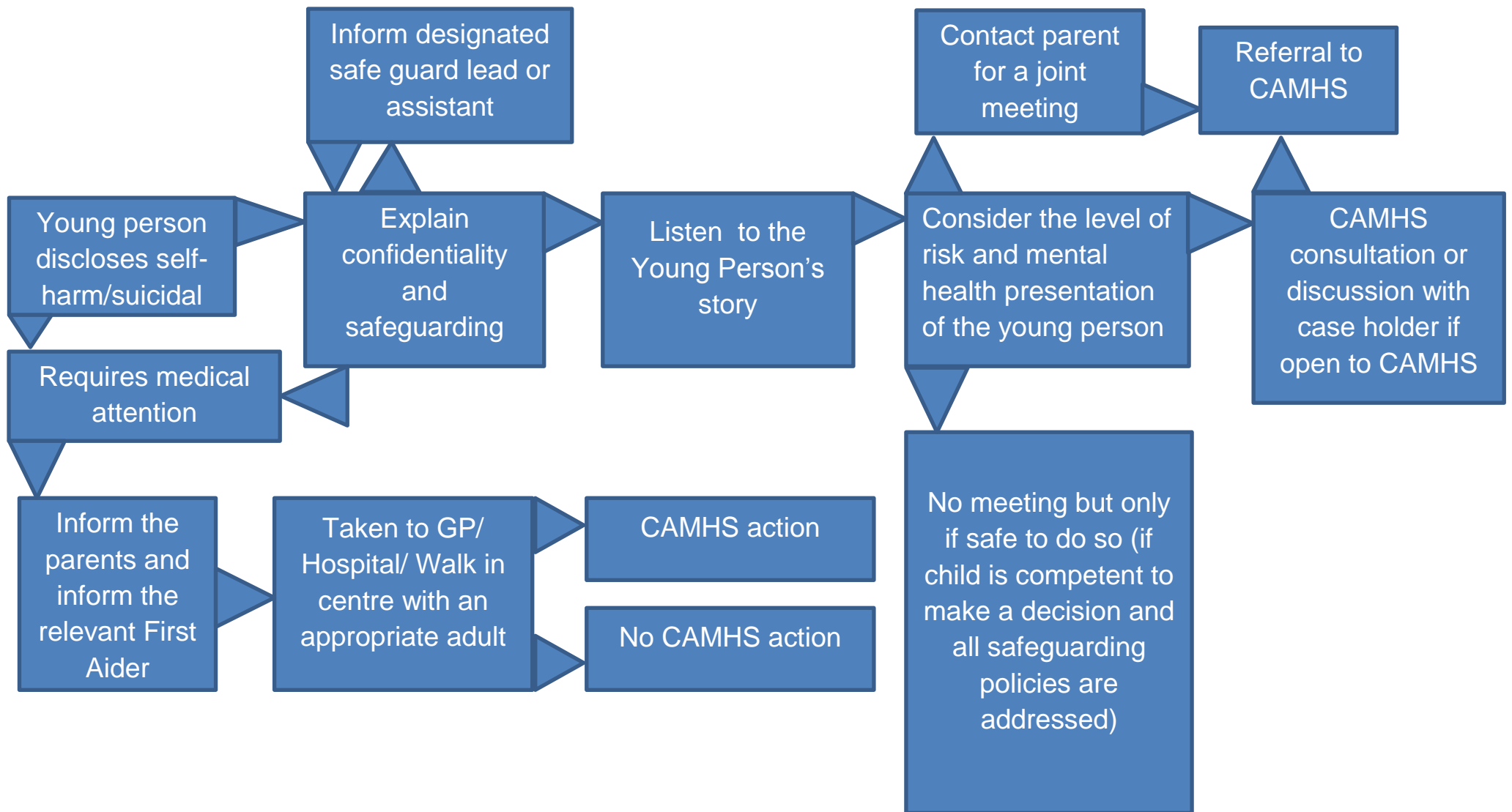


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## **Key Education Centre**

### **Procedure for dealing with incidents of self-harm**



# Guidelines for dealing with incidents of self-harm

## Guiding Principles

- Any learner self-harming will be treated with dignity and respect.
- Staff will use the Self-harm Care Pathway' document as guidance.
- Staff shall explain confidentiality and safeguarding to the young person
- Staff will make sure the young person receives the appropriate medical attention. Any young person who has taken any tablets needs to be taken immediately to the nearest hospital A and E Department.
- Treatment following an incident of self-harm will be administered privately so that the young person does not feel ashamed or embarrassed or receive attention that could be positively reinforcing.
- Staff should not demand to see wounds but should check with the young person if they feel they need medical attention.
- Staff will focus on listening to the young person's story and their feelings rather than on the actual injury.
- Staff will inform others who need to know such as the designated self-harm coordinator. This will usually include the parents and may occasionally involve medical or CAMHS staff for example;
- Incidents will be managed in such a way to minimise disruption to the learner's education.
- Frequent self-harmers may be on a plan to treat themselves.  
The first aider/member of staff may make the judgement about whether they are capable of doing this or whether he/she needs to administer first aid on their behalf.
- Materials used to treat wounds will be disposed of appropriately.
- The member of staff/first aider should record incidents of self-harm i.e. name, date, time, nature and extent of harm, whether pupil dealt with it themselves or whether treatment was administered by the first aider. (Where possible the pupil will deal with treatment themselves)
- If school staff contact parents they should speak to them directly, not send messages or texts.
- Staff should not insist that young people who have previously self-harmed should cover old scars.