



Guidance Document

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

Child sexual exploitation is a major child protection issue across the UK. Child sexual exploitation is when children and young people receive something (such as food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts or money) as a result of performing, and/or other performing on them, direct sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can also occur and progress through the use of the internet or on mobile phones. In all cases, those exploiting the child or young person have power over them because of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or resources. For victims, the effect and pain of their ordeal and fear that they will not be believed or may be at risk if they tell someone, means they are too often scared to come forward.

Prevalence of Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is often a hidden issue, and therefore it is difficult to know the true figure of victims. However, it has been estimated that Barnardo's worked with 1,940 children and young people last year alone, who have been sexually exploited.

The true number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation is likely to be much higher. For victims, the pain of their ordeal and fear that they will not be believed means they are too often scared to come forward

Protecting ourselves and each other against sexual exploitation of young people

Although there is no typical victim of sexual exploitation, there are warning signs in a young person's behaviour:

- missing from home or care
- absence from school
- increased/secretive use of mobile phone/internet
- new 'friends', some of whom may be significantly older
- change of appearance
- receiving unexplained gifts or money
- physical injuries
- drug or alcohol misuse
- involvement in offending
- repeat sexually-transmitted infections, pregnancy and terminations
- self-harm and/or thoughts of or attempts at suicide

Who can you contact for advice/help?

Speak to a trusted adult, e.g. school, family, friend or contact one of the below:

Hessle High School and Sixth Form College
Mr A Jolley, School Child Protection Co-ordinator
or Mrs L Fearnley, Deputy Child Protection
Co-ordinator

Penshurst Primary School
Mrs J Spencer, School Child Protection
Co-ordinator or Mrs M Adams, Deputy Child
Protection Co-ordinator

CHILDLINE

24 hour helpline for children and young people under
18 providing confidential counselling
0800 1111

www.childline.org.uk

YOUNG MINDS

Information on a range of subjects relevant for young
people and their emotional health and wellbeing

IMMEDIATE DANGER – CALL 999

0808 8025544

www.youngmind.org.uk

MIND

Information on mental health

030 123 3393

www.mind.org.uk

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre – CEOP

<http://ceop.police.uk>

SAMARITANS

Confidential emotional support for anybody who is in
crisis

08457 90 90 90

www.samaritans.org.uk

NSPCC

24 hour child protection helpline

0808 800 5000

CRIMESTOPPERS

0800 555 111

To learn more about the signs and how to protect each other visit:

www.notinourcommunity.org.uk

THE AGE OF CONSENT

The age of consent (the age at which it is legal to have sex) is 16 for everyone in the UK. Under the age of 16 any sort of sexual touching is illegal.

It is illegal to take, show or distribute indecent photographs of children or to pay or arrange for sexual services from children.

It is also against the law if someone in a position of trust (such as a teacher) has sex with a person under 18 that they have responsibility for.