



Information About Child Sexual Exploitation For Parents and Carers

What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Sexual exploitation is “someone taking advantage of you sexually for their own benefit. Through threats, bribes, violence, humiliation or by telling you that they love you, they will have the power to get you to do sexual things for their own or other people’s enjoyment.” (Nia Project)

CSE is child abuse and the response should be the same as for any other safeguarding concern. It can happen to anybody from any background. And it can happen to boys as well as girls

Usually a child will not identify that they are a victim of CSE. We all need to be aware of potential vulnerabilities and risk indicators in order to protect children.

What are the signs to look out for?

- Going missing or regularly coming home late;
- Regularly missing school or education;
- Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions (often new mobile phones or SIM cards);
- Associating with other children involved in exploitation;
- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends;
- Suffering from sexually transmitted infections;
- Unusual changes in mood or behaviour;
- Drug and alcohol misuse;
- Anything that strikes you as a concern—you know your child.

Report:

‘Say Something’ Call/text free & anonymous on 116 000
Sussex Police Call 101 and quote Operation Kite
Child Exploitation & Online Protection Centre
To report online concerns go to: www.ceop.police.uk

My child is over the age of 16, is there anything I can do?

There are laws to protect children up to the age of 18 from CSE.

Even when they reach the age of 16 a child cannot consent to exploitation. Consent means having the freedom and capacity to choose. Anybody under the influence of drugs or alcohol does not have the capacity to consent to sexual activity.

What can I do to help?

- Talk to your children about healthy relationships and consent;
- Learn about the risks your child may face online and take practical steps to minimise these. See www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents;
- Children who are being sexually exploited need persistence, patience and consistency;
- If you are concerned about a child or a situation **say something!**

Support:

The WiSE Project - Supporting children and young people to stay safe in their relationships
Hastings & Rother 07551 126731 Lewes & Wealden 07551 126730 or Eastbourne 07525 666946

Missing People - Offers advice, support and help for anyone who goes missing and their loved ones left behind
Runaway Helpline – call/text 116 000 – free, confidential, 24/7
Independent return home interviews & support - 07538 650823

PACE UK (Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation) - Working with parents to enable them to safeguard and stop their children from being sexually exploited
www.paceuk.info or phone – 0113 240 3040

If you are concerned about your child or a child in your care please contact your local support service. Your concerns will be taken seriously. All organisations have a shared responsibility to protect, safeguard and promote the welfare of victims who maybe/are being sexually exploited.

If you suspect anyone is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999.