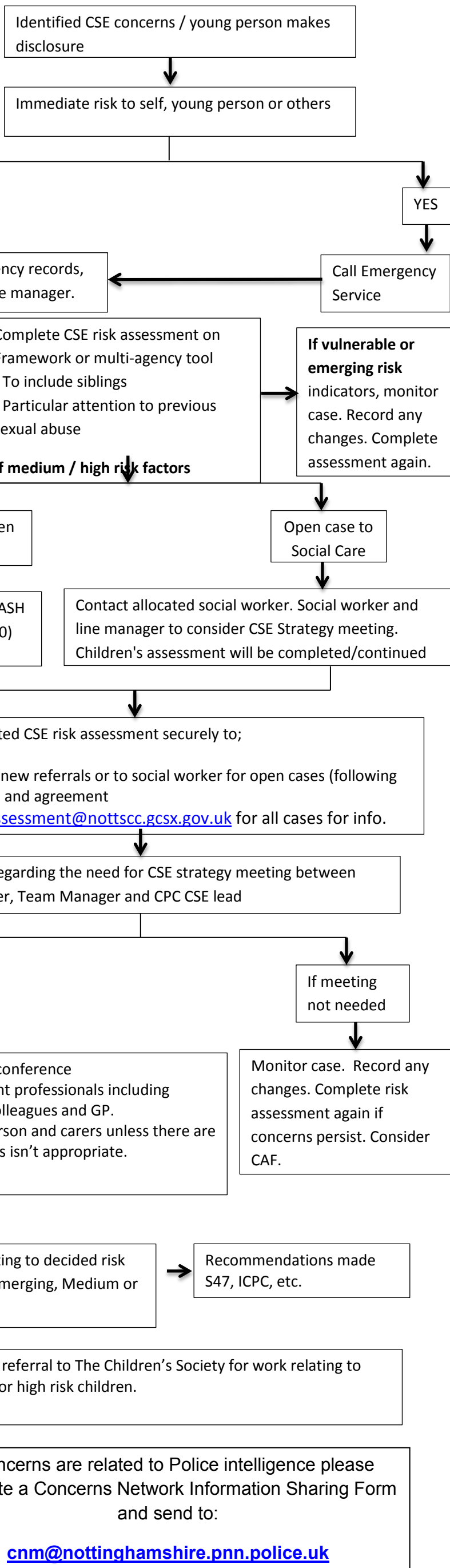


Child Sexual Exploitation(CSE) Multi-Agency Pathway Nottinghamshire County



This guidance is applicable to all victims of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):
 'Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse. It occurs where anyone under the age of 18 is persuaded, coerced or forced into sexual activity in exchange for, amongst other things, money, drugs/alcohol, gifts, affection or status. Consent is irrelevant, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact and may occur online.'

Vulnerability indicators which may increase risk (this is not an exhaustive list)

- Live in a chaotic or dysfunctional family
- History of domestic abuse within the family or in own relationship
- History of sexual/physical/emotional abuse or neglect
- Parents with mental health and/or substance misuse issues
- Bereavement or loss
- Lack of protective factors within family unit
- Social or learning difficulties.
- Low self-esteem or confidence
- Unsure of their sexual orientation or gender identity
- Looked after child
- Sexually active
- Homeless
- Migrant, refugee or asylum seeker
- Previous victim of CSE including siblings
- Under 13 years of age
- Parent/carer has significant physical health issues or learning disabilities
- Financially unsupported
- Parent/carer involved in sex work
- Subject of bullying
- Mental health problems

Signs and Indicators (this is not an exhaustive list)

- Use of drugs or alcohol
- Issues with education/attendance
- Frequent poor/aggressive behaviour
- Becoming estranged from family
- Detached from age related activities
- Secretive behaviour/relationships
- Change in appearance/ Poor self-image
- Secretive about internet use
- Association with other victims of CSE
- Sexually active under 13 yrs
- Pregnancy, miscarriage and/or termination
- Multiple or recurring STI's
- Returning home late or missing/absent
- Unexplained relationships with adults
- Receiving calls/texts from unknown persons
- Multiple or older boyfriends/girlfriends
- Forming relationships via the internet
- Entering or leaving unknown vehicles
- Self-harming and/or suicide ideation
- Over sexualised behaviour/risk taking
- Involvement in gangs/crime
- Multiple callers to address
- Unexplained physical injuries
- Involvement in crime
- Breakdown of living arrangements
- Recruiting others into exploitative situations
- Meeting unknown adults/ engaging in sexual activity with adults
- History of CSE concerns (including siblings)
- Unexplained gifts: clothes, phones, money, jewellery, drugs, cigarettes
- Over sexualised appearance
- Being groomed to meet adults
- Presence in red light areas
- Visiting nightclubs/hotels/pubs with adults
- Transported from town to town
- Associating with known CSE perpetrators
- Linked to hotspot CSE areas
- Sexual assault disclosure then withdrawal

Encouraging people to seek help and support

There are many reasons why victims will not, or feel they cannot, speak about their experiences or seek help and support so it is important to build trust to enable this to happen.

- Always be alert to the possibility that an individual could be experiencing sexual exploitation, regardless of their age or gender, and be prepared to offer support.
- When a victim is hard to engage, the person with the best relationship with them should lead discussions.
- Ensure professional interpreters are used, never use family members, children or friends where sexual exploitation is known or suspected.
- Only ask questions about sexual exploitation when victims are on their own and in a private place.

Never assume that someone else will address sexual exploitation issues. You should seek confirmation that other professionals have acted in a way which you would expect. You may be the victim's first and only contact. Remember victims can deny sexual exploitation is happening and minimise the risk of harm. Discuss with your manager, assess the risk level and act accordingly.