



CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION -2017

To better understand the exact process and issues of CSE, as in ON STREET grooming, access the documentary drama [THREE GIRLS](#)

However, it is worth remembering CSE also occurs from contact ON LINE and CSE also involves boys and girls

MAY 2017

The government has released [a working document for child welfare professionals and all those who work with children and families which outlines a revised definition for child sexual exploitation \(CSE\)](#). It replaces the 2009 guidance 'Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation'.

[The document, which was published in February of this year](#), defines CSE as:

“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.”

This definition is not statutory, meaning that it's not a legal definition, however it has been published to help professionals detect CSE and take the necessary next steps to address it.

The guidance goes on to say:

Like all forms of child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation:

- ***Can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex;***
- ***Can still be abuse even if the sexual activity appears consensual;***
- ***Can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity;***
- ***Can take place in person or via technology, or a combination of both;***
- ***Can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence;***
- ***May occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (through others copying videos or images they have created and posting on social media, for example);***

- *Can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse; and*
- *Is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the abuse. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources*

The guidance also explains that *“Child sexual exploitation is never the victim’s fault, even if there is some form of exchange: all children and young people under the age of 18 have a right to be safe and should be protected from harm. One of the key factors found in most cases of child sexual exploitation is the presence of some form of exchange (sexual activity in return for something); for the victim and/or perpetrator or facilitator.”*

The document offers rough guidelines on which demographics are most affected by CSE, indicators for the phenomenon and the effects of CSE on children. It also offers suggestions on how to respond to incidences of child sexual exploitation.

MAY 2017 information for the National Crime Agency

According to the National Crime Agency (NCA), there were a total of 60,657 individual children recorded as having been missing on police data systems in England and Wales in 2014/15. However, the number of children whose whereabouts is unknown is likely to be significantly higher.

Not only are the ‘majority of children who run away not reported to the police’ (Rees & Lee, 2005), but police forces moreover have tiered definitions of ‘missing’ and ‘absent’ enabling responses proportionate to the perceived risks faced by those reported missing.

At least, 9,780 children were categorised as absent in 2014/15 (*APPG for Runaway and Missing Children and Adults, 2016*), whilst the charity Railway Children estimate that 100,000 children run away from home every year in the UK, 30% aged 12 or younger.

The vulnerability of these young people to violence, child sexual exploitation (CSE) and crime is severe,

Dr GRAHAM HILL – researcher in to CSE :

Dr Hill, has identified a number of roles fulfilled by those perpetrators engaged in this type of criminality on the street, which can be broken down into three key roles: **"the hook"** - a member of the group who is usually of a young age, similar to the victim, and acts as the initial point of contact, luring the victim in before passing them onto other individuals; **"the predator"** - an older individual who invariably has a sexual interest in young girls and will carry out the offences; and **"the co-ordinator"** - responsible for the logistics such as transport etc; but also often involved in the abuse

It is well recognised that groups responsible for carrying out CSE tend to demonstrate specific behaviours when engaging with victims; the main ones being violence, intimidation, persuasion and aggression (VIPA).

How the normalisation of underage sex is exposing children and young people to the risk of sexual exploitation - From the Foreword by Professor David Paton, Nottingham University Business School

“The appalling revelations of systematic child abuse and exploitation in English towns and cities over the past few years have led to a considerable amount of soul-searching about the root causes of the crisis. In this report, Norman Wells draws attention to a neglected but critical aspect of the debate. He has drawn together the findings of a series of serious case reviews and an independent inquiry looking at the reasons why the abuse of so many young people was not picked up by professionals.

“The report is utterly damning. A clear picture emerges of a culture in which underage sexual activity has come to be viewed as a normal part of growing up and seen as relatively harmless as long as it is consensual. Combined with official policies to encourage the confidential provision of contraception to minors, it becomes clear that current approaches aimed at improving teenage sexual health have frequently facilitated and perpetuated the sexual abuse of vulnerable young people...

“Policymakers and professionals working in sexual health no longer have any excuse to ignore the evidence... It is of the utmost importance that the government takes the findings of this report seriously and undertakes an urgent review of its approach to confidential sexual health services.”

We remain keeping the knowledge previously acquired as below

What is child sexual exploitation?

