



Child Sexual Exploitation: Awareness Raising for Staff and Volunteers who work with Children & Young People



Norfolk Safeguarding
Children Board



Learning Outcomes

By the end of the session delegates should be able to:

- Describe what Child Sexual Exploitation is and the different ways in which children can be harmed.
- Recognise and describe the factors that can make children vulnerable to Child Sexual Exploitation
- Recognise and describe indicators of Child Sexual Exploitation
- Identify and explain the what to do if you are concerned that a child is at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation in line with the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board Protocol
- Explain the work that has been undertaken in Norfolk to address issues around Child Sexual Exploitation both in the public and voluntary sector
- Identify what can be done within your own agency or team to increase knowledge and understanding of Child Sexual Exploitation



What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

5 minute exercise in small group or pairs:

- Discuss what you think we mean by the term?
- What might be the indicators of concern?
- What factors may make children more vulnerable to CSE?



Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation of children and young people **under 18** involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person(s)) **receive something** (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, affection, gifts and money) as a result of them performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.

CSE can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.

In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have **power over them** by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.

Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

Department for Children, Schools and Families (2009) *Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation*. DCSF, London.



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Increased Vulnerabilities

- Living in a chaotic or dysfunctional household (including parental substance use, domestic violence, parental mental health issues, parental criminality)
- History of abuse (including familial child sexual abuse, risk of forced marriage, risk of 'honour'-based violence, physical and emotional abuse and neglect)
- Recent bereavement or loss
- Gang association either through relatives, peers or intimate relationships (in cases of gang-associated CSE only)
- Attending school with young people who are sexually exploited
- Learning disabilities
- Unsure about their sexual orientation or unable to disclose sexual orientation to their families
- Friends with young people who are sexually exploited
- Homeless
- Lacking friends from the same age group
- Living in a gang neighbourhood
- Living in residential care
- Living in hostel, bed and breakfast accommodation or a foyer
- Low self-esteem or self-confidence
- Young carer



Indicators of concern

- Missing from home or care
- Physical injuries
- Drug or alcohol misuse
- Involvement in offending
- Repeat sexually-transmitted infections, pregnancy and terminations
- Absent from school
- Evidence of sexual bullying and/or vulnerability through the internet and/or social networking sites
- Estranged from their family
- Receipt of gifts from unknown sources
- Recruiting others into exploitative situations
- Poor mental health
- Self-harm
- Thoughts of or attempts at suicide



Indicators of concern

- Associating with other young people involved in exploitation;
- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends;
- Suffering from sexually transmitted infections;
- Mood swings or changes in emotional wellbeing;
- Drug and alcohol misuse;
- Displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour.
- Going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late;
- Regularly missing school or not taking part in education;
- Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions (often new mobile phones);



Grooming

- A process by which a person prepares a child, significant others and the environment for the abuse of this child.
- Specific goals include gaining access to the child, gaining the child's compliance and maintaining the child's secrecy to avoid disclosure.
- This process serves to strengthen the offender's abusive pattern as it may be used as a means of justifying or denying their actions.

Craven, Brown and Gilchrist, 2006

Models of CSE

- Online
- Street/public area
- Party
- Groups
- Gangs
- Peer on peer
- Abuse of authority
- Teens consuming alcohol or drugs with older males
- Older males targeting children's homes and supported lodgings
- Inappropriate relationships with teens and older males
- Internet, social media, mobile phone



Internet and Sexting

- Targeted through social networking sites, chat rooms, dating sites, BBM
- Relationships built over a period of time or a few minutes sexualised chat is introduced to the conversation
- Encouraged to send sexual images
- Could be encouraged to meet up in real life
- Any photos sent can be used as blackmail for more explicit images or performing sexual acts on webcam
- Any sexual images posted online are likely to be copied onto parasite porn sites



Gang Model of CSE

- Groups or gangs, often men, working together to sexually exploit young people.
- Violence will be involved.
- May involve peers recruiting young people, often girls into the gangs. The peer recruiters will be male or female and will have often been exploited themselves.
- Can be much more organised and money driven.
- Girls will sometimes be internally trafficked from city to city within the UK.
- Overlap with the 'party' model.



'Boyfriend' Model of CSE

Typical grooming model:

- Targeting stage
- Friendship forming
- Loving relationship
- Abusive relationship



Myth Busters

It doesn't happen in this area.

CSE is a problem all over the UK. It happens everywhere but sometimes you have to look for it.

It's only committed by gangs of Asian males.

Men, women and young people can all be perpetrators of CSE. CSE is committed across all ethnic and demographic groups with the largest set of perpetrators being white males. It is also committed by lone males as well as groups and gangs.

