

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) - Awareness Raising by Myth Busting

- Meet our team - <https://nwgnetwork.org/about-us/meet-the-team/>
- We hold a service directory of projects across the UK - <https://nwgnetwork.org/service-directory/>
- The Awareness Day is 18th March – follow this link for free resources and information <https://sway.office.com/lmQYYl3pW0p4TEM3?ref=Link>
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Myth or Fact - Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of child abuse?

Fact - CSE is a form of child abuse.

Child sexual exploitation is a form of **child sexual abuse**. It occurs where an **individual or group** takes advantage of an **imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive** a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in **exchange** for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity **appears consensual**. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of **technology**.

Full definition at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners>

Myth or Fact - CSE is a form of Modern Slavery?

Fact - Modern Slavery captures a range of types of exploitation, many of which occur together. These include but are not limited to sexual exploitation; criminal exploitation; forced labour; organ harvesting.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery>

Myth or Fact – CSE does not involve trafficking?

Myth – CSE can involve trafficking.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-how-to-identify-and-support-victims/modern-slavery-statutory-guidance-for-england-and-wales-under-s49-of-the-modern-slavery-act-2015-and-non-statutory-guidance-for-scotland-and-northe>

Scottish guidance - <https://www.gov.scot/policies/human-trafficking/>

Myth or Fact – CSE is less prevalent in the UK now than it was 10 years ago?

Myth

- In 2012 89 children were identified to the NRM as victims of CSE.
- In 2018 634 children were identified to the NRM as victims of CSE.

- In 2020 446 children were identified to the NRM as victims of only CSE. An additional 364 children were identified as victims of CSE and at least one other type of exploitation.
- In 2022 588 children were identified to the NRM as victims of only CSE. An additional 388 children were identified as victims of CSE and at least one other type of exploitation.

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a **framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support**. Modern slavery is a complex crime and may involve multiple forms of exploitation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-how-to-identify-and-support-victims/modern-slavery-statutory-guidance-for-england-and-wales-under-s49-of-the-modern-slavery-act-2015-and-non-statutory-guidance-for-scotland-and-northe>

Useful NRM Links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>

<https://www.missingpeople.org.uk/for-professionals/commission-us/previous-work/scotland-the-national-framework-project>

Myth or Fact - CSE only happens in certain places?

Myth – CSE can happen anywhere

Myth or Fact - CSE only happens to females?

Myth – CSE happens to males and females.

- In 2012, 11 of the 89 children identified as victims of CSE were male.
- In 2018, 104 of the 634 children identified as victims of CSE were male.
- In 2020, of the 446 children identified as victims of only CSE 68 were male.
- In 2022, of the 588 children identified as victims of only CSE 100 were male.

Read the statistics at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>

Myth or Fact – Females can be perpetrators of CSE?

Fact – Perpetrators of CSE can be any gender, ethnicity, race, age

Myth or Fact – Children who are sexually exploited are not always victims?

Myth – Children who have been abused are ALWAYS victims.

Link to Appropriate Language document -

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/information/professionals/resources/child-exploitation-language-guide>

Link to Mind your Language training- <https://nwgnetwork.org/about-us/training/mind-your-language/>

Link to Language video - <https://vimeo.com/159372082>

Myth or Fact - Only children from deprived backgrounds are victims of CSE?

Myth – ANY child can be a victim of CSE.

Vulnerabilities may include;

- Being a child
- Prior experience of neglect or abuse
- Permanent or temporary exclusion from education
- Lack of positive role models
- Environmental
- Economic
- A want to be accepted
- Family member or friends who are exploited
- Having additional needs (physical or learning)
- Living with poor mental health and/or substance misuse
- Approaching 18 years of age
- Education attendance & attainment
- Living in Local Authority care
- Being known or unknown to services
- Domestic Abuse
- Family dynamics

Not an exhaustive list

Myth or Fact – If someone is over the age of consent (16 years) they can't be a victim of CSE?

Myth – Victims of sexual exploitation can be any age

Myth or Fact – Grooming only happens to children?

Myth – Anyone can be a victim of grooming.

Grooming is when a person (the perpetrator /abuser) builds a connection with or befriends a child, young person, or adult so that they can abuse them or someone close to them.

