

1. Background

The sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.

CSE can occur through the use of technology without the child's recognition, such as to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones with no immediate payment or gain. In all cases those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child/young persons limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

(Taken from NWG 2015 and HM Government 2009)



Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

4. What to do

- Be aware of what grooming is and the possible warning signs of CSE using the 'SAFEGUARD' acronym
- Take part in CSE Week November 7th - 11th 2016. If you would like the plan of events please e-mail: lscbinfo@blackburn.gov.uk
- If you identify a child or young person who may be a victim of CSE contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub for advice and/or referral to the Engage Team:

01254 666400 & CYPreferrals@blackburn.gov.uk

Or Police: 101

- Have you completed training on CSE, this can be standalone or as part of a sexual abuse course. See also: www.lscb.org.uk/training

2. Why it matters

Grooming and exploitation can have profound, damaging and long term effects on the lives of children and their families. The effects go beyond the physical scars and impacts on a child's behaviour, economic wellbeing and social life. There are also adverse consequences on their physical, mental, sexual and social health.

CSE can happen to any child/young person whatever their background, age, gender, race or sexuality.

3. Information

There were 1750 CSE crimes across Lancashire (including BwD) in 2015/16. Tackling CSE is a shared strategic priority for organisations.

Certain factors make children and young people more vulnerable to CSE but one thing in common is grooming. This process prepares the child/young person in order to exploit them and it can take place over a short time period or a very long one.

CSE Warning signs using '**SAFEGUARD**': **S** - evidence of sexually transmitted infections/pregnancy/termination, **A** - absence from school or running away, **F** - familial abuse or problems at home, **E** - poor emotional wellbeing such as self harm/low self-esteem/attempted suicide, **G** - being in a gang/crime involvement, **U** - using technology & evidence of sexting/internet/social networking, **A** - alcohol and drug misuse, **R** - receipt of unexplained gifts/money and **D** - distrust or resistance to communication with parents/carers/ teacher/social care, police etc.

Engage is a multi agency team of statutory and voluntary partners that responds to identified risks and needs for children and young people involved in CSE and those Missing From Home (MFH).