

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Sexual exploitation 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 enjoyment.” (Nia Project)



Key messages:

- CSE is child abuse and the response should be the same as for any other safeguarding concern.
- There is legislation to protect children up to the age of 18 from CSE. Even when they reach the age of 16 a child cannot consent to exploitation. Consent is defined as having the freedom and capacity to choose. Any person intoxicated with drugs or alcohol does not have the capacity to consent to sexual activity.
- Usually a child will not identify that they are a victim of CSE. We all need to be aware of potential vulnerabilities and risk indicators in order to protect children. All organisations have a shared responsibility to protect, safeguard and promote the welfare of victims who maybe/are being sexually exploited.
- Supporting a victim of CSE requires persistence, patience and consistency.
- If you are concerned about a child or a situation there are a number of ways in which this can be reported. **Say something!**

Support:

The WiSE Project - Supporting children and young people to stay safe in their relationships

- Hastings & Rother 07551 126731
- Lewes & Wealden 07551 126730
- Eastbourne 07525 666946

Missing People - Offers advice, support and help for anyone who goes missing and their loved ones left behind

- Runaway Helpline – call or text 116 000 – it’s free, confidential, 24/7
- Independent return home interviews, and support - 07538 650823

East Sussex Children’s Services

- Duty West - 01323 747373 – duty.0-19datwest@eastsussex.gov.uk
- Duty East 01424 724144 – 011dateast@eastsussex.gov.uk
- MASH Eastbourne - 01323747373
- MASH Hastings - 01424724144

PACE UK (Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation) - Working with parents to enable them to safeguard and stop their children from being sexually exploited

- www.paceuk.info or phone – 0113 240 3040

Report:

‘Say Something’

- Call or text free, and anonymous on 116 000 – to report or talk through concerns about CSE
www.missingpeople.org.uk/saysomething

Sussex Police

- call 101 and quote Operation Kite

CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre)

- www.ceop.police.uk

If you suspect anyone is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999. If a child/young person is currently at risk of significant harm, including from CSE, refer immediately to your local Children’s Social Care.