

Child Sexual Exploitation

Advice for staff
who work with
children and
young people



About

Sunrise is the multi agency team that tackles sexual exploitation and related harm in the borough of Rochdale. We bring together professionals from the police, children's social care, sexual health and Early Break.

Tackling child sexual exploitation together

Sexual exploitation affects young people and children across the UK every day. As a professional working with young people, you have an important role to play in protecting children from exploitation, helping them to avoid this horrific form of child abuse and stop the perpetrators in their tracks.

What is child sexual exploitation?

Sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse where a young person is encouraged or forced into taking part in a sexual act.

It could be as part of a seemingly consensual relationship or in return for attention, affection, money, drugs, alcohol or somewhere to stay.

The young person may think the abuser is their friend, or even their boyfriend/girlfriend, but the abuser will put them into dangerous

situations, forcing the young person to do or see things of a sexual nature.

The abuser may or may not use violence, but they will control and manipulate their victim, trying to isolate them from friends and family.

The victims are not at fault, and sometimes not even aware it is happening. Abusers can be very clever in the way they manipulate, groom and take advantage.

How it happens

Sometimes young people are 'groomed' by an abusing adult who befriends them and makes them feel special by buying gifts or giving them lots of attention. Young people can be targeted online or in person.

Sexual exploitation can also occur between young people of a similar age. Often the abuser will have power of some kind over the young person. They may be older or more emotionally mature, physically

stronger or in a position where they can control the young person.

There are some situations that can make young people more vulnerable to exploitation – by becoming distant from the people who would usually look after them.

Young people who are having difficulties at home, regularly go missing or have been in care may be particularly vulnerable but this kind of exploitation can happen to any young person.

Look out for the signs and BE ALERT

Sexual abuse can be very difficult to identify. Children who have been sexually abused may show a variety of signs and symptoms, including:

- Becoming withdrawn, anxious or clingy.
- Going missing and/or regularly returning home late.
- Appearing with unexplained gifts.
- Depression.
- Aggressive behaviour.
- Obsessive behaviours, eating disorders.
- Sleep problems, bed-wetting or soiling.
- Problems with school work or missing school.
- Risk taking behaviour during adolescence.
- Alcohol and substance misuse.
- Becoming sexually active at a young age.
- Promiscuity.

What you can do

When you work with young people you may have opportunities to see the signs early, so you must familiarise yourself with them and share that information with your colleagues and the Sunrise Team.

- Always be alert to changes in behaviour or any physical signs of abuse and investigate them further.
- Ensure you know who the Child Protection Lead is in your workplace and you are aware of the procedure to follow if you are concerned about a young person.
- Think about ways to support and help young people share information if they are worried about their own or another young persons situation.
- Educate young people and their parents about healthy relationships and about sexual exploitation.



Sunrise have put together a range of materials, guidance and support for you to use.

These resources are available from our website.

If you are concerned that a child is at risk of sexual exploitation please contact:

**Rochdale First Response Team
on 0845 226 5570.**

Contact us

t. 0161 856 1734

8.30am - 4.45pm Monday to Friday

e. advice@thesunriseteam.co.uk

w. www.thesunriseteam.co.uk

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