

# Child Sexual Exploitation



**CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IS A FORM OF  
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND IS A PRIORITY FOR  
POLICE SCOTLAND**

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of Child Sexual Abuse in which a person(s) of any age takes advantage of a power imbalance to force or entice **a child (under 18)** into engaging in sexual activity in return for something received by the child and/or those perpetrating or facilitating the abuse. As with other forms of sexual abuse, **the presence of perceived consent does not undermine the abusive nature of the act.**

-Scottish Government, 2016

**WHERE YOU BELIEVE A CHILD IS AT  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF HARM.....**

**REFER TO RISK INDICATORS OVERLEAF.**

**IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN, SPEAK TO YOUR  
LINE MANAGER OR CONTACT SOCIAL  
WORK SERVICES.**

**IF YOU BELIEVE A CHILD IS AT IMMEDIATE  
RISK CONTACT POLICE SCOTLAND**

## RISK INDICATORS

CSE should be considered if a young person meets any of the following indicators

Acquisition of money, clothes, drugs/alcohol, mobile phone etc. without plausible explanation

Persistently going missing

Distressed behaviour; becoming aggressive or violent, self harming, upset, withdrawn, refusal to engage etc.

Agitated/stressed prior to leaving home/care

Returning under the influence, distraught or dishevelled

Inappropriate sexualised behaviour for age

Evidence or suspicion of physical or sexual assault, including making then withdrawing a disclosure

Relationships with controlling individuals

Frequenting 'party flats' or locations known for prostitution

Young people may not recognise they are being exploited and they may tell you that they are making a choice. However, this perception is a result of **grooming**. Grooming is the process that perpetrators use to trick a child or young person into believing they are trustworthy, eventually leading to sexually exploiting their victim.

### The grooming line

