



QEGSMAT
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Safeguarding Bulletin

Child Sexual Exploitation & Grooming

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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.

Signposting for help and support

Police (Derby, Derbys, Staffordshire)
Crime stoppers
Fearless.org
CEOP
Thinkuknow
The Children's Society
Barnardo's
Live Safe

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.

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.
 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.

