



Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Training Resource Booklet

“Front line workers within the Police, Children’s Services, and the voluntary sector consistently stated that multi-agency working is essential to tackling child sexual exploitation”.

Findings from ‘*Out of Mind, Out of Sight*’
CEOP Thematic assessment

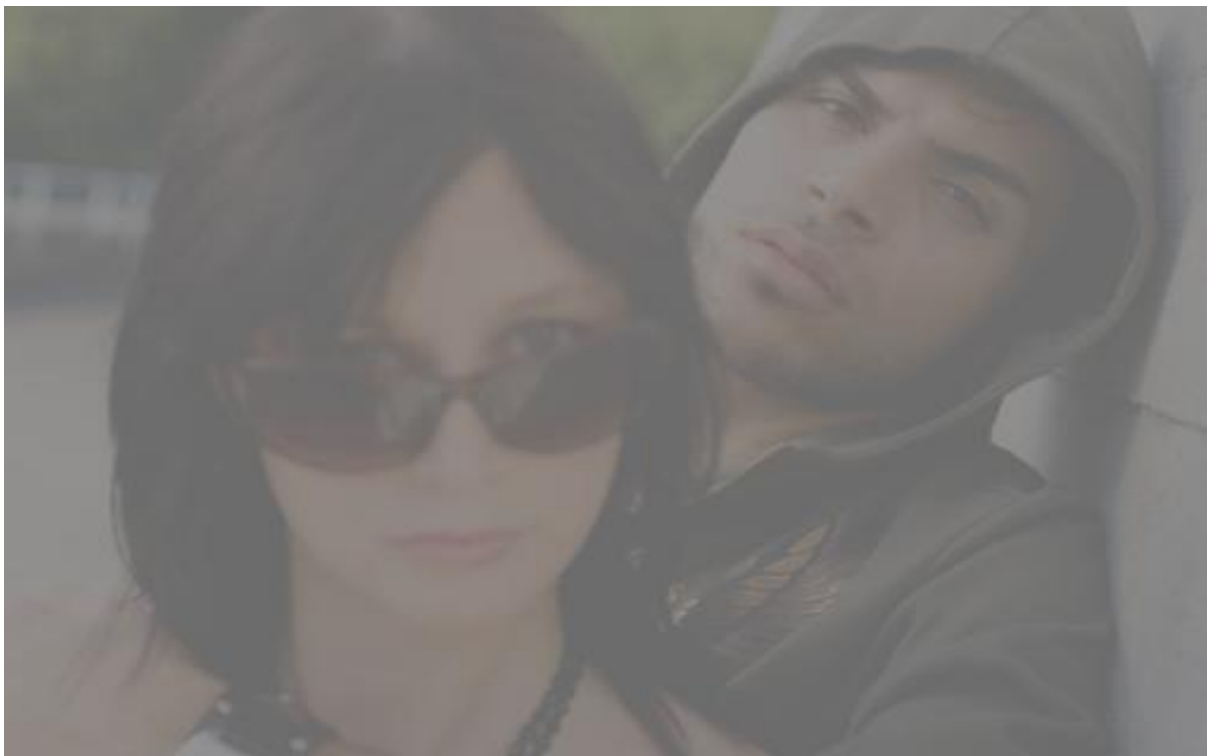
Definition

“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 or 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 which severely limits victims’ options”. *Barnados 2012.*

CSE is Sexual Abuse

“Sexual abuse is a form of Significant Harm which involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the Internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children”. *NSPCC*

What does it look like?



The young person receives something in return for sexual services/ behaviour/ activities, or enticing someone else into such activities

Always involves a relationship of inequality of power, influence or control

Perpetrators use sophisticated grooming strategies

Frequently seen by the young person as acceptable at first

Includes the use of technology whereby the young person may not immediately recognise what is being done

Who is vulnerable?

The reality is that any young person can be exploited.

The following groups are however, identified as being at a higher risk:

- Those with a history of going missing
- Those living in residential care or foster care (Looked after Children)
- Unaccompanied minors seeking asylum
- History of drug and/or alcohol abuse
- Those involved in gangs
- Disabled children and young people
- Age 12-15 year olds highest risk group both genders

Male victims

The sexual exploitation of boys and young men does happen. Estimates are that 1 in 4 victims are boys.

