

What can I do as a professional?

Be aware of the signs and risk factors and know what to do if you think a child/young person is at risk. Identify issues early so it is important to familiarise yourself with the signs above that a child/young person is being exploited and to share this information with your colleagues or professionals in other agencies. Secure support to help strengthen the young person's family network to avoid increased vulnerability of being at risk of homelessness and further dependency on the exploiter

Think about ways that you might be able to better support and help children/young people to share information if they are worried about their own or another child/young person's situation. Identify opportunities to educate children,

young people and their parents about healthy relationships and about child sexual abuse through exploitation.

Follow the Inter Agency Child Protection Procedures: Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board, Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board and Luton Safeguarding Children Board at:

<http://bedfordscb.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>

For further information about child sexual abuse through exploitation visit:

www.justwhistle.org.uk

www.stopitnow.org.uk

or

www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_projects/sexual_exploitation.htm

Please also access the **Safeguarding children from sexual exploitation document (appendix 2):** http://bedfordscb.proceduresonline.com/pdfs/sg_ch_yp_sex_expolit.pdf and **Protocol & guidance working with sexually active young people (appendix 13).** http://bedfordscb.proceduresonline.com/pdfs/wking_sex_active_yp.pdf

Bedford Borough Safeguarding
Children Board & Central Bedfordshire
Safeguarding Children Board



Working together to safeguard children

Luton
Safeguarding
Children
Board



CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE THROUGH EXPLOITATION



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The terminology may change but the issues remain the same; children and young people are sexually abused, sometimes for the commercial gain of others

What is child sexual abuse through exploitation?

A form of sexual abuse, in which a child/young person is manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act. The abuser may physically or verbally threaten or be violent towards them. They will manipulate, groom and try to isolate the child/young person from friends and family. The abuser may control a child/young person through physical or psychological means or through the use of drugs for a sexual purpose. The child/young person may think that their abuser is their friend, or even their boyfriend or girlfriend.

Children/young people maybe moved within the UK, also referred to as internal trafficking or trafficked into the UK from other countries for the purpose of sexually abusing them.

Child sexual abuse through exploitation can include the grooming of children/young people online for the purpose of sexually abusing them.

- This might involve an adult pretending to be a child, befriending the child/young person through online chat rooms, social networking websites, email, etc

- asking children/young people to participate in non-contact sexual activities such as engaging in sexual conversations online or via mobile telephone
- asking children/young people to take and share indecent images of themselves online or through a mobile telephone
- asking children/young people to display sexualised behaviours or perform sexual acts that are recorded or shared live via webcam
- the creation, storage and distribution of child abuse images also referred to as child pornography
- arranging to meet a child/young person face to face for the purpose of sexually abusing them.

Who is affected by child sexual abuse through exploitation?

This type of abuse could happen to any child/young person from any background. It happens to boys and young men as well as girls and young women. They could be looked after or are leaving residential or foster care. Migrant or unaccompanied asylum seeking children/young people.

They may have experienced previous forms of abuse and maybe involved in gangs. The victims of abuse are not at fault, abusers are very clever in the way they manipulate, groom and take advantage of the children/young people they abuse.

What are the signs of child sexual abuse through exploitation?

Here are a number of telltale signs a child/young person may be being groomed for sexual exploitation, this is not an exhaustive list.

- Regularly miss school or not taking part in education
- Saying out at nights, regularly return home late and/or returns home after long intervals and appears well cared for. Defensive about where they have been and what they've been doing.
- Appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions, money, mobile phones, clothes, jewellery, etc
- Suffers from sexually transmitted infections
- Mood swings or changes in emotional wellbeing, use of

language, their physical appearance.

- Displays inappropriate sexualised behaviour
- Are secretive or withdrawn. Look tired or ill, sleeping during the day
- Associate with older men and develop a relationship of a sexual nature with a significantly older man or a woman.
- Use drugs and alcohol
- Receive more phone calls or text messages than usual
- Marks or scars on their body which they try to conceal by refusing to undress or uncover parts of their body
- Exhibit self harming behaviour or suicidal tendencies

