group policies and procedures

# Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation

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| Category | Corporate Governance |
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**Related policies and guidance**

**Document revision and approval history**

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# What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is when an individual takes sexual advantage of a child or young person (anyone under 18) for his or her own benefit.

Power is developed over the child or young person through threats, bribes, violence and humiliation or by telling the child or young person that he or she is loved by the exploiter. This power is then used to induce the child or young person to take part in sexual activity.

Exploitative relationships are built on the child or young person’s social, economic or emotional vulnerability. Children and young people cannot consent to their own abuse: so a child or young person at risk of CSE is a child or young person at risk of significant harm and they must be safeguarded.

A child or young person’s awareness of exploitation is reduced or lost by them receiving ‘something’ (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) when performing, or being used for, sexual activities.

*Example: A child or young person being persuaded to post sexualised images of themselves on the internet or via their mobile phone.*

CSE occurs throughout the UK affecting boys as well as girls, from any social, ethnic or financial background. It robs them of their childhood and has serious long term effects on every aspect of their lives and may be life threatening.

**Remember:** CSE is more than just sexual assault: Perpetrators who sexually exploit children commit multiple crimes when they do so.

**Remember:** Exploited children may go on to be exploited young adults if they are not supported and helped.

# Signs AND indicators of possible CSE

**Physical** Self-harm/attempted suicide, unexplained change in appearance and/or behaviour, repeated testing for sexually transmitted diseases/pregnancy, repeated symptoms of urinary infections, pelvic-inflammatory disease, repeated pregnancies/miscarriages/terminations, repeated or prolonged alcohol abuse, drug/substance misuse, unexplained injuries, lack of personal hygiene/care.

**Psychological** Mental health problems, low self-esteem/low self-confidence, eating disorders, suicidal thoughts/ideation, multiple personality disorders, dissociation, psychosis, depression, sleep disorders/nightmares, alcohol/drug/substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, conduct disorder, learning disability/difficulty, poor attachment/attachment disorder, living in a chaotic or dysfunctional household (including parental substance use, domestic).

**Behavioural** Absent from school or exclusion due to behaviour, staying out overnight with no explanation, regularly missing from home or care, receiving gifts from unknown sources, unaccounted for money/goods e.g. mobile phones/credit, drugs or alcohol, gang member or association with gangs, offering to have sex for money/other payment, change in physical appearance, overtly sexualised dress,

associating with unknown adults; other sexually exploited children or vulnerable children, reduced contact with family, friends and other support networks, getting into cars with unknown adults or associating with known perpetrators, evidence of sexual bullying and/or vulnerability through the internet and/or social networking sites, having a much older boy or girlfriend.

Our priorities

* In all cases, trust in your professional instinct and remember to be professionally curious.
* Safeguarding the child or young person must be your priority.

# Information sharing

When there is suspicion that a child or young person is being exploited, this suspicion **MUST** be shared with other appropriate agencies, **even where there may be issues with consent.**

Sharing information can mean the difference between life and death for a child or young person.

Nothing should stand in the way of sharing information particularly in relation to sexual exploitation. The effective identification, disruption, intervention, protection and prosecution of perpetrators of this crime depend on effective multi-agency working.

Sharing small clues such as unofficial places where children and young people might gather can have a big impact on the disruption and prevention of this criminal activity.

For further support regarding sharing information contact your local Named and Designated Safeguarding Professionals or access the following guide *Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers.*

[**www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice**](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice)

# What to do if you suspect a child or young person is at risk of CSE

Remember the child or young person’s welfare is of paramount importance. Make sure you are alert to the signs of CSE Know where to turn to if you need to ask for help Refer to children’s social care or the Police if you suspect that a child is at risk of harm or is in immediate danger contact your organisation’s Named or Designated Safeguarding Professional for advice and support. Know and understand your organisational and multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and processes. Share information.

**Remember:** All children and young people have the right to be safe and protected from harm Safeguarding children and young people is everyone’s responsibility

# National contacts

NSPCC [**www.nspcc.org.uk**](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)or **Tel: 0808 800 5000**

Barnardo’s [**www.barnardos.org.uk**](http://www.barnardos.org.uk)

Childline [**www.childline.org.uk**](http://www.childline.org.uk)or **Tel: 0800 11 11**

Child exploitation and on-line protection centre (CEOP) [**www.ceop.police.uk**](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

NWG network [**www.nwgnetwork.org**](http://www.nwgnetwork.org)

Missing Children helpline: [**www.missingpeople.org.uk**](http://www.missingpeople.org.uk)or **Tel: 116 000**

Parents against child sexual exploitation: [**www.paceuk.info**](http://www.paceuk.info)or **Tel: 0113 240 5226**

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| BCP Adult’s Safeguarding Team – 01202 123654 | BCP Out of Hours – 01202 657279 | Dorset Adults – 01929 557712 | Dorset Out of Hours – 01305 858250 |

**APPENDIX 1 - SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS**

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| **Guidance from ICB – Monday – Friday (09:00 – 17:00)** |
| Head of Safeguarding | Simon Hester | 01305 21364407970250986  | Simon.Hester@nhsdorset.nhs.uk |
| Adult Safeguarding Lead  | Kirsten Bland  | 01305 213577  | Kirsten.Bland@nhsdorset.nhs.uk |
| Adult Safeguarding Named GP | Dr Isi Sosa | 01305 213644 07831774906  | Isi.Sosa@nhsdorset.nhs.uk |
| Dr Sam Abdollahian | 01305 213644  | Sam.Abdollahian@nhsdorset.nhs.uk |
| PREVENT Lead | Kirsten Bland  | MASH@dorset.pnn.police.uk | **and** prevent.in-box@nhs.net Or 999 |
| Domestic Abuse Lead | Janice West | 01305 213644 | Janice.west@nhsdorset.nhs.uk |
| Mental Capacity Act Team | Kirsten Bland | 01305 213644 | Kirsten.Bland2@nhsdorset.nhs.uk |

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| BCP Children’s Safeguarding Team – 01202 123334 | BCP Out of Hours – 01202 738256 | Dorset Children’s Safeguarding – 01305 228558 | Dorset Out of Hours – 01202 228866 |

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| **Guidance from ICB – Monday – Friday (09:00 – 17:00)** |
| Head of Safeguarding | Simon Hester | 01305 213644 07970250986 | Simon.Hester@nhsdorset.nhs.uk |
| Designated Nurse for LAC | Louise Smith | 01305 213626 07867467783 | Louise.smith@nhsdorset.nhs.uk  |
| Designated Nurse for Children  | Shiela Willoughby  | 01305 213644 | Shiela.willoughby@nhsdorset.nhs.uk |
| Children Safeguarding Named GP | Dr Isi Sosa | 01305 213644 07831774906 | Isi.Sosa@nhsdorset.nhs.uk |
| Dr Sam Abdollahian | 01305 213644  | Sam.Abdollahian@nhsdorset.nhs.uk |
| Dr Raquel Bechka | 01305 213644 | Raquel.bechka@nhsdorset.nhs.uk |
| Designated Safeguarding Doctor & Child Death | Dr Wendy D’Arrigo | 01305 253730 | Wendy.D’Arrigo@dchft.nhs.uk  |
| Safeguarding Administrator | Quality Admin | 01305 368032  | Quality.Admin@nhsdorset.nhs.uk |