

**Technology Assisted Sexual Behaviours Continuum: Pornography use.**

**This may involve the young person intentionally using legal R18 pornography and/or showing another child/young person R18 pornography, and/or the use of illegal and extreme pornography.**

<b>Areas to consider</b>	<b><i>Developmentally typical</i></b>	<b><i>Problematic use</i></b>	<b><i>Harmful use</i></b>
<p><b>1. Content of pornography</b></p>	<p>Use of R18 material on open web.</p> <p>*Be conscious of research relating to content of this 'mainstream' material and potential impact on sexual behaviour/development/attitudes.</p>	<p>Becoming fixated on a particular genre of pornography.</p> <p>Beginning to seek out more extreme material.</p>	<p>Use of illegal / extreme pornography such as that containing sexual assaults, depicting non-consent, involving violence or involving animals.</p> <p>If there are images involving children, refer to the Indecent Images of Children continuum.</p>

<p><b>2. The motivation for pornography use</b></p>	<p>Use is driven by sexual curiosity; intentional use of R18 material on open web.</p> <p>Young person is sexually curious and they have questions about sexual health, relationships and/or their sexuality.</p> <p>If images shared with same aged/equivalent peer the intention might have been to humour (not shock/harm) the other and/or may be linked to sexual exploration.</p>	<p>Use to as coping strategy (e.g. to manage stress / loneliness).</p> <p>Pornographic images are shared with others where there is some difference in age, cognitive abilities and/or authority and some evidence of coercion used.</p>	<p>Intentionally seeking out content which depicts degrading sexual violence, women as sexual objects, racist stereotyping, depicting sexual arousal to violence.</p> <p>Forced/coercive use, or showing to significantly younger child.</p> <p>Viewing as a coping strategy in relation to own sexual abuse experience.</p>
---	---	--	--

<p><b>3. Context of use</b></p>	<p>Unintentional use, for instance looking for sexual content which was intended to be educational.</p> <p>Use of own devices in private physical spaces.</p> <p>Shown and/or sharing sexual content within immediate peer group (consensually).</p>	<p>Use of devices in both private and public spaces.</p> <p>Sharing images with multiple others.</p>	<p>Use of devices in private and public spaces</p> <p>Use of Deep and/or Dark Web</p> <p>Sharing images with unknown others / accessing Peer-to-Peer sites.</p> <p>Increased secrecy with use of devices.</p>
<p><b>4. Young person's response to use</b></p> <p><i>*consider neurodevelopmental issues which may impact on young person's response (e.g. ASD / LD)</i></p>	<p>Some embarrassment, but open to discussion about how pornography can distort sex and relationships. Able and willing to critically reflect on use</p>	<p>Embarrassed and defensive. Less able to see the negative influence of accessing pornography on self.</p>	<p>Highly defensive and angry. Seeks to justify continued use.</p>

<b>5. Parent/carer's response to young person's use</b>	<p>Open to having a discussion with young person based on need to support and educate.</p> <p>Willing to work with professionals if required.</p>	<p>Minimises problematic use and less willing/able to discuss concerns directly with young person.</p> <p>Ambivalent regarding working with professionals.</p>	<p>Denies that there is a problem and/or demonstrates attitudes which are supportive of on-going pornography use and/or harmful sexual behaviours.</p> <p>Unwilling to work with professionals.</p>
<b>6. Frequency of use</b>	<p>Occasional use</p>	<p>Frequent use of short duration, which begins to limit other interests,</p>	<p>Frequent use of longer duration, which is accompanied by increased social/emotional isolation.</p>
<b>7. Impact on other areas of development, i.e. social, emotional, physical, educational</b>	<p>No/little impact on other areas of development.</p>	<p>Some evidence of negative effect on at least one area of development.</p>	<p>Clear evidence of a significant impact on any one area of development, or evidence of impact on several areas of development.</p>