“Young men have explained that their sexual exploitation is often overlooked by practitioners. There is some evidence that young men who are being sexually exploited are more likely to be criminalised for their behaviour and viewed as a perpetrator. Young men’s victim hood often goes unrecognised and professionals may tend to focus on boys and young men’s outward behaviour, such as offending or drug and alcohol use, without questioning the reasons behind it”

NWG Network – Boys and Young Men Forum

National Working Group is currently completing a survey of Sexual Exploitation of boys in the UK. This study will help practitioners and policy makers better understand the specific support needs of boys who are sexually exploited in the UK.

Follow the link to the survey:

<http://www.natcen.ac.uk/taking-part/studies-in-field/sexual-exploitation-of-boys-in-the-uk/>

Signs and Symptoms:

Signs a child or young person is being sexually exploited.

The following list of indicators is not exhaustive or definitive but it does highlight common signs which can assist professionals in identifying children or young people who may be victims of sexual exploitation.

Signs include:

- underage sexual activity
- inappropriate sexual or sexualised behaviour
- sexually risky behaviour, 'swapping' sex
- repeat sexually transmitted infections
- in girls, repeat pregnancy, abortions, miscarriage
- receiving unexplained gifts or gifts from unknown sources
- having multiple mobile phones and worrying about losing contact via mobile
- having unaffordable new things (clothes, mobile) or expensive habits (alcohol, drugs)
- changes in the way they dress
- going to hotels or other unusual locations to meet friends
- seen at known places of concern
- moving around the country, appearing in new towns or cities, not knowing where they are
- getting in/out of different cars driven by unknown adults
- having older boyfriends or girlfriends
- contact with known perpetrators
- involved in abusive relationships, intimidated and fearful of certain people or situations
- hanging out with groups of older people, or anti-social groups, or with other vulnerable peers
- associating with other young people involved in sexual exploitation
- recruiting other young people to exploitative situations
- truancy, exclusion, disengagement with school, opting out of education altogether
- unexplained changes in behaviour or personality (chaotic, aggressive, sexual)
- mood swings, volatile behaviour, emotional distress
- self-harming, suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts, overdosing, eating disorders
- drug or alcohol misuse
- getting involved in crime
- police involvement, police records

- involved in gangs, gang fights, gang membership
- injuries from physical assault, physical restraint, sexual assault.

Why do Victims get Involved?

- Unaware they are being targeted and groomed by perpetrators
- Perpetrators manipulate and play on their vulnerabilities
- Need money for drugs etc
- Existing family involvement
- Survival
- Bullied or threatened by peers or gangs
- Genuinely believe they are being loved and cared for

“Low self esteem is considered the most important risk factor to CSE”

Are Parents in the Picture, YouGov

‘Young person feeling unloved [is at risk]’ (Police Officer)

‘Someone with a need to be loved and wanted’ (Teacher)

‘The person who could be targeted would have low self-esteem or lack confidence in themselves’ (Parent)



The Impact of CSE

On children

Once a child is entrapped in a cycle of sexual exploitation, it can be difficult for their parents to understand why they return to their abusers. The best way to explain this is that the control and manipulation the child is under is very similar to that experienced by victims of domestic violence.

Repeated sexual abuse will result in fear of being blamed or not being believed, a lack of self esteem and worthlessness, but also misplaced loyalties towards the perpetrators. For many children, the abuse equates to their first experience of sex and love, of which they have no prior experience to measure it against. It is also important to remember that sexually exploited children are often explicitly threatened with violence if they disclose the abuse. It is common for their family to be threatened, so the child may feel they are protecting you, the parent, by enduring the abuse.

Sadly, child sexual exploitation can leave some young people with serious long term emotional and physical effects. You may prefer to read about these once you have spoken to a Pace parent support worker and are certain of your child's exposure to it. That way you can ensure you have the necessary support and knowledge in order to deal with the reality of what your child is experiencing.

