



Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse that involves the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18 into sexual activity.

It relates to situations where a young person is manipulated or forced into taking part in some form of sexual activity in return for something the young person needs or desires, for example; attention, a sense of belonging, affection, money, drugs, alcohol or accommodation.

Sexual exploitation is child abuse and, although they may not realise it, it puts the young victim at huge risk of damage to their physical, emotional and psychological health.

The impact of Child Sexual Exploitation can have a devastating effect on the lives of victims. It is known that children and young people who have experienced sexual exploitation have poor health outcomes. The health impact is varied, with victims experiencing many forms of physical, psychological and emotional health difficulties.

There are a number of different forms in which CSE can present itself; these can range from:

- Internet sexual exploitation
- Sexual exploitation at house parties and the movement of young people for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- Offenders grooming youngsters and using their power to sexually abuse them.
- It can take many forms, whether it occurs through a seemingly 'consensual' relationship with an older boyfriend, or a young person having sex in return for attention, gifts, alcohol or cigarettes.

Many young people who are being abused do not realise they are at risk and will not call for help. They may see themselves as willing participants when in fact their behaviour is anything but consenting.

The CCG has been working with local health providers to ensure they have processes in place to safeguard children at risk of CSE. Health professionals who provide support for young people have been receiving training to raise awareness and to spot the signs of CSE.

We are increasingly improving our services to help identify children who are at risk of being sexually exploited and we are working together with partner agencies to safeguard and protect these children.

If you are concerned about CSE for yourself or somebody else please contact the police on the telephone 101 or Children's Services on 03001234043.

For more general information on CSE go to the following links:

<https://www.herts.police.uk/advice/halo.aspx>

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/healthsoc/childfam/childprotection/hertssafboard/childexplo/>

Useful links

<http://www.paceuk.info>

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk>

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/sexual_exploitation.ht

<http://www.childline.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>