

# Child Sexual Exploitation

**5** Minute Facts

## What is it?

**When a young person is manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act, this is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), which is a form of sexual abuse. The young person could be manipulated through what they see as a consensual relationship. Alternatively this could be through other means such as, in return for attention, affection, drugs, alcohol or somewhere to stay.**

Young people who go missing or are absent from school or placement are at increased risk of CSE.

As part of the manipulation the abuser will put the young person into difficult and often dangerous situations, forcing them to do things they don't want to do. The abuser will manipulate the young person into thinking they are a friend or boyfriend/girlfriend and control them often isolating them from their family and friends. The young person can be subjected to verbal threats and sometimes physical violence.

## What do we all need to do?

Professionals working with young people e.g. in an education, youth work, health or social care setting, all have an important role to play in protecting children from exploitation and helping to cut them free from child abuse.

We should all become aware of the risk indicators and factors to consider whether a child is at risk of sexual exploitation.

## Personal and behavioural indicators

- Physical symptoms e.g. Bruising suggestive of either physical or sexual assault; sexually transmitted infections
- Possession of large amounts of money, acquisition of expensive clothes, mobile phones or other possessions without plausible explanation
- Low self-image, low self-esteem, self-harming behaviour, cutting, overdosing, eating disorder
- Accounts of social activities with no plausible explanation of the source of necessary funding

## Situational indicators

- Reports that the child/young person has been seen in places known to be used for sexual exploitation. Phone calls or letters from adults outside the usual range of social contacts
- Adults loitering outside the child's usual place of residence
- Persistently missing, staying out overnight or returning late with no plausible explanation
- Returning after having been missing, looking well cared for in spite of having no known home base

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- Missing for long periods, with no known home base
- Going missing and being found in areas where the child or young person has no known links
- Entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults

## Vulnerability indicators

- Going missing regularly/frequently, family breakdown, not in full time education, associating with older people, domestic abuse within the family
- Other family member's involved in sexual exploitation, parents with high level of vulnerabilities including drug/alcohol misuse, mental health issues, children with substance misuse or mental health issues
- Experience of physical abuse and emotional deprivation, experience of child sexual abuse, experience of being bullied in school, looked after children in residential care, involved in the criminal justice service

## Key Contacts...

For information and advice contact  
EXIT team: **01204 337195** or Police Tel: **0161 856 1980**

If a child is believed to be at risk of significant harm from Child Sexual Exploitation contact the The Integrated Front Door  
Tel: **01204 331500**  
Email: **R&A@bolton.gov.uk**  
Emergency Duty Team Tel: **01204 337777**

Further information and advice is available on  
[www.boltonsafeguardingchildren.org.uk](http://www.boltonsafeguardingchildren.org.uk)

**All the local info I need  
is just a **click** away!**



[www.mylifeinbolton.org.uk](http://www.mylifeinbolton.org.uk)

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Council**