

7 MINUTE BRIEFING SAFEGUARDING

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)



INTRODUCTION

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of abuse and can happen to any child, irrespective of social background. This is an issue of abuse not a lifestyle choice. Children who are sexually exploited are the victims and male victims are very under-reported.



WHAT IS CSE?

CSE involves a child receiving 'something' e.g. gifts, money, alcohol, drugs, cigarettes etc. for performing sexual activities. Many young people will not see themselves as victims as they are led to believe they are making their own choices - but they aren't.



REACHABLE MOMENTS

Children who become exploited in this type of abuse face huge risks to their physical, psychological and emotional health. Victims require long term intensive support.

The perpetrators are criminals and must be pursued through the courts.



CSE CAN TAKE VARIOUS FORMS

Categories: Online Grooming, Gang Exploitation, Boyfriend/Girlfriend Model, Party Model, Street Model and Peer Model.

CSE offences always include an element of grooming (manipulating a child in order to exploit them).



FACTORS THAT WILL MAKE A CHILD MORE VULNERABLE

There are several factors that will make a child more vulnerable to being exploited including: being missing from home, disengaged from education, feeling alienated from family, lack of friends/peers; mental health issues and criminality.

Victims will often become secretive and estranged from family and friends.



LOCAL ISSUES

Cases referred locally go to Children and Families Social Care.

Daily Exploitation Meetings (DEM) have just commenced to ensure pertinent information is shared in a timely manner. Children who go missing are particularly vulnerable.



ACTION

Recognise the warning signs of CSE. Use the recognised screening tools for your area of work. Make a referral to Children and Families Social Care if evidence of CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation).

- Isle of Man Vulnerable Strategy 2022-2024
- Vulnerable Adolescent Protocol

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS DIAL 999.