

Safeguarding Newsletter

Autumn 2017

BCHS

with Crosshill



Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of child abuse where children are exploited for money, power or status and it is often not only one incident of assault on young people.

It is often a long process which takes advantage of the innocence and vulnerability of children and young people. Even though it is a form of child sexual abuse, it is a hidden problem and prosecution rates in England and Wales are alarmingly low, despite the scale of the problem. Abusers do not specifically target a type and therefore, it is important to remember, victims can be any young person, regardless of their background, age, gender, race or sexuality. Abusers, whether they are male or female, will always have some power over their victim which means they can exploit

them, whether this power is their age, gender, intellect or some other physical or financial means.

Young people can find themselves in a situation believing they are in a loving relationship. The victim appears to be cared for by someone who may become the only person the victim trusts. This person is their abuser, yet the child or young person does not understand they are in an abusive situation. It is not a relationship, despite the young person believing it to be. The child or young person in this situation is being abused, nevertheless they are likely to either depend on their abuser or be too scared to tell anyone what is happening. Victims submit themselves to the situation rather than consent.

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Often, victims find themselves in a vulnerable life position and feel they have no choice but to stay with the abuser which makes their situation all the worse.

You may recognise that a child or young person you know has a new friend or new friends. You may notice they are suddenly in possession of expensive items, received as gifts.

You may notice they have more money than usual. It is likely that this follows as a result of performing sexual activities or other people performing sexual activities on them.

In situations like this, because young people believe they're in a consensual relationship, they can fail to recognise the violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults they are subject to.

They may confuse invites to parties as affection and care. They may also be give drugs and alcohol, making them easier to manipulate physically and emotionally. CSE is intentional and often involves rape. It is organised and calculated with a complete disregard for the victims.

It is important to remember that Child Sexual Exploitation doesn't always involve physical contact and can happen online. It is possible that young people may be persuaded, or forced, to send or post explicit pictures of themselves online. Whilst they can feel uncomfortable with this, they will succumb to their abuser.

CSE is not one type of abuse and abusers can be older men, older 'girlfriends' or 'boyfriends', peers, a network of abusers, organised groups or criminal gangs.

Associated crimes linked with Child Sexual Exploitation:

- Child trafficking (in to, out of and within the UK)
- Sexual violence in relationships
- Grooming (on and offline)
- Drug offenses
- Distribution and organisation of sexual images of children
- Gang related crimes
- Organised abuse of children

What to look out for?

- If a child suddenly has a lot of money
- If a child is suddenly in possession of expensive gifts
- If a child or young person is keeping different hours
- If a child or young person finds new, older friends
- If a child or young person seems withdrawn (which is unusual for them)
- Association with crimes such as shoplifting





What to remember:

- CSE includes non-contact activities such as involving children in looking at sexual images
- Children are never in a consenting sexual relationship – it is always sexual abuse
- CSE involves betrayal by multiple people
- CSE is extreme and repeated by multiple perpetrators
- CSE involves trafficking and exposure to other kinds of crime
- Abusers always have some form of power over their victim
- Any form of CSE is child abuse
- Children and young people often do not report the abuse
- Association with crimes such as shoplifting

How can I help my child if they are being bullied?

If your child is being bullied, don't panic. Your key role is listening, calming and providing reassurance that the situation can get better when action is taken.

Listen and reassure them that coming to you was the right thing to do. Try and establish the facts. It can be helpful to keep a diary of events to share with school.

Assure them that the bullying is not their fault and that they have family that will support them. Reassure them that you will not take any action without discussing it with them first.

Don't encourage retaliation to bullying - such as violent actions. It's important for children to avoid hitting or punching an abusive peer. Reacting that way has negative and unpredictable results - they may be hurt even further, and find that they are labelled as the problem. Rather suggest that they walk away and seek help.

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Useful websites

- **NSPCC:** <https://www.nspcc.org.uk>
- **My Dangerous Loverboy:** <http://www.mydangerousloverboy.com>
- **CEOP:** <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre>
- **Kayleigh's Love Story:** <https://youtu.be/WsbYHI-rZOE>



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Find out what your child wants to happen next. Help to identify the choices open to them; the potential next steps to take; and the skills they may have to help solve the problems.

Encourage your child to get involved in activities that build their confidence and esteem, and help them to form friendships outside of school (or wherever the bullying is taking place).

Discuss the situation with your child's Pastoral Manager - or the lead adult wherever the bullying is taking place. Every child has a right to a safe environment in which to learn and play. BCHS has a behaviour policy which sets out the measures that will be taken to prevent all forms of bullying between students.



Who to Contact

You can call 101 to report a crime that has already happened or seek crime prevention advice.

If a crime is taking place, or somebody is in danger, always call 999.

The BCHS Safeguarding Team work with all staff to promote the welfare of students and protect them from harm. We work to:

- Protect students from all kinds of abuse, neglect and poor treatment
- Prevent harm to students' health and development
- Ensure students grow up with safe and effective care
- Take action to enable all students to have the best outcomes

Safeguarding is everyone's business and everyone's responsibility

The Safeguarding Office is on the 2nd floor next to Humanities.

Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Hussain

Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Boocock

Safeguarding & Welfare Officer
Mr Kamaluddin

BCHS Safeguarding Hotline
07908 548 555