

Answer Sheet 10: Amelia

What are the risks and presenting facts?

- This case study relates to allegations of possession of illegal images and may also relate to sexual assault, based on the age of consent. In the eyes of the law, you are unable to consent to sex when under the age of 16.
- Be aware that the information at this point is hearsay from a third party. If you don't handle this confidentially, you may prejudice the case and/or impact detrimentally on Freddie. We have a duty of care to Freddie and Amelia. These are allegations at this point—we are not here to judge.

What would you do?

- Focus initially on the disclosure. Listen carefully and reassure Amelia that she has done the right thing by talking to you. Do not promise to keep the information a secret, but reassure her that the only people who will know are those that can help.
- Follow your Member Body reporting requirements, including writing down the facts of the disclosure as soon as possible (remember date/time), and include the reasons for any decisions you made to disclose the facts to anyone else. Try to write your notes in her own words.
- Report the matter to your designated Safeguarding Officer and Member Body Safeguarding Lead.
- We need to understand what is meant by "seeing". It is a criminal offence (sexual assault) if you have sex with someone when you or they are under the age of 16, even if you have both have "given consent". In the eyes of the law you are unable to consent to sex when under the age of 16.
- It is very important to handle these allegations confidentially, as they are currently hearsay. If it is found that Freddie has shared a nude photo, whether Amelia shared the image consensually or not, this is illegal. It is also important not to alert Freddie in case important evidence is then deleted from devices etc.
- The Safeguarding Officer will speak to Amelia and her parent(s) or carer(s), considering the voice of the child and take on board the parent's wishes. Whether they want the matter referred to the police or not, the Safeguarding Officer is under a duty to make the report. The police may choose not to take any further action.
- Depending on police activity, the yard will need to focus on supporting Amelia with signposting, and making decisions around Freddie's ongoing attendance at the site. It may be appropriate to suspend him, based on police advice. If the decision is taken to remove him permanently, a DBS referral will be required.



Consider the risk of harm



Gather the required information (remember the voice of the child)



Address any concerning behaviours



Make the relevant referrals (inform the right people)

Recognise: What warning signs are there here? Know what to look out for.

Respond: Use active listening and open questions. Remain calm and don't share personal opinion.

Report: Consider confidentiality at all times. Pass relevant information to relevant people.

Record: Record the facts, your concerns, and any action taken in writing.