

Child Sexual Exploitation Information Sheet

What is CSE?

Definition used to explain CSE to young people is: -

“Someone taking advantage of you sexually, for their own benefit. Through threats, bribes, violence, humiliation, or by telling you that they love you. They will have the power to get you to do sexual things for their own, or other people’s benefit or enjoyment (including touching or kissing private parts, sex, taking sexual photos)”

The Government definition is: -

“Child sexual exploitation 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”

What does this mean?

- 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.
- Can still be abuse even if the sexual activity appears consensual.
- Can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity.
- Can take place in person or via technology, or a combination of both.
- Can 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; and
- Is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the abuse. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

What is grooming?

Grooming is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual exploitation or trafficking. Children and young people can be groomed online, face to face, by a stranger or someone they know. Groomers can be male or female and any age. The grooming is a carefully planned process, over a period of time.

Step 1 – Target the victim

Some ways this can be done are:

- Social media – some examples of social media are Facebook, Instagram, snapchat, twitter, facetime, live chat, skype, messenger and gaming.
- Unexpected friend request – receiving unexpected request off people you don't know, why do they want to make friends when they don't know you?
- Exchanging details – mobile number, email/ skype address, home address
- Making you feel special – saying nice things to you, e.g., you looked pretty/ handsome today, I like your hair like that, cute picture, I think you are amazing.
- Observing you – watching and gathering information about you. e.g., your daily routine, time you go to and from school, places you meet friends even your home address and who you live with.
- Common interest e.g., school, pets, hobbies, likes & dislikes.

Step 2 – Gaining trust

Some ways this can be done are:

- Relationship moving on to the next stage for example suggesting meeting up to see what reaction they might get. Seeing if you would agree to meet alone or suggest taking someone with you.
- Feeling looked after, for example a place to stay, someone who is there for them.
- Keeping secrets, being told not to repeat certain things and that it is their special secret.
- Listening & caring (I understand you, that's happened to me, I can help you, I will always be here to listen)
- Spending time together this could be online or in person, messaging, live chat, face time or meeting up out and about, going to their house, library, park
- Live online chat, this can include gaming, or over facetime/ skype

Step 3 Isolating the Victim

Some ways this can be done are

- Your family don't understand you
- Your friends are just jealous of you
- No one understands you like I do
- Creating independence – making you feel like you only have them and you don't need anyone else.
- Questioning choice e.g., 'do you like my top?' 'yeh I suppose, it would look better in blue don't you think?'

Step 4– Sexualising the Relationship

Some ways this can be done are

- Introducing sexualised conversation. This could start with Suttle questions like 'Have you ever kissed someone?' 'Have you ever had a boyfriends/ girlfriend'
- Sharing of indecent images (naked)
- Arranging a situation where they can be alone together, somewhere private either in person or online
- Talking about sex, questions such as how far you have gone, what have you seen.
- Making false promises, for example Bribery of gifts for a sexual act online or offline
- Withdrawal of love & affection. The Offender distances themselves from victim in the hope the victim make contact further

Step 5 – Maintaining Control

- Fear
- Guilt
- Blackmail
- Shame/ humiliation
- Addicted to drugs & alcohol
- Fear of removal from the relationship – this is normal, threats to end the relationship and other threats in general e.g., if you don't do X I won't get you any drink or drugs or a bed for the night.

Behaviour offenders may show

- Usually involves an individual who exercises inappropriate power or control over a young person.
- Making you feel like you are in a loving relationship, this then turns into you feeling trapped and used.
- Physically or emotionally gaining control over the things you do.
- A man or woman befriends and grooms the victim into a sexual relationship by presenting themselves as an ideal partner.
- They will isolate a young person from their usual friends and support network
- They may then force or pressure you into having sex with friends or associates, for social status or financial benefit, or offer to meet your basic needs such as food and somewhere to sleep.
- Young people are targeted through social networking sites, chat rooms, dating sites and instant messenger.
- Relationships built over a period and will often target those who are emotionally vulnerable
- Encouraged to send sexual images
- Will often be encouraged to meet up in real life
- Any photos sent can be used as blackmail for more explicit images or performing sexual acts on webcam
- Several young people are invited to a 'party', often held at a hotel, flat or bar. Invitations can come through peers, or through social media, or a chance meeting in a town
- You are offered things such as drugs, alcohol or take away food for free
- Possibly after several 'parties' you are then asked to 'pay' for the things they have been given (maybe explain what the connotation of pay means?)

