

- Marks or scars on their body which they try to conceal by refusing to undress or uncover parts of their body.
- Risk taking behaviour or suicidal tendencies.

In order to identify issues early it is important to familiarise yourself with the signs that a child/young person may be being exploited. If you think a child/young person is at risk you should discuss this with your line manager or designated person for safeguarding as soon as possible.

You and your manager may decide to:

- Call a meeting to share this information with your colleagues or professionals in other agencies.
- Secure support to help strengthen the young person's family network to avoid increased vulnerability and thus a further dependency on the exploiter.
- Think about ways that you might be able to better support and help children/young people to share information if they are worried about their own or another child/young person's situation.
- Identify opportunities to educate children/young people and their parents about healthy relationships.
- Raise awareness of the possibility of child sexual abuse through exploitation.

For more information about sexual abuse through exploitation please visit:

www.justwhistle.org.uk
www.stopitnow.org.uk
www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/cse-home
www.paceuk.info
www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-exploitation/

Increasingly, children are being abused via the internet. It is therefore important that parents, carers and young people understand how to keep safe.

For more information about keeping safe online please visit:

www.esafersuffolk.org
www.saferinternet.org.uk
www.ceop.gov.uk
www.thinkuknow.co.uk
www.getnetwise.org
www.childnet.com
www.childline.org.uk 0800 1111
www.iwf.org.uk

If you think a child is in imminent danger always dial **999** for the Police. If you have an immediate safeguarding concern about the welfare of a child, please contact Customer First (24 hour service) on **0808 800 4005**

For further copies of this leaflet, please contact:

LSCBCommunication@suffolk.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can download copies of this and other SCB leaflets from our website:

www.suffolkscb.org.uk



Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board

Child Sexual Abuse through Exploitation



www.suffolkscb.org.uk

The terminology may change but the issues remain the same; children and young people are sexually abused, sometimes for the commercial gain of others.

What is child sexual abuse through exploitation?

A form of sexual abuse, in which a child/young person is manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act.

The abuser may physically or verbally threaten or be violent towards them. They will manipulate, groom and try to isolate the child/young person from friends and family. The abuser may control a child/young person through physical or psychological means or through the use of drugs for a sexual purpose. The child/young person may think that their abuser is their friend, or even their boyfriend or girlfriend. Children/young people may be moved within the UK, also referred to as internal trafficking, or trafficked into the UK from other countries for the purpose of sexually abusing them.

Child sexual abuse through exploitation can include the grooming of children/young people online for the purpose of sexually abusing them. This might involve:

- An adult pretending to be a child, befriending the child/young person through online chat rooms, social networking websites, email etc.

- Asking children/young people to participate in non-contact sexual activities such as engaging in sexual conversations online or through a telephone.
- Asking children/young people to take and share indecent images of themselves online or through a mobile phone.
- Asking children/young people to display sexualised behaviours or perform sexual acts that are recorded or shared live via webcam.
- The creation, storage and distribution of child abuse images, also referred to as child pornography.
- Arranging to meet a child/young person face to face for the purpose of sexually abusing them.

Who is affected by child sexual abuse through exploitation?

This type of abuse could happen to any child/young person from any background. It happens to boys and young men as well as girls and young women. They could be looked after, leaving residential or foster care, migrant or unaccompanied asylum seeking children/young people.

They may have experienced previous forms of abuse and may be involved in gangs. The victims of abuse are not at fault, abusers are very clever in the way they manipulate, groom and take advantage of the children/young people they abuse.

What could be the signs of child sexual abuse through exploitation?

- Regularly missing school or not taking part in education.
- Staying out at night, regularly returning home late and/or returning home after long intervals and appearing well cared for.
- Defensive about where they have been and what they have been doing.
- Appears with unexplained gifts or new possessions, money, mobile phones, clothes, jewellery etc.
- Suffers from sexually transmitted infections.
- Mood swings.
- Changes in emotional wellbeing, use of language or physical appearance.
- Displays inappropriate sexualised behaviour.
- Is secretive or withdrawn.
- Looks tired, ill or sleeps during the day.
- Associating with older men and/or developing a relationship of a sexual nature with a significantly older man or woman.
- Uses drugs and/or alcohol.
- Receiving more phone calls or text messages than usual.