

Children and Families Service

One Minute Guide

27 January 2014

What to do if you suspect a child is being sexually exploited.

This is an outline of Cheshire East's procedure for responding to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), and is based on Safeguarding Children And Young Children From Sexual Exploitation : Pan-Cheshire Policy & Procedure.

Identifying cases

Frontline practitioners from voluntary and statutory sector organisations (including, for example, health and education) should be aware of the key indicators of children being sexually exploited which can include:

- going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late;
- regularly missing school or education or not taking part in education;
- appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- secretive about e-communications
- associating with other young people involved in exploitation;
- having older boyfriends or girlfriends;
- suffering from sexually transmitted infections;
- mood swings or changes in emotional wellbeing;
- drug and alcohol misuse; and
- displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour.

Practitioners should also be aware that many children and young people who are victims of sexual exploitation do not recognise themselves as such, and that exploitation may be peer on peer.

When considering whether a child or young person's sexual behaviour might mean that they are a victim or at risk of CSE, think about the following:-

- the age of the child
- whether drink or drugs are involved that might undermine judgement
- whether inducements, pressure, coercion, or violence are involved
- what the perceived or actual consequences for a child or young person might be of not saying Yes
- is the child agreeing to sex for the wrong reasons

Child sexual exploitation is therefore potentially a child protection issue for all children under the age of 18 years and not just those in a specific age group.

Referring Cases - Child

Where child sexual exploitation, or the risk of it, is suspected, frontline practitioners should discuss the case with Cheshire East Consultation Service on **Tel: 0300 123 5012** - Option 2 (8.30 am to 5.00 pm) or Out of Hours **Tel: 0300 123 5022**,

Use the Pan Cheshire Risk Assessment tool (see LSCB CSE web page)

Referring Cases – Adults and Premises

Practitioners should also refer concerns relating to adults and their involvement with children and young people where they believe that CSE may be a concern and any premises/venues which they believe may be associated with CSE to eastern.ppu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk, referral form available on LSCB CSE web page.

(For Cheshire East Safeguarding Board CSE Procedure, [click here](#))



Cheshire East
Children & Young
People's Trust



Cheshire East Local
Safeguarding Children Board