

Child Sexual Exploitation

Guidance for Community and Voluntary Organisations



SPEAK OUT
AGAINST CHILD
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Recognise the signs and speak out. Contact the Child Safeguarding Team on **0300 126 1000** or Northamptonshire Police on **101** or **999** in an **emergency**



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What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

How is CSE relevant to community and voluntary sector organisations?

Voluntary organisations play an important role for young people and their families in delivering services, providing activities and offering support.

Young people who are victims of or at risk of being sexually exploited may present across a range of settings and activities in a variety of ways. Many young people may be disengaged from mainstream statutory services and be more likely to respond to a voluntary organisation who are able to offer an independent, confidential service to young people. They can provide intensive support to encourage them to remain engaged with the service and act as an advocacy service to ensure that they can access the support they need from other services.

It is important for all voluntary and community sector organisations in contact with young people to be able to identify concerns about sexual exploitation and to make referrals to statutory agencies as appropriate.

Training and awareness raising

Organisations can provide training in CSE for frontline professionals involved with young people as well as conduct awareness raising amongst the young people and within the wider community.

Listening to young people

Ensure your organisation is ready to listen and support young people who may want to talk about their concerns or make disclosures.

- Develop accessible, reliable services that are friendly and offer a confidential, non-judgemental service
- Listen to young people's views and implement service changes to reflect these as appropriate
- Ensure that health information is accessible, available, understandable and relevant
- Provide, wherever possible, consistency and stability of staff member(s) working with the young person
- Support the young person and, where appropriate, the family within a multiagency context
- Make professional services aware if you have a concern



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Spotting the signs of CSE

Young people will often spend a large amount of their time attending activities arranged by voluntary and community groups and will build relationships with those organising the activities.

Your staff are well placed to spot any changes in behaviour and particular signs to look out for are as follows:

- Changes in the personality, wellness or demeanour of a young person you see regularly
- Young people displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviours or dressed inappropriately for their age
- Victims may have more money than a young person ordinarily would or may own expensive phones and clothing that you would not expect for someone their age
- Young people being dropped off/collected by adults who are not recognised as parents/carers
- Young people seen in the company of older people before, during or after the activity
- Young people with injuries such as bruising or blood stains
- You may overhear conversations between young people about CSE

Young people may use your organisational activities as a cover for their engagement in sexual behaviour that may be exploitive.

Be aware if you are expecting a young person to attend an activity and they do not arrive. Communicate with parents – let them know if a young person has stopped attending or has started arriving late or leaving early.

Relationships of trust - disclosures

Voluntary and community groups have direct access to young people and are ideally placed to foster a relationship that may help young people to disclose their CSE experience.

Young people who regularly attend groups and activities arranged by the voluntary and community sector will often see those running the groups and activities as people they can trust and build relationships with. Young people may feel those workers are more approachable and therefore may be more inclined to make disclosures of abuse to those workers.

If you are worried that a young person may be suffering or at risk of CSE, you can help support them in making a disclosure in the following ways:

- Developing effective communication skills to engage with young people
- Building rapport and trust
- Understanding the root cause of altered or challenging behaviours which a young person who is being exploited may display – see the child not the behaviour
- Attuning sensitively so that the young person doesn't feel pressurised to 'tell their story'
- Taking responsibility to safeguard a young person where CSE is suspected but the young person is not ready or able to disclose



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Support to victims

Those working with young people within the voluntary and community sectors are well placed to offer support to victims or those at risk of CSE, as well as their families. Such support could include the following:

- Therapeutic work with young people who have suffered sexual exploitation
- Support to parents and carers to enable them to proactively support their children
- Long-term intervention to help a young person to fully recover and to prevent re-victimisation
- Provision of support to victims through prosecutions

The key community and voluntary organisations who are best placed to spot young people at risk of CSE are:

- Children's Centres
- Supporting Services for families
- Youth Counselling and Advice Agencies
- Community Groups
- Youth Clubs and Organisations including Scouts, Guides, Cadets
- Faith Groups
- Sports and Arts Groups
- Tenants and Residents Groups



As an organisation, what can we do to help prevent CSE?

CSE Policy: All organisations and settings should have a safeguarding policy that either specifically includes CSE or is developed as an additional policy which sets out how your organisation will address CSE in your setting.

There may be legal implications for your organisation if CSE is taking place on the premises and you are failing to act or do not have safeguards in place.

Designated CSE lead: The designated person for CSE may be the same person who is the designated Safeguarding lead for the setting. This person needs to be clearly identified as stated in the policy.

Designated trustee: You may also have a safeguarding trustee who could include CSE as part of their responsibilities.

What to do if you have concerns about a young person

If you think the young person is at imminent risk of harm, call 999 to report your concern.

Report the concerns:

- Call the Police non-emergency number 101 or in an emergency 999
- Speak to the young person and explain you are concerned that they may be at risk
- Complete the CSE Risk Assessment Tool which can be found on the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board website
- If the assessment demonstrates that they are at risk you must then make a referral to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) either by telephone (0300 126 1000) or by using their on-line referral form. Remember to attach your completed CSE assessment
- Make sure you keep the young person informed of your actions and try to encourage them to allow you to inform their parents. Once the referral has gone into MASH, the parents will be contacted so it is important to explain this to the young person

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