

S.A.F.E.G.U.A.R.D.

A child probably won't tell you that they're being sexually exploited so it's important to be able to spot the warning signs.

Remember the **S.A.F.E.G.U.A.R.D.** mnemonic to help you.

Sexual health and behaviour - are they developing harmful sexual behaviours or do they have sexual health problems?

Absent - regularly missing from school, secretive about where they're going and who they're with?

Familial abuse - problems or at risk of abuse at home?

Emotional and physical condition - change in behaviour, becoming aggressive or quiet, or change in physical appearance?

Gangs - do they have a significantly older 'friend', lots of new friends or an affiliation with gangs and contact with known perpetrators?

Use of technology and sexual bullying - spending excessive amounts of time online and being secretive when they use the Internet?

Alcohol and drug misuse - a child under the influence does not have the freedom and capacity to give consent to sex.

Receipt of Unexplained Gifts or Money - new possessions such as clothes, money, mobile phones that can't be accounted for?

Distrust of authority - young people will naturally resist communicating about their problems with parents, carers, teachers, social services, health, police and others. That's why it is so important to know how to spot the signs.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

If you have any concerns that a child or young person you know may be a victim of child sexual exploitation, help is available.

- Know your agencies safeguarding procedures.
- Know the signs of grooming and CSE.
- Visit www.knowaboutcse.co.uk for more information about CSE. For more details, including the Early Help Assessment and Risk Factor Matrix, visit www.staffssc.org.uk/safeguardingprocedures

Can you help the child yourself?

- If the child is at low risk, it may be that providing advice and guidance, or other early intervention to a child, young person and/or family is more appropriate than referral. With parental consent or the consent of the young person themselves, a single agency, school or group of agencies can complete an Early Help Assessment. The Education Safeguarding Advice Service can help you on 01785 895836.

Is the child at risk?

- Complete a Risk Factor Matrix. The Education Safeguarding Advice Service can help you on 01785 895836.
- If you are in any doubt, or you think they are at immediate risk, refer them to First Response on **0800 1313 126** or Staffordshire Police 101. If the child is in immediate danger ring police on 999.

Does the child require immediate referral?

- If not, the Education Safeguarding Advice Service on 01785 895836 can help you.



Guidance for Professionals

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
DO YOU KNOW THE SIGNS OF GROOMING AND CSE?

WWW.KNOWABOUTCSE.CO.UK

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IS CHILD ABUSE

Any child from any background can be sexually exploited, regardless of their gender or sexuality, their social or ethnic background, or their age. Age is not an indicator of risk, the child you work with is not too young.

It's common for young people not to realise they are a victim of exploitation, or to feel that it's their fault. If this is happening to your child they are unlikely to tell you.

Offenders are highly manipulative: they can use violence and fear, blackmail, make the child feel guilty, worthless or that they've got no choice.

Offenders are skilled at targeting and grooming young people. Often they offer something the child needs or wants – food, money, drugs, alcohol, gifts, affection, accommodation, transport or a sense of belonging and then draw them into a sexual relationship.

What starts as a "loving" relationship can change significantly, so that the child experiences fear, deception, coercion or violence.

Sexual exploitation can take many forms, either in person or online.

CSE DAMAGES PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH

No stereotypical victim of exploitation:

- Any child of any age
- Any background
- Any gender or sexual orientation
- Any vulnerability

Perpetrators:

- Adults
- Children
- Any social or ethnic background
- Online or offline

Information and advice for young people, parents, and professionals is available at

WWW.KNOWABOUTCSE.CO.UK

RECOGNISE GROOMING

Grooming is when someone convinces a child that they are a safe and trustworthy person for the purpose of sexually exploiting them.

A child will not always understand this is happening.

This can be through a friendship or a boyfriend/girlfriend – a "relationship".

It can happen:

- In person
- Via mobiles or online

The grooming line - 4 stages:

1) Targeting -

Where the perpetrator observes the child and befriends them with gifts and affection to gain trust.

2) Friendship forming stage -

The young person is made to feel special.

3) "Loving" relationship stage -

Where the perpetrator establishes a sexual relationship and engages them in forbidden activities, and is inconsistent - building up hope and then punishing.

4) Abusive relationship stage -

The relationship becomes unloving, controlling, manipulative and plays on the young person's feelings of guilt, shame and fear to sexually abuse them.

SPOT A CHILD BEING TARGETED

Stay alert to the signs of grooming:

- **Changes in behaviour -**
young person has become aggressive or quiet.
- **Befriending -**
young person has money, phone, ipad, gifts they can't account for.
- **Isolation -**
young person becomes isolated from family and friends.

HELP A CHILD TO WALK AWAY FROM BEING TARGETED:

- Make sure they know they can talk to you as a trusted adult and you will help them.
- Support their parents and develop a trusting relationship with them.

Support parents to:

- Listen to their child
- Enable online privacy settings
- Understand E-safety, sexting and cyberbullying
- Tell the child to keep personal details private
- Restrict the child's computer use to family room
- Understand that targeting can happen in the community