

What you can do to help tackle and prevent Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)



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Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation

- Vulnerable Young people under 18 who are manipulated into a sexual relationship or situation by an adult. It is known for children as young as 11 to be subjected to this process known as 'Grooming'.
- It involves young people being offered something in return for performing sexual acts.
- Alcohol, Cigarettes, Mobile Phones, Gifts, Money, Drugs, Love
- Violence and intimidation are common
it can be connected to human trafficking or abduction



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What age is a child ?

- The age of consent to sexual activity is usually 16 yrs, but sometimes a child's circumstances mean that they are not capable of consent or making safe decisions
- If a child is being groomed, they may not be able to make safe decisions
- When we talk about Child Sexual Exploitation a child is generally under the age of 18 yrs*



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What is Grooming?

- This is where a person takes advantage of a child who is vulnerable or has insecurities, they make them feel special or loved. This develops into control of the young person often by using violence, fear of violence and the use of drugs or alcohol
- When the person has gained control they make the child take part in sexual acts either with themselves or other adults
- If at this stage a child refuses to perform sexual acts they become subjected to violence, threats and intimidation



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What are your safeguarding responsibilities?

- Legal responsibilities

A business may be required to work to a legal contract to keep the public safe and to prevent crime

- Social responsibilities

The company you work for may have a social responsibility policy – duty of care while providing care for people

Consequences of not meeting responsibilities –

- For children and young people - by failing to report concerns, turning a blind eye or colluding puts the vulnerable at risk of serious harm both physically and psychologically
- For you - potential disciplinary procedures, dismissal, prosecution
- For the business - reputational and financial harm, prosecution



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Signs of CSE

These are warning signals, this doesn't mean CSE is taking place but it means monitor the situation closely and report any suspicions

- Young person with older adults
- Drinks bought for the young person
- Dressed to appear older/excessive make up
- Overly sexualised language or behaviour
- Truantiing from school
- Binge drinking
- Appear out of control
- Adults appear to have control over young person
- Works in various locations
- Has limited freedom of movement
- Appears malnourished
- Does not have money but has a mobile phone
- Withdrawn and appears afraid of authority figures

Always take notice of your customers behaviour and routines, note descriptions of persons/clothing/vehicles



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How and where this can happen in local business

- Hot food takeaway/off-licence/local shop
- Night club
- Adult venue (sauna, lap dancing)
- Children's party with adult entertainer
- Public event
- Beer garden
- Restaurant
- Hotel
- Shopping precinct
- Young people's facilities; training, sport/leisure
- Toilets/car parks/isolated areas
- Employment of young people
- Any place where young people have access



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Identifying risks in your workplace

The risk will vary depending on where you are working -

Consider;

Do under 18's have access to your workplace ?

Which part of the workplace do they have access to ?

What is the reason under 18's have access ? –

- Are they there as legitimate customers, are they employed there, are they entertaining or performing at an event or are they there for other reasons such as meeting someone who is exploiting them?
- Are they being brought there under any suspicious circumstances ? For example; cars regularly turning up with young people or meeting young people They may have legitimate access to certain parts of the workplace at certain times or they may be in areas illegitimately for example to use drugs, consume alcohol or meet people who are putting them at risk



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Potential risks

- Is the child at risk of being subjected to grooming or exploitation ?
- Is the child at risk of being harmed ?
- Is the child in a situation where an adult could abuse a position of trust ?

Which adult could abuse a position of trust ?

Employees, volunteers, customers, others such as anyone using the premises for any reason

Consider the layout of the workplace e.g. places that are out of view, private areas or booths, secluded areas or car p



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How to manage risks

- Age verification/ID checks
- Keep incident logs and handover notes
- Monitor areas including use the of CCTV or regular patrols
- Staff code of conduct
- Report suspicious activity



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