On family

The sexual exploitation of their child is a terrible thing for a parent to witness. Many parents who work alongside Pace have reported feelings such as anger, guilt, shame, embarrassment, confusion and profound isolation. On a practical level, parents may find:

- Their child may act violently or out of control. They may be truanting from school and in trouble from the police
- They encounter judgmental attitudes from those in authority, who may adhere to the stereotype that your child is making a 'lifestyle choice' or merely rebelling against their upbringing
- You may get into trouble at work for having to constantly chase up your child and locate their whereabouts
- Your relationship or marriage may come under strain, whether you are a parenting as a couple or co-parenting due to separation
- You may experience mental health problems or manifestations of stress and exhaustion

On other children in the family

Parents who work with Pace often report that the involvement of one child in the family places other children in the family of risk of exploitation at the same hands – so it is important to assess this risk as quickly as possible. In addition, siblings may be subjected to name-calling by their peers if the affected child’s sexual exploitation becomes public. Siblings may also feel that they are losing out emotionally as your energies are drained on the affected child.

“The effects of sexually exploitative experiences on our people can cause serious, long term physical, mental and emotional damage...including post traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and panic attacks, low self esteem, depression and even suicide”.

National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People, 2008

The Grooming Process

Perpetrators are from all backgrounds and cultures

“The manipulation or ‘grooming’ process involves befriending children, gaining their trust, and often feeding them drugs and alcohol, sometimes over a long period of time, before the abuse begins. The abusive relationship between victim and perpetrator involves an imbalance of power which limits the victim’s options. It is a form of abuse which is often misunderstood by victims and outsiders as consensual. Although it is true that the victim can be tricked into believing they are in a loving relationship, no child under the age of 18 can ever consent to being abused or exploited”.

(Barnardos, 2012)

- Target vulnerable groups of young people
- Know where young people hang out
- Tricked into revealing information about where they live
- Use subtle techniques to form relationships – hard to distinguish from genuine relationships at first
- Appeal to young person’s vanity/self esteem/confidence with gifts, comments, treats, drugs and alcohol
- Young people are made to feel grown-up – using arguments with family, ‘they don’t understand you’ ‘treat you as a child’
- Gradually isolate young person from peer friends
- Exert emotional pressure on young person to perform sexual activities
- Using drugs or alcohol as a form of control

- Frequently move young people to disorientate them

Use of Technology

There is increasing evidence of grooming and abuse over the internet.

- Making contact with young people through social networks, texts and picture messages
- Using mobile phones or social networks to exert power and control
- Using a young person's identity/photo for pornographic images without their knowledge
- Posting inappropriate photos or messages on the internet or social networks
- Using the internet, social networks or mobile phones to advertise a young person's availability

Educating Parents

'78% of parents can't identify all the key signs of child sexual exploitation'

You Gov 2013

Tim Loughton, MP – Secretary of State for Children and Families:

'It is particularly crucial that parents are better educated and better engaged in protecting their own children. The huge attention given to the prolific crimes of celebrities such as Jimmy Savile should not detract from the fact that most CSE happens at the hands of ordinary criminals targeting ordinary children from all sorts of backgrounds and mostly living at home. Schools must redouble their efforts to include parents in the battle against the perpetrators of CSE at an early stage and no one must be under any illusion that this could never happen to their children.'

Lucy Faithful Parents Protect Campaign Internet Safety

The internet and mobile phones have become part of our children's lives. While this offers a wealth of new experiences, we also need to be aware that they can be used inappropriately by men, women and young people.

Top Tips:

- Talk to your child about their internet use. Ask them what sites they use and if they use social networks, become their friends.
- If you are buying a computer, mobile phone or gaming device for your child ask the sales assistant which safety devices are available to help manage your child's internet access. Install software that can filter inappropriate material.
- Teach your child from an early age not to give out personal information about themselves or their family or friends.

- Talk to them about the need to be careful of online ‘friends’ they do not know in the real world.
- Let them know they can tell you if they become uncomfortable with anything that happens on the internet.
- Show them the Click CEOP report button so that they can report anything that makes them uncomfortable.
- Talk to them about ‘sexting’ and the dangers of sending or receiving sexual images of themselves or others.
- Ensure they know never to meet with someone they have only met online whether that person says they are a man, woman or child.

www.parentsprotect.co.uk

Disclosures

Manage as you would any other disclosure. Disclosure from CSE victims is often difficult.

