Child Sexual Exploitation 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 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 child sexual abuse the presence of perceived consent does not undermine the abusive nature of the act.

**What is Child Sexual Exploitation?**

Child Sexual Exploitation includes inappropriate relationships where one abuser has inappropriate power or control – physical, emotional or financial – over a young person; a seemingly consensual sexual relationship which later turns abusive; organised exploitation and trafficking through criminal networks; online sexual exploitation through mobile technology.

**01**

**What behaviours does Child Sexual Exploitation include?**

**02**



The Joint Assessment Tool and the Vulnerability Checklist and Risk Factor Matrix is a tool to be used in conjunction with the National Risk Assessment Framework and the National Practice Model. It is intended to inform appropriate responses to concerns about potential Child Sexual Exploitation. However, risk status may change quickly so the tool will need to be updated as the child or young person’s circumstances change**.** It is important that the indicators are used as a guide and do not replace professional judgement. Joint Assessment Tool and Vulnerability and Risk Factor Checklist   
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fa/GirfecFalkirk/a-z-resources/a-z-resources-c/cse-vulnerability-checklist-and-risk-factors-matrix/>

**What is the response to Child Sexual Exploitation?**

Child Sexual Exploitation is child abuse and should be treated accordingly. When any practitioner becomes aware that a child or young person is at risk of being sexually exploited they should identify and react to the need to protect that individual from any future harm. This should include seeking advice from the designated person for child protection within their organisation or service. Whilst a young person must be both engaged with and supported there must also be a focus on proactive investigation and prosecution of those involved in sexually exploiting the young person

**What is the Joint Assessment Tool and the Vulnerability and Risk Factor Matrix?**

**What are the features of online Child Sexual Exploitation?**

**05**

Girls aged 13 to 17 tend to be at higher risk of online sexual exploitation than younger children or boys and those experiencing other forms of conflict, distress or abuse offline tend to be more vulnerable online. Very few online perpetrators are complete strangers and grooming may be gradual.

**06**

Possible indicators of Child Sexual Exploitation include going missing from home or school; multiple callers or visitors including unknown adults or older young people; evidence or suspicion of physical or sexual assault; disclosure followed by withdrawal of allegation; unplanned pregnancy and/or sexually transmitted infections; peers involved in child sexual exploitation; drug or alcohol use; social isolation; exclusion from school or college; relationships with controlling adults; unexplained money or gifts; concerning use of the internet; multiple phones and change in behaviour following phone contacts; depression, self-harm and suicidal thoughts.

**What are possible indicators of Child Sexual Exploitation?**

**What factors may interact to create vulnerability to Child Sexual Exploitation?**

Factors which may interact to create vulnerability to Child sexual Exploitation include abuse, neglect or an early adverse experience; disrupted family life; bullying and peer pressure; absence from education; missing from home or care; exclusion or isolation; drug or alcohol use; poverty; homelessness; poor health; low self-esteem; learning disability; autism; access to adult pornography; exploration of same sex relationships and questioning of sexual orientation.

**Child Sexual Exploitation**

**7 Minute Briefing**

**03**

**07**

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