

## **Fraser Guidelines and the provision of condoms to under 16's**

There is no law to prevent workers providing condoms to individuals under the age of 16. All other forms of contraception can only be supplied by health professionals trained in family planning. If workers are sufficiently trained and are sure that a clear need has been identified, condoms may be issued to a young person under the age of 16.

It is considered good practice for workers to follow the Fraser guidelines when discussing personal or sexual matters with a young person under 16. The Fraser guidelines give guidance to doctors and health professionals in England and Wales on providing advice and treatment to young people under 16 years of age. These hold that sexual health services can be offered without parental consent, providing that;

1. The young person understands the advice that is being given.
2. The young person cannot be persuaded to inform or seek support from their parents and will not allow the worker to inform the parents that contraceptive advice is being given.
3. The young person is likely to begin or continue to have sexual intercourse without contraception.
4. The young person's physical or mental health are likely to suffer unless they receive contraceptive advice or treatment.
5. It is in the young person's best interests to receive contraceptive advice and treatment without parental consent.

>Workers should ensure that their 'good practice' is not in conflict with any guidelines or policies of their employing organisation.

>When it is not felt appropriate to provide condoms, information should be provided relating to where and when they can be obtained and the relevant services for young people.