



information for parents and carers on child sexual exploitation



What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is Child Sexual Abuse

CSE is the sexual exploitation of children and young people under the age of 18 and may involve a child or young person being enticed, coerced, manipulated, forced or deceived into performing and/or allowing others to perform on them sexual acts in exchange for material goods, rewards or affection.

CSE can affect any child or young person, from any background, male or female, anytime, anywhere

CSE can also occur through the use of technology and without the child's immediate recognition, eg being persuaded to post sexual images of themselves on the internet or mobile phones

CSE perpetrators have power over their victims and use very subtle grooming processes, eg gaining trust over a long period of time.

This may mean that the victims of **CSE** rarely disclose their abuse or may not even be aware they are being abused.



What are the signs to look out for?

- Staying out late or regular episodes of being missing overnight or longer without permission.
- Reduced contact with family and friends and/ or other support networks.
- A number of different callers to home (unknown adults/ older young people).
- Exclusion, truancy or unexplained absences from school or college.
- Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults or taxicabs.
- Possession of multiple mobile phones.
- Suddenly has money, clothes, mobile phone etc without plausible explanation.
- Receiving a number of texts/ phone calls prior to leaving home.
- Agitated or stressed prior to going out.
- Inappropriate sexualised behaviour for age and development.
- Physical signs of bruising or bite marks.
- Significantly older 'boyfriend' or 'girlfriend'.
- Self-harm and other expressions of distress.
- Evidence or suspicion of substance misuse/ alcohol and drug use.
- Sexualised risk taking online and associating with unknown people online (more secretive)
- Links with other young people who are sexually exploited.



What can I do as a parent or carer?

As a parent or carer it is important for you to discuss with your child the differences between a healthy and an unhealthy relationship. There are also a number of practical steps you can take to protect children such as:

- Talking and listening to your child;
- Staying alert to changes in behavior or any physical signs of abuse such as bruising;
- Being aware of new, unexplained gifts or possessions;
- Carefully monitoring any episodes of staying out late or not returning home;
- Exercising caution around any older friends your child may have, or relationships with other young people where there appears to be a power imbalance;
- Making sure you are aware of the risks associated with your child being online and putting measures in place to minimize these risks.

There could be many reasons for changes in a child or young person's behavior, but if you notice a number of worrying signs it may be time to seek help or advice.

Useful Websites

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre

<http://ceop.police.uk>

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Barnardo's Scotland

<http://www.barnardos.org.uk>

Children 1st

www.children1st.org.uk

NSPCC Scotland

www.nspcc.org.uk



No child or young person can consent to their own abuse

All children and young people across North Lanarkshire have a right to be cared for and protected from harm and/or abuse.

It's everyone's job to make sure they are alright and that they get the help they need when they need it.

If you have concerns or require more information please contact your line manager. If you think a child or young person is at risk of harm or abuse contact:

Your Social Work Locality Team

Airdrie	01236 757000
Bellshill	01698 346666
Coatbridge	01236 622100
Cumbernauld	01236 638700
Motherwell	01698 332100
Wishaw / Shotts	01698 348200

Social Work
Emergency services 0800 121 4114

or Police Scotland
Non-emergency number 101
In an emergency call 999

This leaflet has been produced by North Lanarkshire Child Protection Committee with acknowledgement to Perth and Kinross Child Protection Committee for the use of their material.

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