

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Policy

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Regulations and Standards:

The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015.

- Regulation 12 - The protection of children standard
- Regulation 34 - Policies for the protection of children
- Regulation 40 - Notification of a serious event.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.

Further Guidance:

Please refer to the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership within the County / Local Authority where the home is located.

Please also refer to the specialist Policing unit tasked with tackling issues of CSE and CCE in the area where the home is located.

<https://www.westmidlands.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/caa/child-abuse/child-sexual-exploitation/>

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

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/child-sexual-exploitation/>

Please also refer to the following internal policies and procedures:

'Safeguarding – Child Protection Policy'.



‘Recognising and Treating Abuse Guidance Policy’.

‘Child Protection Referrals Policy’.

Description:

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse. Children in exploitative situations and relationships receive something such as Gifts, Money, Alcohol, Drugs or Affection as a result of performing sexual activities or others performing sexual activities on them.

Children may be tricked into believing they are in a loving, consensual relationship. This can happen in person or online via social media / chat rooms.

Some young people are trafficked into or within the UK for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation can also happen to [young people in gangs](#). (NSPCC 2016)

Sexual exploitation can be very difficult to identify. Warning signs can easily be mistaken for 'normal' teenage behaviour.

Children who are being sexually exploited, groomed, or abused may:

- Go missing from home, care, or education.
- Be involved in abusive relationships, intimidated and fearful of certain people or situations.
- Hang out with groups of older people, or antisocial groups, or with other vulnerable peers.
- Associate with other young people involved in sexual exploitation.
- Get involved in gangs, gang fights, gang membership.
- Have older boyfriends or girlfriends.
- Spend time at places of concern, such as hotels or known brothels.
- Not know where they are, because they have been moved around the country.
- Be involved in petty crime such as shoplifting.
- Have unexplained physical injuries.
- Have a changed physical appearance, for example lost weight.

Multi-Agency Strategies:

If HND Children's Care Ltd feel that a child may be at risk of CSE or is subjected to CSE the police must be informed immediately. They will then make a judgement on the level of concern raised and arrange for the appropriate action to be taken. In most cases, the police will come to the home and speak with the child about the concerns raised. Dependent on their level of engagement and the police's level of concern, further action will then be arranged / carried out, as necessary.

If a disclosure is made, staff must document this immediately. Information should be shared on a need-to-know basis.

The home must ensure that the following people are informed:



- If you think a young person is in immediate danger, contact the police immediately on 999.
- Alternatively, for situations when danger is not assessed to be immediate, contact the police – 101.
- Inform your manager and on call.
- Inform the child's social worker and / or EDT (if outside of office hours) by contacting the relevant area out of duty team.
- Inform parents if it is appropriate and safe to do so whilst also taking into consideration legal status.
- Manager to contact (MFH co-ordinator) and pass on any relevant information, as necessary.
- The Regulatory Authority (Ofsted) MUST be informed via a Regulation 40 notification.

All reporting should be thoroughly documented, including dates, times and the names of people spoken to.

It is of paramount importance that any CSE suspicions and concerns has a multi-agency approach no matter how small the concerns are, this will include.

- Social Workers
- Parents (if applicable)
- Police
- MFH Co-ordinator
- Health Workers (if applicable)
- Educational Establishments (CSE Champion / Safeguarding Officer)
- Other external agencies were applicable i.e., CSE Workers / Drug and Alcohol Workers

All staff are expected to undertake CSE training during the induction process, this is completed online as a minimum.

General Strategies:

Contextual Safeguarding / Assessment of Risk Outside the Home:

From a residential home perspective, HND Children's Care Ltd know that children may occasionally be at risk outside of our home, and it is essential that all staff are aware of potential risks.

There is a whole range of risks that children can face outside of the home environment. Many of these are high profile issues that regularly make the newspaper headlines – criminal and sexual exploitation, gangs, serious youth violence, and harmful sexual behaviour to name just a few.

For some children, a safe, loving, and protective home environment is not enough to protect them from these risks.

Even prior to the admission of children into HND Children's Care Ltd homes, managers are



expected to undertake a detailed 'impact risk assessment' that considers all known and presumed risks, and ultimately, make the judgement regarding whether the home, the environment, staff team and other children, can cope and manage any presented risks (as per the HND Children's Care Ltd 'Referrals, Placements and Admissions Policy').