It only happens to girls.

Young males are also the victims of CSE, although are much less likely to make any disclosures.

It only happens to children in care homes.

Whilst a disproportionate number of victims are living in residential care the majority of sexually exploited children were living at home when the abuse started.

If the children won't tell us about it there's nothing we can do.

It may be difficult to build a prosecution without disclosures but other investigative practices can be used. Importantly, however, disruption tactics can be put in place immediately and intelligence can be build to assist with future prosecutions as soon as CSE is suspected.



The Push and Pull of Sexual Exploitation

PUSH:

- History of abuse/neglect
- Exposure to domestic violence and abuse
- Parental vulnerabilities: substance misuse, mental illness, learning disability
- family breakdown, disrupted home life and/or bereavement
- Low self-esteem
- Poor self-image
- Physical or learning impairments
- Immigration status
- Environmental factors: gangs, poverty, local resources
- Lack of awareness and understanding
- Trouble at school
- Peer Pressure

PULL:

- Getting attention from someone older Meet someone who thinks they are special
- Acceptance from peers
- Receiving alcohol, drugs money or gifts
- Sense of confidence
- Excitement of the risk
- Being offered somewhere to stay where there are no rules
- Feeling Loved and cared for
- Gang acceptance/initiation
- Being treated like an adult
- Being given lifts, taken to new places
- Sense of belonging
- Sense of independence



Consent?

- 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 also an offence;
- 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.

Child sexual exploitation is therefore potentially a child protection issue for all children under the age of 18 years.



What to do if you are concerned

- **TAKE RESPONSIBILITY:** you are the adult and are ultimately responsible for following the appropriate child protection procedures.
- **RESPOND APPROPRIATELY:** if it is an emergency contact the police or take the young person to seek medical help (think about available services and evidence collection)
- **TALK TO THE YOUNG PERSON:** put yourself in their shoes, they are likely to be worried about how you will respond to what they have to say
- **ENCOURAGE THEM TO TALK:** even if they appear unsure about talking to you, encourage them to talk to an adult at school or a youth group etc...
- **BE HONEST WITH THEM AND DON'T MAKE FALSE PROMISES:** they need to know what will actually happen rather than what you want to happen or what should. They will appreciate your honesty and transparency
- **TELL THEM WHAT YOU WILL DO NEXT:** You should follow your organisation's child protection procedures and share the concerns with your line manager or safeguarding lead.

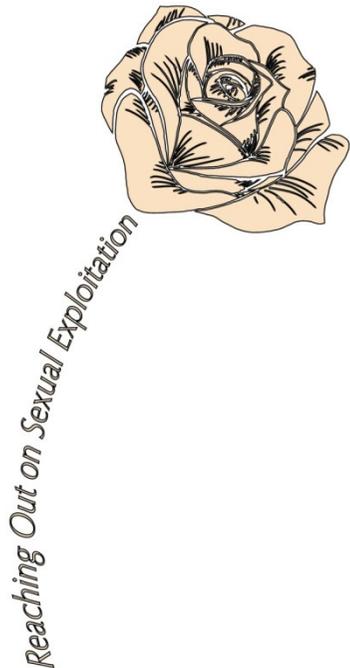


Referring cases of suspected CSE

- Frontline staff should discuss any concerns with line managers, local safeguarding leads or CSE champions.
- Take immediate safeguarding action if necessary.
- Contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for advice if necessary on 0344 800 8020 or 01603 276151.
- Refer to the MASH via NSCB1 making CSE concerns clear with reference to the indicators



The ROSE Project



- Telephone helpline and internet live chat facility to young people feel they are being sexually groomed, coerced into sex work at risk on-line through our Free Phone telephone help-line 0808 800 1037 or live chat
- Outreach service that goes to known 'hotspots' where young people hang out
- A befriending scheme to support 'at risk' young people and women
- Work in schools to educate young people how to recognise potentially dangerous situations and how to protect themselves from sexual exploitation
- Dedicated youth worker to help 'at risk' young people engage and live life to the full
- Dedicated 'Runaways' project worker offering support to 'at high risk' young people



Table Discussion

What can you do within your own organisation or team to increase knowledge and understanding of Child Sexual Exploitation?



Further Information

NSCB: www.nscb.norfolk.gov.uk

ROSE Campaign: www.rosecampaign.org

**National Working Group for Sexually
Exploited Children & Young People:**

www.nationalworkinggroup.org

CEOP: ceop.police.uk

Barnardo's: www.barnardos.org.uk



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