

## Sexual abuse – talking about consent

Talking about consent in Rotherham, it's important to make sure everybody knows what sexual abuse is and know that it's okay to say no. This bulletin is a guide to consent that you can use as reference when talking about sexual abuse.

### What is consent?

When someone gives consent, they're giving permission for something to happen or agreeing to do something. This means they need to know what they're agreeing to, so the person asking must make this clear.

Everyone should always ask for consent before starting any sexual activity. Even if someone has consented in the past, it's still important to ask every time.

### What is not consent?

It's totally okay to say no. If someone doesn't say no, it doesn't mean they're saying yes. "I suppose" or an unsure "yes" could mean "not really". It's important for people to check how their partner is feeling and to pay attention to body language.

[Consent and a cup of tea- excellent clip to use to explain what is consent.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZwvrxVavnQ)

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### Why consent matters

By talking about what their partner wants to do, people can make sure that sex is consensual and enjoyable for both people involved.

When a person is sure they have consent, they will feel more confident about what they're doing and be more comfortable getting close to each other.

### How can people get help?

The Independent Sexual Violence Advocate service can advice and support victims of sexual abuse contact on 01302 341572 or visit [www.drasacs.org.uk](http://www.drasacs.org.uk)

People can contact Rotherham RISE on 0330 2020 571 or visit [www.rotherhamrise.org.uk](http://www.rotherhamrise.org.uk) if they need support.

If someone is in **immediate danger**, they should call **999**.

If someone is not in immediate danger but you or they believe a crime may have been committed, call the **Police** on **101**.

