

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)

What is child sexual exploitation?

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse (sexual abuse). It occurs where an individual or group take advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child under the age of 18 into sexual activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or for the financial advantage or the increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

Perpetrators can be male or female, children or adults. When a child or young person is exploited, they are often given gifts such as drugs, money, status and affection in exchange for performing sexual activities.

Sometimes abusers use violence and intimidation to frighten or force a child or young person to carry out acts making them feel as if they have no choice, other times children are groomed and believe they are consenting to the acts.

Child sexual exploitation is never the young person's fault, even when they 'agree' to the sexual activity.

Some groups of children are particularly at risk of CSE. These include children:

- with learning difficulties or disabilities
- who are looked after
- who are migrants
- who are seeking asylum
- who are homeless
- who run away from home and care and/or are missing from education

Sexual exploitation can sometimes be difficult to identify and can sometimes be mistaken for 'normal' teenage behaviour.

If you have concerns around CSE inform your DSL and contact ICRT for further advice.

If you believe the child is at immediate risk of sexual exploitation ring the Police on 999 or call 101 if you think a crime has been committed.

What may cause you to have concerns about CSE?

- Going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late or staying out overnight
- Regularly missing school or education or not taking part in education
- Hanging out with older people or being in a gang
- Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions or money they can't explain
- Associating with other young people involved in exploitation
- Displaying unhealthy or inappropriate sexual behaviour
- Having older boyfriend or girlfriends
- Suffering from sexually transmitted infections or pregnancy
- Having an older boyfriend or girlfriend
- Mood swings or changes in emotional wellbeing
- Being frightened of some people, places or situations
- Signs of physical abuse
- Drug and alcohol misuse

Safeguarding

In case of an immediate referral contact Integrated Contact Referral team (ICRT)

Children's Safeguarding	8.30am to 5.15pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.45pm Friday	0191 561 7007
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The Out of Hours Team	Available Monday-Thursday 5.15-8.30am and from Friday 4.45pm - until Monday 8.30am. 24 hours Saturday and Sunday	0191 520 5552
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A written referral must be sent within one working day to
safeguarding.children@togetherforchildren.org.uk

In the case of an Allegation

Designated Officer (LADO)	lado@togetherforchildren.org.uk	0191 561 3901
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Early Help

Early Help Advice and Allocations Team	Early Help Together for Children	0191 561 4084
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For more information

SSCP Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership - Home Page
(safeguardingchildrensunderland.com)

[Child sexual exploitation: definition and guide for practitioners - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Child Sexual Exploitation & How to Keep Your Child Safe | NSPCC](#)

[Parents Against Child Exploitation \(Pace\) UK \(paceuk.info\)](#)

[Child sexual exploitation \(CSE\) | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#)

[Child Sexual Exploitation and Grooming \(education.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Brought to you by the Childcare Team:

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