

What is sexual exploitation?

- 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 benefit or enjoyment (including touching or kissing private parts, sex, taking sexual photos).
- It can occur without physical contact, when children are groomed to post sexual images of themselves on the internet.
- The abusers are very manipulative and often a young person will not recognise that they are being sexually exploited.
- Sexual exploitation can happen to boys and young men as well as girls and young women. It can happen to a person of any background, race, ability, sexuality, age.

As a parent or carer you can look out for the telltale signs, as well as talk to your child or the child in your care about healthy and risky relationships

Here is a list of things to look out for:

- going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late;
- regularly missing school or not taking part in education;
- appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions (often new mobile phones or SIM cards);
- 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;
- anything that strikes you as a concern.



What can be done to help?

- Ensure that young people who are experiencing sexual exploitation are treated as victims of abuse;
- Identify and disrupt abusers;
- Get agencies to work together to support young people and their families;
- Educate young people around healthy and unhealthy relationships.

Who to contact for help and support

All of the agencies listed overleaf are there to prevent and disrupt child sexual exploitation.

A key person in your child's life (like a teacher, school nurse, social worker or youth worker) should be able to provide you with information and help you and your family access the support that you need.

If you are concerned about your child or a child in your care please contact a local support service.

Your concerns will be taken seriously.



A specialist project working with and supporting young people at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation in East Sussex.

Contact the WiSE Project on:
07793 325649
or email:
wise@sussexcentralymca.org.uk

Useful websites and organisations

Online and mobile phone safety:

www.ceop.gov.uk

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

For parents/carers:

CROP – specialises in working with the families of victims of sexual exploitation

www.cropuk.org.uk

0113 240 3040

Local Safeguarding Board:

www.eastsussexlscb.org.uk



If the young person is in immediate danger contact:

Emergency Services - 999

Children's Services:

East of County

**Duty and Assessment Team
(including Hastings and Rother)**

01424 724144

West of County

**Duty and Assessment Team
(including Hailsham
and Eastbourne)**

01323 747373



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**INFORMATION
FOR PARENTS AND
CARERS
IN EAST SUSSEX**

