

## Useful Agencies



**CEOP (child exploitation and online protection centre)**  
[www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

**Devon- MASH (multi agency safeguarding hub): 0345 155 1071**

**Plymouth-**

**General inquiries- Gateway- 01752 668000 (public)**  
**01752 307160 (professionals)**

**Multi agency safeguarding hub 01752 305200**  
**multiagencyhub@plymouth.gov.uk**

**REACH (reducing exploitation and Absence from Care or Home)** [www.devon.gov.uk/REACH](http://www.devon.gov.uk/REACH)

This is a specialist service which supports young people who either run away or who are experiencing, or at risk of CSE.

This specialist team of social workers can provide education to professionals as well as work on a 1-to1 basis with young people.

**PACE (parents against child sexual exploitation)**  
[www.paceuk.info](http://www.paceuk.info)

1. National parent support help line: 0113 240 3040  
This is for any parents with concerns that their child is being exploited or is at risk.

*'At last somebody else understood what I was going through and how I was feeling.'* Parent

2. PACE parent forum  
This is a unique, secure forum for parents of sexually exploited children to exchange information and support.

*"I am able to have a sounding board with other parents, receive and offer support. We all have times when we are down and "out of energy" it is at these times when we need each other most."* Parent

**If you have immediate concerns about a young person call the police- 999**

# CAP UK

## Young Persons Programme 2018

### Information for parents, carers and teaching staff

CAP UK  
35 Fore Street  
Totnes  
TQ9 5HN

[info@safestrongfree.org.uk](mailto:info@safestrongfree.org.uk)  
01803 866559  
[www.safestrongfree.org.uk](http://www.safestrongfree.org.uk)

Registered charity number: 1056377

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## What can you do?

**Talk to your child.** As children are growing up it is important to establish lines of communication with them.

Discuss consent along with healthy and unhealthy relationships, perhaps using the film links below as an aid for discussion.

Let them know that you are there to listen if they ever need help.

Talk to your child about internet safety.

Learn about the kind of sites and games that they are using.

Use parental settings on all internet devices.

If you suspect CSE:

Don't wait if you suspect something is wrong.

Let your child know that you are there to help and that they are not alone.

Listen to them and treat their fears seriously.

Think together what can be done to stop the situation.

Keep a diary of the situation.

Get support from the agencies on page 12 and be persistent.

### Short films

#### CSE

[www.youtube.exploited](http://www.youtube.exploited) This film is made by ceop for young people to understand CSE and can be found on You Tube

<http://www.paceuk.info/support-for-parents/parents-stories/> This film contains interviews from parents who have had children that were victims of CSE

#### Sexting

[www.youtube.exposed](http://www.youtube.exposed) This film is made by ceop for young people to understand the risks of sexting and can be found on You Tube

#### Nude selfies: What parents and carers need to know.

[www.youtube.nudeselfies](http://www.youtube.nudeselfies) These short films by ceop help parents know how to talk to their children about sexting:

## Signs of Child Sexual Exploitation

Often the young person might not realise what is happening to them, or feel that they have no choice.

The teenage years can be difficult times of experimentation and when young people often challenge boundaries. However there are some signs that you can look for that are outside of the norm for this age groups behaviour and that might indicate CSE.

- Staying out all night, or going missing for periods of time
- Coming home late
- Losing touch with usual peer group
- Older 'friends'
- Constantly being on their mobile phones/social media or reacting to text messages
- Unexplained gifts or money
- Drug or alcohol use
- Inappropriate sexual behaviour- including dress style
- Becoming secretive
- Missing school
- Depression or mood swings

## Brief History of CAP

CAP UK (Child Assault Prevention project) is a school based assault **prevention** programme that offers education, guidance and support by giving children positive messages on how they can protect themselves. We work with the whole school community - children, parents/ carers and staff, to build safer communities for children.

Our workshops provide children with the ability to recognise unsafe situations and the confidence to act on them, so that they can stay **Safe, Strong and Free**.

Child abuse is a sensitive subject and we have a culture of silence surrounding this complex topic. Recent high profile cases of child sexual abuse have only proved to highlight that children are afraid to come forward to tell if they have been victims of abuse. Also children often do not get believed. CAP is challenging this silence by our whole-community approach. We empower children to know they have a right to protect themselves, to say "no" and tell someone. Through our school staff training sessions and parents workshops, CAP also empowers adults in the surrounding community to listen, believe and know how to respond if confronted with child abuse.

As part of an international programme created in USA in 1970s, CAP UK was established in the South West of England and has been running since 1995. During this time we have worked with over 61,000 children, many of these receiving repeat visits on our rolling programme. Our project visits the school every 18 months with a different input so that messages are reinforced and children see us 3 times in their primary school life. Last year our teams worked with 8,000 children.

*"I think this is such an important part of children's education and your delivery makes it perfectly accessible to children in a way that class teachers on their own could not." Teacher 2014*

*"Very glad there is a community approach to children trusting their instincts and having ways to resist or respond to fearful situations or bullying." Parent 2014*

*"They made me feel strong. It was a good chance to talk to someone about things I had not told anyone." Year 6 child 2014*

### **Young Persons Programme**

Most of our work is in Primary school however a growing concern around child sexual exploitation has led us to develop a new piece of work for key stage 3 children. Young people's everyday use of technology has changed the way abuse can happen within this age range.

The ethos of the young person's sessions is drawn from CAPs experience of 20 years of delivering prevention programmes but the focus is on teaching student healthy relationships, how to be resistant to peer pressures such as sexting and understanding consent.

Research from Plymouth university (in conjunction with UK safer internet and NSPCC) Dec 2012 *"Sexting: an exploration of practices, Attitudes and Influences"* evidences the pressure on young people. It also evidences that young people are willing to talk about their online lives and the challenges but feel adults do not listen. They do not trust teachers and would prefer an outside agency to support them in this area.

