

Appendix 8: Vulnerable Children and Young People

We use the term 'vulnerable children and young people' to refer to those who may be vulnerable for a variety of reasons. The list below provides an example of the children and young people who would be included in the term 'vulnerable'.

However, it is important not to view this as a definitive list. Although existing evidence suggests that the children and young people in these groups are more vulnerable it does not necessarily mean they are more likely to have mental health difficulties.

Nevertheless these are groups which managers, providers and commissioners need to ensure they consider and plan for:

- Children and young people with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties
- Children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities
- Children and young people with special educational needs (SEN)
- Children and young people with physical illness
- Children and young people in care
- Children and young people who self-harm
- Children and young people who are being abused
- Children and young people who misuse substances or whose parents/carers misuse substances
- Children and young people in contact with the Youth Justice system
- Children and young people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender
- Children and young people from black and minority ethnic groups
- Children and young people experiencing housing difficulties
- Children and young people seeking asylum
- Young people not in education, training or employment
- Young carers
- Young runaways
- Children and young people at risk of suicide
- Young people who are at risk of adolescent dating violence
- Children and young people whose parental circumstances make them vulnerable, for example because they are separating, are in prison, have learning difficulties, have mental health problems or misuse substances.