

1. Please provide or describe any policies, procedures, guidelines or standard operational practices which dictate or otherwise influence the decision as to which officers or investigative staff interview child suspects.

(An 'interview' is defined in paragraph 11.1A of Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984: 'An interview is the questioning of a person regarding their involvement or suspected involvement in a criminal offence or offences which, under paragraph 10.1, must be carried out under caution'. A 'child' is a person aged between 10-17 years old. A 'suspect' is a person who is interviewed under paragraph 11.1A).

West Midlands Police do not have anything alternative to PACE or the PEACE Model (Planning and preparation, Engage and explain, Account, Closure and Evaluation) to interview child suspects. We do not have any policies, guidelines or Standard Operating Procedures.

2. Is it mandatory for a person interviewing a child suspect to have a minimum level of training? What is that level e.g. Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3 or other?

No. Although dependant on the circumstances of the offence it can be preferable e.g the questioning of a suspect for shoplifting would not be as complex or delicate as the interviewing of a suspect in a rape case.