

Expert testimony to inform NICE guideline development

Section A: Developer to complete

Name:

Role: Service User

Institution/Organisation (where applicable):

Contact information:

Guideline title: Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Guideline Committee: Public Health Advisory Committee F

Subject of expert testimony: Service user perspective of HSB services

Evidence gaps or uncertainties: [Research questions or evidence uncertainties that the testimony should address are summarised below]

1. What was your experience of HSB services?

If possible, please give equal weight/time to providing information on all the questions below:

2. What was your experience of HSB services: you could include things like whether you received services at the right time or too late, what kinds of professionals or interventions you encountered.
3. Did the services or staff you encountered in the HSB services link you with other services or people who could help with any other issues relevant to your situation or needs?
4. What was good about your experience of HSB services and what helped you get to a point where you no longer needed to use the services?
5. What could have been better or didn't help?
6. Do you feel you have been treated equally and fairly by those offering HSB services? Why / why not?
7. In your view, how could HSB services change / improve in order to support young people in a similar situation to yours?
8. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your experience of HSB services?

Section B: Expert to complete

Summary testimony: [Please use the space below to summarise your testimony in 250–1000 words. Continue over page if necessary]

Expert testimony was received from a 19 year old service user who came from one of the Baltic States to Northern Ireland (NI) with his mother and sister when he was about 9 or ten years old. When in the Baltic region of Northern Europe there was a history of domestic violence that was exacerbated by his father's alcohol consumption. From an early age, he described how his father had made him and his sister watch pornography videos and the disturbing images from these videos had stayed with him.

On his arrival in NI, his mother had begun another relationship and his relationship with her subsequently deteriorated quite rapidly, resulting in a court order that prevented him from seeing his mother. Following this, he was placed in foster care but all of the placements broke down and he was eventually placed in a children's home.

Describing how he went to secondary school in NI he told of how he was frequently bullied because of his interests that included an interest in aliens and magic. He described how, with the advent of adolescence, his developing sexuality became confused with the pornography he had been forced to watch as a child and this ultimately led to problems.

He told how he first saw a social worker called G and she was very good and that his involvement with G was the start of his addressing these difficult issues. He told the committee that the support he received at this point offered continuity as the social workers he was involved with, made every effort to keep in contact with him at least once a week and would come and pick him up to attend his support sessions, or at least 'phone him if that was not possible due to the distance of his foster home placement. Describing how he then began seeing his current social worker, he explained it was the continuity of this relationship that he most valued.

It was also his involvement with the NSPCC HSB services that had helped him a lot by exploring his experiences and how these might impact on his thoughts and behaviour. He told the committee that he feels that he is now in a better place as a result of his involvement with the NSPCC. He also told of how he had not seen his mother for two years and that was difficult, but that he continued on with his magic and he found his interest in magic a good outlet for any negative thoughts he continued to experience.

References to other work or publications to support your testimony' (if applicable):

Expert testimony papers are posted on the NICE website with other sources of evidence when the draft guideline is published. Any content that is academic in confidence should be highlighted and will be removed before publication if the status remains at this point in time.