

Child Protection Committee



South Lanarkshire



Information for parents and carers on Child Sexual Exploitation

**South Lanarkshire
Keeping Children Safe**

www.childprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk

What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is Child Sexual Abuse.

CSE is the sexual exploitation of children and young people under the age of 18 and may involve a child or young person being forced or deceived into performing and/or allowing others to perform on them, sexual acts in exchange for material goods, reward or affection.

CSE can affect **any child** or **young person** from any background, male or female, anytime, anywhere.

CSE can also occur through the use of **technology** and without the child's immediate recognition eg being persuaded to post sexual images of themselves on the internet or on mobile phones.

CSE perpetrators have **power** over their victims and use very subtle grooming processes, eg gaining trust over a long period of time.

This may mean that the victims of **CSE** rarely **disclose** their abuse or may not even be aware they are being abused.

What are the signs to look out for?

- 📍 Staying out late or regular episodes of being missing overnight or longer without permission
- 📍 Reduced contact with family and friends and/or other support networks
- 📍 A number of different callers to home (unknown adults or older young people)
- 📍 Exclusion, truancy or unexplained absences from school or college
- 📍 Frequently entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults or taxicabs
- 📍 Possession of multiple mobile phones
- 📍 Suddenly has money, clothes mobile phone etc without plausible explanation
- 📍 Receiving lots of texts or phone calls prior to leaving home
- 📍 Agitated or stressed prior to going out
- 📍 Inappropriate sexualised behaviour for age and development
- 📍 Physical signs of bruising or bite marks
- 📍 Significantly older 'boyfriend' or 'girlfriend'
- 📍 Self-harm and other expressions of distress
- 📍 Suspicion of substance misuse, alcohol and drug use
- 📍 Sexualised risk taking online and associating with unknown people online (more secretive)
- 📍 Links with other young people who are sexually exploited

What can I do as a parent or carer?

As a parent or carer it is important for you to discuss with your child the differences between a healthy and an unhealthy relationship. There are also a number of practical steps you can take to protect children such as:

- ☺ Staying alert to changes in behaviour or any physical signs of abuse such as bruising;
- ☺ Being aware of new, unexplained gifts or possessions;
- ☺ Carefully monitoring any episodes of staying out late or not returning home;
- ☺ Exercising caution around any older friends your child may have, or relationships with other young people where there appears to be a power imbalance;
- ☺ Making sure you are aware of the risks associated with your child being online and putting measures in place to minimise these risks.

There could be many reasons for changes in a child or young person's behaviour, but if you notice a number of worrying signs it may be time to seek help or advice.



**For more information, below
are some useful websites:**

**South Lanarkshire
Child Protection Committee**

www.childprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk

**Child Exploitation and
Online Protection Centre**

www.ceop.police.uk

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Children 1st

www.children1st.org.uk

NSPCC Scotland

www.nspcc.org.uk

Barnardos Scotland

www.barnardos.org.uk

No child or young person can consent to being abused

All children and young people across South Lanarkshire have a right to be cared for and protected from harm and/or abuse.

It's everyone's job to make sure they are alright and that they get the help they need when they need it.

**If you have concerns or require
more information please contact:**

Social Work Resources

0303 123 1008

or

Police Scotland

Non emergency number 101

In an emergency call 999

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs. Phone: 0303 123 1015

Email: equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

www.childprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk