

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

One Page Briefing for Social Workers and Lead Professionals

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. [Child Sexual Exploitation: Definition and a Guide for Practitioners, Local Leaders and Decision Makers Working to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation \(DFE February 2017\)](#)

If you have specific concerns that a child is at risk of, being targeted or heavily entrenched in CSE you should:

- Speak to your Team Manager for advice immediately
- Speak to the child and their parents/carers about your concerns
- Complete the NWG assessment with as much detail as possible and workflow via LCS or EHM to the CSE team. [where possible complete the NWG assessment with the parents and or child]

What will happen to the NWG assessment I have completed?

- The CSE Team Manager along with the Police CSE Coordinator will review the risk assessment and decide if a MASE is required; you will receive a notification via an LCS or EHM case note of the decision of the CSE Team. If a MASE meeting is scheduled, you will receive a calendar invite
- As the Social Worker or Lead Professional, you will invite the Child and their family to the MASE meeting and all relevant professionals.

Risk levels

Low/At Risk

- A vulnerable child or young person, where there are concerns they are being targeted and groomed and where any vulnerability factors have been identified. However, at this stage there is no evidence of any offences.

Medium/Serious

- Evidence a child or young person is being targeted for opportunistic abuse through the exchange of sex for drugs, perceived affection, sense of belonging, accommodation (overnight stays), money and goods etc. The likelihood of coercion and control is significant.

High/Significant

- A child or young person whose sexual exploitation is habitual, often self-denied and where coercion or control is implicit.

Young people identified at any of the above risk levels level of risk will be provided with a range of services from relevant agencies informed by the specific needs of each individual.

Questions to ask yourself:

1. Do you know how to access and complete a CSE screening tool?
2. Do you know how to access and complete the NWG risk assessment?
3. Do you know about the CSE workspace?
4. Do you know what a MASE is?
5. If you have a child where there are CSE concerns have you included the needs and interventions required in your plan for the child e.g. CIN, CP, LAC or TAF ?
6. Do you know about the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)?
7. Do you know what a FIB (Force intelligence Bureau) is and how to submit it to the Police?

If the answer is no to any of the above questions, please refer to the following and don't be afraid to ask:

- Your Team Manager or a member of staff from the CSE team
- Tri X / [West Midlands Safeguarding Children Procedures](#)
- Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board [Website](#)