

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual activity in exchange for something of value the victim needs or wants.

This can be material items (e.g. cash, drugs, alcohol or gifts) or it might be human needs (e.g. a safe place to stay, attention or love.)

The child might be groomed into thinking they're in a genuine relationship and not understand that they're being abused.

Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact, it can also occur through the use of technology (e.g. sending or posting explicit images, having sexual conversations.)

Risk factors include:

- Going missing for periods of time, regularly returning home late or staying out late or overnight
- Regularly missing school
- Appearing with unexplained gifts or money
- Being in a controlling relationship or having an older boyfriend or girlfriend
- Having a new group of friends
- Suffering from sexually transmitted infections or pregnancy
- Uncharacteristic and significant mood swings or changes in behaviour and emotional wellbeing
- Drug and alcohol misuse.
- Being secretive.
- Self-harming.
- Displaying unhealthy or inappropriate sexualised behaviour or language.
- Concerning use of mobile phone and internet.
- Involved with gang activity.
- Spending time in CSE hotspots.
- Being frightened of certain people or places
- Physical signs of abuse, such as bruising.

If you think a child is in immediate danger always call the emergency services on 999.

To discuss a non-emergency matter with the Police call 101. Visit the West Midlands Police Website to report a crime and access advice and support.

If you are concerned that a child or young person is being harmed or is at risk of harm, but there is no immediate danger, or you need advice or information, please call Coventry Children's Services at the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 024 7678 8555 or the out of office hours please call the Emergency Duty Team on 024 7683 2222.

[Click the link for more information.](#)

What to do if you think a child is being exploited

The West Midlands Paediatric Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) have provided a collection of guides and resources for professionals, parents and carers and young people. [Click here to access the resources.](#)

A range of help and services are available via Early Help and the Family Hubs. Visit their website for more information and find your nearest family hub.

[Click here to access the Child Exploitation Indicator Tool.](#)

