

## What are some of the indicators of child sexual exploitation?

- Staying out late, unexplained absences or going missing.
- Unexplained gifts (which can include cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, food).
- Self-harm.
- Significant changes in behaviour.
- Substance misuse.
- Change in appearance.
- STI's or pregnancy.
- Withdrawal from family relationships.
- Change of peer group or withdrawal from usual peer group.
- Secretive about life style.
- Secretive and excessive mobile/internet use.
- Truancy or exclusion from education.
- Associating with peers already identified as at risk of CSE.
- Relationships with older people.

## What to do if you are worried about a child and sexual exploitation...

Contact:

**FamilyConnect**

**01952 385385**

**familyconnect@telford.gov.uk**

(Out of hours: 01952 676500)

### Other useful contacts/sources of information:

Police: **0300 333 3000**

NSPCC (National Number): **0800 800 5000**

Asian Child Protection line: **0800 096 7719**

PACE (Parents Against Child Exploitation):

**0113 240 3040**

Crimestoppers: **0800 555 111**

**www.ceop.gov.uk**

**www.ukhtc.org**

**www.paceuk.info**

**www.barnados.org.uk**

# Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

## A Guide for Parents and Carers

## What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

“Child sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse in which a child or young person is exploited, coerced and/or manipulated into engaging in some form of sexual activity in return for something they need or desire and/or for the gain of a third person.

The ‘something’ received by the child can include both tangible items such as food, somewhere to stay, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes or money and more intangible ‘rewards’ such as perceived affection, protection or a sense of belonging. Fear of what might happen if they do not comply can also be a significant influencing factor.

Common to all these scenarios is an imbalance of power in favour of the abuser and some degree of coercion, intimidation, exploitation, violence and/or enticement of the child or young person.” (DSCF 2009)

The abuse can be perpetrated by groups or individuals, and by adults or peers.

## What can I do as a parent or carer?

- Discuss differences between healthy and unhealthy friendships and relationships.
- Stay alert to any changes in behaviour which may indicate that they are feeling under pressure.
- Carefully monitor any episodes of staying out late or not returning home.
- Be aware of who they are spending time with and encourage them to keep in touch by texting you when they are out in the community.
- Report them missing if you do not know where they are.
- Talk openly to your child about keeping safe and listen calmly if they confide in you.
- Regularly check the young person’s possessions for drugs and any unexplained money or gifts.
- Install online safety features and apps.
- Check in with parents of their friends.
- Be cautious of any older friends or friendships where there appears to be a power imbalance.
- Check in with school or college to see if they have noticed any changes in behaviour.
- Share your concerns with school staff or Children’s Services.



If you are worried about a child and sexual exploitation phone  
**FamilyConnect** on 01952 385385