



Safer Seven

On: Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)



1. Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. It involves perpetrators grooming their victims in various ways, such as in person, via mobiles or online to gain their trust before emotionally and sexually abusing them.

The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual.

Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact.

3. Information

- CSE is a hidden crime that can affect any child, any time regardless of their social or ethnic background.
- The grooming process can happen in a number of minutes, over a couple of months or years.
- Agencies are becoming more aware of the risk of CSE to children/young people in Dudley, it is our job to safeguard those identified as being at risk.

5. Spot the warning signs - Any combination of the following could be signs of CSE (not an exhaustive list):

- Missing overnight, throughout the day
- Truancy from school or drop in school performance
- Becoming more secretive
- Mood swings – being more aggressive
- Unexplained amounts of money, clothes, jewellery
- Relationship with a controlling adult/older partner
- Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults
- Multiple mobile phones/sim cards
- Repeat pregnancies/emergency contraception/STI's
- Change in appearance/to look older than they are/wearing clothes they wouldn't normally wear

7. Report It

If you are concerned about a child or young person please call:

- Children's services on **0300 555 0050 selecting option 4** (9:00 – 5:00 Mon-Fri)
- Out of office hours contact the Emergency Duty Team on **0300 555 8574**
- Contact the police on **101** to report a crime or suspicious activity, **in an emergency call 999**

2. Why it matters

Children and young people may not recognise they are a victim of CSE therefore it is the responsibility of professionals and parents to report concerns.

CSE is a form of abuse and is a crime with devastating and long lasting consequences for victims and their families.

The hidden nature of CSE and the complexities involved means professional curiosity, and always being alert to the issue, is vital.

4. Current definition

- CSE can take place in many forms: a seemingly consensual relationship, a young person forced into sex for payment/gifts
- It can occur through non-contact activity, through use of technology, without the child's consent or them recognising it's happening
- It is often carried out with actual violence, or the threat of violence, which may prevent the child from telling people about the abuse
- It is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of CSE, as can other children

6. Where to get help?

Discuss concerns initially with your line manager or safeguarding lead.

You can contact Dudley's CSE Team on 01384 817777 or CSE.Team@dudley.gov.uk

More information is available at the following:

- [See Me Hear Me](#)
- [Child Exploitation and Online Protection \(CEOP\)](#)
- [PACE – Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation](#)
- [CEOP Education videos and awareness resources](#)