

Case Study 6: Group of friends

Facts of the case

- You are the club safeguarding lead. A tight group of friends ride together inside and outside the club, as well as socialising and going to school together (Zara, Tiffany, Sheba, Harrison all 14/15).
- A new family move to the area with three children (Minal 16, Gopa 14, Kumar 7). The two older children join the riding club and the organiser asks Zara and the others to help them settle in.
- After a few weeks, the children fall out and split into two camps. Zara, Gopa and Harrison on the one side, and Tiffany, Sheba and Minal on the other. The row affects school and social media, with nasty posts. The parents ask you to sort it out.

Q1: What should you do next?

Recognise: What sort of abuse is involved? What process is there to follow?

Respond: Ensure the children's voices are heard.

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

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

Need some help?

Questions to consider:

- Who should be involved in helping manage the concern?
- How can you ensure the child's voice is heard throughout?
- What standards may be available for you to rely on?
- How can you support the children to stay safe moving forwards?

Notes: