



## EAST AYRSHIRE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

### PRACTITIONER BRIEFING NOTE

#### NO 31

**TOPIC: CHILD PROTECTION – UNDER AGE SEXUAL ACTIVITY  
POLICE SCOTLAND’S STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

**BRIEFING:** Following consultation with multi-agency partners, Police Scotland have finalised and shared with partners their Standard Operating Procedure in respect of how they deal with under age sexual activity and the circumstances in which they would refer to child protection procedures and potentially commence a criminal investigation.

The document sets out the background and guiding principles to this complex field and it covers the relevant legislation and guidance used by officers when responding to such matters. The document provides a ‘window’ on how police colleagues use a proportionate, tiered and consistent approach to consensual under age sexual activity involving ‘older children’, whilst remaining mindful of their safety and wellbeing, and not unnecessarily involving them in the criminal justice system.

Multi-agency practitioners will find the document a useful point of reference to check their own understanding of current legislation / guidance and the likely responses the police will take in a range of circumstances.

**Link:** <https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/hjcjffin/child-protection-underage-sexual-activity-sop.pdf>

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** For Further information please contact:

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