

Where to go for further help and information:

Barnardos

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/sexual_exploitation/what-is-cse/cse-spot-the-signs

<http://csethesigns.scot/>

NSPCC

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-exploitation/>

CSE

Child Sexual Exploitation

Wolsey House Primary School



What is CSE?

The sexual exploitation of children and young people (CSE) under 18 is defined as that which:

‘Involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive ‘something’ (for example food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.

- Those exploiting the child has power over them (age, gender, intellect, physical strength, economic resources)
- Violence, coercion and intimidation are common

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of child abuse. It happens when a young person is encouraged, or forced, to take part in sexual activity in exchange for something.

- The reward might be presents, money, alcohol, or simply emotional attention.
- It can happen to any child or young person.
- It might seem like a normal friendship or relationship to begin with.
- It can happen online or offline, and without the young person being aware of it.

Who does it happen to?

- Any young person can be a victim of child sexual exploitation.
- It can happen to boys as well as girls.
- It can happen to young people of all races and backgrounds.
- Young people experiencing problems at home who go missing or are in care can be vulnerable and particularly at risk, but child sexual exploitation can also happen to those from a loving, supportive home.

No matter who is affected by child sexual exploitation, it is never, ever their fault – even if they agreed to the sexual activity because they felt they ‘should’. A child may agree to sexual activity because they felt they had no other choice and or do not fully understand consent.

How does it happen?

Many young people who are victims of CSE have been ‘groomed’ by an abusing adult who befriends the young person and makes them feel special by buying them gifts or giving them lots of attention. Young people may be targeted online or in person. Sexual exploitation can also occur between young people of a similar age. In most cases, the abuser will have power of some kind over the young person. It may be that the abuser is older or more emotionally mature, physically stronger, or that they are in a position where they are able to control the young person. There are some situations that can make young people more vulnerable to exploitation; by becoming distant from the people who would usually look after them. Young people who are having difficulties at home, regularly go missing or have experienced care may be particularly vulnerable.

What are the signs to look out for?

- unexplained gifts
- changes in mood
- going missing
- staying out late
- being secretive about where they are going
- lack of interest in activities and hobbies
- missing school.

Children and young people that are the victims of sexual exploitation often do not recognise that they are being exploited.

If you are concerned that a child may be being sexually exploited or groomed, make sure you fill out a safeguarding concerns form and pass it to one of our DSLs as soon as possible.

Our DSLs are: Steve Powell, Helen King, Julie Cooper-Marsh, Ginny Southwell, Emily Satchwell, Jacqui Hayes and Yasin Ismail