

1. Background

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) occurs throughout the UK, affecting boys as well as girls, from any social, ethnic or economic background. It robs them of their childhood and has serious long term effects on every aspect of their lives. It may be life threatening, putting them in significant danger.

Victims of CSE are not making a lifestyle choice, they are victims of abuse.

7. Action/Referral

Recognise, Record and Refer.

If you are worried that a child is at risk of CSE discuss with your line manager immediately and/or your local safeguarding team.

The Oldham Phoenix Exploitation Team can be contacted on 0161 856 4552 for advice and support.

If you think a young person may be at immediate risk of harm please ring 999.

Refer to Oldham MASH on 0161 770 7777

www.itsnotokay.co.uk has information and support around CSE in Greater Manchester.

6. Questions to consider

-What issues might make some young people more vulnerable to CSE?

-Are you confident in understanding the signs and indicators of CSE? Consider accessing training provided by Oldham CCG.

-Do you know who to discuss concerns with in relation to CSE and how to refer a young person who may be at risk?

5. Signs and indicators of possible CSE

Victims of CSE may present with repeat sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, abortion or miscarriage, drug or alcohol misuse, physical injuries, self-harm or suicidal ideation.

Possessing expensive items such as mobile phones or clothing, associating with unknown adults, other children known to be at risk of CSE. They may be missing from home/school and there may be concerns they are exposed to criminality.

2. What it is?

CSE is when an individual takes sexual advantage of a child under the age of 18 for their own benefit. Power is developed over the child through threats, bribes, violence, and humiliation or by making the child believe they are loved by the exploiter.

3. Why it Matters?

CSE has a huge impact on victims. This is particularly true when victims do not receive the appropriate support. They can suffer from various health related issues including physical injuries and sexually transmitted infections. The long term effects can result in the child suffering from emotional and mental health issues, including depression, self-harm, suicidal ideation, post-traumatic stress disorder and drug and alcohol misuse.

4. The facts

CSE can take various forms including, Online grooming, Gang exploitation, Boyfriend/girlfriend model, Party model and Peer model.

CSE can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females of any ethnic or economic background. The abuse can be a one off occurrence or a series of incidents over a period of time. For further information in relation to this refer to 'The Grooming Line' developed by Barnardos.

CSE involves a power imbalance in favour of the perpetrator. The perpetrator holds power over the victim making them vulnerable and reliant on the relationship, often feeling like they have no way out.

