



Guidance for making a referral to SLIP

1. Background to Dhiverse and the SLIP Programme

Established in 1986, Dhiverse is a well established and well respected sexual health charity.

We aim for inclusivity and equality in all our work and we want everyone to have the same opportunity to be equipped to make informed decisions around sexual health, healthy relationships, personal safety and consensual and pleasurable sexual activity.

We believe that for this to happen all young people should have access to high quality, relevant and age appropriate relationships and sex education (RSE) as soon as possible. RSE should be available through a range of methods to reflect that not all young people are able to, or want to, learn in the same way.

However, regardless of how RSE is delivered, the aim must be to equip young people with the skills, knowledge and information they need to navigate and make decisions around relationships and sex in the 21st century. All of our RSE work takes into account the Department for Education (DfE) Guidance (2014) 'Preparing Children for Life in Modern Britain' and the new DfE RSE Curriculum guidance (2020).

At Dhiverse, in addition to our mainstream RSE provision (please see the RSE tab on our website), we offer a range of non-mainstream RSE programmes that can be delivered in a non-educational or informal setting. 'SLIP' is one of these programmes. SLIP stands for Sex, the Law, Internet and Pornography. It is a non-judgemental, educational and behavioural RSE programme funded mainly by 'BBC Children In Need' and a small grant from the National Lottery Community Fund.

W: dhiverse.org.uk

E: enquiries@dhiverse.org.uk

T: 01223 508805

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2. Who is SLIP suitable for?

It is suitable for any young person age 9 to 24 who, for whatever reason, did not engage, or is currently finding it difficult to engage, in Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) or Relationships Education (RE), in school.

To be eligible for SLIP this lack of engagement is impacting on their behaviours and attitudes towards relationships and sex. These behaviours and attitudes could be putting themselves or others at risk of harm, or could do so in the future if left unaddressed.

This lack of engagement could be due to, for example:

- Educational and/or behavioural difficulties
- Having had a custodial sentence
- Finding it difficult to take part in RSE/RE sessions because they are shy/embarrassed/finding school in general difficult
- Missing a lot of school because of problems at home
- Long periods of absence due to ill health
- Learned behaviours
- Being home schooled

3. SLIP is not suitable for young people with the following needs:

a) If a young person has **already had RSE in school or other provision and has engaged with the sessions**. Because SLIP is primarily an educational programme, it is very unlikely that SLIP would benefit a young person in this situation, who is still exhibiting risky and/or unhealthy behaviours and attitudes towards relationships and sex. A young person in this situation may need **therapeutic intervention/s or other types of support**.

However, if you would like to discuss a young person in this situation and find out if, for example, our counselling service would be appropriate, please contact the SLIP Manager.

b) If the young person has a **learning difficulty or autism**. However our '**ABC (Awareness, Balance and Choice) Programme**', funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, is an alternative RSE programme for anyone with a learning difficulty or autism.

More information on ABC can be found on our website or you can contact the ABC team on enquiries@dhiverse.org.uk or **01223 508805**.

4. What are the main aims of SLIP and how is it delivered?

SLIP aims to make the following differences to the lives of young people:

- Give young people a better understanding of the law around sex
- Enable young people to communicate better about sex and relationships
- Equip young people with the confidence and self-esteem to feel better about themselves and to have a better relationship with their body

SLIP can be provided to small groups or to individuals. It is made up of 7 sessions which are ideally delivered over the same number of weeks, with one module/topic covered per session.

5. What topics are covered by the SLIP Programme?

Topics covered in the programme are:

- Session 1: Introductory Session
- Session 2: Body Image
- Session 3: Am I normal? (this session looks at anatomy and puberty)
- Session 4: Consent
- Session 5: Abuse and Exploitation
- Session 6: Online Safety and Exploitation
- Session 7: Pornography and Sexting

An overview of the content of each session and the scheme of work can be found on our website using this link: <https://www.dhiverse.org.uk/wp-content/>

6. Brook's 'Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool'

'Brook' is a national charity that offers clinical sexual health and education services for young people. Their nationally recognised 'Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool' is developed to help professionals, who have undertaken the training, to identify, understand and respond appropriately to sexual behaviours in young people.

Our SLIP Manager has undertaken this training and uses the tool as part of their decision making for accepting referral to the programme.

7. How do I make a referral to the SLIP Programme?

To make a referral to SLIP you must have read this guidance and, where relevant, make sure that any parent or guardian is aware of the SLIP 'Parents Booklet', which can be downloaded from our website.

Once you are confident that this is an appropriate referral please complete a referral form. We have two referral forms: 1. Group Referral and 2. Individual Referral. The referral forms can be downloaded from our website or you can request a form to be emailed to you by contacting us at enquiries@dhiverse.org.uk or on **01223 508805**.

If you would like to speak to someone before making a referral please contact the SLIP Manager. Please note that we cannot accept referrals without a fully completed referral form. To enable us to make a fully informed decision about the appropriateness of the referral we require as much detail as possible about the young person, including any relevant historical information.

8. Is there a charge for the Programme?

The SLIP programme is available **free of charge** within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, however there is a charge if the work is with someone outside of Cambridgeshire. Please visit our website for information on charges and to find out more about our other services.

9. Safeguarding Children & Young People (CYP)

Safeguarding CYP is the paramount responsibility for anyone working with CYP. All Diverse staff receive safeguarding training during their induction, followed by regular update and refresher training at least every 2 years. Safeguarding is a standard agenda item for our monthly team meetings.

A CYP may say something openly in a SLIP session or they may tell us something outside of a session that indicates they or someone else is, or could be, at risk of harm. If this occurs in a school or other provision then we will advise the young person that we need to share what they have told us with the school or provision and/or their parent/guardian so that together we can help to ensure that they are safe from harm. We will make notes of what the CYP discloses. We will share the disclosure whilst we are on the premises so that the school or provision can start their safeguarding procedures immediately. In line with our own robust 'CYP Safeguarding Policy and Procedures', we will write up a 'Safeguarding Log of Concern' and share this with the school or provision. If we have concerns that the school or provision is not acting quickly enough in light of what the CYP has disclosed, we will make our own formal safeguarding referral to the local Safeguarding Board. If a CYP makes a disclosure to us on our premises, in their home or a community venue, we will follow our safeguarding policy and procedures.

The CYP Safeguarding Leads for Diverse are: Lead: Liz MacKenzie, Deputy: Natasha Amps
Overall responsibility: Sharron Spindler, Chief Executive

10. 'Understanding SLIP'

'Understanding SLIP' is a workshop for professionals and parents. The aims are:

- To provide background to the programme
- To help participants understand how young people can benefit from SLIP and the differences it can make to young people's decision making and choices around relationships and sex
- To help participants understand the programme so that they can make an informed decision when considering a referral
- To help participants understand the referral forms

The workshop is around 75 minutes, depending on the size and the needs of the group. We do not receive funding for this workshop so there is a charge:

The workshop is delivered to groups of up to 15 people and the charge is **£95 per workshop**. The charge is the same whether delivered at your venue or via Zoom but if delivered at a venue outside of Cambridgeshire/Peterborough travel costs will be added.

For more information on any aspect of the SLIP Programme, please contact:

Natasha Amps, SLIP Programme Manager

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