### **The 'boyfriend'/pimp model of exploitation**

Perpetrators target children posing as 'boyfriends', showering the child with attention and gifts to cause infatuation. They initiate a sexual relationship with the child, which the child is expected to return as 'proof' of her/his love or as a way of returning the initial attention and gifts. The child is effectively told that they owe the perpetrators money for cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, car rides etc and that sexual activities are one way of paying it back.

### **The 'party' model**

Parties are organised by groups of men to lure young people. Young people are offered drinks, drugs and car rides often for free. They are introduced to an exciting environment and a culture where sexual promiscuity and violence is normalised. Parties are held at various locations and children are persuaded (sometimes financially) to bring their peers along.

Children are also encouraged to associate with others via Facebook, ooVoo, etc. The parties may be held some distance from the child's home, enabling the perpetrators to force the child to have sex in return for a lift home. Drugs and alcohol are used to suppress the children's resistance. Images may be taken of them without their clothes for purpose of future bribery.

*\*Models of grooming information from PACE*

## Types of Grooming

**Grooming** is befriending and establishing an emotional connection with a child, and sometimes the family, to lower the child's inhibitions for child sexual abuse. The grooming process in CSE may involve tempting a young person with a certain life style that is appealing but moves into being abusive.

Grooming can take place online and offline. The perpetrator may befriend the child and give them gifts such as mobile phones, money or alcohol or drugs. They then may demand favours in return. There are different methods that can be used to groom a child. Here are some examples:

### **Peer on peer exploitation**

Children are sexually exploited by peers who are known to them at school, in the neighbourhood or through mutual friends.

### **Exploitation through befriending and grooming**

Children are befriended directly by the perpetrator (in person or online) or through other children and young people. This process may begin with a girl (or boy) being targeted and befriended by a young boy or girl usually known to her as an equal, ie a classmate, a friend of a sibling, or a neighbour.

This introductory young person later introduces the child to either one or more older men, whom s/he may describe as an older sibling or cousin. The older men offer the child attention in the form of gifts, flashy cars, cigarettes, alcohol and drugs.

To the child, it is new and exciting. The older men treat the child as an adult and deliberately portray her/his parents as unreasonable and overly-strict, should they seek to intervene.

## What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is an illegal activity when a person under 18 is coerced into sexual activities by one or more person(s) who have deliberately targeted their youth and inexperience in order to exercise power over them.

The process often involves a stage of 'grooming', in which the child might receive something (such as a mobile phone, clothes, drugs or alcohol, attention or affection) prior to, or as a result of, performing sexual activities, or having sexual activities performed on them..

Child sexual exploitation may occur through the use of technology without the child's consent or immediate recognition; for example through being persuaded to post sexual images over the internet or through mobile phone images.

Child sexual exploitation is often conducted with actual violence or the threat of violence. This may be threats towards the child, or her or his family and may prevent the child from disclosing the abuse. The child may be so confused by the process, that they do not perceive any abuse at all. The abuser may make the young person think they are in a relationship and are special.

### **Who is at risk?**

All young people are at risk. However the risk to children may be heightened if they have gone missing, in care, are having difficulties at home, are not in education, have drug or alcohol issues, learning difficulties or a disability, or have a history of abuse.

## Myths and Facts about Child Sexual Exploitation

### **Myth: It only happens in certain ethnic/cultural Communities.**

**Reality:** Both perpetrators and victims are known to come from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. CSE is not a crime restricted to British Pakistani Muslim males or White British girls, despite media coverage of high profile cases. Site visits carried out by the OCC inquiry identified perpetrators and victims of CSE from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds. A thematic assessment by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre identified that 'Research tells us that the majority of known perpetrators in the UK of this crime are lone white males'.

### **Myth: It only happens to children in care.**

**Reality:** The majority of victims of CSE are living at home. However, looked after children account for a disproportionate number of victims and can be particularly vulnerable. An estimated 20-25 per cent of victims are looked after, compared with 1 per cent of the child population being in care.

### **Myth: It only happens to girls and young women.**

**Reality:** Boys and young men are also targeted as victims of CSE by perpetrators. However, they may be less likely to disclose offences or seek support, often due to stigma, prejudice or embarrassment or the fear that they will not be believed. They may see themselves as able to protect themselves but in cases of CSE physical stature is irrelevant due to the coercion and manipulation used.

### **Myth: It is only perpetrated by men .**

**Reality:** There is evidence that women can be perpetrators of this crime too. They may use different grooming methods but are known to target both boys and girls. In relation to group and gang related CSE, the OCC inquiry found that the vast majority involved only men and, where women are involved, they are a small minority. Where women or girls were identified as perpetrators, their role was primarily, though not exclusively, to procure victims. Women and girls who were perpetrating were identified during the inquiry's site visits tended to be young, had histories of being sexually exploited themselves and of abusing others in tandem with the group or gang that had previously sexually exploited them. Women and girls directly involved in sexually exploiting children were either in relationships with men who were perpetrators or related to, or friends with, men and boys who were abusers.

### **Myth: Children and young people can consent to their own exploitation.**

**Reality:** A child cannot consent to their own abuse. Firstly, the law sets down 16 as the age of consent to any form of sexual activity. Secondly, any child under 18 cannot consent to being trafficked for the purposes of exploitation. Thirdly, regardless of age a person's ability to give consent, this may be affected by a range of other issues including the influence of drugs, threats of violence, grooming, a power imbalance between victim and perpetrators. This is why a 16 or 17 year old can be sexually exploited even though they are old enough to consent to sexual activity.

*\*Info from Local Government Association 2013*