



She didn't feel she had a choice, you do

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NWG Network

Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation



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Introduction

Child Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking is harmful and extremely damaging, even life-threatening, whereby children and young people are enticed and coerced through exploitation.

The sexual exploitation and trafficking of this vulnerable section of society is a criminal act; a violation of the Human Right's of children and an act of violence.

Evidence on child sexual exploitation and trafficking indicates that no county of the UK is free of the issue. The widespread nature of this crime suggests that all professionals may at some point come into contact with a person who has been exploited.

The purpose of the Pocket Guide is to provide practical guidance to frontline workers to assist in managing cases they may come across during their working day. It outlines signs and symptoms, the process and legislation, tackles some of the myths, and offers a way forward to those less experienced in managing cases of exploitation, helping to answer the question "What can I do if I know or suspect someone is a victim?" by offering access to further resources to assist them.

Sheila Taylor MBE Chief Executive NWG Network

Definition of CSE

"Child sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse in which a person(s) exploits, coerces and/or manipulates a child or young person into engaging in some form of sexual activity, sometimes in return for something, the child needs or desires and/or for the gain of the person(s) perpetrating or facilitating the abuse."

(Adopted from CSE Knowledge Transfer Partnership NI and adapted by NWG Network).

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 in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main, by the child's or young persons limited availability of choice, resulting from their social economic and/or emotional vulnerability.



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