

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.

**See your Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures
Chapter 8.29 on
Sexual Exploitation**

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.



What can we do?

- 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;
- Collect and share information on people or places of concern;
- Use the WiSE Project Screening Tool if you think a young person is at risk of exploitation;
- Consider sexual exploitation risk indicators and vulnerabilities in your assessments and action plans;
- Seek advice and guidance from the WiSE Project when writing assessments, reports and plans.

For more information and further reading:

- Tipping the Iceberg (Barnardo's 2007);
- Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan (DfE 2011)



A specialist project supporting and working with young people at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation in East Sussex. We also offer consultancy and advice to professionals who are concerned about young people with whom they're working.

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

Local Safeguarding Board:

www.eastsussexlscb.org.uk

National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People:

www.nwg.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



PREVENTING AND DISRUPTING THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

INFORMATION FOR
PROFESSIONALS IN
EAST SUSSEX

