

## Bath & North East Somerset Council 'One Minute Guide' to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

In Bath & North East Somerset Council, the definition of CSE is:

CSE is a form of child sexual abuse that affects both boys and girls. Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside clothing. It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

The definition of child sexual exploitation is as follows:

Child sexual exploitation 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.

Department of Education, February 2017. Child sexual exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation, available at:  
[www.gov.uk/government/consultations/statutory-definition-of-child-sexual-exploitation](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/statutory-definition-of-child-sexual-exploitation)

### Vulnerability and risk factors and indicators to consider

Certain experiences can contribute to children being more susceptible to child sexual exploitation such as: having a prior experience of neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse; experience of domestic violence/ parental substance misuse, or mental health problems; a lack of a safe/stable home environment; being economically disadvantaged; a recent bereavement or loss; social isolation or social difficulties; and/or exposure to adult sex work in their family or network.

When considering a child's vulnerability and risk, indicators to consider include:

- ✿ Missing from home, care or school, running away, leaving home/care without explanation and/or persistently returning late; and/or unexplained absences from school, college or work.
- ✿ Secrecy about whereabouts, friendships, significant relationships and/or new possessions
- ✿ Concerning use of the internet or social media and/or excessive receipt of messages phone calls
- ✿ Self-harm or significant changes in emotional wellbeing
- ✿ Evidence of/suspicious of physical or sexual assault
- ✿ Evidence of new possessions, extra money or access to alcohol, substances or
- ✿ Access to other non-tangible items such as taxi fares access to events, eating out without plausible explanation
- ✿ Gang-association or social isolation
- ✿ New offending or anti-social behaviour /increased misuse of substances
- ✿ Significant relationships with controlling individuals or groups; and concerning sexualised behaviour.

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### Vulnerability and risk factors and indicators to consider cont.....

CSE rarely occurs in isolation of other vulnerability and risk factors. It is also often linked to other types of criminal activity such as: child trafficking; domestic abuse and violence; interpersonal violence and abuse in intimate relationships; drug-related offences; gang-related activity; and modern day slavery. Absence of any of the potential indicators of CSE does not mean that a child is not experiencing abuse and exploitation. Assessing if a child is at risk of/or is experiencing CSE, relies on a full and holistic assessment of all concerns

### What do we all need to do

#### Identification:

- Identify and co-ordinate support for children and young people that are at risk of or are being sexually exploited.

#### Early Support:

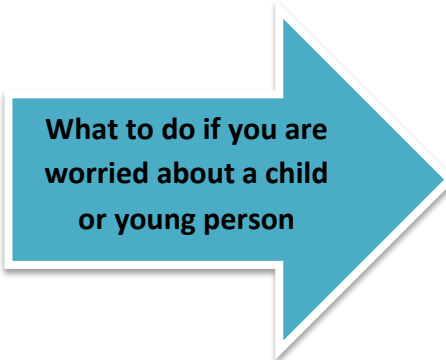
- Provide timely and effective interventions with children and families.

#### Disruption:

- Take action against those intent on abusing and exploiting children and young people

#### Partnership Working:

- To reduce the risk of sexual exploitation in accordance with policies, procedures and guidance.



**What to do if you are worried about a child or young person**

**Any practitioner working with a child who they think may be at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation should follow the guidance set out in Working Together and share this information with Bath & North East Somerset Council Children's Services. You should refer any concerns about a child's welfare to Bath & North East Somerset Council Children's Services**

**[www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/children-young-people-and-families/child-protection](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/children-young-people-and-families/child-protection)**

**If you believe a child is in immediate risk of harm, you should contact the police**

Please call the Duty and Assessment Team on 01225 396312 or 396313 (Option 1)

Our Request for Service Form can be found at: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/children-young-people-and-families/child-protection>

<https://www.safeguarding-bathnes.org.uk/children/local-safeguarding-children-s-board/4-lscb-multi-agency-policy-and-procedures>