



### CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION – CAN YOU SEE IT?

**CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION  
THINK ABOUT IT!**

#### What is child sexual exploitation?

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person/s) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.

Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet /mobile phones without immediate payment or gain;

In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.

Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

#### What has been East Riding's response?

Over the past two years ERSCB has established an infrastructure, policies and training to respond effectively to child sexual exploitation. We have a strategic multi-agency group, chaired by Humberside Police, which meets quarterly.

Its role is to plan the local response to national requirements and ensure that this can be implemented effectively, taking into account specific local issues as they emerge.

We also have an operational multi-agency group, chaired by the Police which has recently changed its remit to resemble the approach taken by the use of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) which are monthly meetings where information about high risk domestic abuse victims is shared between local agencies.

As well as considering 'high risk' child sexual exploitation, the operational group will grow its role in identifying gaps in services, implications of any locality patterns and training requirements.

#### The Child Exploitation Response Team

The East Riding has a dedicated response team of specialist safeguarding practitioners to support young people, parent's carers and professionals.

The team works closely with partner agencies, including the Police, Health, Youth and Family Support and a wide range of other agencies to help early identification those most at risk of child sexual exploitation and identify those posing a risk to children and young people.

The team also offer support, advice and guidance to professionals and agencies who are working with children and young people affected by child sexual exploitation.

Where practitioners have no evidence of child sexual exploitation but are concerned that a child may be vulnerable they should consider undertaking a child sexual exploitation Risk Assessment tool. You can find out more information and download the tool at:

<http://www.erscb.org.uk/professionals-and-volunteers/child-sexual-exploitation/>



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### East Riding training and briefing sessions

#### Briefing sessions

The child sexual exploitation response team have been delivering multi-agency briefing sessions to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation. The sessions have been delivered to over 240 professionals and volunteers.

#### Training

Since 2012, East Riding Safeguarding Children Board have facilitated child sexual exploitation training. This has been delivered to over 350 multi-agency practitioners.

Learning outcomes include:

- Knowing the signs that may indicate a child is being sexually exploited
- Understand levels of risk and how to respond
- Understand methods used to groom a child for sexual exploitation
- Share best practice in the prevention and disruption of sexual exploitation
- Understand why and how children are trafficked and know what action to take.

You can apply online and find out the course details at:

[www.erscb.org.uk/training/child-sexual-exploitation/](http://www.erscb.org.uk/training/child-sexual-exploitation/)

#### What are the signs and indicators?

Knowing the warning signs of child sexual exploitation is key for all staff. Obviously there could be other explanations for some of the warning signs, but it is important to help children no matter what the cause of the symptoms or the behaviour.

For instance, you might become aware of and concerned about a child's relationship with an older person (whom they might describe as a friend, whether male or female) and/or frequent absences from home/school.

Sexually exploited children are rarely visible on the streets and are only a small part of the bigger picture of sexual exploitation of children by adults, other children and young people. A growing number of the young people are being sexually exploited by adults and older young people via the Internet. This method of grooming children for abuse has contributed to the invisibility of the sexual exploitation of children.

Children may be drawn into sexual exploitation by a young person of a similar age. Girls, in particular, are often coerced into sexual exploitation by an older male who targets an individual. They may see him as their boyfriend, and become physically and emotionally dependent upon him. This may be reinforced by the use of alcohol and drugs. Over time, access to friends and family becomes restricted and the child becomes alienated from agencies which may be able to identify and interrupt the abuse. This is often referred to as the grooming process.

#### Some of the warning signs and vulnerabilities of child sexual exploitation:

- Historical Abuse
- Homelessness
- Chaotic lifestyle
- Low self esteem, low confidence
- Bereavement
- Questioning sexuality
- Associating with older males and /or females
- Association with peers already at risk of child sexual exploitation
- Truancy
- Being looked after in residential care
- Children with disabilities/ additional needs
- Going Missing

Sexually experimental behaviours of children whilst worrying to adults may or may not lead to additional vulnerabilities of children to sexual exploitation including; Sexting behaviour/ taking of "Selfies" self taken images/involvement in social online chat rooms/ use of certain "Apps" which involve adult content.



