

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Information for all staff who work with children and young people in Moray

Definition – “sexual exploitation of children and young people is often a hidden form of child sexual abuse, with distinctive elements of exploitation and exchange. In practice, the sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 might involve young people being coerced, manipulated, forced or deceived into performing and/or others performing on them, sexual activities in exchange for receiving some form of material goods or other entity (for e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, gifts, affection).”

(National Guidance for Child Protection 2014)

CSE - can take many forms. What marks out exploitation is an imbalance of power within the relationship. The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim, increasing the dependence of the victim as the exploitative relationship develops. This is abuse and is a Child Protection issue. Sexually exploiting a child is a criminal offence and early identification and intervention is a priority. The impact on children, young people and their families is always significant.

ANY child or young person may be at risk of sexual exploitation, regardless of their family background or other circumstances. This includes boys and young men as well as girls and young women. However, some groups are particularly vulnerable. These can include (this is not an exhaustive list):

- children and young people who have a history of running away or going missing those with additional support needs
- those in and leaving residential and foster care
- migrant children and unaccompanied asylum seeking children
- children who have disengaged from education
- children who are abusing drugs and alcohol
- those involved in gangs

CSE involves varying degrees of coercion, intimidation or enticement, including unwanted pressure from their peers to have sex, sexual bullying (including cyber bullying), and grooming for sexual activity. Technology can also play a part in CSE, for example, it can be start of an abusive relationship and can be used to record abuse and share it with other like-minded individuals.

CSE can be very difficult to identify but it happens in Moray and all across Scotland, but it is increasingly recognisable as practitioners gain more understanding of grooming and other models of CSE, and begin to take a proactive and coordinated approach to this type of abuse.

The Perpetrators of CSE can either be well organised groups or single individuals who use sophisticated tactics. They are known to target areas where children and young people might gather without much adult supervision, such as shopping centres, takeaways, pubs, sports centres, cinemas, bus or train stations, local parks, playgrounds and taxi ranks. They regularly troll internet sites and social mobile apps used by children and young people. In some cases perpetrators are known to use younger men, women, boys or girls to build initial relationships and introduce them to others in the perpetrator networks.

Children and young people, who are themselves the victims of CSE, may introduce other young people to their abusers. This is often a way of ensuring that their abuser's attention is deflected away from them. These children and young people are themselves victims who often unknowingly become young groomers.

CSE has many links to **other types of crime**. These include (this is not an exhaustive list):

- child trafficking (into, out of and within the UK)
- domestic abuse
- sexual violence in intimate relationships
- grooming (both online and offline)
- abusive images of children and their distribution (organised abuse)
- organised sexual abuse of children
- drugs-related offences (dealing, consuming and cultivating)
- gang-related activity
- immigration-related offences
- domestic servitude

The need for effective and early identification for the purpose of prevention and protection is significant in this high risk environment.

What can you do?

Use this risk assessment framework to help you assess the risk of child sexual exploitation.



- 1 or 2 problems where they live
- Mostly attend education
- Rarely or never takes drugs/alcohol
- Never or very occasionally going missing
- Close to & get on well with family/caregivers
- Don't have sex/or age appropriate sexual behaviour

- Unhappy in home environment
- Attend alternative school placement
- Sometimes use drugs/alcohol; becoming a problem
- Regularly going missing - overnight
- Lots of arguments with family/caregivers – but they care for me
- Have sex when under influence of drugs/alcohol

- No stable base – c/o friend's house, sleeping rough
- Does not regularly attend school
- Regularly take drugs alcohol – in risky situations
- Frequently going missing for longer periods
- Involved with one or a number of abusive relationships
- Peers involved in sexual exploitation/associates with risky adults

What to look out for....

Here are some examples of indicators to look out for:

- * Staying out late or episodes of being missing overnight or longer
- * Concerning use of the internet/mobile phone, Multiple callers (unknown adults/older young people)
- * Evidence of/suspicion of physical or sexual assault; disclosure of assault followed by withdrawal of a reported incident
- * Children under 13 years asking for sexual health advice, Unplanned pregnancy and/or Sexually Transmitted Infections
- * Peers involved in sexual exploitation, Isolation from peers/social network
- * Exclusion or unexplained absences from school or college, Frequenting areas known for adult prostitution
- * Relationships with controlling adults, Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults
- * Unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothing or other items, Drugs/alcohol misuse
- * Recent bereavement, low self-esteem/confidence

List of Indicators

The following list is not exhaustive but highlights indicators of risk and vulnerabilities associated with CSE.

