

Empowering Volunteers to Recognise and **Respond to Child Sexual Exploitation**

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Child Sexual Exploitation

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Housekeeping

- Mobile phones
- Fire exits
- Content



- Session time
- Questions

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The Perception –"Prostitution" or Sex Industry Triangle

"Child Prostitute" /"Rent Boy" /Sex Worker



Pimp / Facilitator

Punter / Customer

This model suggests that a child or young person is choosing their lifestyle; it allows facilitators, pimps and punters to justify and attempt to legitimise their abuse of children.

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Abused Child/Young Person



Child Abuser

Child Sex Offender

In the Protection Triangle we see that the child is a victim who needs protection from adult perpetrators. This reflects that there is a supply and demand side to the problem and that intervening in the entire system will have a more successful outcome than focusing on any individual part.

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'Beyond The Shadows'



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What is CSE?

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse in which a person (s) of any age takes advantage of a **power imbalance** to force or entice a child into engaging in sexual activity **in return for something** received **by the child and/or those perpetrating or facilitating this abuse**.



As with other forms of child sexual abuse, the presence of **perceived consent** does not undermine the **abusive nature of the act.**

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Consent

In the context of child sexual exploitation, the term 'consent' refers to whether or not a child **understands** how one **gives** consent, **withdraws** consent and what situations (such as intoxication, duress, violence) can **compromise** the child or young person's ability to **consent freely** to sexual activity.

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Young People's Definitions

- When a person uses a young person for sex: to make money or for their own enjoyment
- Getting to know someone, listening to them and talking about their problems. Making them trust you and then using them for sex or selling them to someone else
- Earning trust and making you do things that you wouldn't normally do
- Getting closer and closer to a young person with malicious intent

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Identifying vulnerability and risk

- Vulnerability factors aspects of a child's historical or current circumstances which may make them more susceptible to targeting and grooming for sexual exploitation
- Risk indicators signs or 'symptoms' which might alert you that a young person could be experiencing sexual exploitation

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1. Mobile phones Increase in phone use or secretive use.

 Unexplained phone credit or new phone.

Abusers use mobile phones to command and control victims. They may present the phone as a gift. Abusers can use in-built GPS technology to track victims' whereabouts.

2. Cars • Being picked up or dropped off in cars by unknown adults.

 Speaking about car journeys with unknown adults.

Abusers may groom young people by offering to give them lifts in cars. They may cruise the streets in cars looking for young people.

> 3. Sexualised behaviour

 Inappropriate sexualised behaviour; promiscuity; overfamiliarity with strangers; sending sexualised images via internet.

Sexual health problems.

Through sexualised behaviour young people may be acting out what has been done to them.

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4. Boyfriend/ New friends A significantly older "boyfriend" or "friend".

Gangs involved in exploitation will identify a young person and send a man, usually young, good-looking and charming, to strike up a relationship with them (see boyfriend model).

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5. Mood swings • Mood swings or changes in emotional well-being.

• Becoming aggressive and disruptive or very quiet and withdrawn.

Young people who have been sexually exploited may experience, and exhibit, extreme mood swings as they struggle to deal with the impact of abuse

6. Computer • Spending more time, often excessive, periods online.

 Becoming increasingly secretive about time spent online.

Abusers may target children online, or via smartphones, encouraging them to send messages or even pictures of themselves.

7. Gifts

• Appearing with unexplained new possessions, such as clothes, jewellery or mobile phones, that cannot plausibly be accounted for.

Abusers give victims gifts, buying first their friendship and later their affections, compliance and silence. (See boyfriend model)



8. Drugs and alcohol • Appearing under the influence of drugs, or alcohol, or possessing drugs or alcohol.

Child at risk

Abusers introduce children to drugs and alcohol as a way of controlling them and creating dependency.

The grooming line

Targeting stage

- Observing the child/ young person
- Selection of child/ young person
- Befriending being nice, giving gifts, caring, taking an interest, giving compliments, etc
- Gaining and developing trust
- Sharing information about young people between other abusive adults

Friendship forming stage

- Making young people feel special
- Giving gifts and rewards
- Spending time together
- Listening and remembering
- Keeping secrets
- Being there for them
- 'No-one understands you like I do'; being their best friend
- Testing out physical contact accidental touching
- Offering protection

Loving relationship stage

- Being their boyfriend/girlfriend
- Establishing a sexual relationship
- Lowering their inhibitions eg showing them pornography
- Engaging them in forbidden activities – eg going to clubs, drinking, taking drugs
- Being inconsistent building up hope and then punishing them

Abusive relationship stage

- Becomes an 'unloving' sexual relationship
- Withdrawal of love and friendship
- Reinforcing dependency on them – stating young person is 'damaged goods'
- Isolation from family and friends
- Trickery and manipulation 'you owe me'
- Threatening behaviour
- Physical violence
- Sexual assaults
- Making them have sex with other people
- Giving them drugs
- Playing on the young person's feeling of guilt, shame and fear



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CSE in the News



The Department for Education said it was determined to take action.

'Used and abused



Related Stories

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- Boys less likely to be identified as victims
- In line with gender stereotypes and wider societal perceptions, professionals' attitudes towards boys and young men can be less protective than towards girls.
- Professionals working with sexually exploited boys and young men found that they are more likely to express their anger and trauma externally and be labelled as 'aggressive', 'violent', or an 'offender', whereas girls are more likely to internalise their distress.
- Male service users were more likely to be referred by criminal justice agencies and less likely to be referred by social services and education. Very few males or females were referred by health services.

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Supporting Young People at risk of CSE

With own increased awareness of issues

- Sexual Exploitation is ABUSE not a lifestyle choice
- Young people will rarely disclose exploitation
- Ability to identify Vulnerability Factors, Indicators, and Push/Pull factors

Multi Agency response

- Package of support based on sound assessment and early intervention
- Reduction of presenting risk indicators
- Increased awareness of young persons own rights and awareness

Engagement with communities

- Role of residential community eyes and ears
- Role of night time economy locations, facilitation

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- CSE is **NOT new.** It is a form of Child Sexual Abuse and should be treated as a child protection issue/concern
- Young people CANNOT choose to be exploited CSE is NOT a lifestyle choice
- CSE can be organised between
- One victim and One perpetrator
- Multiple victims (known and not known to one another) and
- Multiple perpetrators and multiple victims
- ALWAYS take appropriate advice and share any concerns with a line manager
- It is everyone's responsibility for reporting concerns no matter how small

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What training do I need? What training do my mentors need? How should the mentor training be delivered?

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