

# Information for children and young people on child sexual exploitation



# What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is when a young person under 18 is manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act in exchange for material goods, reward or affection.

This means that someone may be tricking you into sexual contact with them or other people and in return giving you gifts, money, somewhere to stay or drugs/alcohol.

The person doing this could be male or female. They may know you or they will look for places where young people hang out or will create false profiles and make contact with you on the internet.

They normally show an interest in you and offer you a cigarette, alcohol or just someone to talk to. They may buy you presents and buy you a mobile phone to keep in contact with you.

This process is called grooming and makes you trust them. They may enter into a sexual relationship with you, treat you kindly and take you to nice places. You will think everything is fine and that you are in control.

Over time your relationship with them might change and they may then force or persuade you to have sex with them and others or film you doing sexual things.

They may do things that are dangerous and against the law such as taking or selling drugs, or they may be involved in some form of criminal activity.

## The Law and your rights

- In Scotland a child or young person is anyone under the age of 18.
- It is everyone's job to protect you from harm, abuse and exploitation.
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that every child has the right to be free from abuse, exploitation or kidnap.
- It is against the law for anyone to have sex with a person under the age of 16.
- It is illegal for a person of authority such as a doctor, teacher and carer etc to engage in a sexual act with someone under the age of 18 in relation to whom they are in a position of trust.
- Nobody has the right to touch you if you don't want it or persuade you to do anything you don't want to-sexual or otherwise.

## It will never happen to me!

You may think that this will never happen to you, that you are always in control, but the abusers use a number of tricks. Here are some to look out for:

- You might be invited and taken to house parties with other young people.
- You may be given free alcohol, drugs or money.
- You may be offered somewhere to stay in return for sex.
- Meeting you on the internet in secret.
- Playing alongside you and making friends through online gaming.
- Giving you lifts and taking you to new places.
- Making you feel really good about yourself then being abusive.
- Controlling your movements and which friends you see.
- Providing you with a new mobile phone in addition to the one you may already have.
- Making constant contact with you by mobile phone and always wanting to know where you are.
- Encouraging you to miss school.
- Encouraging you to keep secrets from family and friends about where you are going and who with.
- Using emotional blackmail and making you feel it is your fault.
- Isolating you from your family and friends.

## How to keep yourself safe

### Speak out

If you feel something is not right then tell someone you trust. If they won't listen tell someone else. Trust your gut instinct. It may be embarrassing but abuse is never your fault.

### Think before you drink

Do not drink too much alcohol. If you do have a drink ensure you look after it. Drugs can be used to spike drinks and are hard to spot.

### Say no

If you do not want to do something it's ok for you to say no. It is your choice. Also do not force or pressurise anyone else into doing something they do not want to do.

### Have enough money to get home

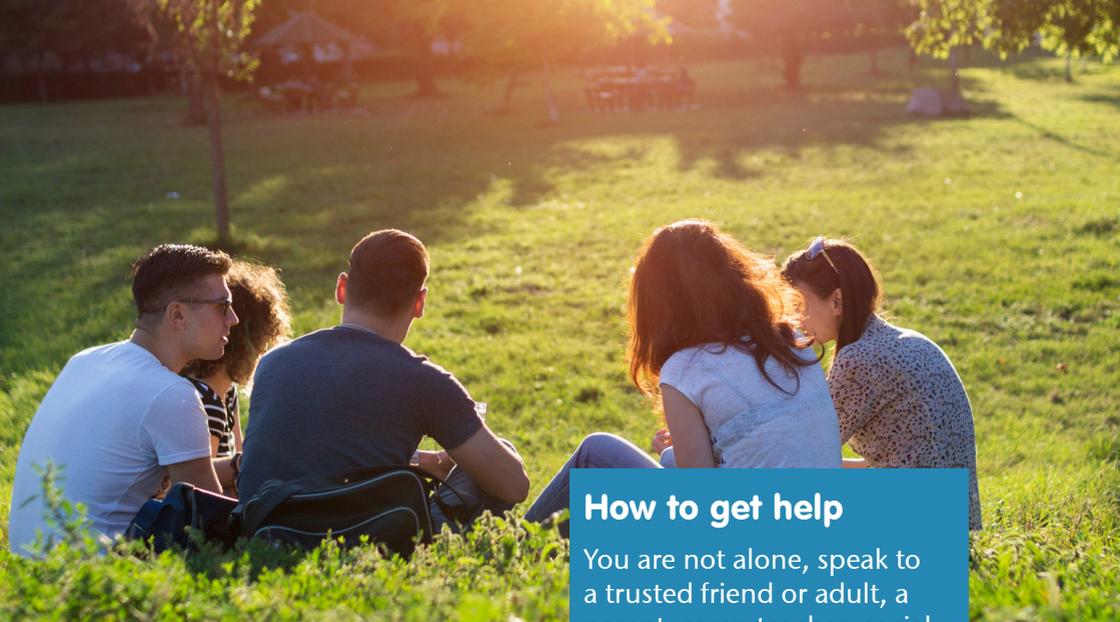
Always make sure you have enough money to get home and share a taxi with friends. If you have to get a taxi alone let someone know the firm or driver's badge number. Always make sure you use a registered company rather than a person in a car who says it is a taxi.

### Tell someone where you are going

Always tell your parent, carer, or friends where you are going and when you will be back. Ensure your mobile is fully charged and has credit.

### Stay safe online

Never put your personal details on the internet such as address, mobile number, or even your full name. Use a nickname if you can. Your friends will know who you are. Always use privacy settings.



## Useful websites

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### Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre

[ceop.police.uk](http://ceop.police.uk)

[thinkuknow.co.uk](http://thinkuknow.co.uk)

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### Barnardo's Scotland

[barnardos.org.uk](http://barnardos.org.uk)

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### Children 1st

[children1st.org.uk](http://children1st.org.uk)

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### NSPCC Scotland

[nspcc.org.uk](http://nspcc.org.uk)

## How to get help

You are not alone, speak to a trusted friend or adult, a parent, carer, teacher, social worker, youth worker or any other adult you trust. If you need help or you have concerns regarding a friend please contact your local social work team or the police.

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

Police  
Non Emergency Number  
(ask for the Family Protection Unit)101  
In an emergency 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.

This information can be made available in a range of languages and formats, including large print, Braille, audio, electronic and accessible formats