Health	Present
Physical injuries such as bruising suggestive of either physical or sexual assault	Yes / No / Possibly
A sexually transmitted infection, particularly if it is recurring or there are multiple STIs	Yes / No / Possibly
Pregnancy / abortion / miscarriage	Yes / No / Possibly
Sexually risky behaviour	Yes / No / Possibly
Self-harming	Yes / No / Possibly
Thoughts of or attempted suicide	Yes / No / Possibly
Eating disorder	Yes / No / Possibly
Change in appearance including losing weight, putting on weight	Yes / No / Possibly
Evidence of misuse of drugs/alcohol, including associated health problems	Yes / No / Possibly
Learning disability	Yes / No / Possibly

Behaviour	Present
Sexually offending behaviour	Yes / No / Possibly
Truancy/disengagement with education, or considerable change in performance at school	Yes / No / Possibly
Volatile behaviour exhibiting extreme array of mood swings or abusive language which is unusual for the child	Yes / No / Possibly
Aggressive or violent, including to pets/animals	Yes / No / Possibly
Becoming angry, hostile if any suspicions or concerns about their activities are expressed	Yes / No / Possibly
Physical aggression towards parents, siblings, pets, teachers or peers	Yes / No / Possibly
Detachment from age-appropriate activities	Yes / No / Possibly
Secretive behaviour	Yes / No / Possibly
Known to be sexually active	Yes / No / Possibly
Low self-image, low self-esteem	Yes / No / Possibly
Young offender or anti-social behaviour	Yes / No / Possibly
Sexualised language	Yes / No / Possibly
Hostility in relationship with parents / carers and other family members	Yes / No / Possibly
Getting involved in petty crime such as shoplifting or stealing	Yes / No / Possibly

Family and Social	Present
A family member or known associate working in the adult sex trade	Yes / No / Possibly
Unsure about their sexual orientation, or unable to disclose sexual orientation to their family	Yes / No / Possibly
History of physical, sexual and / or emotional abuse; neglect	Yes / No / Possibly
Witness to or involved in domestic violence at home	Yes / No / Possibly
Parental difficulties; drug and alcohol misuse, mental health problems, physical or learning difficulty. Being a young carer	Yes / No / Possibly

Pattern of street homelessness or sofa surfing	Yes / No / Possibly
Living in hostel or B & B accommodation	Yes / No / Possibly
Conflict at home around boundaries, including staying out late	Yes / No / Possibly
Recent bereavement or loss	Yes / No / Possibly
Gang association either through relatives, peers or intimate relationships	Yes / No / Possibly
Lacking friends their own age	Yes / No / Possibly
Living in a gang neighbourhood	Yes / No / Possibly

Grooming	Present
Entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults	Yes / No / Possibly
Inappropriate use of the Internet and forming relationships, particularly with adults, via the Internet. Note adults may pose as peers to entrap the child	Yes / No / Possibly
Mobile phone being answered by unknown adult	Yes / No / Possibly
Accounts of social activities with no plausible explanation of the source of necessary funding	Yes / No / Possibly
Having keys to premises other than those they should have	Yes / No / Possibly
Possession of money with no plausible explanation	Yes / No / Possibly
Acquisition of expensive or sexual clothes, mobile phone or other possession without plausible explanation	Yes / No / Possibly
Having new mobile phone, several mobile phones, especially Blackberry or I phone – (because messages cannot be traced)	Yes / No / Possibly
Always have credit on their mobile phones, despite having no access to money or having no credit so phone can only be used for incoming calls	Yes / No / Possibly
Excessive use of mobile phones including receiving calls late at night	Yes / No / Possibly
Reports that the child / young person has been seen in places known to be used for sexual exploitation	Yes / No / Possibly
Unexplained relationships with older adults	Yes / No / Possibly
Associating with other young people who are known to be sexually exploited, including in school	Yes / No / Possibly
Sexual relationship with a significantly older person	Yes / No / Possibly
Phone call, texts or letters from unknown adults	Yes / No / Possibly
Recruiting others into sexual exploitation	Yes / No / Possibly
Seen at public toilets known for cottaging or adult venues (pubs and clubs)	Yes / No / Possibly
Adults loitering outside the child/young person's usual place of residence or school	Yes / No / Possibly
Leaving home/care setting in clothing unusual for the individual child (inappropriate for age, borrowing clothing from older young people)	Yes / No / Possibly
Wearing an unusual amount of clothing (due to hiding more sexualised clothing underneath or hiding their body)	Yes / No / Possibly
Persistently missing, staying out overnight or returning late with no plausible explanation	Yes / No / Possibly
Returning after having been missing, looking well cared for in spite of having no known home base	Yes / No / Possibly
Returning after having been missing looking dirty, dishevelled, tired, hungry, thirsty	Yes / No / Possibly
Missing for long periods, with no known home base and/or homeless	Yes / No / Possibly
Possession of excessive numbers of condoms	Yes / No / Possibly
New contacts with people outside of town	Yes / No / Possibly

