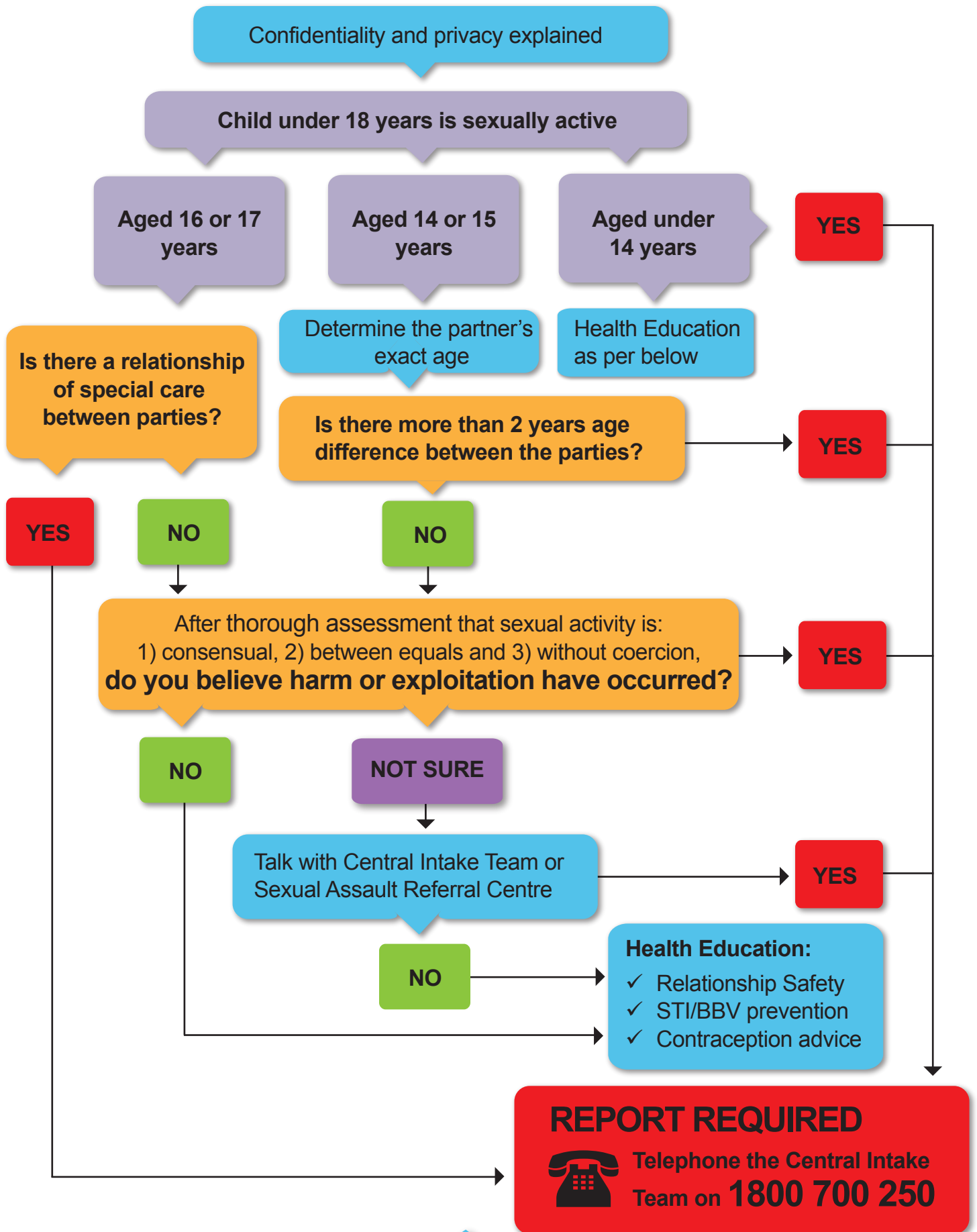


Reporting Child Sexual Harm



Document: Assessment, clinical opinion, actions taken and any follow up required in patient's medical record



Flowchart for mandatory reporting of Child Sexual Abuse

Explanatory notes

Confidentiality and privacy should be explained in every consultation.

Persons aged under 18 years:

Under the law, any person under 18 years is a child.

When any sexually active person under 18 years attends your consultation, you should be mindful that they could be at risk of harm or exploitation - even if they come with their parent or guardian.

People aged 16-17 years:

If you suspect that a 16 or 17 year old is, or is likely to be in a sexual relationship with a person who has a relationship of special care with the young person, ask him/her about their partner to confirm your suspicion. A relationship of special care is where an adult cares for, supervises, or instructs a child eg. step-parent, health practitioner, boss, teacher, coach, family member, priest. If so, report the case. If not, you need to use your judgement about if the sex is wanted, between equals, and not forced, and decide if there is harm or exploitation. If so, you must report.

People aged 14-15 years:

Ask all 14 and 15 year olds the age of their partner. Where you reasonably believe there is more than two years difference in age between the partners (even by only two years and one day), you must report. If not, you need to use your judgement about if the sex is wanted, between equals, and not forced, and decide if there is harm or exploitation. If so, you must report.

Persons aged under 14 years:

Any child under 14 who has been, or is likely to be sexually active must be reported. This applies even if they attend with a parent/guardian. You may still provide contraception, STI treatment and advice.

If uncertain:

You may be unsure about whether harm or exploitation have occurred. You are encouraged to discuss the case with the Central Intake Team or the Sexual Assault Referral Centre.

Clinical Care:

The health and wellbeing of the child is paramount. Regardless of whether a report is made you should provide high quality appropriate care, including for example, health education covering relationship safety, STI/BBV prevention and contraception advice.

Document your assessment, clinical opinion, actions taken and any follow up in the patient's medical record.

To make a report, call the Central Intake Team on 1800 700 250.

This 24 hour line is the general number for any harm, neglect or exploitation.

**Any harm or exploitation of anyone under 18 must be reported - not just sexual.
Any unwanted sex must be reported.**