“Young people are unlikely to disclose sexual exploitation due to: fear of perpetrators; loyalty to perpetrators; lack of knowledge or acceptance that they are being exploited; or lack of trust and fear of authorities. Too often, even when young people do disclose abuse, no actions are taken by agencies against perpetrators or to support young people and the abuse continues” *NSPCC Learning from case reviews around child sexual exploitation, 2013.*

- No perception of abuse
- Fear of not being believed
- Fear of being judged and labelled
- Guilt and shame “it was my fault”
- Fear for personal or family safety
- Dependency on “groomers”
- Terrified

Responsibility of Professionals

“Every Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) should assume that sexual exploitation occurs within its area unless there is clear evidence to the contrary, and should put in place systems to monitor prevalence and responses.” (*DCSF, 2010; 191.*)

- Identify children who are at risk of sexual exploitation.
- Prevent sexual exploitation.
- Respond to the need of children who experience harm and abuse from sexual exploitation.
- Take action against perpetrators.

Multi Agency Response



Key action to tackle sexual exploitation:

- Information sharing across professional networks
- Intervening to prevent harm
- Disrupting and prosecuting perpetrators

Why do we need to intervene?

- Any young person is potentially at risk from sexual exploitation
- Children & young people who are sexually exploited are not perpetrators.
- Young people of 16 & 17 years are able to consent to sexual activity, but they cannot consent to their own abuse
- Those being exploited may not even realise that they are being abused.

Police

Powers:

- The use of Child Abduction Notices under section 2 of the Child Abduction Act 1984 and Section 49 Children's Act
- Use of Civil Orders under the Sexual Offences Act
- Use of Civil Orders under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 – Sexual Offences Prevention Orders/Risk Of Sexual Harm Orders

Police and Social Care

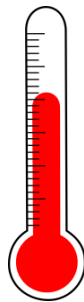
- Immediate multi agency Strategy meeting
- Risk assessment
- Remove the child young person from danger
- Gather evidence
- Interview victim
- Interview suspects

- Consult Crown Prosecution Service

The **Sexual Offences Act 2003** introduced a range of offences, including grooming and statutory rape of children under 13, which can be brought against perpetrators in CSE cases

What should you do?

