Child on Child / Peer on Peer Abuse - Guidance for Students

CONTENT WARNING

Please be aware that some of the information below is graphic and may be distressing / triggering.

Purpose and content

The purpose of this guidance is to provide a clear set of guidelines regarding child on child / peer on peer abuse (including bullying, cyber-bullying and sexting, sexual violence, up skirting and sexual harassment). All incidents of child on child / peer on peer abuse and sexual harassment will be dealt with in line with the University of Derby Buxton Learner Performance Management Process.

Definitions

The key terms in this document are defined as:

- **Peer:** A person of similar age

- **Child:** Those under the age of eighteen

- **Child on Child / Peer-on-Peer abuse** is a term used to describe children abusing other children. Child on Child / Peer-on-Peer abuse includes, but is not limited to:
    - Bullying (including cyberbullying, online, prejudice based and discriminatory bullying)
    - physical abuse
    - emotional abuse
    - sexual abuse including sexual harassment, sexual violence and harmful sexual behaviour
    - teenage relationship abuse
    - grooming children for sexual and criminal exploitation
    - sexting
    - upskirting

- **Bullying:** Behaviour by an individual or group, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. This includes any words or actions, which are aimed at causing someone to feel threatened, intimidated or humiliated.

  Bullying can take many forms, including:
    - **Physical:** pushing, hitting, kicking, punching or any other use of physical violence
    - **Emotional:** being unfriendly, excluding someone, threatening gestures, or interfering with personal possessions, making silent, hoax or abusive calls
    - **Verbal:** name calling, spreading rumours (including online), teasing undermining and criticising

- **Covert bullying:** creating rumours, giving dirty looks, mimicking, sharing personal information without knowledge or consent
- **Alienation:** ignoring or isolating someone
- **Control and manipulation / Coercion**

The following types of bullying are also hate crimes:

- **Racist bullying** can be defined as a range or hurtful psychological or physical behaviour that makes a person feel unwelcome, marginalised, excluded, powerless or worthless because of their colour, culture, ethnicity, community, faith, national origin, or national status.
- **Homophobic bullying** targets someone because of their sexual orientation (or perceived sexual orientation).
- **Biphobic bullying** targets someone because of their sexual orientation (or perceived sexual orientation)
- **Transphobic bullying** targets individuals who are or are thought to be transgender or transsexual.
- **Disablist bullying** targets someone with disabilities.

- **Cyber-bullying**: Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place online. Unlike bullying offline, online bullying can follow a young person wherever they go, via social networks, gaming and mobile phone. A person can be bullied online and offline at the same time. This type of 'virtual' bullying using technology (e.g. chat rooms, instant messaging, email & mobile phone) can occur in or outside of college. Cyber-bullying can happen at all times of the day, with a potentially bigger audience, as people can forward on content very quickly and easily.

- **Sharing nudes and / or semi nudes (sexting):** Sending or posting sexually suggestive images, including nude or semi-nude photographs, via mobiles or over the internet, creating and sharing sexual photos and videos of under-18s, including selfies, is **illegal.**

- **Harassment:** Any conduct that is unwanted, which affects the dignity of the person. Harassment may be repetitive or an isolated occurrence against one or more people.

- **Up Skirting:** Up skirting typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or bottom. Since April 2019 Up Skirting has been a criminal offence.

- **Sexual Harassment:** Sexual harassment means 'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature' that can occur online and offline. Sexual harassment can include;
    - Sexual comments, such as telling sexual stories, making lewd comments, making sexual remarks about clothes and appearance and calling someone sexualised names, asking intimate questions
    - Sexual "jokes" or taunting

- Unwanted sexual advances and touching such as deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone's clothes and displaying pictures, photos or drawings of a sexual nature.
- Online sexual harassment which may include:
  - Non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos.
  - Sexualised online bullying;
  - Unwanted sexual comments and messages, including on social media
- Sexual exploitation, coercion and threats.

- **Rape and Sexual Abuse** involves forcing or enticing an individual to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the individual is aware of what is happening. This may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing.
  This can also include non-contact activities such as involving individuals in looking at / the production of sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging individuals to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming an individual in preparation for abuse (including online)

- **Sexual Violence** is defined as any sexual act or activity that is unwanted or occurs without consent (including online). Sexual violence can involve pressure, manipulation, bullying, intimidation, threats, deception and force. Sexual violence can be:
  - Rape
  - Sexual abuse
  - Sexual assault
  - Domestic violence
  - Sexual harassment
  - Forced marriage
  - Female genital mutilation (FGM)
  - Trafficking and sexual exploitation

What is consent?

Consent is having the freedom and capacity to choose. Consent to sexual activity may be given to one sort of sexual activity but not another. Consent can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity and any subsequent sexual activity. The University of Derby Buxton is committed to ensuring all learners understand what consent is, how it is given and how it may be withdrawn through the Future Focus Programme.

- A child under the age of 13 can never consent to any sexual activity.
- The age of consent is 16 years old.
- Sexual intercourse without consent is classified in law as rape.

Report a concern

- During term time please report any concerns you have about yourself or someone else, to the safeguarding team, your Progress Coach or Tutor.

- If you have been affected by issues related to sexual misconduct. The Union of Students have Sexual Violence Liaison Officers (SVLO's) that you can speak to in confidence for support and guidance around your options https://www.derbyunion.co.uk/advice/
- If you have any concerns outside of college hours or if you are in immediate danger contact the Police on 999.
- Report through our online platform, My Voice: https://form.thesafeguardingcompany.com/dcaa6129-8da6-49a5-8319-b8f7b9b04bec

Action University of Derby Buxton will take:

- University of Derby Buxton has a zero tolerance to any form of bullying, harassment and sexual violence. We are committed to keeping everyone safe and to promote your wellbeing. UoDB will ensure you get the support you require and any allegations will be taken seriously and followed up**.**

- At the start of your programme, UoDB will ensure that ground rules are set and students are made aware of how to report a concern of abuse and how to access appropriate support.

- All reported incidents of abuse will be followed up and appropriate action will be taken in line with the UoDB Learner Performance Management Policy. Sanctions against the alleged perpetrator may include suspension whilst an investigation is carried out and could lead to permanent exclusion.

UoDB will do it's best to maintain confidentiality, however, there may be occasions where we share information with relevant agencies if there is a safeguarding risk to students.

Useful contacts for further advice and guidance

- Union of Students Advice Service 01332 591 507 https://www.derbyunion.co.uk/advice/
- SV2 Supporting Victims of Sexual violence 01773 746 115 SV2 - Supporting Victims of Sexual Violence - Home
- NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000
- ChildLine 0800 1111 / www.childline.org.uk
- Kidscape www.kidscape.org.uk
- Anti-Bullying Alliance Anti-Bullying Alliance

If you are facing disciplinary action related to anything detailed in this information, bullying, harassment, sexual misconduct, etc, you can seek the support of an Independent Union of Students Advisor. The advisor will be able to attend meetings and help you navigate the disciplinary procedure:
Union of Students Advice Service 01332 591 507
Help and Advice