Telford & Wrekin Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest to create a better borough



Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness (CSE)

Developed by Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership

Part: two

Who's at risk?

Any child or young person is vulnerable to exploitation.

Some experiences can make a child more vulnerable to exploitation, some examples are:

- Homelessness
- Going 'missing' - driven by push factors (running away from something) or pull factors (running to something)
- Low self esteem
- Regular substance misuse (including alcohol)
- Additional needs eg learning disabilities or mental health issues
- Being in care
- Experiencing death, loss or illness of a significant person
- From families that are new to an area
- From time-poor families
- Those experiencing criminal exploitation
- Any adverse childhood experiences (violence, abuse or neglect)

Indicators of child sexual exploitation

Children and young people are more likely to be protected from child sexual exploitation if professionals, young people, parents and the wider community have a better understanding of the problem, can recognise key signs and know how to respond. Some of these include:

- Receiving unexplained gifts
- Poor attendance at school, college, work
- Increase conflict
- Bullying others
- Irrational emotions
- Becoming moody is emotional
- Health issues
- Substance use
- Going missing or returning home late
- Speaking to people online who are unknown to them
- Change in presentation

What is grooming?

Grooming is exploitation and occurs when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or trafficking. Children can be groomed online or face to face by a stranger or someone they know for example, a family member, friend or professional.

Perpetrators may be any age, gender, ethnicity or class.