Useful link to Grooming - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/What-is-sexual-grooming/>

Useful link to Online Grooming - https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/online-grooming/learn-about-it/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwk7ugBhDIARIsAGuvGPyhOYymfufP_14L3Q4x-Nzw581tmlvvCCCq3Zv6cjxQoiMn_rOyDBkaAiw1EALw_wcB

Grooming in sports link <https://stop-ce.org/tackling-cse-in-sports/>

Link to a series of short Safe to Play information videos

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6BWNqIXzEjmvdwZEVk-2VIs8blUsVK2w>

Myth or Fact – An individual will know if they’re being groomed for the purposes of CSE?

Myth – Grooming is subtle and is different for everyone.

Grooming can be;

- On-line, face to face or a combination
- Not time specific
- Flexible and adaptable to the perpetrators needs
- Focused on abusing the child and benefitting the perpetrator
- Can be perpetrated by males or females against male or female victims
- Can be perpetrated by groups or individuals

Grooming could include;

- Giving gifts/ gaming credits/ vouchers
- Money – cost of living crisis
- Providing ‘Friendship’ – safety, belonging, inclusion, a home
- Making promises/threats
- Witnessing or experiencing violence
- Abusing a position of power/trust
- Using someone’s aspirations/ faith/ sexual orientation
- Threatening to share recordings or self-generated images
- Testing
- Telling lies

<https://stop-ce.org/what-is-ce/can-you-spot-the-abuser/>

Myth or Fact - If the child says they are in a loving relationship and are with the perpetrator by choice it is not CSE?

Myth – Perpetrators use grooming to manipulate and control their victims. A child may have been groomed to believe that they are in a relationship with the perpetrator. This is not a relationship, this is abuse.

Myth or Fact - If the child has the opportunity to leave or avoid a situation but doesn’t it’s not CSE?

Myth – Perpetrators may use threats, violence, coercion and manipulation to groom and control their victims. This means that a child may be unable to avoid or leave an abusive situation. CSE is child abuse, a child cannot be expected to recognise and escape their own abuse.

Myth or Fact – The number 1 sign that a child is a victim of CSE is that they will have new possessions?

Myth – There are many different signs and indicators of CSE including...

- Going missing
- Not attending education
- Being late
- A change in appearance
- A change in behaviour (withdrawn/ aggressive/ attitude/ volatile)
- Giving an inconsistent or rehearsed story
- Accompanied or collected by someone for appointments and education
- Someone else speaking for them
- Spending more time on-line
- Not being registered for education or health services
- Limited freedom of movement
- Indications of trauma; self-harm; nightmares, substance use etc
- Not sleeping well
- Unexplained money, gifts, vouchers or injuries
- Unable/ unwilling to provide details of where they've been or who they're seeing
- Pregnancy/STIs
- A change in friendship group

Posters available in English and Welsh <https://stop-ce.org/what-is-ce/spot-signs/>

Myth or Fact – If the child is related to the perpetrator, it is not CSE?

Myth – CSE can still happen if the victim and the perpetrator are related.

What should I do?

[Report an Incident - STOP CE - \(stop-ce.org\)](https://stop-ce.org/ssss/)

<https://stop-ce.org/ssss/>

What if I'm concerned?

Find your local safeguarding children board at <https://www.safecic.co.uk/scb-england>

What now?

Say Something if you See Something <https://stop-ce.org/ssss/>

Support projects across the UK – let us know if you want adding [Service Directory - NWG Network](#)

Help and resources specific to a range of sectors <https://nwgnetwork.org/>



Thank you for attending our Awareness Day CSE session – it would be really helpful if you could take a moment to feed back (good or bad) to help us ensure all our training is informative and helpful. Please scan the QR code or follow this link to answer 5 quick questions <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KQDK582>

You can see all our current training at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/nwg-exploitation-network-10661324498>

<https://nwgnetwork.org/>

The subject matter for this course can be quite hard to listen to. If you feel that you want further information or support regarding exploitation, we have pulled together the following details.

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

Child Line 0800 1111

Samaritans 116 123

Modern Slavery Helpline 08000 121 700

Missing People 116 000

NSPCC 0808 800 5000

Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE) 0113 240 3040

Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship Service 0800 0434303

Child at Risk of Exploitation (CARE) Family support service 01268 558 448

Victim Support 0808 1689 111

Further support options can be found on our website using the following links

<https://stop-ce.org/what-is-ce/report-an-incident/>

<https://nwgnetwork.org/service-directory/>

