



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness (CSE) awareness training

Developed by Telford & Wrekin Council

Aims

This training is designed to raise your awareness of what CSE is, and to help you to understand:

- The signs of CSE
- What grooming is
- The impact on young people
- How protecting young people is everyone's business and what you need to do.

WHAT IS CSE?

Child sexual exploitation is a type of modern slavery when a male or female under 18 is sexually exploited for the benefit or gain of someone else. The benefit or gain can come in many forms such as increased social status or financial gain. Some victims are also trafficked for the purpose of exploitation.

WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

Any young person regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or class can be exploited.

This means they are forced into sexual acts or the misuse of sexual images.

In return, they, or another person, may be provided with drugs, alcohol, or other items of value or other basic necessities such as affection or attention. Sometimes they are threatened with violence or shame.

— HOW DOES — CSE OCCUR? —

Sexual exploitation of children and young people can occur in a variety of ways:

Online – through things such as the internet, social media, smart phone apps and games consoles

Through people the person will know, this might include other children or young people, family or friends or someone in power

Through parties

Through gangs

Through grooming and coercion

Through opportunist situations.



THE INTERNET

The internet is used by child abusers, as the anonymity of social networking sites and instant messaging can provide easy access to children and young people.

Using the internet means that sexual exploitation can also occur when the child has no direct contact with the person exploiting them. For example, the child is groomed to post sexual abuse images of themselves on the internet for the gratification of another person.

**What are the risks of the internet, social media,
smart phone apps and game consoles?**

Case study: Bethany and JJ

Seventeen-year-old Bethany has been dating JJ for the past three months.

Bethany

Bethany likes knowing JJ is in a gang.

He buys her lots of nice things.

She can walk around her estate feeling protected.



Case study: Bethany and JJ

JJ

Bethany started have sex with JJ soon after they met.

He was the first person she had sex with.



Case study: Bethany and JJ

Duke

Last week one of JJ's friends, Duke, was at JJ's when Bethany went round.

They both made a fuss of her, and JJ asked Bethany if she would sleep with Duke too.



Case study: Bethany and JJ

Bethany's feelings

She loves JJ and he loves her, so she wants to do nice things for him.



Bethany's age

Bethany's older sister Patricia refuses to have anything to do with the local gangs. Patricia tells Bethany that she's a child and JJ is sexually exploiting her. She says she's read up about child sexual exploitation and that it's a form of sexual abuse.

Bethany tells her she's talking rubbish. JJ loves her. Besides, she's 17, old enough to make up her own mind about how she wants to lead her life.

Who's right? Under what age could a young person considered to be the victim of CSE?

14

16

18

What is consent?

Consent is agreeing by choice and having the freedom and capacity to make the choice. Consent for any sexual activity is therefore a voluntary positive agreement between participants to engage in this activity.

Consent should not be presumed in the absence of clear positive agreement and must be clear and unambiguous.

Summary

- Young people who are aged 16 and 17 are legally defined as children under the Children Act and should still be considered at risk of CSE.
- The anonymity of the internet makes it easy for perpetrators to reach child victims.
- CSE is a significantly under-reported crime.
- The Office of the Children's Commissioner and other key organisations recognise that all children can be at risk and that risks to males are probably underestimated.
- CSE can take place anywhere and by anyone.
- A child can be a victim of exploitation and exploit another child at the same time.

Who's at risk?

Any child or young person is vulnerable to exploitation.

Some experiences can make a child more vulnerable to exploitation, some examples are:

- Homelessness
- Going 'missing' - driven by push factors (running away from something) or pull factors (running to something)
- Low self esteem
- Regular substance misuse (including alcohol)
- Additional needs eg learning disabilities or mental health issues
- Being in care
- Experiencing death, loss or illness of a significant person
- From families that are new to an area
- From time-poor families
- Those experiencing criminal exploitation
- Any adverse childhood experiences (violence, abuse or neglect)

Indicators of child sexual exploitation

Children and young people are more likely to be protected from child sexual exploitation if professionals, young people, parents and the wider community have a better understanding of the problem, can recognise key signs and know how to respond.

