

What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is when a young person under 18 is manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act in exchange for material goods, reward or affection.

This means that someone may be tricking you into having sexual contact with them or other people and in return giving you gifts, money, favours, somewhere to stay or drugs and drink.

The person doing this could be male or female. They may know you or they will look for places where young people hang out or will create false profiles and make contact with you on the internet.

They normally show an interest in you and offer you a cigarette, drink or just someone to talk to. They may buy you presents and to keep in contact with you buy you a mobile phone.

This process is called **grooming** and makes you trust them. They may enter a sexual relationship with you, treat you kindly and take you to nice places. You will think everything is fine and that you are in control.

Over time, your relationship with them might change and they may then force or persuade you to have sex with them and others or film you doing sexual things.

They may do things that are dangerous and against the law such as taking or selling drugs, or they may be involved in some form of criminal activity.

The Law and Your Rights

- *In Scotland a child or young person is anyone under the age of 18.*
- *It is everyone's job to protect you from harm, abuse and exploitation.*
- *The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that every child has the right to be free from abuse, exploitation or kidnap.*
- *It is against the Law for anyone to have sex with a person under the age of 16.*
- *It is illegal for a person of authority such as a doctor, teacher and carer etc to engage in a sexual act with anyone under the age of 18.*
- *Nobody has the right to touch you if you do not want to be touched or persuade you to engage in sexual acts if you do not want to.*

It will never happen to me!

You may think that this will never happen to you, that you are always in control but the abusers use a number of tricks. Here are some to look out for:

- *You might be invited and taken to house parties with other young people.*
- *You may be given free alcohol, drugs and money.*
- *You may be offered somewhere to stay in return for sex.*
- *Meeting you on the internet in secret.*



Playing alongside you and making friends through online gaming.

- *Giving you lifts and taking you to new places.*
- *Making you feel really good about yourself then being abusive.*
- *Controlling your movements and which friends you see.*
- *Providing you with a mobile phone.*
- *Making constant contact with you by mobile phone and always needing to know where you are.*
- *Encouraging you to miss school.*
- *Encouraging you to keep secrets from family and friends about where you are going and who with.*
- *Using emotional blackmail and making you feel it is your fault.*
- *Isolating you from your family and friends.*

How to keep yourself safe

Speak Out

If you feel something is not right then tell someone you trust. If they won't listen tell someone else. Trust your gut instinct. It may be embarrassing but abuse is never your fault.

Avoid Drinking Alcohol

Do not drink too much alcohol. If you do have a drink ensure you look after it. Drugs are often used to spike drinks and are hard to spot.

Say No

If you do not want to do something it's ok for you to say no. It is your choice. Also, do not force or pressurize anyone else into doing something they clearly do not want to do.

Have Enough Money to get Home

Always make sure you have enough money to get home and share a taxi with friends. If you have to get a taxi alone let someone know the firm or driver's badge number.

Tell Someone Where you are Going

Always tell your parent, carer, or friends where you are going and when you will be back. Ensure your mobile is fully charged and has credit.

Stay Safe Online

Never put your personal details on the internet such as address, mobile phone number, or even your full name. Use a nickname if you can. Your friends will know who you are. Always use privacy settings.

Useful websites

Argyll and Bute Child Protection
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/abcpc

**Child Exploitation and Online
Protection Centre**
<http://ceop.police.uk>
www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Children 1st
www.children1st.org.uk

NSPCC Scotland
www.nspcc.org.uk/

Barnardos Scotland
www.barnardos.org.uk

How to get help

You are not alone eg speak to a trusted friend or adult, a parent, carer, teacher, social worker, youth worker or any other adult you trust. If you need help or you have concerns regarding a friend please contact:

Social Work
01546 605517

or

Police Scotland
(Non-emergency) number
101

Argyll and Bute Child Protection Committee

Information for Children and Young People on Child Sexual Exploitation

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/abcpc

