Recent research on the prevalence of child sexual abuse states that 11.3% of18-24 year olds reported that they had been a victim of contact sexual abuse in childhood. If applied to the population of children living in England today will have been sexually abused by the age of 18. A report by the Children’s Commissioner in 2015 estimated, that child sexual abuse in the family environment compromises around 2/3 of all child sexual abuse.

2. Why it matters

Familial Sexual Abuse

Live and Learn Sports

Safeguarding Children

Partnership 2020

Familial or intrafamilial sexual abuse refers to sexual abuse that occurs within the family. In this form of abuse, a family member involves a child in sexual behaviours or activities. The family member may not be a blood relative but could someone who is considered ‘part of the family’ such as a god parent or a very close friend.

1. Background

A drawing of a cartoon character

Description automatically generated

Many victims wait till adulthood before telling someone that they have been sexually abused. The majority of known victims are female. A significant number of cases of sexual abuse in and around the family involve young people as the perpetrator- in itself, a possible indicator of experiences of sexual abuse. Children from some BME groups, & children with disabilities or learning disabilitiesmay face additional barriers to disclosure.

3. Information

GM Procedures

Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse

Seen & heard e-learning

Making Noises: children’s voices for positive change

Victim and survivor voices form the truth project

Share some secrets resource.

7. What to do =

RSCB

Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board –

7-minute Briefing

Am I prepared to think the unthinkable?

How can we facilitate disclosure?

Has the risk of sexual abuse been considered where there are concerns about abuse and neglect?

Is there a risk that the signs and symptoms of sexual , including lack of inhibition or aggressive behaviours may wrongly have been attributed to with the child’s learning difficulty or their disability?

6. Questions

The reaction of the family- the disclosure or discovery of sexual abuse within a family is lkely to have a massive impact on the victim and their relationship with other family members , and this reaction may mitigate or exacerbate the impact on the victim. Legal processes risk re-traumatising the victim both pre- and post trial.

5. Information

Many victims are abused by several oerpetrators, and in many cases perpetrators will be known to each other. Poly-victimisation , the experience of multiple forms of abuse – appears to be relatively common. The abuse and breach of trust between victim and perpetrator, for many victims abuse leads to problems with mental and physical health, relationships and behaviour in general.

4. Information