



# CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## HSLC INFORMATION SHEET

### What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE continues to be a major Child Protection issue across the UK. CSE is when children and young people receive something - food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts or money etc - as an encouragement to perform, or as a result of performing (and/or others performing on them) direct sexual activities.

CSE can also occur and progress through the use of the internet or on mobile phones. In all cases, those exploiting the child or young person have influence and power over them because of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or resources. For victims, the effect and pain of their ordeal and fear that they will not be believed or may be at risk if they tell someone, means they are often too scared to come forward and report or tell what is happening. The impact of CSE upon victims can be devastating leading to a range of complex, significant and often longstanding personal difficulties in terms of physical and emotional health.

At HSLC we strive to support and teach pupils about how to make positive choices and informed decisions in their relationships so that they develop awareness and can protect themselves from all potential forms of risk, abuse and sexual exploitation.

### Prevalence of Child Sexual Exploitation

There is a growing evidence base (e.g. from the Rotherham CSE abuse case where 1400 child victims were identified) pointing to the widespread occurrence of, and potential risk for CSE, across all areas of society and the country.

But of course, CSE is often a hidden issue, and therefore it is difficult to know the true figure of victims and actual number of children who are victims of CSE is likely to be much higher due to the reluctance of victims to come forward and disclose

### The Age of Consent

The age of consent (the age at which it is legal to have sex) is 16 for everyone in the UK. Under the age of 16 any sort of sexual touching is illegal. It is illegal to take, show or distribute sexualised / graphic / indecent photographs of children (under 18 years of age) or to pay or arrange for sexual services from children.

It is also against the law if someone in a position of trust (such as a teacher) has sex with a person under 18 that they have responsibility for.

### **Some Potential Warning Signs and Risk Factors of CSE**

<b>WARNING SIGNS:</b>	<b>RISK FACTORS</b>
Going missing for periods of time or regularly returning home late Skipping school or being disruptive in class Appearing with unexplained gifts or possessions that cannot be accounted for Experiencing health problems that may indicate a STI. Having mood swings and changes in temperament Using drugs and alcohol Displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviours Unexplained bruises	Homelessness Low self-esteem Recent bereavement or loss Children in care Young carers Being female Witnessing domestic violence, and drug or alcohol misuse History of abuse Residing in chaotic or dysfunctional households Low socio-economic status Living in a gang-affected neighbourhood Children or young people who have been trafficked into the country Children at risk of 'honour' or forced marriages

### **Who can you contact for advice and support if you have concerns?**

#### **HSLC Student Support Team**

Mr Chris Hamling (School Child Protection Coordinator)  
 Based in the Student Support Team building / 01964 532727

#### **CHILDLINE**

24 hour helpline for children and young people under 18 providing confidential counselling and advice  
 0800 1111 / [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

#### **NSPCC**

24 hour child protection helpline - 0808 800 5000 - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

#### **Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre- CEOP**

<http://ceop.police.uk>

**East Riding Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHaSH) – 01482 393339**

**IMMEDIATE DANGER - CALL the POLICE on 999**

**The HSLC CSE Policy is available on the school web site – [www.hslc.co.uk](http://www.hslc.co.uk) - and provides further information and advice**