

Who is this information for?

You may never have heard of child sexual exploitation or you may already be concerned that a child you know, or is in your care, is being sexually exploited or is at risk of being exploited.

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are increasing the awareness of the prevalence of sexual exploitation and the signs and indicators that a child may be at risk of being exploited in this way.

How can you help?

As a parent or carer you are best placed to understand the children in your care, to identify changes in behaviour and to intervene early when risks are identified.

You cannot tackle sexual exploitation on your own – you must contact the police or any other professional agency.

For further information about child sexual exploitation visit:

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Board www.safechildren-cios.co.uk

Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation
<http://www.paceuk.info/>

South West Child Protection Procedures
<http://www.online-procedures.co.uk/swcpp/>

www.justwhistle.org.uk www.stopitnow.org.uk
www.barnardos.org.uk www.nspcc.co.uk

Emergency Services 999

Devon and Cornwall Police 101

**Cornwall Children's Social Care
Multi-Agency Referral Unit (MARU)**

0300 123 1116

Out of Hours

01208 251300

Isles of Scilly Children's Social Care

01720 424354

Out of Hours

01720 422699

**Cornwall Safeguarding
Children Standards Unit**

01872 254549

Child Sexual Exploitation



HE DOES
NOT OWN YOU

YOU ARE
NOT HIS
PROPERTY

Information for Parents and Carers

Child sexual exploitation is happening in Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly. It affects both boys and girls.

**The sexual exploitation
of children is child abuse**



**Local Safeguarding
Children Board**

Keeping children safe



**Local Safeguarding
Children Board**

Keeping children safe

IF I DO WHAT HE SAYS HE
WILL BUY ME SOME NEW CLOTHES

What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

Sexual exploitation takes many forms from a seemingly 'consensual' relationship, to where intercourse or sexual acts are given for affection, accommodation, alcohol, drugs, money or gifts, through to the trafficking of children across counties, towns or villages for the purpose of sexual activity.

Child Sexual Exploitation can include the grooming of young people online for the purpose of sexually abusing them.

- This might involve an adult pretending to be a child, befriending the child/young person through online chat rooms, social networking websites, e-mail etc.
- Asking children/young people to engage in non-contact sexual activities online
- Asking children/young people to take and share indecent images of themselves online
- Asking children/young people to display sexualised behaviours or perform sexual acts that are recorded or shared live via webcam
- Arranging to meet a child/young person face to face for the purpose of sexually abusing them.

Who is affected by child sexual exploitation?

This type of abuse can happen to any child/young person from any background. Some groups may be particularly vulnerable. It happens to boys and young men as well as girls and young women. They may live with their family, be in care, have left care or be a migrant. They may be disengaged from education, abusing alcohol or drugs or have a history of running away or going missing.

Or they may be none of these.

The impact of child sexual exploitation affects whole families. Parents/carers may feel angry, guilty, embarrassed and confused. Relationships may become strained and health may suffer.

I LOVE HER SO MUCH,
I HAD BETTER DO WHAT SHE WANTS...

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What can I do as a parent/carer?

As a parent or carer you have opportunities to identify issues early and to share your concerns with professionals.

- Discuss the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships with your child as it is really important in helping to highlight potential risks to them
- Stay alert to changes in behaviour or any physical signs of abuse, e.g. bruising;
- Recognise when a young person may be in an inappropriate relationship with another where there appears to be an imbalance of power
- Speak to your child to raise their awareness of sexual exploitation
- Make sure you understand the risks associated with your child being online and put measures in place to minimise them
- Know who to contact if you have concerns that a young person is being sexually exploited.

