

Appendix 1: Child/Young Person Abuse Definitions

Child/Young Person Abuse is the mistreatment of a Child/Young Person that:

- causes, is causing or is likely to cause any detrimental effect so that a Child/Young Person's physical, psychological, or emotional wellbeing; or
- does, or is likely to, endanger that a Child/Young Person's physical or emotional health, development, or wellbeing,

whether through a:

- single act, omission, or circumstance; or
- series or combination of acts, omissions, or circumstances,

and includes:

1. **Physical Abuse** which occurs when a person subjects a Child/Young Person to application of physical force, which may cause injury intentionally or inadvertently as a result of physical punishment or the aggressive treatment of a Child/Young Person. Physically abusive behaviour includes, but is not limited to:
 - shoving, hitting, slapping, shaking, throwing, punching, biting, burning, kicking; and
 - harmful training methods or overtraining where there is the potential to result in damage to a Child/Young Person's physical development.
2. **Emotional or Psychological Abuse** which occurs when a Child/Young Person does not receive the love, affection, or attention they need for healthy emotional, psychological, and social development or are exposed to violence/abuse against other Children/Young People or adults. Such abuse may involve and can occur either online or in-person:
 - repeated rejection or threats to a Child/Young Person;
 - constant criticism, teasing, ignoring, threatening, yelling, scapegoating, ridicule, intentional exclusion, continual coldness, and rejection;
 - Bullying and Harassment;
 - harmful training methods or overtraining where there is the potential to result in damage to a Child/Young Person's physical, intellectual, or emotional wellbeing and development.
3. **Sexual Abuse** which occurs when an adult, or a person in authority (i.e. older, or younger but more physically or intellectually developed) involves a Child/Young Person in any sexual activity. A Child/Young Person cannot provide consent, therefore even if 'consent' is given, it still constitutes sexual abuse.

Perpetrators of sexual abuse take advantage of their power, authority, or position over the Child/Young Person for their own benefit. It can include making sexual comments to a Child/Young Person, kissing, touching a Child/Young Person's genitals or breasts, oral sex, or intercourse with a Child/Young Person.

Sexual exploitation is a form of Sexual Abuse and occurs when Children/Young People are forced into or involved in sexual activities that are then unlawfully recorded in some way, or recorded without the consent of one or more parties, or used to produce child sexual abuse material. Such material can be in the form of photographs or videos, whether published or circulated on the internet, social media or the public domain. Encouraging a Child/Young Person to view pornographic videos, websites, or images, or engaging a Child/Young Person to participate in sexual conversations over social media or otherwise is also considered sexual exploitation.

4. **Neglect** which is the persistent failure or deliberate failure or denial to meet a Child/Young Person's basic needs. Child/Young Person Neglect includes the failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, adequate supervision, clean water, medical attention, or supervision to the extent that the Child/Young Person's health and development is or is likely to be harmed. Types of neglect include physical, medical, emotional, educational neglect and abandonment.
5. **Exposure to Family and Domestic Violence** which is abusive behaviour in any personal relationship that allows one person to intimidate or to gain power and control over the other. It can include a broad range of behaviour that causes fear and physical and/or psychological harm. If a Child/Young Person is living in a household where there have been incidents of domestic violence, then they may be at risk of significant physical and/or psychological harm.