

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION – PARENTAL UPDATE

Sexual exploitation affects thousands of children and young people across the UK every year. As a parent or carer, you could have an important role to play in protecting children from exploitation, helping to cut them free from this horrific form of child abuse.

What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

CSE is when an abuser manipulates, coerces or forces a child or young person into performing sexual acts. Abusers are usually older males, but they can be of a similar age or be female. They are very sophisticated in the way they operate, meaning what they do is well thought out and planned. An abuser will know areas to target. They are skilled in approaching children or young people in person or may use a younger man or woman, or boy or girl, to make the initial contacts. Some use the internet or mobile phones to engage the child or young person.

To do this they may use threats and/or violence, introduce them to alcohol or drugs and create a dependency, or make the child or young person feel special through attention or gifts, or pretend to be their boyfriend or girlfriend. They will also aim to alienate them from their friends and family. This is sometimes referred to as the grooming process. Because of the grooming process children or young people don't usually know that they are being drawn into sexual exploitation or realise that the situation they are in is abuse. They often trust their abuser and don't understand that they're being abused. They may depend on their abuser or be too scared to tell anyone what's happening.

Who does it affect? How does it happen? How do you spot the signs? To get answers to these questions and to know the top tips for parents please read the attachment titled '**CSE Parent Leaflet**'.

Additional information can be found on the **Essex Safeguarding Children Board** website (<http://escb.co.uk/working-with-children/child-exploitation/parents-did-you-know/>). This website includes useful information on other topics such as criminal exploitation, online exploitation, missing children, modern slavery, trafficking, gangs and youth violence.

Parents Did You Know?

Parents and carers can report any concerns about child exploitation by calling the Police Parent hotline number (01245 452058) which is staffed Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm, with voicemail available outside of these hours.

CSE Awareness at KEGS

Throughout the year we will continue to educate the students, parents and staff about CSE. The pupils will primarily develop their understanding of this social ill via assemblies, form time and the PSHE programme. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this topic please call me on 01245 353510 (ext 8149).

Keith Milliken

Deputy Safeguarding Lead / CSE Champion