

## **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

Sexual exploitation is “someone taking advantage of you sexually for their own benefit. Through threats, bribes, violence, humiliation or by telling you that they love you, they will have the power to get you to do sexual things for their own or other people’s enjoyment.” (the nia project)



### **Key messages:**

- CSE is child abuse and the response should be the same as for any other safeguarding concern.
- There is legislation to protect children up to the age of 18 from CSE. Even when they reach the age of 16 a young person cannot consent to exploitation. Consent is defined as having the freedom and capacity to choose. Any person intoxicated with drugs or alcohol does not have the capacity to consent to sexual activity.
- Usually a young person will not identify that they are a victim of CSE. We all need to be aware of potential vulnerabilities and risk indicators in order to protect children and young people. All organisations have a shared responsibility to protect, safeguard and promote the welfare of victims who maybe/are being sexually exploited.
- Supporting a victim of CSE requires persistence, patience and consistency.
- If you are concerned about a young person or a situation there are a number of ways in which this can be reported. **Say something.**

### **Support:**

#### ➤ **The WiSE Project**

Working across Sussex to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and young people

- [wise.eastsussex@ymcadlg.org](mailto:wise.eastsussex@ymcadlg.org)
- [www.ymcadlg.org/wise](http://www.ymcadlg.org/wise)

#### ➤ **Missing People**

Offers advice, support and help for anyone who goes missing

- Runaway Helpline 116 000 - free, confidential, 24/7
- Independent return home interviews, and support - 07538 650823

#### ➤ **East Sussex Children’s Social Care**

Provides advice or a statutory response to all Safeguarding concerns

- Single Point of Advice (SPOA) 01323 464222 or [0-19.SPOA@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:0-19.SPOA@eastsussex.gov.uk)

#### ➤ **Pace UK (Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation)**

[www.paceuk.info](http://www.paceuk.info) or phone – 0113 240 3040

- Pace works with parents to enable them to safeguard and stop their children from being sexually exploited

### **Report:**

- ‘Say Something’ Call or text free, and anonymous on 116 000 – to report concerns about CSE. [www.missingpeople.org.uk/saysomething](http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/saysomething)
- Sussex Police – call 101 and quote Operation Kite
- Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

**If you suspect anyone is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999. If a child/young person is currently at risk of significant harm, including from CSE, refer immediately to your local Children’s Social Care.**