

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

CAN YOU SPOT THE SIGNS?



city & hackney
safeguarding
children board

www.chscb.org.uk

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WHAT is child sexual exploitation?



It is a form of child abuse

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) involves young people under the age of 18 being encouraged, trapped, forced or coerced into a sexual relationship or situation.

The young person is often offered something in return for performing sexual acts, such as alcohol, cigarettes, gifts, money, drugs, affection or somewhere to stay.

Boys as well as girls can become **victims** of CSE.

It's most likely to happen between young people of a similar age, and it might not always be obvious what's going on.

There can also be a link between CSE and when someone goes missing from school or home.



Rachel's Diary

(Compiled from young people's stories)

My name is Rachel, I'm 15 years old and I live at home with mum, dad and brothers. I had lots of friends, but now I have a really close friend, Anna, who I tell lots of things to, things I couldn't tell anyone else.

When I was 14, I met someone. We'd talk every day over Facebook. He was really friendly, older than me, about 19 or 20, and he was way more popular than I was!

One day he asked me to send him a photo, so I sent him one and then he asked for more sometimes with me wearing clothes, sometimes without.

When he said he wanted to meet me in person I was so excited. He asked me not to tell anyone so I didn't. Obviously I didn't tell my parents! Like he said, they'd never understand.

He took me shopping and said I could buy whatever. OMG! I bought new make-up, dresses and even a pair of Nike trainers, the really expensive ones. He also bought me a new phone so he could call me whenever he wanted.

He had lots of friends and one day he took me to a party and he told me one of his friends wanted to go into the bedroom with me. He gave me a drink and he asked me to do it, just for him, so I did.

He would tell everyone I was his girlfriend
-I was so happy.

A few days later, he asked me to go to another party. I didn't want to go back but he had photos of me and my mobile number... I had to go to a few more parties with him and his friends. He kept buying me new stuff and giving me alcohol too. I had to hide things under the bed so that my mum wouldn't start asking questions.

Having an older boyfriend wasn't how I thought it would be. I didn't want to do the things he asked me to do with his friends but he said I'd do it if I loved him!



I couldn't stop crying when I was on my own...

My counselling session with Anna has just finished, she's not really a friend but someone I can talk to. I have been coming here for nearly six months ever since my friends told my brothers about my boyfriend. My brothers told mum and she found the trainers and the photos I sent to him.

I don't see him anymore.

I had to speak with a police officer and social workers and they introduced me to Anna. Anna really understands and she also talks to my family.

I am ready to go back to school now...




so excited!

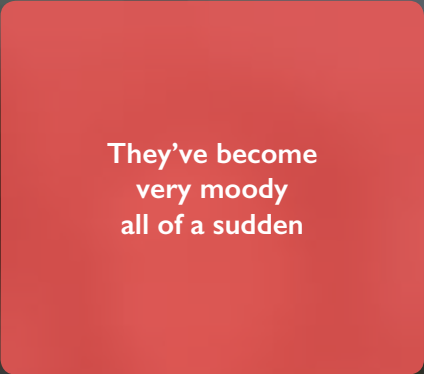
SPOTTING the signs

There are lots of reasons why a child or young person might start acting differently, but slight or major changes in their behaviour can be a sign that they are mixed up in something dangerous, such as sexual exploitation. It's not always easy to spot, especially if those exploiting them are of a similar age.


Remember to consider CSE if one of the following crosses your mind:



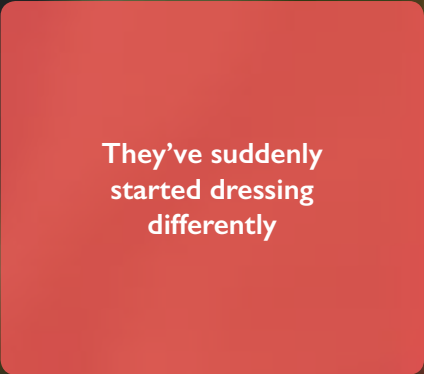
They've got some bruises and marks, maybe they are being hurt




They've become very moody all of a sudden



I don't recognise any of the new group they're hanging out with




They've suddenly started dressing differently



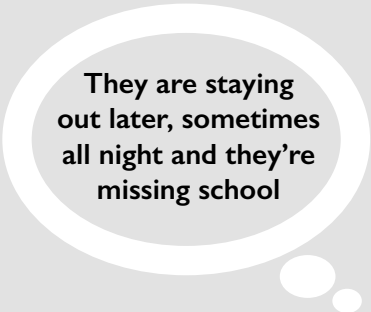
They've become more secretive about the things they are doing

Their new friends are all much older than them

They don't spend time with their old friends anymore



They have more money than usual and they've got lots of new things



They are staying out later, sometimes all night and they're missing school

If you've noticed any of these signs it doesn't mean a young person is definitely at risk.

However, it is always better to talk to someone if you're unsure or uncertain about something.

WHERE to go for help

Any of these organisations can give you free advice and support. The Police and NSPCC can be contacted 24/7 and calls can be made anonymously.

Child Exploitation Helpline – 0808 800 5000

City of London Police Call 101

In an emergency always call 999

www.cityoflondon.police.uk

Children and Families Team

Call 020 7332 3621

dccsdutyf&ypteam@cityoflondon.gov.uk

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/children-and-families

NSPCC

Call 0808 800 5000

help@nspcc.org.uk

www.nspcc.org.uk

Safer London

Call 020 7021 0301

info@saferlondon.org.uk

www.saferlondon.org.uk

Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation (PACE)

For information that can help you understand what is happening and how you can help visit:

www.paceuk.info

School Safeguarding Officer

All schools have someone who can give advice if you are concerned about a child. Ask a teacher or at the school's office.