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## **One Minute Guide: Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

### **What is CSE?**

CSE is a form of sexual abuse, in which a child or young person is manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act. This could be as part of a seemingly consensual relationship, or in return for attention, affection, money drugs, alcohol or somewhere to stay. Unfortunately, it affects thousands of children and young people across the UK each year, these are mainly teenagers but in some circumstances children as young as 10 have been affected and this often goes unreported. A detailed definition, with examples, can be found in the [HM Government Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation](#), 2009.

The young person may think their abuser is their friend. However, they will put them into dangerous situations, forcing the young person to do things they don't want to do; the abuser may physically or verbally threaten the young person; be violent towards them; control and manipulate them and try to isolate them from friends and family.

### **What are the signs and indicators that a child or young person is a victim of CSE?**

There are a number of possible signs that a child or young person is subject of CSE or in the process of being prepared or 'groomed'. These include:

- Going missing for periods of time or returning home late;
- Regularly missing education;
- Having unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- Associating with other young people involved in exploitation
- Having an older boyfriend or girlfriend
- Suffering from Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs),
- Changes in emotional wellbeing
- Drug and alcohol misuse
- Displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour

### **Which children and young people may be particularly vulnerable?**

All children and young people are at potential risk of CSE. However, there are some groups that are more vulnerable than others, including those below:

- Children that go missing from home or care and fail to attend education regularly;

- Looked After Children and Care Leavers;
- Children with disabilities or Special Educational Needs (SEN);
- Those experiencing family relationship issues, including domestic violence and parenting capacity issues;
- Homelessness and poverty;
- Those experiencing drug and alcohol misuse;
- Young offenders; and
- Young carers.

### **How is this being addressed in Redbridge?**

Our Strategic Lead on CSE in Redbridge is the Head of Child Protection and Assessment Service.

The Redbridge LSCB has recently published a CSE Strategy which is available via the LSCB pages on [Redbridge.i](#).

An awareness raising campaign - [Operation Makesafe](#) - aimed at the local business community, organised jointly by Community Safety, the LSCB and the Met Police is shortly due to launch across Redbridge.

There is a Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Board, chaired by a senior police officer. The Board is in place to facilitate sharing information and intelligence, to understand the nature and prevalence of CSE in Redbridge in order to reduce the number of children and young people at risk and review operational issues.

There is also a robust process in place where referrals relating to CSE are addressed by the Multi-Agency Panel (MAP). The MAP Guide and Referral Form are available on the [Intranet](#).

### **What should I do if I suspect a child or young person is at risk of CSE?**

As with any other form of abuse, report your concerns to the Child Protection and Assessment Team via [CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk) or 020 8708 3885 (weekdays) or 020 8708 5825 (evenings and weekends). The Department for Education (DfE) has also produced a useful [Step By Step Guide](#) on this for frontline practitioners.

### **How can I find out more?**

You will shortly be asked to read an information bulletin on your PC issued via Meta Compliance, this will provide you with further information on CSE and you will also have the opportunity to undertake an eLearning Module on [Learning Zone](#).

If your role requires more in depth training to respond to cases of CSE, please discuss your training needs with your Line Manager.

If you work in a Children's Centre, you will have a CSE Resource Pack available to you.