

“The Warning Signs were all there
but no one noticed”

Recognising and Responding to
Child Sexual Exploitation
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Learning Objectives

- What is Child Sexual Exploitation?
- Current picture in Bristol
- Spotting the signs
- What can you do if you suspect a child is being sexually exploited?



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Take care



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Facts & Figures

168 children with current referrals or EH
Episodes identified as at risk of CSE

Very challenging to estimate the scale of CSE

- Under-reported
- Under-recorded



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“Recognise that it is very hard for us to see
ourselves as victims and therefore to have any
insight into what help we need”

Survivor from Operation Brooke

Definition

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**.
(Dept. for Education, 2017)



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Definitions

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Peer on Peer abuse
- Extra Familial Harm
- Contextual Safeguarding
- Child Criminal Exploitation

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Be Mindful of Language



Avoid:

'Sexual Activity with', 'having sex with'
'In a relationship with'

Use:

'He/She has said that they are having sex with... however we are worried that they may have been groomed and / or coerced'

'He/She has said that they are in a relationship with however there are concerns that they are being groomed , exploited and controlled'



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Priority Safeguarding issue

*Child sexual exploitation is a **crime** with **devastating and long-lasting consequences** for its victims and their families.*

Childhoods and family life can be ruined, and this is compounded when victims, or those at risk of abuse, do not receive appropriate, immediate and on-going support.

***The first response to children, and support for them to access help, must be the best it can be** from social workers, police, health practitioners and others who work with children and their families*

(Dept. for Education, 2017)



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Current Picture in Bristol

- Children from across Bristol
- Under-representation of Boys & Young Men
- South Asian & East African Communities tend to more hidden
- Some reduction in numbers of children being identified

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But I didn't say no?



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Consent...

'If the person agrees by choice, and has the freedom and capacity to make that choice'

CHOICE
FREEDOM
CAPACITY



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Consent Resources

It's simple as tea


Pause
Stop
Play





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Strategies used by Perpetrators of CSE



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Groups



- Sense of belonging
- Excuses of Initiation / Punishment

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Trafficked

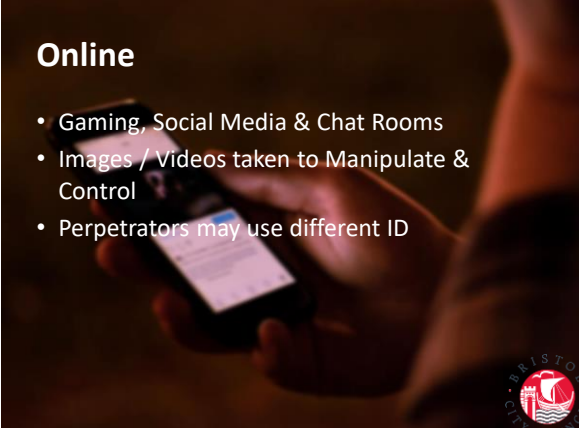

- Internal & External
- Movement from one Location to Another
- Removed from Protective Factors
- Can be Organised

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Online

- Gaming, Social Media & Chat Rooms
- Images / Videos taken to Manipulate & Control
- Perpetrators may use different ID

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Night Economy

- Adult entertainment venues / massage parlours / pole dancing clubs etc
- Children alongside Adult Sex Workers
- 'Swap' money for Sexual Acts




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Party

- Apartment Parties / Private Houses / Flats / Hotels
- Adults & Children attend
- Alcohol & Drugs lower resistance

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Single Perpetrator

- Grooming

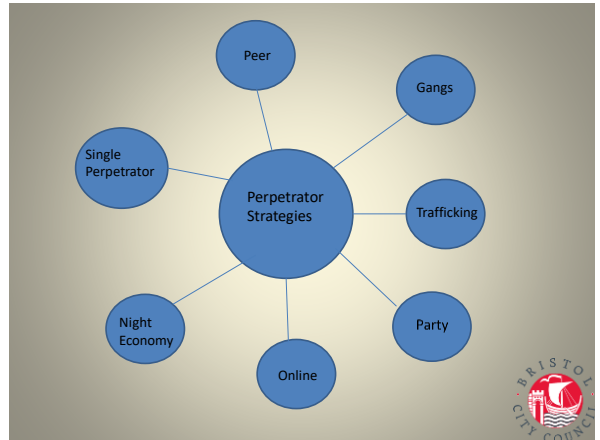
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Peer

- Assess power dynamic
- Sets up 'norm'

Children who sexually harm require welfare response too

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Those who are particularly Vulnerable...

ANY can be vulnerable

- Missing
- Poor Mental Health
- Learning Needs
- Children in Care
- Homeless or Sofa Surfing
- NEET
- Abuse at Home
- Neglect
- Substance Misuse
- Isolated

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Risk Indicators

- Substance misuse
- Gang association
- Unexplained 'gifts'
- Peers at risk of CSE
- Injuries
- Poor Sexual Health
- Low Self Esteem & Aspirations
- Missing
- Sudden Change in Clothing
- Collected/Dropped off by Adults in Cars
- Hanging out in CSE 'Hotspots'
- Strong desire for money
- Trafficking
- Withdrawing from Friends & Family
- Association with Risky Adults / Peers
- Disclosed 'Relationship' with Adult
- Secretive
- Disengaging with Education

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What's our responsibility?



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Reporting to the Police

- 999
- 101
- Online Portal
 - <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/>
 - Highlight CSE Concerns
 - Operation Topaz



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Share info with Social Care

- First Response
 - 0117 903 6444
 - Online Portal
 - <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/social-care-health/first-response-for-professionals-working-with-children>
- Share with Social Worker, FIF Worker
- If you are a SW / FIF Worker remember CSE Checklist & CSE Hazard



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Survivor Pathway

Sexual Violence Support Services in Bristol

- Creative Youth Networks
- BASE
- 18-25 Sexual Exploitation Transitions Service
- Safe Link
- Unity – specialist sexual health clinics
- SARSAS
- The Bridge
- Adolescent Parent Groups
- PACE
- The Green House



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Learning from Young People, Research & Practice

- Be Persistent & Consistent
- Be Open & Honest
- Be Curious, speak out your observations & worries
- Help meet their holistic needs
- Safety Planning
- Allow them opportunities to be Children...
- Trust your gut



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How might you encounter CSE?

- Locations- parks, houses, flats, fast food establishments, hotels, CSE 'hot spots'-
anytime of the day or night
- Missing
- Disengaging with education
- Unknown cars loitering outside a Children's home
- Children displaying injuries

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Any Questions?

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