Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Fact Sheet

# The NSPCC describe child sexual exploitation as a type of sexual abuse in which children are sexually exploited for money, power or status.

**Here are some facts about CSE:**

* All children from all kinds of families can be sexually exploited
* Child Sexual Exploitation does not just take place in large towns and cities. It can happen anywhere
* The majority of sexually exploited children and young people will be hidden from view and it is difficult to quantify the number of children and young people who are abused in this way
* In 2014–15, Barnardo’s worked directly with 3,200 exploited or at-risk children in the UK
* It is estimated that 1,400 children and young people were sexually exploited in Rotherham between 1997 and 2013. They were raped by multiple attackers, trafficked to other towns and cities in the north of England, abducted, beaten and intimidated
* A child under the age of 13 is not legally capable of consenting to sexual activity
* Sexually exploited children over the age of 16 can consent to sex but they cannot consent to exploitation, all children under 18 should be safeguarded
* The average age for exploitation is getting younger from 15 to 13 years of age and in one month alone, Barnardo’s services worked with 126 children aged 10–13 who had been affected
* Online and mobile technology play a significant role in targeting, exploiting and controlling children and young people
* Public areas such as parks and leisure centres are often used by perpetrators to target victims.
* The majority of victims are not ‘looked after’ children, it is estimated that only 20-25% of victims are ‘looked after’ by the local authority
* Children from families where there may be problems can be targeted by perpetrators who identify a child’s vulnerabilities and exploit them
* There has been an increase in victims with learning disabilities
* Boys are often victims of sexual exploitation but they may find it harder to disclose that they are being abused by other men because of issues about sexual identity
* Boys and young men who are sexually exploited are more than twice as likely to have a recorded disability, such as a learning disability, behaviourally based disability or an autism spectrum disorder, than girls
* There is no one type of abuser. Perpetrators of CSE can be male or female, come from any ethnic or socio economic background and be any age, although the majority are men
* Individuals offend as well as groups
* A young person can act as a recruiter having previously been groomed themselves
* Children and young people can be trafficked from one street to another and within regions
* Child sexual exploitation has a devastating long term impact for the victim and the whole family

# Key risk factors

Just being a teenager increases vulnerability. Teenagers often experiment and take risks. They perceive risks differently, can ignore good advice and react against authority and control. They are also vulnerable to flattery or may be naïve and grooming is carried out in a way that makes the victim initially believe they are in a normal relationship.

There is no set formula for identifying the risk of child sexual exploitation but children and young people are more vulnerable to abuse who:

* Feel isolated
* Are bullied
* Have disabilities
* Are exploring their sexuality
* Have experienced bereavement or family breakdown Have experienced domestic abuse within the family
* Have previously been abused (particularly sexually)
* Have family/peer involvement in sexual exploitation
* Have an unstable home life, including parents with a substance misuse or mental health issues
* Are a child looked after in residential care
* Have run away/ gone missing
* Are gang members
* Are homeless or have dependencies such as drug issues
* Are Asylum/refugee children with non-secure immigration rights.

# Contacts

Christie Tims (LDC’s Designated Safeguarding Lead Officer) - Tel **01543 308002**

Lucy Robinson (LDC’s Deputy Safeguarding Lead Officer) - Tel **01543 308710**

Sarah Sleigh (LDC’s Deputy Safeguarding Lead Officer) - Tel **01543 308772**

Mark Bestwick (The CSE Single Point of Contact for the Police) on 101 or email [mark.bestwick@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:mark.bestwick@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk)

Staffordshire Police CSE team on 101 ext 3695/ 3604 or email [childexploitation@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:childexploitation@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk)

If you believe a child is at risk of significant harm please contact Staffordshire First Response Tel 0800 131 3126 or email: [firstr@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:firstr@staffordshire.gov.uk)

# Useful websites

Staffordshire Children’s Safeguarding Board (SSCB): [www.staffsscb.org.uk](http://www.staffsscb.org.uk/)

NSPCC: [www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-) exploitation/what-is-child-sexual-exploitation/

Barnardo’s: [www.barnardos.org.uk/what\_we\_do/our\_work/sexual\_exploitation/about-cse.htm](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/sexual_exploitation/about-cse.htm) Child Exploitation Online Protection: [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk/)

Parents against Child Sexual Exploitation: [www.paceuk.info](http://www.paceuk.info/) National Working Group: [www.nwgnetwork.org](http://www.nwgnetwork.org/)

See me, hear, me: [www.seeme-hearme.org.uk](http://www.seeme-hearme.org.uk/) Childline: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk/)