

Safeguarding Bulletin – Exploitation



Thursday 18th March is National Child Exploitation Awareness day. The event is to raise awareness of all forms of exploitation, including modern slavery, criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation, and trafficking. Hillingdon Safeguarding Partnership have focussed their local effort around child sexual exploitation (CSE) recognising the need for everyone to have greater awareness around the indicators of CSE and to know how to report this.

CSE/Missing

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse in which children are sexually exploited for money, power or status.

Sexual exploitation can involve young people being exploited in 'exchange' for drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and other presents. Or it may be having sex for money with several adults. Young people may feel they must have sex because an adult gives them something, or because they feel threatened or frightened.

Some young people may want to have sex because they think the adult is their boyfriend or girlfriend. In reality they are being used for sex, and the 'boyfriend' or 'girlfriend' may pass them on to other people too. (Remember – sexual abusers can be women, as well as men.)

Sexual exploitation can also occur without any physical contact with children being groomed to post sexual images of themselves online or take part in sexual activities via webcam or smart-phone.

Abusers and groomers are very manipulative and often a young person will not recognise that they are being sexually exploited. Sexual exploitation can happen to boys and young men as well as girls and young women. It can happen to a person of any background, race, ability, sexuality, and age.

In Hillingdon Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is taken very seriously and there is a zero tolerance to this form of sexual abuse. Missing children/young people are a priority due to the strong links associated with CSE.

Signs of exploitation

These are some signs that children may show if they are being exploited:

EXPLOITATION SPOT THE SIGNS

MISSING DAY OR NIGHT
Missing from home or education. Not knowing where they are or who they are with.

NEW PLACES
Discovering they have been going to new places where they have no obvious connections.

ONLINE USE
Spending more time online. Secretive activity, refusal to come offline. Have they distanced themselves from family, friends and usual activities?

CHANGE IN APPEARANCE
Clothing, personal hygiene, talking differently, tired.

INJURIES
Unexplained bruises, cuts, burns, marks. Reluctance to seek medical attention.

CHANGE IN BEHAVIOUR
Have they become unusually secretive, fearful or withdrawn, aggressive, distanced themselves from family and friends, involved in anti-social behaviour.

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COPING MECHANISMS
Alcohol/drug use/self-harm – what they may be doing or using in order to cope.

CHANGE IN FRIENDS
Sudden changes in who they are 'hanging out' with including meeting new people from social media.

POSSESSIONS
Unexplained items e.g. New clothing, money, phone, drugs.

HELP US STOP EXPLOITATION

SAY SOMETHING, IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS.
CONTACT:
Crimestoppers **OR** Police **OR**
0800 555 111 101
WWW.STOP-CSE.ORG

Contact: []

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STOPCSE

Types of child sexual exploitation

CSE can happen in person or online. An abuser will gain a child's trust or control them through violence or blackmail before moving onto sexually abusing them. This can happen in a short period of time.

When a child is sexually exploited online they might be persuaded or forced to:

- send or post sexually explicit images of themselves
- film or stream sexual activities
- have sexual conversations.

Once an abuser has images, video or copies of conversations, they might use threats and blackmail to force a young person to take part in other sexual activity. They may also share the images and videos with others or circulate them online.

Gangs use sexual exploitation:

- to exert power and control
- for initiation
- to use sexual violence as a weapon.

If a child reveals abuse

If a child talks to you about sexual exploitation it's important to:

- listen carefully to what they're saying
- let them know they've done the right thing by telling you
- tell them it's not their fault
- say you'll take them seriously
- don't confront the alleged abuser
- explain what you'll do next
- report what the child has told you as soon as possible.

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**HE'S NAIVE,
WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?**

HELP US STOP SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse that involves the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18 into sexual activity, sometimes in exchange for things such as money, gifts, accommodation, affection or status.

nwg **GIVE CHILDREN A VOICE DONATE**
ONLINE AT STOP-CSE.ORG/DONATE

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**SHE DIDN'T FEEL SHE
HAD A CHOICE, YOU DO**

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NEVER ALONE



NSPCC
0808 800 5000
(24hrs)

National Domestic Abuse Helpline
0808 2000 247
(24hrs free)

Mind
0300 123 3393
(Mon-Fri 9-6)

Victim Support
0808 168 9111
(24hrs)

Cruse Bereavement
0800 808 1677
(Mon-Fri 9-5)

ChildLine
0800 1111
(24hrs)

Action on Elder Abuse
0808 808 8141
(Mon-Fri 9-5)

Respect - Men's Advice Line
0808 801 0327
(Mon-Fri 9-5 or 8pm)

Samaritans
116 123
(24hrs free)

National Centre for Domestic Violence
0207 186 8270

Useful places to go for information for your son/daughter:

Samaritans: 116 123

Childline 0800 1111 specifically online safety 0808 800 5002

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/> 0808 802 5544

<https://www.kooth.com/>