



Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse.

It occurs where anyone under the age of 18 is persuaded, coerced or forced into sexual activity in exchange for, amongst other things, money, drugs/alcohol, gifts, affection or status.

Consent is irrelevant, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact and may occur online.

Children do not make informed choices to enter or remain in sexual exploitation, but do so from coercion, enticement, manipulation or desperation.

Any child or young person may be at risk of sexual exploitation, regardless of their family background or other circumstances. Some children are particularly vulnerable, for example, children with special needs, those in residential or foster care, care leavers, migrant children, unaccompanied asylum seeking children, victims of forced marriage and those involved in gangs.

There is often a presumption that children are sexually exploited by people they don't know, however evidence shows that this is often not the case and they are sexually exploited by people with whom they feel they have a relationship, e.g. a boyfriend / girlfriend.

Due to the nature of the grooming methods used by their abusers, it is very common for children and young people who are sexually exploited not to recognise that they are being abused.

The fact that a young person is 16 or 17 years old and has reached the legal age of consent should not be taken to mean that they are no longer at risk of sexual exploitation. These young people are defined as children and they can still suffer significant harm as a result of sexual exploitation.

What to do if you are worried about CSE

Where the concerns about the welfare and safety of the child are such that a referral to Children's Social Care should be made please contact:

First Contact: 01753 875362

Email: sloughchildren.referrals@scstrust.co.uk (9am-5pm, M-F)

Out of Hours Duty Team: 01344 786543

Email: EDT@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

CSE Indicator Tool

For multi agency partners please download and complete a CSE Indicator Tool which will help you to consider the CSE risks and what action to take. This can be downloaded from: <https://www.sloughsafeguardingboards.org.uk/assets/1/pan-berks-cse-indicator-tool.doc>

What are the indicators of CSE?

Sexual identity, wellbeing and choice

Sexually transmitted infections (particularly repeat infections); pregnancy; terminations; changing or out of character sexual behaviour; exploring sexual relationships in an unsafe context/environment; unable to disclose sexual orientation.

Absence, truancy and going missing

Truancy from school; missing from home/care; travelling outside borough/town when missing; unexplained absences.

Family and home

Sexual, physical, emotional abuse & neglect; risk of forced marriage or honour based violence; female genital mutilation; domestic violence; substance misuse; parental mental health concerns; bereavement; parental and sibling criminality; homelessness or sofa surfing; living in care or temporary accommodation; immigration status.

Emotional and physical health

Suicidal thoughts, plans & attempts; self-harm; low self-esteem/confidence/worth; learning difficulties; changing emotional wellbeing & signs of poor mental health; unexplained injuries & changes in physical appearance.

Gangs, Groups, Age Gaps and Crime

Involvement in gangs; gang affected family, peers or siblings; concerns of abusive peer groups; involvement with older individuals/groups, lacking friends in same age groups; older 'boyfriends'; sudden changes in peer groups; bullying (on & off line); friends of young people experiencing CSE.

Use of technology and sexual bullying

Sexual activity &, or named in videos; secretive use of internet/phones/social networking sites; sudden behaviour changes when using the phone or internet; control via phone or internet; multiple or secretive social networking profiles.

Alcohol and substances

Reliance on & changing use of substances, both legal and illegal.

Receipt of unexplained gifts or money

Unexplained money, mobile phones; phone credit, items, clothes, money; travel in taxis; gifts where payment is required at a later date; worries about having debts.

Distrust of authority figures

Resistance to communicating with parents, carers, teachers, social services, health, police and others.