

For a first visit (and if the young person is not currently engaging in sexual intercourse) only two condoms should be distributed and the young person will need to be given guidance on how to appropriately use the condom as per YorSexual Health training. Once the young person has been registered with our service, up to 18 condoms may be distributed per month per young person.

If any young person under the age of 13 attends a session to access condoms or advice services, Youth Workers must report this to the Safeguarding Team who will need to consider instigating a referral. Any disclosures made (including recent or previous sexual encounters) must be documented as per the Safeguarding Policy if the young person is under the age of 13.

Training

Youth staff that have access to the sexual health information and the condom distribution scheme must have up to date training dated within the last 3 years. This training should be done with YorSexual Health. Youth Workers must also have an understanding of youth wellbeing issues (including substance misuse, mental health issues and risky behaviours). Only Youth Workers with an enhanced DBS check dated within the last 2 years may work alone with a young person. Volunteers should not be left alone with a young person for any reason, even if the volunteer has accessed the relevant training courses and is DBS checked.

Disclosure to young people

Although it is valuable when working with young people to share with them some of your own life experiences, Youth Workers should be cautious when expecting any young person to keep confidence. Explicit information regarding a Youth Worker's opinions or experience of sexual health and intercourse should never be disclosed to a young person. Youth workers must keep all discussions with young people factual and supportive.