

Indicators of Child Sexual Exploitation Aide Memoire

How to use this guide

The guide should be used alongside the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board (BSCB) CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) Policy: [Bucks-lscb CSE Practice Guidance 2014.pdf](#) to support preliminary assessment of children aged up to 18 (or 25 with a learning difficulty) when a professional has concerns that a child may be at risk of, or is a victim of sexual exploitation. **This is for guidance only and is not a definitive determinant of risk.** Professionals are encouraged to use their own instincts and judgement to reach a decision to refer. It is recognised that individual professionals hold valuable information about children and the risk(s) to which they are exposed. It is important to share this information to ensure that statutory agencies are able to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities.

If appropriate within the context of the working relationship between the child and the professional, it is recommended that the child is involved as much as possible in the screening process.

Critical Factors – immediate referral

- Child **under** 13 known/suspected to be having sex
- Engages in 'clipping' – offering sex for payment then running off upon payment
- Abduction / forced imprisonment
- Known attendance at hotels/B&B's/hostels for 'parties' or with individual partner

High Risk Factors – [two or more are present] contact Children's Social Care/Police

- Repeated sexually transmitted infection(s), has had one or more pregnancies or terminations and repeated request(s) for the 'morning after pill'
- Spends time with other children who have reputation for multiple sexual partners
- Gets into unknown adults or peers cars
- Has pattern of street homelessness or frequent missing/absent episodes (reported or not)
- Has older boyfriend/girlfriend
- Parents/carers don't report missing episodes
- Returning from missing episodes drunk, drugged or dishevelled
- Drug and alcohol use with adults/significantly older young people
- Disclosure of physical or sexual assault
- Physical injuries internal/external consistent with physical coercion
- Unaccounted for cash, alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, clothes, mobile top-ups
- Is sending physically revealing pictures via social media
- Regular, frequent abuse of substances/drug dependent
- Has multiple mobile phone numbers or frequently changes phone number/SIM card

Medium Risk Factors - five or more are present or two or more plus a high risk factor – contact Children's Social Care/Police

- Has contracted a sexually transmitted infection (STI), has had a pregnancy/miscarriage/termination and/or request for 'morning after pill'
- Poor or non-school attendance and leaving school premises without permission
- Deterioration in, or low interest and achievement in school work
- Series of fixed term exclusions/internal exclusions
- Permanently excluded from school
- In alternative educational provision due to behaviour

- Unwillingness/inability to comply with school rules, discipline and order
- Bullied and/or bullying
- 'Looked After Child' with repeated failed placement breakdowns
- Domestic Abuse within young person's own relationship with 'boyfriend' or 'girlfriend'
- Blurred sexual boundaries within the home and/or sex offenders within family
- Meets adults/unknown peers on the internet, phone apps or out in public places
- Frequently staying out late/overnight without permission
- Parent/carer failing to report young person missing
- Persistently running out/off from home/placement
- Experimenting with alcohol/drugs
- Associating with unknown adults and/or sexually exploited children
- Excessive secrecy around social movements/friendships
- Having access to premises not known to parent/carer
- Limited/reduced contact with family/friends
- Poor self-image/self esteem
- Internal expression of despair: Cutting, overdosing, eating disorder
- External expression of despair: Bullying, violent outbursts, offending.

Vulnerabilities – five or more are present in combination with two or more medium risk factors; and/or one high risk factor – contact Children's Social Care/Police

- Has a physical or learning impairment
- Is fostered or adopted
- Frequent unplanned moves between parents/other carers
- On-going uncertainty as to where the young person is or will be living
- Home address is used as a location for drinking, drug taking and 'partying'
- Young person does a lot of sofa surfing/moving around
- Accommodation is in a location where there is a lot of drug crime/vice
- Repeated failed tenancies/placement breakdowns
- On-going Domestic Abuse or property destruction within the home
- Witnesses Domestic Abuse and/or is physically harmed by it
- Fearful of adult(s) in home environment
- Threatening behaviour by carers/parents towards professionals
- Experiencing or at risk of neglect, emotional or physical abuse from parents/carers
- Has limited or no knowledge of English language
- Asylum seeker/refugee – increased risk of 'trafficking'
- Parents/carers not engaging with professionals to address abuse/neglect
- Parent/carer has mental health problems which impact negatively on the young person
- Parent/carer abuses drugs/alcohol which impacts negatively on the young person
- Parent/carer provides poor or no boundaries or structure
- Emotional nurturing, support, care and interest in young person's life are lacking
- Dresses in a way that may attract sexual attention (whether intentionally or not)

Irrespective of the outcome, when in doubt or worried about the possibility of CSE, contact Buckinghamshire First Response, or the Police to discuss your concerns – this can be on a 'no names' basis.

**Bucks First Response – Children's Social Care: 08454 600001 Or Police: 101.
For immediate disclosures of physical or sexual assaults please call 999.**

Please note you may also consult/refer to R-U-SAFE? if you have any CSE related concerns regarding a young person. 01494 461112 rusafe@barnardos.org.uk