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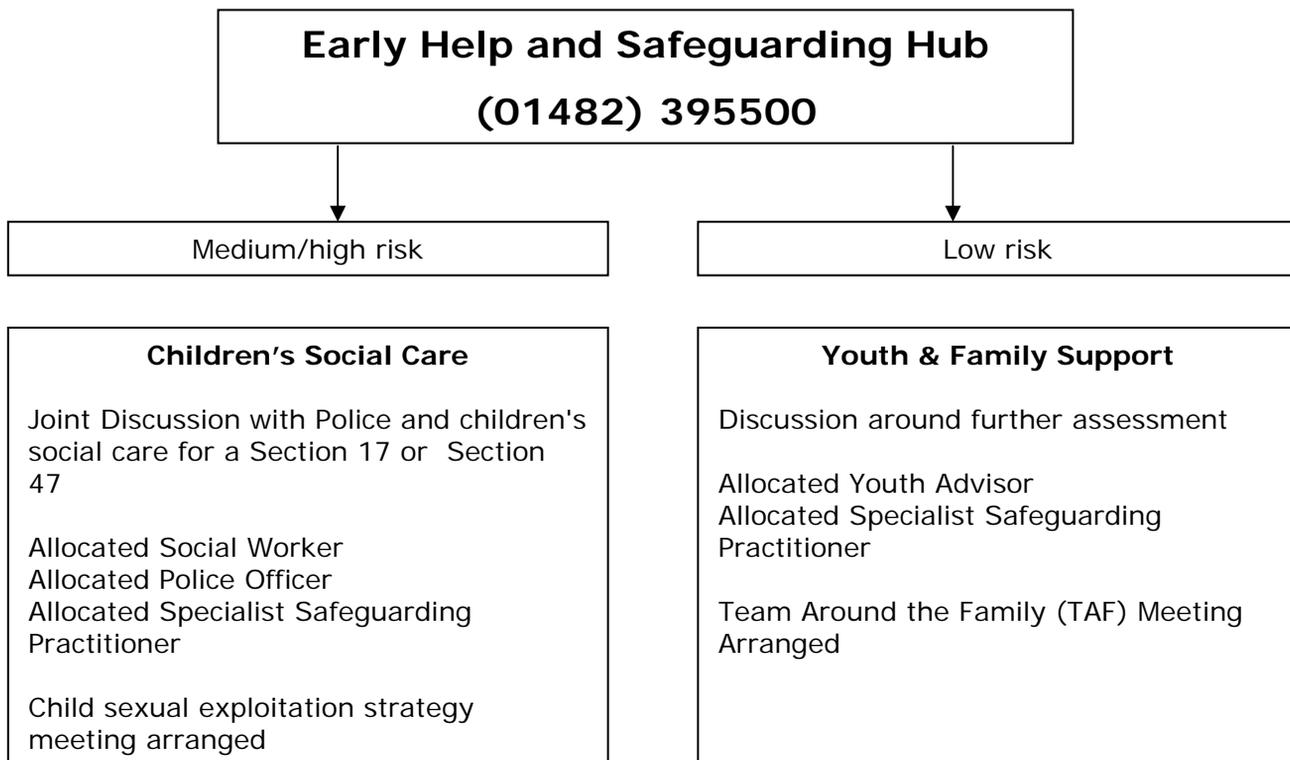
### How do I report concerns?

Sexual exploitation involves both girls and boys under the age of 18. In order to safeguard children and young people from sexual exploitation it is important that concerns are shared as early as possible.

In all cases where a young person could be at risk of child sexual exploitation, a contact should be made to the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub. Further to this practitioners should complete the child sexual exploitation risk assessment tool.

Where a child scores medium to high risk a discussion will be held with both Children's Social Care and the Police to determine if the situation warrants a Section 17 or Section 47 investigation or assessment. In all cases of high or medium score there will be an allocated specialist safeguarding practitioner.

Where a child scores low risk they will be allocated to Youth & Family Support for ongoing support and to monitor the area of concern. In all cases of a low score there will be an allocated specialist safeguarding practitioner.



### Where can I find out more information?

You can access further information including guidance and procedures at:

<http://www.erscb.org.uk/professionals-and-volunteers/child-sexual-exploitation/>



### NATIONAL RESEARCH INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

In 2012, the Office of Children's Commissioner undertook an inquiry into child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups. Further information about the inquiry is available at:

[www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/info/csegg1](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/info/csegg1)

The inquiry made them aware how many children and young people are sexually abused within the family environment and how much this goes unnoticed. Subsequently the Children's Commissioner asked Middlesex University to do some further research on child sexual abuse in the family environment. The research is available at [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/info/child\\_sexual\\_abuse\\_within\\_the\\_family\\_environment](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/info/child_sexual_abuse_within_the_family_environment)

#### The research identified:

Both boys and girls are victims of sexual abuse but most victims are girls.

