

Child Sexual Exploitation

Policy

“The sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive “something” as a result of performing and/or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child’s immediate recognition, for example, the persuasion to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones with no 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.”

The National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children & Young People, 2008

All genders can be exploited.

Online sexual exploitation includes:

- Befriending through online chat rooms/message services.
- Online grooming techniques, eg stalking, identity pretence, false promises (meeting celebrities, tickets, gifts, etc).
- Asking children to take and share incident images of themselves.
- Leverage for further demands, eg threat to show other people recorded sexual acts by child/young person.
- Arranging offline meetings for the purpose of sexually abusing the child.
- Contact from perpetrators in other countries and abused online.
- Speed of grooming can be very quick, leaving very little thinking time.
- The restrained influencing of a child over several months has been largely replaced by rapid escalation to threats, intimidation and coercion.

Governors and staff are committed and trained to deal effectively with Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). We will ensure that:

- We identify and make known to staff and pupils a designated lead person for CSE who is fully trained and updated regularly.
- The designated lead person for CSE and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) (if they are different people) work closely together.
- All staff are made aware of and understand CSE indicators and referral pathways.
- Students are taught about CSE and how to protect themselves and each other.
- Students are taught about healthy (including sexual) relationships, peer pressure, bullying, e-safety, gang activity, etc. and how these topics relate to CSE.
- Students know who to go to for help and support and to report CSE concerns to in school and out of school.
- Relevant staff work in partnership with other agencies.
- Procedures are in place to continually gather, record and share CSE information with the South Tyneside Sexual Exploitation Service as soon as possible including ongoing data on students running away or going missing episodes.
- We consider effective ways of raising awareness of CSE with parents/carers.

What to look out for:

| Vulnerabilities | Warning signs |
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| <p>All children and young people, including those from supportive families, can be vulnerable to sexual exploitation. However, some children and young people are known to be at a greater risk. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a chaotic home/family life. • Have a history of abuse (including familial child sexual abuse, risk of forced marriage, risk of “honour” based violence, physical and emotional abuse or neglect). • Have experienced bereavement/loss. • Are associated with gangs through relatives/peers or are living in a gang neighbourhood. • Have friendships with children/young people who are being sexually exploited. • Have learning difficulties. • Live in residential care or hostel/bed and breakfast accommodation. | <p>Children and young people who are being sexually exploited may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going missing from home or care. • Absent from school. • Increasing their use of social media, dating sites, image sharing apps, etc. • Involved in risky online relationships including new contacts with people out of the area. • Sharing inappropriate/indecent online images with peers or with people only met online. • Becoming isolated/estranged from family and friends. • Meeting people befriended online. • Involving in offending behaviour. • Misusing drugs/alcohol. • Experiencing sexual cyber bullying. • Changing their physical appearance. • Experiencing repeated sexually |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have low self esteem/confidence. • Are young carers (have caring responsibilities for parents/family members with mental or physical health problems or who are misusing substances). | <p>transmitted infections, pregnancy and terminations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In poor mental health and or self harming, having thoughts of or attempting suicide. • Receiving money and gifts from unknown sources. |
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Risk assessment and consent

In assessing whether a child or young person is a victim of sexual exploitation, or at risk of becoming a victim, careful consideration should be given to the issue of consent. It is important to bear in mind that:

- A child under the age of 13 is not legally capable of consenting to sex (it is statutory rape) or any other sexual 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.
- 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 offenses may have been committed.

CSE is potentially a child protection issue for all children under the age of 18 and not just those in a specific age group.

What to do next:

Any member of staff who suspects or receives information that a child or young person may be involved in CSE (including suspicion that they are being groomed online) should refer their concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy who will refer the matter to Children’s Services and South Tyneside Sexual Exploitation Service for an initial referral and assessment.

If there are concerns about the involvement of a person who:

- Works with children;
- Is in a position of trust

The school will inform the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) immediately and follow advice given.

Where appropriate, the child or young person's wishes and feelings, as well as those of their parents/carers should be sought and taken into consideration when deciding how to proceed. However, this may not always be in the child's best interest and may put them at further risk of harm.

Some children and young people may have been trafficked and been support to access services.

Advice and support:

South Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board

www.stscg.org.uk

Referral and assessment unit 0191 4564473

UK Human Trafficking Centre

Email UKHTC@nca.x.gsi.gov.uk

Tel 0844 778 2406

REACH (Rape, Examination, Advice & Counselling)

Tel 0191 212 1551

NSPCC

Definitions, statistics, facts and resources about CSE

Barnardo's

Spot the signs – advice for parents, professionals and young people on the signs of sexual exploitation and how to keep safe.

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