



Redditch Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Panel

Child Sexual Exploitation Overview

**Safeguarding Against CSE:
Everyone's Responsibility**



Definition of CSE

“Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 can involve gangs or individuals luring them into performing sexual activities in exchange for gifts like money, food, drugs or alcohol. It can also happen through grooming using technology – e.g. young people being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet or mobile phones”.

In all cases those exploiting the child have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common in these exploitative relationships.



Fact or Myth?

- Boys are not affected by sexual exploitation?
- **MYTH** – *evidence shows that sexually exploited boys are more likely to be criminalised. Boys may find it more difficult to disclose abuse.*
- Sexual exploitation only happens to children over 15 years?
- **MYTH** – *a child is a person under 18. Typically perpetrators target children aged between 11 – 15, but it can be any age.*
- Children from all backgrounds and cultures are at risk?
- **FACT** – *it can happen anywhere – any neighbourhood and covering all racial boundaries or ethnic groups.*



Fact or Myth?

- Everyone is at risk from online grooming?
- **FACT** – *all children / young people should be educated on how to keep themselves safe and protected from online grooming.*
- Trafficking only happens to foreign children?
- **MYTH** – *it is not necessary to be moved across borders to be trafficked. Children are trafficked from within or across cities in the UK.*
- Sexual exploitation only happens to ‘dysfunctional’ families?
- **MYTH** - *all children are equally vulnerable by virtue of their age. Children from families where there may be problems could be additionally vulnerable, as perpetrators tend to identify a child’s vulnerability early on and exploit them to their advantage.*



National Findings

Early contact is often described by children as exciting.
Factors include:

Child

Lacking confidence

Looking for an exciting lifestyle

Has little or no money

Enticed by material possessions, drugs
and/or alcohol

Adult

Charismatic

Has money, accommodation and access
to drugs and/or alcohol



Risk Factors and Warning Signs

Examples include:-

- Missing from home;
- Absent from school;
- Drug/alcohol misuse;
- Self-harm;
- Gifts from unknown sources

Children can also be targeted at places where young people gather such as cinemas, bowling alleys, train stations, town centres, parks, bus stations, schools, fast food outlets and taxi ranks

If you think a child or young person may be at risk of abuse by sexual exploitation you must speak to your designated Safeguarding Leads (Judith Willis, John Godwin, Louise Langston)



Vulnerability Factors

If an officer believes a child may be at risk, they must refer to the *Worcestershire Guidance for Practitioners: A Step by Step process for responding to CSE concerns*

The Officer should consider underlying vulnerability factors in the family

Examples include:

- Child sexual abuse;
- Domestic abuse;
- Family breakdown;
- Physical abuse and emotional deprivation;
- Bullying in or out of school;
- Adult in family being involved in prostitution;
- Parental mental health issues or learning difficulties;
- Alcohol and other drug use in family;
- Child/young person being looked after;
- Isolated by virtue of being an asylum seeker or migrant family or having frequent moves.



Risk Indicators

Officers should also consider the Risk Indicator behaviours in the young person and the levels of risk.

Examples of Low level indicators are:

- Overtly sexualised dress or sexualised risk taking (including the internet) inappropriate for age;
- Unaccounted for monies or goods;
- Associating with unknown adults;
- Reduced contact with family and friends and other support networks;
- Repeat screening for sexually acquired infections, requests for emergency contraception or unplanned pregnancies;
- Poor self-image, eating disorders or self-harm;
- Having a much older boyfriend/girlfriend;
- Spending long periods of time in chat rooms or accessing inappropriate material online;
- Persistent truancy or repeatedly going missing from home or school.

www.tell-someone.org



TELL SOMEONE

🔍

Sexual Exploitation can happen to any child, anywhere.

What is CSE?
Young People
Parents
Professionals
Businesses
Contact us

GET HELP

Tell Someone is a campaign to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation within Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Worcestershire.

I live in
Herefordshire

➔

I live in
Worcestershire

➔

I live in Telford
& Wrekin

➔

I live in
Shropshire

➔

FOLLOW US

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HARM REDUCTION UNIT
@TelfordHarmHub

Jade & Vicki are completing the final session of Exploitation and Vulnerability Training at the Madeley Court Hotel today. All hotel staff will be upskilled in protecting people from harm

@MadeleyCops @SuptHarding
@CSuptKevPurcell
@WMerciaSpecials
@TelfordWrekin
@WestMerciaPCC

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Governance Structures



- **Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Board**
 - The CSE Strategic Group is a sub-group of the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board. The purpose of the group is to provide the strategic lead for the development, implementation and evaluation of the Worcestershire Children Safeguarding Board (WSCB) Strategy to address Child Sexual Exploitation in Worcestershire. Progress against the countywide CSE Action plan is monitored by this group.
- **Worcestershire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**
 - Based at Wildwood, this team of Police Officers, Social Workers and other specialist services co-ordinate activity to identify and support CSE victims and 'at risk' young people and their families and collate evidence to bring perpetrators to justice.
- **Serious Organised Crime Joint Action Group (SOCJAG)**
 - The CSP monitors and oversees local actions to address CSE issues via the SOCJAG process. Intelligence and information are fed into the Police via this group in order to provide a multi-agency approach to evidence gathering, investigation, enforcement and disruption action against potential offenders.



Community Safety Provision

The Community Safety 'Respect' Programme provides one to one therapeutic mentoring to young people who are at risk of or have been victims of CSE

The project operates on a referral basis and provides a qualified mentor/counsellor to meet with the young person on a weekly basis

Referrals are received from Schools, Targeted Family Support and Social Services

Also, lots of work being undertaken directly by Schools and the Charity, Voluntary & Community sector to address this important issue



Useful Resources

WSCB CSE Pathway: Resources for Professionals:

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20377/safeguarding_children/273/child_sexual_exploitation

Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation (PACE): <http://www.paceuk.info/>

NWG Network: <http://www.stop-cse.org/>

[NSPCC](#) - CSE at a Glance

CSE: A Resource Pack for Councillors: <https://www.local.gov.uk/child-sexual-exploitation-0>

[Exploited](#) - (18minute film for young people) - www.Thinkuknow.co.uk



Conclusion

Key Messages

- Child Sexual Exploitation is a crime that can affect any child, anytime, anywhere – regardless of their social or ethnic background.
- It involves offenders grooming youngsters and using their power to sexually abuse them. It can take many forms, whether it occurs through a seemingly 'consensual' relationship with an older boyfriend/girlfriend, or a young person having sex in return for attention, gifts, alcohol or cigarettes.
- Sexual exploitation is child abuse and it is rape, although they may not realise it, it puts the young victim at huge risk of damage to their physical, emotional and psychological health.
- Many young people who are being abused do not realise they are at risk and will not call for help. They may see themselves as willing participants when in fact their behaviour is anything but consenting.
- And, while there is no stereotypical victim of exploitation, there are warning signs in children's behaviour that may indicate something is wrong – and if you know what you're looking for, you can take steps to help them.



Questions?

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