

Child Sexual Exploitation

What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

Child Sexual Exploitation is when children and young people receive something (for example food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, gifts, money or in some cases affection) as a result of engaging in sexual activities. Sexual exploitation can take many forms ranging from a seemingly 'consensual' relationship where sex is exchanged for affection or gifts, to serious organised crime by gangs and groups. What marks out exploitation is an imbalance of power in the relationship. The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim which increases as the exploitative relationship develops. Sexual exploitation involves varying degrees of coercion, intimidation or enticement, including unwanted pressure from peers to have sex, sexual bullying including cyberbullying and grooming. In all cases, those exploiting the child or young person have power over them because of their age, gender, intellect or physical strength. For victims, the effect and pain of their ordeal and fear that they will not be believed or may be at risk if they tell someone, means they are often too scared to come forward and report or tell what is happening. However, it is important to recognise that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not exhibit any external signs of this abuse.

Warning Signs and Risk Factors...

Warning Signs	Risk Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going missing for periods of time or regularly returning home late. • Skipping school or being disruptive in class. • Appearing with unexplained gifts or possessions that cannot be accounted for. • Experiencing health problems that may indicate a sexually transmitted disease. • Having mood swings and changes in temperament. • Using drugs and alcohol. • Displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviours. • Unexplained bruises. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless. • Low self-esteem • Recent bereavement or loss. • Children in care. • Young carers. • Being female. • Witnessing domestic violence and drug or alcohol abuse. • Residing in chaotic or dysfunctional households. • Low socio-economic status. • Living in a known gang neighbourhood. • Children at risk of 'honour' or forced marriages.

Who can you contact for advice?

Speak to a trusted adult e.g. school, family, friend, or contact one of the below.

Berwick Academy
Designated Child Protection
Mrs D Tait or Mr M Wickens Assistant Headteacher

Information on Child Sexual Exploitation
<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=16647>

CHILDLINE
24 hour helpline for children and young people under 18 providing confidential counselling and support
0800 1111
www.childline.org.uk

YOUNG MINDS
Information on a range of subjects relevant for young people and their emotional health and wellbeing
0808 8025544
www.youngminds.org.uk

MIND
Information on mental health
030 123 3393
www.mind.org.uk
Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)
<http://ceop.police.uk>

SAMARITANS
Confidential emotional support for anybody who is in crisis
08457 90 90 90
www.samaritans.org.uk

NSPCC
24 hour child protection helpline
0808 800 5000

IMMEDIATE DANGER – CALL 999