

KEPIER Safeguarding Update

Issued: 11th November 2015



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Child Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation affects thousands of children and young people across the UK every year.

It happens in Sunderland and in our local area. It will happen where you live.

We have an important role to play in protecting children from exploitation.

Children and young people that are the victims of sexual exploitation often do not recognise that they are being exploited.

Possible indicators:

- going missing for periods of time or regularly returning home late
- regularly missing school or not taking part in education
- appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- associating with other young people involved in exploitation
- having older boyfriends or girlfriends
- suffering from sexually transmitted infections
- mood swings or changes in emotional wellbeing
- drug and alcohol misuse
- displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour

Sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse, where a young person is **manipulated, or forced into taking part in a sexual act**. This could be as part of a seemingly consensual relationship, or in return for attention, affection, money, drugs, alcohol or somewhere to stay.

The young person may think that their abuser is their friend, or even a boyfriend or girlfriend. But they will put them into dangerous situations, forcing the young person to do things they don't want to do.

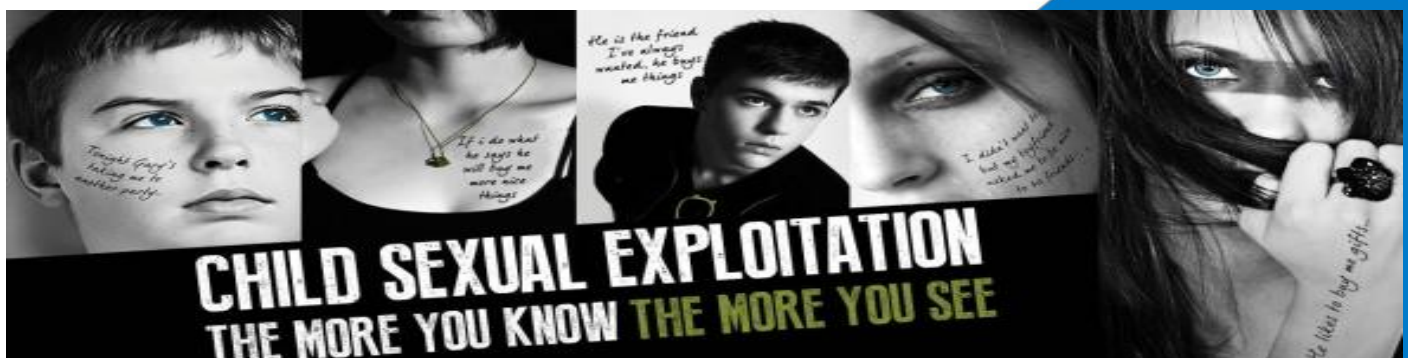
The abuser may physically or verbally threaten the young person or be violent towards them. They will control and manipulate them, and try to isolate them from friends and family.

This type of **abuse could happen to any young person from any background. It happens to boys** and young men as well as girls and young women.

The victims of abuse are not at fault. **They won't know it's happening to them.** Abusers are very clever in the way they manipulate and take advantage of the young people they abuse.

Many young people are 'groomed' by an abusing adult who befriends the young person and makes them feel special by buying them gifts or giving them lots of attention. Young people may be targeted online or in person. Sexual exploitation can also occur between young people of a similar age.

In most cases, the abuser will have power of some kind over the young person. It may be that the abuser is older or more emotionally mature, physically stronger, or that they are in a position where they are able to control the young person.



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Remember:

- Sexual exploitation happens to males as well as females.
- It happens to learners from all socio-economic backgrounds and cultures.
- Young people and their parents might not recognise what's happening.
- You have a duty to refer. We have a duty to protect our young people.

If you have concerns, call 999 and report to the Police.

Further Information

NSPCC 
CHILD PROTECTION
HELPLINE
0808 800 5000

NSPCC - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk>

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 **Barnardo's**

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/sexual_exploitation.htm