



Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child sexual exploitation (CSE): -

CSE has been identified as an issue throughout the UK in both rural and urban areas.

Increased use of internet and other communication technologies have opened up new risks.

Over 50% of young people who use the internet have been exposed to online pornography and a third have received unwanted sexual comments.

In spite of this many young people fail to acknowledge the risks and are not taking simple steps to keep themselves safe online.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE): -

Grooming:

- Actions deliberately aimed at establishing an emotional connection and trust with a child in order to increase the likelihood of them engaging in sexual behaviour or exploitation. This may include threats or bribes.
- This could be seen as part of a seemingly consensual relationship or in return for attention, affection, money, substances or somewhere to stay
- The young person may think their abuser is their friend or even boyfriend/girlfriend

Child sexual exploitation (CSE): -

Grooming:

- The abuser can make a child totally dependant and exercise complete control over them
- They will put the young person into dangerous situations, forcing him/her to do things they don't want to do
- The abuser may verbally/physically threaten the young person or be violent towards them.
- They may try to isolate the young person from family and friends

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Signs of CSE may include:

- Staying out at night
- Change in behaviour
- Unexplained gifts/new possessions
- Increased and secretive use of mobile phone
- New circle of friends
- Excessive time online or on mobile
- Sudden involvement in criminal activity
- Sexual health problems
- Changes in physical appearance

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What can parents do?:

- **Know the signs and be alert** – acting on signs early can prevent exploitation from taking place
- **Ensure lines of communication are open** – be in the habit of talking to your child about their experiences. As children grow up conversations should include topics such as what are healthy/unhealthy relationships
- **Know their friends** – secrecy about friends could indicate unsuitability
- **Take an active interest in their online life** – groomers often use the internet to groom victims. Talk about the sites they use, the importance of not giving out personal details, the posting of sexual images online
- **If you think your child is associating with potentially abusive people** – collect as much identifying information as possible (car registration numbers, descriptions of people). Keep a diary of events – if your child has run away, is receiving unexplained phone calls.