Adele Gladman, Director of Safeguarding Children and Training consultancy Ltd

The sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people, or a third person or persons, receive something i.e. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, status, gifts and money, as a result of them performing and/or another or others performing on them sexual activities

CSE can occur through the use of technology **without the child's immediate recognition**, i.e. being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet, mobile phones without immediate payment or gain

In **ALL** cases those exploiting have power over the victim by virtue of age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic resources

Violence, coercion and intimidation are common; involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by an imbalance of power and the child's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability

This form of abuse usually occurs in private (in their private spaces), or in semi-public places such as parks, cinemas, cafes and hotels. It is increasingly occurring at 'parties' organised by perpetrators for the purposes of giving victims drugs and alcohol before sexually abusing them (Barnardo's, 2012).

The difference between CSA and CSE

- In most cases there is a long extended and intense grooming process which focuses on specific vulnerabilities of the victim
- CSE involves complete betrayal of a young person, often by multiple abusers who they thought were friends, lovers, partners etc
- Extreme and repeated abuse by multiple perpetrators, many of whom will be unknown to the young person
- Often involves trafficking and exposure to other kinds of crime
- CSE often involves isolating the young person by encouraging them to go missing from home, school or care and by disrupting and damaging relationships with peers, family, carers, professionals etc
- The manipulation and control process is often accompanied by threats to "expose" the young person to their family, peers and the professionals working with them. Threats are often made, and carried out against people the young person loves and cares about, such as siblings and parents.
- The threats of harm and punishment are extreme – the Children's Commissioner report recorded finding high levels of sadism, torture and ritual abuse

There is still a public and media identification of "prostitution, paedophiles, sex rings or sex gangs"

The response of statutory services can be stereotypical and judgemental, and different than that towards victims of interfamilial abuse. There is a culture of viewing young people involved in CSE as deviant, out of control and less of a victim because of perceived issues around consent, choice and behaviour. Statutory services often humiliate and encourage the victims believing that they "asked for it."

Experiences of a criminal justice process currently involves different challenges, such as not being believed when disclosing and being cross examined by multiple defence lawyers, police officers and social workers.

What CSE isn't!

- Consensual sex
- A free and informed choice
- A healthy relationship
- Sexual experimentation
- About older girls who are nearly adults anyway
- About only Asian men abusing white girls who is local care or from troubled families
- The topic of the moment

- About getting compensation
- Justifiable in **ANY** circumstances

What else do we know?

- Children are often **targeted at primary school**
- Involves boys and girls from **ALL communities and cultures**
- Victims are targeted because of vulnerability or opportunity
- Can involve **other young people**
- Young people often do not recognise they are being abused or are at risk. Often **they feel invisible** and no one can help them
- Cultural aspect / attitude of cultural groups towards women especially white western women
- Girls are seen as easy cause many cultures think "white western women" sleep around and are "easy"
- Use of Taxi services and hotels
- Substance abuse / drugging of girls (and boys)
- Blackmail, i.e. abuser is giving the girls drugs, alcohol, gifts, food in return for unlimited sexual acts
- Girls will be sold for sex
- Girls will be under 16 years of age
- Once girls are over 16 years they will often be used as Madams to entice younger girls
- Abusers will hang around parks, derelict buildings, back of schools etc looking for vulnerable young girls on streets
- Abusers will randomly call out a girls names and move in on them when the girl responds to hearing her name
- Abusers have a taste for young girls, usually virgins
- Abusers will parade as their "boyfriends" and girls will believe this
- Abusers will tell girls they "love" them
- Once girls are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol they need their fix and cannot get out, i.e. keep returning to the abuser for drugs and in return perform sexual acts
- Girls will be beaten up if they do not perform sexual acts for the men; sometimes threatened to be killed
- Girls asked to change into corsets and provocative clothing
- Houses they are taken to are filthy and drug dens (never personal homes)
- **The abusers will usually be 3 times their age, sometimes older**
- Abusers hide behind businesses, such as restaurants, taxi services, corner stores etc
- Usually girls will have no idea they have been groomed into believing the abusers propaganda
- Abusers will threaten families, friends and extended family
- Girls are often absconding from school, in care, fostered, even adopted
- The care system has no idea how to deal with the problem, often turning a blind eye
- In the past care homes and social services have encouraged the girls, humiliated them and even paid for their taxi fares to and from their abusers
- Statutory services make preconceived judgements on the girls due to their behaviour, social standing and vulnerability
- Abusers use large expensive cars with blacked out windows