Be aware of risk indicators

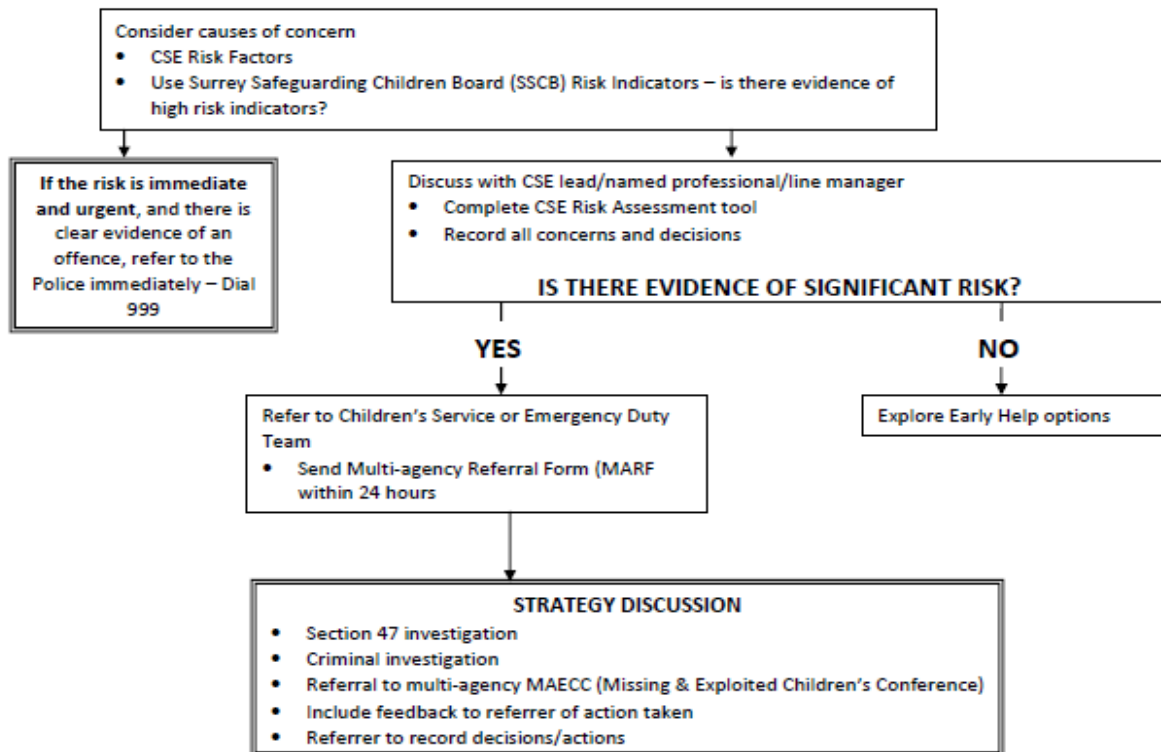


Refer to the CSE Risk Indicators checklist available through the SSCB Procedures Manual at http://sscb.proceduresonline.com/pdf/sex_ex_list.pdf

If you suspect a child might be at risk of sexual exploitation, you should:

- **Discuss with Police**
- **Contact the local Assessment Team Manager**
- **Follow safeguarding procedures e.g. Referral, strategy discussion, Section 47 enquiries**

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) FLOWCHART (FOR USE BY ALL AGENCIES)



CSE Risk Assessment Tool

This tool allows you to explore some of the vulnerabilities and indicators present in a child or young person that you know might be at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation. Available to download from http://sscb.proceduresonline.com/pdf/cse_assessment_tool.pdf

Contacts:

- Surrey Police – 101 (or 999)
- NW RAIS Team 0300 123 1630
- NE RAIS Team 0300 123 1610
- SW RAIS Team 0300 123 1640
- SE RAIS Team 0300 123 1620
- Emergency Duty team: 01483 517898
- NSPCC – 0808 800 5000 Text 88858
- Stop it Now - 0808 1000 900

SSCB CSE Awareness Training



Further reading

- Real Voices. Child Sexual Exploitation in Greater Manchester
<http://anncoffeyp.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Real-Voices-Final.pdf>
- DfE What to do if you suspect a child is being sexually exploited
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/279511/step_by_step_guide.pdf
- Puppet on a String, Barnados, 2011
http://www.barnados.org.uk/ctf_puppetonastring_report_final.pdf
- Out of Sight Out of Mind, CEOP (Child Exploitation On-line Protection Centre) research 2011
http://ceop.police.uk/Documents/ceopdocs/ceop_thematic_assessment_executive_summary.pdf
- Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation - Government Action Plan, DfE 2011
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-child-sexual-exploitation-action-plan>
- Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action plan – Progress Report, DfE, July 2012
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-child-sexual-exploitation-action-plan>
- CEOP – Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. June 2012
http://ceop.police.uk/Documents/ceopdocs/CEOP_TACSEA2013_240613%20FINAL.pdf

- Report from the Joint Inquiry into children who go missing from care, DoE, July 2012
http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/tcs/u32/joint_appg_inquiry_-_report...pdf
- Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups (CSEGG) Children's Commissioner 2011
<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/info/csegg1>
- 'I thought I was the only one in the world' Interim Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups (CSEGG) – Children's Commissioner 2012
http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content_636
- Child Sexual Exploitation – Learning from Case Reviews NSPCC
<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/information-service/case-reviews-child-sexual-exploitation-cse.pdf>

It's also worth visiting the following websites as these are regularly updated with the latest information on child sexual exploitation

- Childline - www.childline.org.uk
- Barnardos - <http://www.barnardos.org.uk/>
- NSPCC - <http://www.nspcc.org.uk>
- NWG (National Working Group) - <http://www.nationalworkinggroup.org>
- Safe & Sound Derby - <http://www.safeandsoundderby.co.uk>

CSE is occurring in Surrey