

Chapter Six: District councils and Hospitality Industry

Before reading this chapter please read Chapter's One and Two.

Young people can be groomed and sexually exploited at a variety of premises and locations such as (but not exclusively):

- Parks
- Shopping centres
- Taxi ranks
- Restaurants
- Takeaways
- Gyms
- Leisure centres
- Hotels
- Hostels
- Pubs/bars/clubs
- Online
- Instant messaging
- School/college
- Home

District councils have a key role to play in safeguarding the environment where young people may congregate and meet. This is particularly important in relation to the monitoring of licences.

The **Licensing Act 2003** outlines four Licensing Objectives that licensed premises have an obligation to support through the operation and management of their business. One of those Licensing Objectives is “The Protection of Children from Harm” and this is what gives Licensing Officers powers under the Licensing Act to bring about prosecutions for offences such as sale of alcohol to a person under 18, and/or to bring action by way of review of the premises licence that covers them to operate the licensable activity.

Evidence of CSE at or by premises would also potentially lead to a review process alongside any other criminal action that might be taken against perpetrators. The review process works on the *lesser civil burden of proof*. It does not necessarily need to be the case that there is

enough evidence to bring about prosecutions for any CSE linked offences, as long as on the balance of probability it can be shown that a premises is involved in CSE in some way.

The advice contained in Chapter Six can be applied to pubs and clubs, bingo halls, and any other leisure industry, as more resources become available the toolkit will seek to include them.

The next two sections of chapter six will concentrate on three important areas:

- The hotel industry
- Taxi companies
- Social housing providers

We have drawn on the resources provided by the NWG-Network for this section (*NWG_Network, 2015*).

HOTELS

It is recommended that District councils as part of their licensing management encourage hotel management to read this section of the CSE toolkit as well as reading Chapter One.

A real case leading to a hotel protecting children being sexually exploited

In March 2014, an adult male arrived at a hotel late in the afternoon and booked a room in his name. He paid in cash and did not have any photo ID but gave his bankcard details and car registration number.

The adult male then took a 14 year old girl, who had been waiting in the car, to the room. After a short period they left the hotel and went to a fast food shop where they met a 13yr old girl, who was known to the 14yr old girl. The adult male and the 14yr old invited her to the hotel.

The receptionist at the hotel who witnessed the arrivals had suspicions about the situation and reported this to the duty manager. The duty manager spent a short time in the corridor outside the room and could hear the girls talking.

They ordered some drinks from room service and the duty manager made the decision to take this to the room himself. One of the girls answered the door and the duty manager insisted that he went into the room rather than hand the tray over at the door.

The adult male was in the bathroom and the two girls were dressed in pyjamas, one was in the bed. The duty manager asked the girls if they were okay to which they replied yes. He asked them again and said that they could leave the room with him if they wished. Again they said they were okay.

The duty manager left the room with the intention of contacting the police. The adult male and the girls left the hotel within minutes. The duty manager relayed his concerns to the police contact centre (he had contacted 101). Someone contacted him back

for further details and the police subsequently attended the hotel. The hotel room was secured for forensic tests and using the car registration number to trace the owner, an adult male was arrested the same evening.

The 14 yr old girl has disclosed that she was in a relationship with the adult male that there had been sexual activity.

The adult male is now on police bail whilst the investigation continues.

This case highlights the important role that Hotels play in both the detection and disruption of child sexual exploitation.

Hotel Managers should be aware of and train their staff to recognise key signs of CSE which include:

BOOKING IN:

- Adult refusing to leave credit card imprint and paying in cash
- Teenagers loitering in public areas/external areas of premises
- Guests requesting a room that is isolated
- Guests with local address renting a room
- Guests who appear secretive about their visit or trying to conceal their activities in the room or who they are with
- Last minute/walk-in bookings
- Bookings made in a different name to those who check-in / person speaking a different language to the person booking

DURING THE STAY

- Frequent visitors to the hotel who do not appear to have a reason for being there
- Two or more adults heading for room may indicate room is being used for a party
- Guests who move in and out of the premises regularly at unusual hours
- Guest rooms with a lot of condoms/condom wrappers, drugs/drug paraphernalia (e.g. syringes, wraps, pipes, bongs, broken light bulbs, spoons, plastic bags)
- Signs of alcohol, drug or substance misuse
- High traffic to guest room

- Noise complaints
- Guests arriving and asking for a specific room number but they don't know the name in which the room is booked
- Guests who don't want their room cleaned or visited
- Guests who do not have any luggage or ID
- A pre-paid bar tab to a room where children stay
- Number of persons visiting a room at regular intervals – a person may have arranged for others to visit the room where a child is being sexually exploited
- Guests who access an excessive or unusual amount of pornography (TV or computer)

YOUNG PEOPLE

- Young people with significantly older boyfriends/girlfriends
- Guests who appear to be under the age of 25 for ID both in the licensed area and when delivering alcohol to rooms
- A young girl/boy who appears withdrawn or tries to hide their face or appear afraid, disorientated or restricted from moving or communicating or acting under instruction
- Young persons who appear overly made up or dressed provocatively

SO WHY SHOULD HOTELS HELP?

- It is a duty under the Licensing Act 2003 (UK:GOV, Licensing Act 2003 , 2003) – protection of children from harm
- Health & Safety issues – think about your booking policy (young unaccompanied guests)
- Negative media attention – reputation
- We all have a moral responsibility to protect children
- There may be legal implications for hotels if activity of CSE is taking place on their premises and they are failing to act or do not have safeguards in place.
- Above all, follow the advice on the banner below and report any concerns on 101 to the police



THE TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE INDUSTRY

Taxi drivers are the eyes and ears of the community; they may notice increased fare activity around certain houses and locations where a number of young people are being transported to and from.

Within Rochdale and Rotherham, young people being transported by taxi to hot spots for child sexual exploitation was key to the intelligence gathering that eventually led to the prosecution of CSE perpetrators.

Therefore taxi drivers are key for providing:

- Local intelligence
- Early recognition

which enables the police and other agencies to disrupt CSE activity in geographical areas or hotspots.

WHAT CAN DRIVERS DO TO HELP?

- managers of firms raise awareness with drivers of CSE
- Read Chapter One of the toolkit and be aware of indicators of risk.
- Be aware of young people you think may be at risk.
- Be aware of addresses they are taking young people to
- Pass on any information/concerns they have to the police

COUNCIL HOUSING AND HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

Social Housing providers are key in building intelligence that may indicate CSE activity. Locally, within Northamptonshire, the *party model* for CSE is most commonly used (please see Chapter One for details).

Therefore, when complaints come in around noise and/or unsociable activity, housing officers should be alert for signs of young people visiting the tenancy.

Any knowledge around substance and/or alcohol misuse with tenants - housing officers should consider if young people are present and consider this as a risk factor associated with CSE.

Such intelligence should be shared with the police as this helps to identify CSE hotspots so that prosecution can be pursued and disruption of activity commenced.

Again follow the advice of the banner below and ring 101:



Please feel free to access other chapters in the toolkit. The following chapters we think would be of most use to you:

- Chapter One: what is CSE and what you need to know
 - Chapter Two: CSE and the local response
 - Chapter Eight: CSE Information for Parents
- Chapter Nine: CSE Information for Children and Young People

Chapter Seven: The Role of Voluntary and Community Providers

The voluntary and community provider Chapter highlights approaches that key services in the sector should take. However, all voluntary services should raise awareness amongst