Both men and women sexually abuse children but most sexual abuse is by men.

A lot of child sexual abuse is never reported and many cases don't go to court.

Evidence shows the child protection and criminal justice systems often don't listen to children enough.

Adult women who sexually abuse children may have more severe mental health issues than men who sexually abuse children.

Children who show harmful sexual behaviours often have poor social skills, have experienced abuse and / or have mental health issues.

Lots of child sexual abuse is committed by close relatives or people who the child knows.

Legal processes, like going to court, can be very hard for children.

If it's right for the child, it is better to support the whole family than just them.

#### What are the gaps?

The views of children have not been heard when attempting to understand child sexual abuse within the family environment. This is often due to adults being worried that the topic is too sensitive, but has resulted in the views of children not being taken into account.

We don't know how many children in England have been sexually abused.

We don't know much about how well the help given to children who have been sexually abused is working.

People don't agree on how to define child sexual abuse within the family environment.

There is not much research on the experiences of children who are from Black or minority ethnic groups, children who are disabled and children who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered.

#### What's next?

The Children's Commissioner will be completing a two year Inquiry into child sexual abuse in the family environment. The Inquiry will focus on the gaps identified from the research by:

- looking at the types and amount of this sort of abuse in England including among groups of children whose voice is usually less heard
- looking at how organisations prevent and respond to child sexual abuse in England and the impact it has on children
- making recommendations so that the identification and prevention of child sexual abuse is improved.

East Riding will be utilising the research to inform how we respond locally.



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### LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION

#### East Riding Safeguarding Children Board

Cross Street, Beverley, HU17 9BA

Telephone: (01482) 396999

Email: [erscb.enquiries@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:erscb.enquiries@eastriding.gov.uk)

Website: [www.erscb.org.uk](http://www.erscb.org.uk)

#### ERSCB training enquiries

Telephone: (01482) 396994

Email: [erscb.training@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:erscb.training@eastriding.gov.uk)

#### Local authority designated officers (LADO):

For education and school allegations contact Tony Marsh on (01482) 392139.

For agencies and organisations allegations contact Dave Finan on (01482) 396559.

#### Support and safeguarding services

If you think a child is being abused or neglected, contact: (01482) 395500

Monday - Thursday 9am - 5:00pm.

Friday 9am - 4:30pm.

Secure email:

[childrens.socialcare@eastriding.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.socialcare@eastriding.gcsx.gov.uk)

Out of Hours (01377) 241273

If a child is suffering abuse and requires urgent attention because of immediate danger, call the police on 999 or 101

Further information on support for families, children's social care and the process can be found on the

<http://www2.eastriding.gov.uk/living/children-and-families/childrens-social-care/support-for-families/>

#### Family Information Services Hub (FISH)

Free, impartial service for children, young people, parents/carers and the people who support them

Telephone: (01482) 396469

[www.fish.eastriding.gov.uk](http://www.fish.eastriding.gov.uk)

### NATIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Anti-Bullying Campaign

[www.bullying.co.uk](http://www.bullying.co.uk)

Barnardos

[www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk)

Child Exploitation & Online Protection (CEOP)

[www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)

Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT)

[www.capt.org.uk](http://www.capt.org.uk)

Childline

[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

Department of Education (DoE)

[www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

Gingerbread (practical support for single parents)

[www.gingerbread.org.uk](http://www.gingerbread.org.uk)

Karma Nirvana (supporting victims of honour crimes and forced marriages)

[www.karmanirvana.org.uk](http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk)

National Centre for Eating Disorders

[www.eating-disorders.org.uk](http://www.eating-disorders.org.uk)

FRANK – The National Drugs Helpline

[www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

NSPCC

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

Private Fostering Campaign

[www.privatefostering.org.uk](http://www.privatefostering.org.uk)

The Samaritans

[www.samaritans.org.uk](http://www.samaritans.org.uk)

Women's Aid (support for domestic violence victims)

[www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)

Young Minds (children's mental health)

[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)