Looked after children	Present
Living in residential care	Yes / No / Possibly
Frequently missing from placement	Yes / No / Possibly
Multiple Placement breakdown	Yes / No / Possibly
Going missing with other children	Yes / No / Possibly

E-safety	Present
Evidence of sexual bullying and/or vulnerability through internet or social networking sites	Yes / No / Possibly
Concern that inappropriate images of a young person are being circulated via the internet/phones	Yes / No / Possibly
Exchanging inappropriate images for cash, credits or other items	Yes / No / Possibly
Receiving gifts through the post from someone the young person does not know	Yes / No / Possibly
Concern that a young person is being coerced to provide sexually explicit images	Yes / No / Possibly
Concern that a young person is being bribed by someone because of their inappropriate online activity	Yes / No / Possibly
Concern that a young person is selling sexual services via the Internet	Yes / No / Possibly
Accessing dating agencies via mobile phones (for example - 2 flirt line)	Yes / No / Possibly
Unexplained increased mobile phone / gaming credits	Yes / No / Possibly

The indicators above should not be read as a definitive list and practitioners should be aware of any other unusual factors that may suggest a child might have been trafficked or sexually exploited. They are intended as a guide, which should be included in a wider assessment of the young person's circumstances.

(Normal Child Protection procedures should be followed)

Questions for parents / carers	Things for parents / carers to consider
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Are they staying out overnight? •Have they been missing from home? •Have they started to truant from school? •Have they been coming home with money, clothes, jewellery and mobile phones they can't account for? •Have they begun a relationship with an older partner or adult that you are concerned about? •Have you had concerns that they could be using drugs and / or alcohol? •Has there been a change in their mood and behaviour? •Are they losing contact with family and friends of their own age, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The child or young person may form a close relationship with an older person. •Children involved in sexual exploitation face great risks to their physical, emotional, and psychological health. •Exploitative adults are very sophisticated and well-practised in how they approach children. •Children are sometimes abused by people they know. •Often children will not talk about incidents of sexual exploitation. •Be sensitive to changes in your child's behaviour. It is up to attentive adults to recognise the signs of sexual exploitation. •A child may become very secretive.

<p>associating with an older age group?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Do they lack self-esteem? •Are they secretive about where they have been and whom with? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •They may come home with gifts which cannot be explained; such as money, mobile phones, clothes etc. •It is important that your child feels that you believe what they are telling you. •Help and support your child, no matter what
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Getting it Right in Moray

All agencies, professional and services that deliver adult and/or child services and work with children and their families have a responsibility to recognise and actively consider potential risks to a child, irrespective of whether the child is the main focus of their involvement. Practitioners are expected to identify risk and consider the child's needs, share information and concerns with other agencies and work collaboratively with other services (as well as the child and their family) to improve outcomes for the child or young person.

Referrals concerning a child or young person at risk of significant harm from CSE may come from family members, friends or neighbours; sometimes, children and young people will make allegations directly. As with **ALL** child protection concerns, practitioners across all agencies must be clear from the outset about their responsibilities for sharing information and with whom.