- Girls will be so high on drugs they cannot remember what they did, who with or how many
- Eventually, girls so "out of it" on drugs and alcohol they are raped numerous times
- Some get pregnant
- Girls require abortions, morning after pills, GP and health support
- STI's / HIV a large problem
- Cervical Cancer a problem

Other signs – (Source- *StopCSE*)

- Change in physical appearance – new clothes; more or less make up; poor self-image; weight loss or gain
- Expressions of despair – self harm; overdose; eating disorder; challenging behaviour; aggression; appearing drunk; looking tired or ill; sleeping during the day; suicidal tendencies
- Indicators of CSE with chronic alcohol and drug use
- Becoming involved in criminality; repeat reoffending
- Increased use online gaming including Xbox ; increased use of Internet and use of webcams
- Sexting
- Getting into cars with unknown adults or associating with knowns CSE adults
- Overtly sexualised dress
- Reports of being seen in hot spots for CSE – flats; cars; houses; recreation grounds
- Being secretive or withdrawn
- Associating with other CSE young people victims
- Inappropriate accommodation
- Being involved in witchcraft
- Failing to respond to workers to stay in touch and living independently
- Having possessions without plausible explanation – mobile phones; credit for mobile phones; jewellery; SIM cards; clothes
- Possessing keys and key cards to unknown premises
- Knowledge of towns and cities where there is no previous connection
- Disappearing from the "system" "with no contact or support
- Frequent use of public transport; taxis
- Unusual association with taxi drivers and taxi firms
- Receiving many more calls and texts
- Receiving rewards for recruiting more peers for CSE
- Association with gangs
- Being defensive about where they have been and what they were doing; physically aggressive; uncommunicative; abusive language; disruptive
- Engaging in penetrative sex aged under 13 years with those aged over 15 years
- Young people under 16 years meeting adults for sexual activity
- Being taken to massage parlours; brothels; hotels; clubs
- Victims of HBV
- Being taken abroad by family members for forced marriage
- Breakdown of residential placements due to behaviours
- Lack of positive relationship with a nurturing adult
- Disclosure of sexual assault then refusing to make a statement and withdrawing a complaint

- Returning home after an absence but seemingly cared for
- Increasing health problems

What may make some children more vulnerable than others?

- Excessively empathic
- Age lacking experience - don't sense imminent danger
- Wanting to feel loved
- Wanting to feel different
- Wanting adventure/ freedom, as they see it
- Seeking possessions
- Experiencing loss

When considering your responses to CSE remember

The **abuse is extreme** – and so is the impact on a young person causing psychological trauma, mental health issues, PTSD, PTSD, Development Trauma Disorder (DTD) and Dissociation Disorder to name just a few.

Regardless of their behaviour and conduct – they are **victims of child abuse** and sexual exploitation through a huge imbalance of power and control.

Children cannot choose or consent to being abused – the focus is on **THOSE WHO ABUSE THEM**

“Victims cannot be abandoned to their abusers “ - Louise Casey CB 2015 but they will be if

- We must see and challenge the abuse
- We must act to protect
- We must challenge poor professional practice
- We must learn from previous failures

REAL LIFE CASE STUDIES and DILEMMAS by Adele Gladman

CSE involves unimaginable cruelty – THREE GIRLS documentary drama is the perfect case study

1. D's abuse was videoed and photographed and she was told it would be posted on to the internet and shared with others such as family members and pupils at her school if she told anyone what had happened or failed to turn up the following evening.
2. T's younger sister was enticed into a car with an abuser when T was considering making a complaint to the police. T was contacted by the abuser using her sister's mobile phone. She was told she had **to make a choice, she had to make it NOW** and the wrong decision would have severe and immediate consequences for her sister who was 11 years old.
3. J was taken to a bedroom and could hear a young woman screaming in apparent **agony** in the room next to her. She was told the young person was being **punished**

for not doing what her abusers wanted. J was told the same would happen to her if she failed to comply with what was being asked of her or if she told anyone anything about her abusers and what they were asking her to do.

How much child sexual exploitation is there?