What is grooming?

Grooming is exploitation and occurs when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or trafficking. Children can be groomed online or face to face by a stranger or someone they know for example, a family member, friend or professional.

Perpetrators may be any age, gender, ethnicity or class.

What might grooming look like and involve?

Missing children

Some 140,000 children go missing from home or care in the UK each year. It has been estimated that running away places around a quarter of these at risk of serious harm.

Children go missing because of push factors (running away from something such as abuse, domestic violence or loneliness) or/and pull factors (running to something such as complying to threats, affection or perceived love).

The link between children being sexually exploited and children going missing is very strong.

Summary

- There are a number of indicators which may suggest a child is being sexually exploited – we should all be aware of them
- Increased awareness of peer-on-peer exploitation
- Children who are regularly reported as missing are at an increased risk of being sexually exploited
- A child's perception of what is happening to them in inappropriate relationships will often differ from the reality of the situation.

The young person's experience

Building on the last section around grooming the process of exploitation results in the young person feeling trapped. This allows the perpetrator to take control and dominate them resulting in the young person being fearful and having no choice but to comply with the perpetrator's requests.

How does this impact on the person?

Case study

Ann is a social worker. She has been contacted by a head teacher about a 14-year-old pupil, Amina, she has also noticed her being picked up after school by an older man. Both the head teacher and Amina's friends have noticed changes in her behaviour over the last few months.

How does this impact on the person?

Amina's observed behaviour

Amina has become socially isolated and is no longer spending time with her friends and has changed from being very active in the social group. She is very withdrawn at school and avoids contact with other pupils and teacher where possible. Amina no longer shares information or talks about what she got up to in her spare time. Her friends have noticed that she has started to use 'street slang' when she hadn't previously. Amina seems to have lost her self-confidence and has started making negative/derogatory comments about herself. Amina's friends said that they are concerned about her and thought she was self-harming.

How does this impact on the person?

Amina's story

The school made a referral due to concerns about Amina. Ann has spoken to Amina and her family and has identified that Amina has been sexually exploited.

CSE can have an impact on a young person both in the short term and the longer term. Whilst not all victims of CSE will experience the same impacts.

Summary

- How young people feel when they are exploited.
- How it impacts on the young person both at the time and longer term.
- That the young person is not to blame.

Raising a concern

**Protecting young people
from exploitation is
everyone's business.**

Contact the school CSE DSL jwrenshalljones@ttsonline.net or another member of the safeguarding team (see the school website safeguarding page)

Exploitation concerns about a child or young person must be referred to Family Connect on 01952 385385. After 5pm or at the weekend please call 01952 676500.

If a child or young person is in immediate danger call 999.

For further information and advice please email familyconnect@telford.gov.uk

If you are not happy with the response received after referring to Family Connect, then raise it with your line manager and ask them to escalate the matter.

What happens next?

The CATE Team

In Telford we have a dedicated team to help young people and their families where a risk of sexual exploitation has been identified - the Children At risk Through Exploitation (CATE) team. They work alongside the young person and their families as well as statutory and voluntary services to safeguard the young person from CSE. This is an intervention programme and whilst targeted at ending exploitation takes time to have an effect.

Once a referral about a young person is received a CATE practitioner will build a trusting relationship with the young person and their family to complete a CSE risk assessment.

This assessment will inform what multi-agency and planned support is needed to safeguard them.

We will require parents/carers consent to work with the young person if they are under the age of 16.

National Referral Mechanism

Modern slavery is a complex crime and may involve multiple forms of exploitation. It encompasses:

Human trafficking

Slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour

CSE is a form of modern slavery and so anybody who is at risk from CSE can access support from the NRM. [Click the link for further information](#)

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive appropriate support.

Summary

Have gained an understanding of what Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is.

Know what the indicators of CSE are.

Understand the impact CSE.

Know what to do if you are concerned about a young person.

Learnt about what support is provided to those that have been exploited and those who are risk of being exploited.