

Child Sexual Exploitation

How can you help?

You may come into contact with a young person who may be at risk of sexual exploitation. In order to identify issues early you should be alert to the signs that a child/young person may be being exploited.

What could be the signs of child sexual exploitation?

- Missing, running away or missing school
- Staying out at night, returning late and/or returning after long intervals
- Defensive about where they have been and what they have been doing
- Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions, money, mobile phone, clothes, jewellery etc
- Having sexually transmitted infections
- Mood swings, challenging behaviour or changes in physical appearance and/or emotional wellbeing or being secretive
- Displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour
- Associating with someone older and/or developing a relationship of a sexual nature
- Peer on peer abuse where one appears controlling and there is a power imbalance in the relationship
- Using drugs and/or alcohol
- Involvement in theft, shoplifting or anti-social behaviour
- Having injuries or bruising which they try to conceal

For further information about child sexual exploitation visit:

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Board www.safechildren-cios.co.uk

Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation <http://www.paceuk.info/>

South West Child Protection Procedures <http://www.online-procedures.co.uk/swcpp/>

www.justwhistle.org.uk www.stopitnow.org.uk
www.barnardos.org.uk www.nspcc.co.uk

Emergency Services 999

Devon and Cornwall Police 101

**Cornwall Children's Social Care
Multi-Agency Referral Unit (MARU)**

0300 123 1116

Out of Hours

01208 251300

Isles of Scilly Children's Social Care

01720 424354

Out of Hours

01720 422699

**Cornwall Safeguarding
Children Standards Unit**

01872 254549



HE DOES
NOT OWN YOU

YOU ARE
NOT HIS
PROPERTY

Information for Professionals

Child sexual exploitation is happening in Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly. It affects both boys and girls.

**The sexual exploitation
of children is child abuse**



**Local Safeguarding
Children Board**

Keeping children safe



**Local Safeguarding
Children Board**

Keeping children safe

I LOVE HER SO MUCH,
I HAD BETTER DO WHAT SHE WANTS...

What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

Sexual exploitation takes many forms from a seemingly 'consensual' relationship, to where intercourse or sexual acts are given for affection, accommodation, alcohol, drugs, money or gifts, through to the trafficking of children across counties, towns or villages for the purpose of sexual activity.

Child Sexual Exploitation can include the grooming of young people online for the purpose of sexually abusing them.

- This might involve an adult pretending to be a child, befriending the child/young person through online chat rooms, social networking websites, e-mail etc.
- Asking children/young people to engage in non-contact sexual activities online
- Asking children/young people to take and share indecent images of themselves online
- Asking children/young people to display sexualised behaviours or perform sexual acts that are recorded or shared live via webcam
- Arranging to meet a child/young person face to face for the purpose of sexually abusing them.



Who is affected by child sexual exploitation?

This type of abuse can happen to any child/young person from any background. Some groups may be particularly vulnerable. It happens to boys and young men as well as girls and young women. They may live with their family, be in care, have left care or be a migrant. They may be disengaged from education, abusing alcohol or drugs or have a history of running away or going missing.

Or they may be none of these.

The impact of child sexual exploitation affects whole families. Parents/carers may feel angry, guilty, embarrassed and confused. Relationships may become strained and health may suffer.

TONIGHT BARRY IS TAKING ME TO
MEET MORE OF HIS FRIENDS...

What can I do as a professional?

As a professional working with young people, you may have opportunities to identify issues early and to share your concerns with colleagues or professionals in other agencies.

Steps you can take to help protect young people:

- Identify opportunities to increase awareness of the prevalence of sexual exploitation
- Identify opportunities to educate young people and their parents/carers about healthy relationships
- Think about ways you may be able to support and help young people to share information about their own or others' concerns
- Know who your Designated Child Protection Officer is and the procedures to follow if you are concerned about a child
- Anyone who suspects that a child is being sexually exploited, or is at risk of being sexually exploited must make a referral to the Multi-Agency Referral Unit (MARU) or to Social Care on the Isles of Scilly
- If you have concerns about a location or activities where there are young people involved but do not know any details of a specific child, please report your concerns to the MARU and/or Police. Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly have three Multi-agency Missing & CSE Forums that convene monthly to collate and share information
- Your information could make a difference - do not assume this is already known.