Key warning signs of child sexual exploitation

- Involved in abusive relationships, intimidated or fearful of certain people
- Go missing from home, care, or education
- Hang around with older people, antisocial groups or with vulnerable peers
- Associate with other young people involved in CSE
- Have older boyfriends or girlfriends
- Spend time at places of concern such as hotels
- Do not know where they are as they have been moved around
- Involved in crime
- Have unexplained physical injuries
- Have a changed physical appearance for example weight loss.

If you child has concerned about a friend, we advise them to: -

- **Don't judge them, just listen.**

Try not to put words into your friend's mouth or tell them what they are feeling. Let them tell you what's going on. Listen and support them.

- **Tell them that if you think they're in danger you will seek help.**

Don't promise to keep secrets. No secret which will hurt someone is worth keeping.

- **Tell an adult you trust about what has happened.**

This could be your parent/carer, teacher, youth worker, police officer, doctor or social worker. Ask them to get help for your friend.

- **You can report what has happened to CEOP yourself or do it with your friend.**

Do this by clicking on ClickCEOP button at thinkuknow.co.uk

- **Get support for yourself.**

You probably feel very anxious about what your friend has told you. You too need support to deal with what has happened. Talk to an adult you trust about how you are feeling. You might find it helpful to talk to a counsellor: you could ask your teacher or doctor to refer you to a counselling service. Remember, you can call Childline to talk to someone at any time of day or night on 0800 1111.

- **Don't take it all on yourself.**

Be realistic about the situation. You might have done all the right things, but you still might not be able to help your friend. Remember, what has happened is not your fault and you have done your best to get help. Make sure you are getting the support you need yourself.

What if you think there's something wrong but they haven't said anything yet?

- If you're worried about a friend, don't be afraid to tell them so. Even if they don't want to talk, let them know you're always there to listen. Maybe they'll change their mind later. Find more advice about how to support your friends at thinkuknow.co.uk

Videos

Kayleigh's Love Story - [Kayleigh's Love Story - Full Version - YouTube](#)

- On Saturday 31st October 2015 Kayleigh received a Facebook message from a man she didn't know by the name of Luke Harlow.
- She responded to the message and over the course of the next 13 days they exchanged 2635 messages, this is approximately 200 per day.
- After 13 days of contact and Kayleigh being groomed, she finally agreed to spend the evening of Friday 13th November at his house in Ibstock.
- She stayed there on the Friday night and again on the Saturday evening. During this time she was piled with alcohol and indecently assaulted.
- During the evening of Saturday 14th November Kayleigh was forcibly held against her will by Luke Harlow and his next door neighbour Stephen Beadman.
- She fled the house in the early hours of the morning on Sunday 15th November, she was followed by Beadman who raped and murdered her leaving her body in nearby woods.
- A member of the public found Kayleigh's damaged phone on the road in Ibstock that Sunday morning and raised the alarm.
- Police arrested Luke Harlow and Stephen Beadman later that day.

This video was made with Kayleigh's family to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation and grooming.

Brecks Last Game - [Breck's Last Game - YouTube](#)

- Breck Bednar, aged 14, who lived in Caterham, Surrey, started communicating with Lewis Daynes in 2013 through a gaming website which some of his friends were also members. Daynes paid to host the server they used and had robust control over it.
- During the following 13 months, Daynes gained increasing control over Breck. This was noticed by some, but not all of the other gamers. He turned Breck against his family and tried to dissuade him from pursuing other hobbies.

- Daynes tried to drive a wedge between Breck and his mum, Lorin, even having direct contact with her and questioning her parenting skills. At no point during this time was Breck aware of what Daynes looked like or how old he was.
- Lorin and the family held a meeting with the family of another gaming friend to raise concerns about Daynes, and both Breck and his friend agreed to stop communicating with him.
- Breck's computers were taken away for a few days and things seemed to settle down.
- However, over the coming months Daynes gave Breck five computer games, which were all received online, and sent him a mobile phone. These gestures were designed to assert greater control over Breck.
- Breck's family were unaware he had this illicit phone and when he went on a school trip to Spain, he started to use it.
- On February 9, 2014, Daynes emailed Breck inviting him to a meeting at his flat in Grays to discuss taking over his computer business, claiming that ill-health meant he could no longer run it.
- At around this time Daynes also sent Breck several emails saying how frustrated he was that he was not in regular contact, while also reminding Breck to delete anything sent to him.

Signposting

- [Leicestershire Police](#)
- [Crime stoppers](#)
- [Child Exploitation and Online Protection \(CEOP\)](#)
- [Thinkuknow](#)
- [The Children's Society](#)
- [Barnardo's](#)
- [Live Safe](#)