A UK-wide survey estimated that in 2009-2010, there were over 3,000 young people accessing services because they had been affected by sexual exploitation. In a thematic assessment, CEOP received over 2,000 reports of victims from local authorities and police forces. The Children's Commissioner's inquiry into sexual exploitation by groups and gangs confirmed 2,049 reported victims in the 14 month period from August 2010 to October 2011. Furthermore, the Children's Commissioner's inquiry estimated from the evidence that 16,500 children in the UK were at risk of sexual exploitation. This is just what we know, figures of reported victims are just the tip of the iceberg, consider those that go unreported every day (Barnardo's, 2012; Berelowitz et al, 2012; CEOP, 2011).

Children and young people who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation

Research and practice shows certain groups of children and young people are at greater risk of being sexually exploited through street grooming. Children and young people particularly at risk of sexual exploitation include:

- missing or runaway or homeless children
- looked after children
- children in foster care / adopted
- children with prior experience of sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse or neglect
- adolescents or pre-adolescents
- girls (current research suggests most victims are girls but boys are also at risk: boys are considered less likely to disclose which may make boys more vulnerable and may explain the gender imbalance in known cases)
- children not in education through exclusion or truancy or children regularly absent from school
- children socially excluded from services such as health services
- children from black and minority ethnic communities
- children from migrant communities
- refugee children and unaccompanied asylum seeking children
- trafficked children
- children with mental health conditions or a special educational need
- children who use drugs and alcohol
- children with learning difficulties and disabilities
- children involved with gangs, with links to a gang through relatives or friends, or living in communities or neighbourhoods where there are gangs
- children with a history of delinquent or criminal behaviour
- children from families or communities with offending behaviours
- children from families where there is substance misuse, domestic violence or parental mental health issues
- young carers
- children living in poverty or deprivation
- children who associate with young people who are sexually exploited
- children lacking friends or lacking friends from the same age group

- children who mix with much older young people
- children with low self-esteem or low self-confidence
- children who have experienced bereavement or loss
- care leavers

The above list has been produced from a range of research (CEOP, 2011; Barnardo's, 2012; Berelowitz et al, 2012; Cockbain, E. and Brayley, H., 2012) and from our own experience working with sexually exploited children and young people through the NSPCC's [Protect and Respect](#) service together with our own work as Enough Abuse UK Ltd.

0808 800 5000 or emailing help@nspcc.org.uk.

[Read the NSPCC's working definition of online child sexual abuse.](#)

CONTACT – PACE – Parents Against Child Exploitation

Signs a child or young person is being sexually exploited

The following list of indicators is not exhaustive or definitive but it does highlight common signs which can assist professionals in identifying children or young people who may be victims of sexual exploitation.

Signs include:

- inappropriate language
- underage sexual activity
- inappropriate sexual or sexualised behaviour
- sexually risky behaviour, 'swapping' sex
- repeat sexually transmitted infections, urine infections or soreness
- in girls, repeat pregnancy, abortions, miscarriage
- receiving unexplained gifts or money
- gifts from unknown sources
- having multiple mobile phones and worrying about losing contact via mobile
- having unaffordable new things (clothes, mobile) or expensive habits (alcohol, drugs)
- changes in the way they dress
- going to hotels or other unusual locations to meet friends
- seen at known places of concern
- moving around the country, appearing in new towns or cities, not knowing where they are
- getting in/out of different cars driven by unknown adults
- staying out beyond curfew; arriving home early morning
- having older boyfriends or girlfriends
- contact with known perpetrators
- involved in abusive relationships, intimidated and fearful of certain people or situations
- hanging out with groups of older people, or anti-social groups, or with other vulnerable peers
- associating with other young people involved in sexual exploitation
- recruiting other young people to exploitative situations
- truancy, exclusion, disengagement with school, opting out of education altogether
- unexplained changes in behaviour or personality (chaotic, aggressive, sexual)

- mood swings, volatile behaviour, emotional distress, becoming aggressive
- irrational behaviour that could be linked to reliance on a substance
- self-harming, suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts, overdosing, eating disorders
- drug or alcohol misuse
- getting involved in crime; shoplifting, stealing money
- police involvement, police records
- involved in gangs, gang fights, gang membership
- injuries from physical assault, physical restraint, sexual assault; unexplained bruising or other marks

How can we prevent child sexual exploitation?

