

Who can help?

Support and advice if you have any concerns about your child, or another child being exploited please contact one of the following:

POLICE: 101, or 999 in an emergency (open 24/7)

Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation (PACE): 0113 2405226 or www.paceuk.info

Anonymous National CSE Line: text or call free: 116 000 or email 116000@missingpeople.org.uk (open 24/7)

NSPCC:
Call 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk

**TOGETHER WE CAN STOP
CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**



What can I do as a parent or carer?

As a parent or carer, it is important to discuss with children the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships to help highlight potential risks to them.

There are also a number of practical steps you can take to protect children such as:

- Staying alert to changes in behaviour or any physical signs of abuse such as bruising
- Being aware of new, unexplained gifts or possessions and carefully monitoring any episodes of staying out late or not returning home
- Exercising caution around older friends your child may have, or relationships with other young people where there appears to be a power imbalance
- Making sure you understand the risks associated with your child being online and putting measures in place to minimize these risks.

If a child is in immediate danger, call 999 or contact your local police.

Child Sexual Exploitation

GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND FAMILIES

"I thought it just could not possibly happen to my little boy."

"She became quite dark, deep and really really violent"

"I thought I'd hit rock bottom with it all. Depressed and not knowing which way to turn, who to trust as well."

"It ripped my family apart"

"It's so scary having to watch your little girl go through stuff like that and nobody'll listen to you"

Understanding what it is, how to get help, and how to spot the signs

What is CSE?

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of abuse.

It involves children and young people being forced or manipulated into sexual activity in exchange for something: Money, gifts, accommodation or less tangible goods such as affection or status. The sexual activity and exchange may be seen as consensual, but are based on an imbalance of power.

It can also occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example, being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet. Rewards or gifts for such images can be hidden in online games such as getting to the next level, in game 'gold/coins' or points being exchanged.

There are different models of Child Sexual Exploitation; below are three of the main ones:

- **Inappropriate relationship:** the child/young person is in a relationship with an older partner who exerts a great deal of influence and control over them. The child/young person is likely to believe they are in a serious adult relationship and not recognise exploitative nature.
- **Peer exploitation:** the child/young person is in a relationship with another child/young person who is coercing them into sexual activity with their friends.
- **Organised exploitation:** the child/young person is being groomed or sexually exploited by a network of perpetrators and may be coerced into sexual activity with different people.

How does it happen?

Some people target children and young people and draw them into abusive sexual relationships.

This is how it can happen:

- At the beginning, the perpetrator/s make the young people feel special by showing them a lot of interest and affection.
- Sometimes they ask groups of young people to come back to their house or go to parties.
- Sometimes young people are offered drugs, alcohol and a place to chill out.
- They may be given presents like clothes, a mobile phone, or money to buy alcohol or cigarettes.
- After they have gained a young person's trust and affection things change.
- They may expose them to pornography, drugs and violence to de-sensitise them.
- They will ask for sexual favours for themselves or other people in return for alcohol, drugs, presents, money etc. All the things they previously gave to the young person for free.
- The perpetrator stops being nice and can become violent or threatening.
- They will try to separate the young person from their friends and family.
- They may encourage the young person to keep secrets from you.

Spot the signs

Children and young people that are the victims of sexual exploitation often do not recognise that they are being exploited. However, there are a number of tell-tale signs that a child may be groomed for sexual exploitation. These include:

- Have they come home with money, clothes, jewellery, a mobile phone or other presents they can't account for?
- Do they use their mobile phone secretly?
- Do they have a boyfriend, girlfriend or friends you're concerned about? Are they significantly older?
- Have they been picked up from home or school by someone you don't know?
- Do they skip school or regularly go missing from home?
- Are they secretive about where they go, who they see or talk to online?
- Have you noticed any signs of physical harm?
- Are you worried about unsafe sexual behaviour?
- Are they using drugs or alcohol?
- Have they lost contact with family and friends?
- Are they spending more time online than with friends?
- Do they chat to people online they have never met via social media or online games?