WHAT IS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION?

Information for young people

childrenssociety.org.uk
What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

Child sexual exploitation is when a young person is forced or tricked into taking part in sexual stuff or sending rude pictures or videos. They might be given things like money, alcohol or even nice gifts. They might even think that they love the person. Sometimes they are threatened or hurt and made to do things they don’t want to do. Usually this is by someone outside of the family. It can be really hard to know what this is and really scary to talk about. This isn’t the young person’s fault, it’s abuse!

Who can it happen to?

The bottom line is that any child or young person is at risk of sexual exploitation; it doesn’t matter where they come from, what their family is like or how they look.
Signs to look out for

• Staying out late or going missing.
• Using drugs and/or alcohol.
• Not spending time with friends and family.
• Hanging out with older people.
• Spending a lot of time online.
• Being secretive.
• Having an older boyfriend or girlfriend.
• A big change in behaviour and/or appearance.
• Being in a controlling relationship.
• Having unexplained gifts, clothes and mobile phones.

What can I do if I am worried about someone I know?

It can be really hard to know when someone is being sexually exploited and difficult to tell someone because parents and young people can blame themselves. However, it is important to get help and there are lots of people who will understand what’s happening and offer support. You could speak to a safe adult like a support worker, teacher or parent.
It is a painful fact that many children and young people in Britain today are still suffering extreme hardship, abuse and neglect.

The Children's Society is a national charity that runs local services, helping children and young people when they are at their most vulnerable, and have nowhere left to turn.

Find out more at
childrenssociety.org.uk

There are also useful numbers and websites that can give you more information and support:

• Childrenssociety.org.uk/cse
• Childline - childline.org.uk/0800 1111
• Police – 101 (999 in an emergency)
• Mesmac.co.uk/blast – boys and young men service
• PACE (Parents against child sexual exploitation) – paceuk.info/0113 240 5226.