

WHAT

IS CSE?

Child sexual exploitation is a type of modern slavery when a male or female under 18 is sexually exploited for the benefit or gain of someone else. The benefit or gain can come in many forms such as increased social status or financial gain. Some victims are also trafficked for the purpose of exploitation.

HOW DOES CSE OCCUR?

Sexual exploitation of children and young people can occur in a variety of ways:

Online – through things such as the internet, social media, smart phone apps and games consoles

Through people the person will know, this might include other children or young people, family or friends or someone in power

Through parties

Through gangs

Through grooming and coercion

Through opportunist situations.

Indicators of child sexual exploitation

- Skipping school.
- Staying out late or overnight.
- Unexplained gifts/new possessions.
- Drugs and alcohol misuse.
- Secretive behaviour.
- Inappropriate or sexualised behaviour.
- Friendship or relationships with older adults.

WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

Any young person regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or class can be exploited.

This means they are forced into sexual acts or the misuse of sexual images.

In return, they, or another person, may be provided with drugs, alcohol, or other items of value or other basic necessities such as affection or attention. Sometimes they are threatened with violence or shame.

THE INTERNET

The internet is used by child abusers, as the anonymity of social networking sites and instant messaging can provide easy access to children and young people.

Using the internet means that sexual exploitation can also occur when the child has no direct contact with the person exploiting them. For example, the child is groomed to post sexual abuse images of themselves on the internet for the gratification of another person.

Who's at risk?

Some experiences can make a child more vulnerable to exploitation, some examples are:

- Homelessness
- Going 'missing' - driven by push factors (running away from something) or pull factors (running to something)
- Low self esteem
- Regular substance misuse (including alcohol)
- Additional needs eg learning disabilities or mental health issues
- Being in care
- Experiencing death, loss or illness of a significant person
- From families that are new to an area
- From time-poor families
- Those experiencing criminal exploitation
- Any adverse childhood experiences (violence, abuse or neglect)

Any child or young person is vulnerable to exploitation.

[Spot the signs you need to look out for - Telford & Wrekin Council](#)