

CTSCB

CWM TAF
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

**I DIDN'T BELIEVE
IT COULD HAPPEN
TO MY CHILD**

**I DIDN'T KNOW
WHO THEY WERE
TALKING TO ONLINE**

**I COULDN'T
SEE THE SIGNS**

**I THOUGHT
IT WAS NORMAL
TEENAGE BEHAVIOUR**

**CAN YOU SPOT THE SIGNS OF
CHILD SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION?**

WHAT IS CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)?

- Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse.
- It involves a child being manipulated, coerced or forced into sexual activities.
- It also includes abuse through the production of indecent images and films.
- It involves an exchange of some form of payment which can include money, mobile phones and other items such as drugs, alcohol, a place to stay, 'protection' or affection.
- Often the abuser is an adult, however sexual exploitation can also occur between young people of a similar age.

WHO DOES IT HAPPEN TO?

- This type of abuse could happen to any young person from any background.
- It happens to boys and young men as well as girls and young women. The victims of this abuse are not at fault. They are children.
- A child is anyone under the age of 18. If a child is 16 or 17 and over the legal age of consent, they can still be sexually exploited.

WHY DON'T THEY TELL YOU WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- Children often do not recognise that they are being exploited and may appear to be consenting to these sexual activities.
- The young person may think that their abuser is their friend, or even a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- Abusers are very clever in the way they manipulate and take advantage of the young people they abuse.
- A child has often been persuaded that sexual activity is 'normal'. It can be exciting and make the child feel more grown up, but can quickly escalate to something more serious.
- The abuser may threaten a child or be violent towards them.
- Abusers will try to isolate children and young people from their friends and family.

WHAT IS MEANT BY GROOMING?

- Sexual exploitation occurs following a process of grooming by an abuser.
- Young people may be targeted online or in person.
- There are some situations that can make young people more vulnerable to being targeted. Young people who are having difficulties at home, are regularly going missing or suffer with low self-esteem may be particularly vulnerable.
- An abuser will befriend a child or young person and make him/her feel special by buying them gifts or giving them lots of attention.
- They might invite a young person to parties and give him/her drugs and alcohol.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

- Your child has become very secretive: About what they are doing online, on their phone, where they are going, who they are spending time with.
- They are spending time in places that raise a concern for you: For example hotels, pubs or house parties of people you don't know.
- They appear to be intimidated or fearful of someone.
- They are going missing from home or school.
- They are regularly returning home late.
- They may be associating with, or develop a sexual relationship with an older man or women.
- They have stopped spending time with their usual friends
- They are associating with other young people known to be involved in sexual exploitation.
- They are coming home under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- They are coming home with unexplained gifts or new possessions.
- They have unexplained physical injuries.
- Their mood has changed or is very changeable.
- Their physical appearance is altered and is causing you concern: For example they appear to be losing weight, they look tired and/or unwell.
- They are sleeping at unusual hours.

WHAT CAN I DO AS A PARENT OR A CARER?

- It is important to discuss with your children, what makes a healthy and unhealthy relationship.
- Stay alert to changes in their behaviour or any physical signs of abuse such as bruising.
- Keep an eye out for new, unexplained gifts or possessions.
- Monitor any episodes of staying out late or not returning home.
- Exercise caution around older friends your child may have, or relationships with other young people where there appears to be a power imbalance.
- Making sure you understand the risks associated with your child being online and put measures in place to minimise these risks.
- Speak to your child's school to see if they have any concerns.

**REPORT ANY CONCERNS YOU HAVE ABOUT GROOMING OR CHILD
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION TAKING PLACE:**

In Rhondda Cynon Taf:
01443 425006

In Merthyr Tydfil:
01685 725000

Opening Hours:
Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm
Friday - 8.30am - 4.30pm

To contact Children's Services outside office hours, at weekends and bank holidays,
ring Cwm Taf Emergency Duty Team on **01443 743665**.

If you suspect a child or young person is at immediate risk of harm call **999**
and speak to the Police.

In a non-emergency situation you can contact the police by dialling **101**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CHILD SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION:**

Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board:

<http://www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org/children/parents-and-carers/>

Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE):

<http://paceuk.info/>

Barnardo's:

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/cse-home

National Crime Agency:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

NSPCC:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-exploitation/>