

## How does CSE happen?

Some abusers target children and teenagers and lure them into abusive and coercive sexual relationships. This is how it can occur:

- At the start, abusers make children or teenagers feel special by paying them a lot of attention
- Sometimes they'll ask groups of children or teenagers to their house or to parties
- They can be offered drugs, alcohol and places to go to relax
- Presents like mobile phones, clothes or money to buy cigarettes or alcohol are given by abusers to their victims
- Things can escalate when the abusers have gained the trust and affection of the child or teenager
- The abusers will ask for sexual favours for themselves or others in return for alcohol, drugs, presents or money – things that were previously given as gifts
- The abusers stop being affectionate and can become threatening and violent

## Who should I contact should I suspect CSE?

If you think you see a sign of CSE and you feel the child or children are at immediate risk then call Wiltshire Police on 999.

If you think that the child or children are not at immediate risk but you have concerns call 101 or contact Swindon Borough Council's MASH during office hours

(Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) on 01793 466903 or send an email to [swindonmash@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:swindonmash@swindon.gov.uk)

The Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation (PACE) charity works with parents and carers of sexually exploited children.

Visit [www.paceuk.info](http://www.paceuk.info) for more information.

For confidential help and advice call the charity's helpline on 0113 240 5226.

More information about CSE can be found at [www.saysomethingswindon.co.uk](http://www.saysomethingswindon.co.uk), Swindon Borough Council's dedicated website about CSE.

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# Child Sexual Exploitation

Information for parents & carers

What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) involves exploitative situations and relationships where children – both girls and boys – receive something, such as drugs, money, alcohol or attention, as a result of them being involved in sexual activity with one or several other people.

If you see something, say something

For more information visit [www.saysomethingswindon.co.uk](http://www.saysomethingswindon.co.uk)



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## Are you worried about your child or teenager?

Children and teenagers may feel they must have sex because the abuser, who can be male or female of any age over 16, gives them something or because they feel threatened or frightened.

Some children or teenagers may feel they want to engage in sexual activity because they think the abuser is their boyfriend or girlfriend.

In fact they are being used for sex and the abuser may pass them on to other people too.



- Do they stay out overnight?
- Have they been missing from home?
- Do they skip school?
- Have you noticed that they have money, clothes, jewellery or a mobile phone that they can't account for?
- Do they have an older boyfriend or girlfriend who you are worried about?
- Do you think they are taking drugs and drinking alcohol?
- Are they losing contact with family and friends of their own age?
- Have you noticed that they lack self-esteem?
- Are they reluctant to say where they are going or where they have been?
- Do they talk to people online who they have never met?
- Are you concerned about unsafe sexual behaviour?

**If this sounds familiar, your child or teenager could be at risk of CSE.**

## What can a parent or carer do?

If you are concerned about your child or teenager, you must do something.

It could though be difficult to get information from them about what is happening.

Your child may have been instructed by an abuser not to talk about what they are doing.

They may have been threatened with violence or told that family members or loved ones will be harmed if they say anything.

They may feel grown-up by having what they believe to be a boyfriend or girlfriend.

A young person may open up and admit they are unhappy about their life if they are spoken to calmly and over time. They may even say they need help.

**Don't give up if they don't want to talk to you – is there somebody else who you both trust who they could open up to? Tell the trusted person about your concerns and ask them to talk to your child.**