

Scenario

Briony	16 years old
Jasmine	unknown

Background

Briony is in your care. She is subject to a care order and has been with you for the last couple of years. She came into care due to neglect from her mother linked to mother's substance misuse and prioritising of relationships over Briony. Briony has additional needs, specifically she often needs additional time to process the consequences of actions that she takes and decisions that she makes.

Briony has flourished since being in your care and currently attends a local college where she is on a full time timetable.

Incident

In the last four months Briony has started a relationship with Jasmine, another student at the college. Initially she was very excited about this and spoke to everyone about her relationship and how nice Jasmine was to her. Over the last couple of weeks however Briony has started to become very secretive and avoiding staff. You have noticed that Briony is wearing more make-up, wearing long-sleeved / legged clothing even when it is hot. If asked about Jasmine, Briony will quickly change the subject. You have established that Jasmine will be 18 next month.

Today, Briony has clearly attempted to conceal a black eye with make-up and leaves the building when you ask her about it.

How should you handle this concern?