

Safeguarding Factsheet 6: Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The basics

The Government committed in the report 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation' published in March 2015 to 'make sure that for the first time all professionals work to the same definition of child sexual exploitation, so that they can more easily create joint risk assessments and work together to target disruption and investigate offending'.

As of February 2017, following government consultation, the definition of child sexual exploitation (CSE) is:

"a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Child Sexual Exploitation can:

- affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex
- still be abuse even if the sexual activity appears consensual
- can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity
- take place in person or via technology, or a combination of both
- involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence
- may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (through others copying videos or images they have created and posting on social media, for example)
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse.

The Kirklees perspective

In Kirklees, the Safeguarding Children Partnership has assumed responsibility as the lead strategic body for development and implementation of the authority's response to CSE.

The KSCB strategic response sets out the key strands to be addressed in the work to tackle CSE in Kirklees.

- To safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people who have been, or may be, sexually exploited
- To successfully prosecute those who perpetrate or facilitate CSE
- To limit the opportunities for potential perpetrators to abuse children and young people in this way
- To support families and communities who are dealing with the consequences of CSE
- To develop preventative services which raise awareness of CSE among children, young people, parents, and the communities of Kirklees, and
- To develop community resilience to the potentially divisive and damaging impact of CSE on Kirklees and its constituent communities
- To offer support and therapeutic services to survivors of CSE
- To ensure that identified perpetrators receive treatment programmes in order to minimise the chances of re-offending.

More information

For more information, please see:

[Gov.uk - Child sexual exploitation: definition and guide for practitioners](#)
[Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership web site](#)