

## Peer-on-Peer Abuse Useful Information

### Definition of a 'peer':

A peer is someone at your own level. Peer comes from the Latin 'par' which means equal. When you are on par with someone, you are their peer. If kids your age are pressuring you to do something you don't want to do, that's peer pressure.

### So therefore what is peer on peer abuse?

Peer on peer abuse occurs when a young person is exploited, bullied and/or harmed by their peers who are the same or similar age. Peer on peer abuse can feature physical, emotional, sexual and/or financial abuse of a child/young person by their peers.

### What signs do you need to look out for?

Peer-on-peer abuse can manifest itself and impact a child in many ways, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Causing physical injuries.
- Encouraging drug and alcohol abuse.
- Going missing/running away.
- Compromising their sexual health.
- Committing criminal offences.
- Acting disengaged from school.

### What help and support is there?

The actual abuse suffered by a young person in relation to Peer on Peer abuse is not necessarily any different to the abuse that they may receive from any other source (general child abuse - physical, emotional / psychological or sexual). The difference is that the abuser is of a similar age to themselves. Therefore the best places to turn to for help and support are no different either.

The best websites to turn to for up-to-date help, support and advice are:

**Childline** is there to help anyone under the age of 19 with any issues they may have, no matter how big or small. They also provide information on bullying, abuse, safety and the law, you and your body, your feelings, home and families and friends and relationships.



**NSPCC** aims to protect children and prevent abuse. They provide lots of accurate and up-to-date information and resources to help support children.