General risk management measures for our children are as follows:

- Detailed and current risk assessments MUST be in place for all children – these MUST be completed in agreement with the child's local authority.
- Detailed and current behaviour management plans MUST be in place for all children.
- Detailed and current internal care plans MUST be in place for all children.
- Detailed and current missing from care procedures MUST be in place for all children.
- All staff MUST be trained in safeguarding, CSE, CCE, anti-bullying and behaviour management – restrictive physical intervention, as a minimum.
- Staff should always endeavour to develop positive and meaningful relationships with children.
- Staff should be supervised regularly, in accordance with each home's statement of purpose, and trained as per each home's workforce development plan – additional training, learning and development opportunities should be provided to improve staff skills and knowledge.
- Each home should have clear structures, routines, and boundaries in place for both staff and children to follow.
- The sharing of information regarding care and risk should occur promptly, efficiently, and effectively with our multi agency partners relevant to individual children.
- Effective monitoring and quality assurance processes MUST be in place that identify areas for improvements / learning outcomes.

Additional information:

This policy is used in conjunction with the 'Safeguarding - Child Protection Policy', and we refer to relevant localised Policies and Procedures for Safeguarding Children.

There is a section within the above document that is specific to CSE and MUST BE READ by all staff as it works in conjunction with this policy.

FURTHER INFORMATION FROM NSPCC:

Prosecutions for child sexual exploitation can be brought under provisions of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. These include:

S.1 Rape

S.2 and 3 Sexual assault

S.5-8 Rape and other sexual offences against children under 13

S.14 Arranging or facilitating commission of a child sex offence



S.15 Meeting a child following sexual grooming

S.47 Paying for sexual services of a child

S.48 Causing or inciting 'child prostitution' or pornography

S.49 Controlling a child prostitute, or a child involved in pornography

S.57-59 Trafficking within and outside the UK for sexual exploitation

The NSPCC's [Flaw in the Law](#) campaign successfully amended the Serious Crime Bill so that it is now a criminal offence for an adult to send a sexual message to a child. The Serious Crime Act which received royal assent on 3rd March 2015 amends section 15 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Closing this gap in the legislation means that predators will be discouraged from grooming children online for sexual exploitation and the police will be able to take action against offenders earlier on in the grooming process.

[View section 67 of the Serious Crime Act 2015](#)

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014:

Section 116 of this act 'Protection from sexual harm and violence' allows police to require hotels and similar establishments, in which they reasonably believe child sexual exploitation is taking place, to provide information about guests. This is intended to equip the police to better investigate sexual offences committed on these types of premises.

[View section 116 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#)

Section 113 amends the Sexual Offences Act 2003 to create Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPOs) and Sexual Risk Orders (SROs). An SHPO or SRO is intended to protect the public or an individual against sexual harm.

[View section 113 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#)

The below link takes you to statutory guidance on preventing child sexual exploitation and the roles and responsibilities of professional organisations such as Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships, the police, health and education services and voluntary groups.

[Download Safeguarding of children and young people from sexual exploitation: supplementary guidance to Working together to safeguard children \(PDF\)](#)

What to do if you suspect a young person is being sexually exploited?

Below are links to information / guides for local authorities, Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships (LSCPs) and frontline practitioners in the statutory, voluntary and community sectors (VCS). It outlines step-by-step actions professionals should take if they suspect a child, they are in contact with is being sexually exploited. It is based on the more comprehensive statutory guidance.



[Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation: supplementary guidance Download What to do if you suspect a child is being sexually exploited \(PDF\)](#)

[Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care](#)

This statutory guidance outlines the action that local authorities, and their partners should take to stop children going missing from home or care and to protect those who do. It covers:

- agency roles and responsibilities
- multi-agency working
- access to support
- risk assessment
- safe and well checks
- independent return interviews
- emergency accommodation
- children who repeatedly run away and go missing.
- additional actions to protect looked after children.

A flowchart outlining the main steps that need to be taken when a child goes missing from local authority care and who is responsible for taking them has also been published.

[Download Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care \(PDF\)](#)

[Download Flowchart showing roles and responsibilities when a child goes missing from care \(PDF\)](#)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION MUST BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH HND CHILDREN'S CARE LTD 'Absence – Missing Child Policy'.

Useful Telephone Numbers for Children and Young People:

NSPCC - 0808 800 5000

Childline - 0800 1111

The BLAST Project provides support and information to boys and young men affected by child sexual exploitation and abuse.

0113 2444209 or 07921 372896

End.