Preventative work focuses on raising awareness (education) amongst young people and their carers about sexual exploitation including the traits and characteristics that accompany the grooming process and how to keep safe.

It is particularly important that young people are aware of the link between drug and alcohol use and the risk of sexual exploitation (Berelowitz et al, 2012).

Schools have an important role to play in delivering 'on-going' age-appropriate information/education and support to young people in Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons to help them make healthy, positive and informed choices which will reduce their risk of entering into abusive relationships. Schools can also involve external experts in these lessons who can provide sexual health advice (Ofsted, 2013; DfE, 2011). Media campaigns, such as the Home Office's 'Teenage Relationship Abuse Campaign' which aims to help prevent young people becoming victims and perpetrators of abusive behaviours in relationships (DfE, 2011).

Children going missing regularly or truancy from school can be both a cause and an effect of child sexual exploitation. Action taken to reduce the number of children who go missing will reduce incidents of child sexual exploitation. Such action includes schools intervening quickly to establish reasons for children frequently missing school; and relevant agencies / practitioners interviewing children after a 'missing' episode to understand why they go missing and planning preventive strategies based on this information. It is important agencies work together to plan appropriate interventions and to engage with vulnerable young people who may find it hard to trust adults. Providing advice and support to children and their families, particularly during difficult times, is also important. (DfE, 2011 and Home Office, 2011). Young people leaving care are potentially very vulnerable to sexual exploitation and the right package of support during their transition to independence is vital in protecting them from harm (DfE, 2012).

Staff in early years settings, schools, colleges, universities and all organisation that come into contact with children and young people require in depth CSE training in recognising symptoms, characteristics and traits associated with CSE. Adults working with children need support in having the confidence to report and refer to their Local Children's Safeguarding Board (LCSB), social care, police and health services. Having a full understanding of the disclosure and reporting process is imperative in a CSE intervention process. All establishments must have a Designated Safeguarding Officer fully trained and aware in CSE and trafficking and should have an understanding of their Duty of Care to safeguard children and access to, and full understanding of, the DfE publication Working Together to Safeguard

Children, Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework, the Common Inspection Framework and what Ofsted expects.

What is Trafficking ?

Trafficking of children and young people is the trade most commonly for the purpose of sexual slavery, forced labour or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others. Trafficking encompasses the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means of threat, use of force or other form of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or position of vulnerability or by giving or receiving of payment or benefit to achieve consent of the person being trafficked and having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation.

Exploitation includes at its minimum, the exploitation or prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, i.e forced labour, slavery, servitude and removal of organs. Trafficking may encompass providing a spouse in the context of forced marriage or the extraction of tissues which can include surrogacy and ova removal.

Trafficking can happen within one town, across a variety of cities, nationally and internationally. Human trafficking is a crime against the person being trafficked because of the violation of the victims human rights of movement through coercion and control and because of their commercial exploitation. Human trafficking is the trade of people and does not necessarily involve the movement of people from one place to another.

Indicators:

If a person

- Has his or her passport or identity documents held by someone else
- Seems incapable or reluctant to speak for themselves
- Is living in very poor living conditions
- Has injuries indicative of an assault
- Has limited apparent freedom of association
- Lacks access to earnings
- Is having his or her movements controlled or restricted

(References: Wikipedia / UNODC)

RESOURCE for PUPILS

University of Kent, Canterbury child protection department has developed an on line training model for young people to access called “Looking out for Lottie”

Film – “ CHELSEA’S CHOICE” about CSE by Alter Ego Creative Solutions Ltd – 01 604 779013 based in Northampton with good acclaims

**Film - “ CAN YOU STOP IT ?” - produced by Met Police and Dr Graham Hill also a film
“CAN YOU SEE IT ?”**

ENOUGH ABUSE UK

Enough Abuse UK delivers comprehensive training workshops in recognising the BEHAVIOUR of the groomers, the groomed, the abuser and the abused and how to thrive as victims - not to just survive. Enough Abuse hosts conferences three times a year where we share the latest up to date information regarding on and offline Abuse, CSE, abusers and the impact of abuse. Please view our website www.enoughabuseuk.com

We continually work with Trauma Therapists, Child Abuse Law Firms, and Police; and continually lobby Government for effective changes in society to bring about change; change in attitudes and change in awareness.

Contact Enough Abuse UK for more information AND action.

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