

Sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse. The child, or another person, receives something in return for sexual activities; this could include money, mobile phone & credit, a place to stay, drugs, alcohol or affection. The child may not be aware that they are being exploited.

When working with children and families, always be alert to the potential of CSE.

Possible indicators are:

- ▲ going missing from home for periods of time or regularly coming home late

- ▲ regularly leaving school premises for periods of time or not taking part in education.

- ▲ appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions

- ▲ having older "boyfriends", "girlfriends" or friends; or being friends with other young people known to be at risk of CSE

- ▲ being drawn in to CSE by older young people who may have been exploited themselves

- ▲ over reliance upon mobile phones where the young person will do anything to keep hold of it

- ▲ suffering from sexually transmitted infections, Urinary Tract Infections or requesting terminations

- ▲ sudden mood swings or changes in emotional wellbeing and / or drug & alcohol misuse

- ▲ involved in criminal activity such as anti-social behaviour, assault or shoplifting items such as alcohol

Sexual exploitation happens to boys and girls of any background. Any child under the age of 18 may find themselves in a situation that puts them at risk of CSE. Perpetrators can be male or female, adults or other young people. They come from any background.

Remember:

- ! a child under the age of 13 is not legally capable of consenting to sex (it is statutory rape) or any other type of sexual touching;
- ! sexual activity with a child under 16 is an offence;



Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Quick Guide for Practitioners

2014-15



! it is an offence for a person to have a sexual relationship with a 16 or 17 year old if they hold a position of trust or authority in relation to them;

! where sexual activity with a 16 or 17 year old does not result in an offence being committed, it may still result in harm, or the likelihood of harm being suffered;

! non consensual sex is rape whatever the age of the victim; and if the victim is incapacitated through drink or drugs, or the victim (or his or her family) has been subject to violence or the threat of it, they cannot be considered to have given true consent and therefore offences may have been committed.

Sexual exploitation is abuse. It is not a "lifestyle choice". Any practitioner who thinks that a child is at risk of, or is being sexually exploited, must follow the local safeguarding children procedures.

If you suspect CSE:

Discuss your concern with your line manager or your organisation's operational Safeguarding Lead.

Follow HSCB Pan-Cheshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Children Procedures and contact Children's Social Care and Police without delay

Useful Contacts:

Halton Children's Social Care Contact Centre
Tel: 0151 907 8305 (9am – 5pm Monday – Thursday; 9am – 4.30pm Fridays)

Emergency Duty Service (Out of Hours)
Tel: 0345 050 0148
Cheshire Police
Tel: 999 (emergency) or 101 (non-emergency)

My organisation's Operational Safeguarding Lead / CSE Champion is:

Tel:

Visit Halton Safeguarding Children Board website at:
www.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk

