

Practical tips

Get yourself educated with regard to e- safety.

Support your child's attendance at personal relationship educational programmes at school.

Keep a diary to catalogue your concerns
Seek support from relevant agencies.

Useful Contacts

Parenting NI (028) 9031 0891

Trust Gateway Teams:

Belfast (028) 9050 7000

South Eastern 0300 1000 300

Northern 0300 1234 333

Southern 0800 7837745

Western (028) 7131 4090

Regional Emergency Social Work Service (028) 9504 9999
(5.00pm - 9.00am, weekdays / 24hrs at weekends and bank holidays)

Barnardo's Safe Choices

(028) 9065 8511
(Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm)

PSNI 101 or
999 in an emergency



Child Sexual Exploitation

Are you concerned regarding your child's safety?



The primary responsibility for safeguarding children rests with parents, who should ensure that children are safe from danger in the home and free from risk from others.

Parenting is one of the most rewarding and fulfilling roles a person can undertake but it is not without its challenges. Parenting teenagers can be particularly difficult as children transition into adolescence and try to assert their own independence and authority.

They often appear un-cooperative, difficult or hard to engage and it is important that parents try to keep lines of communication open.

It is important that when parents are struggling in their parenting role that professionals work alongside them to maximize their capacity as a parent to safeguard their child.

Professionals will work alongside parents as they are part of the solution in trying to support them meet their child's needs.

Professionals will work in partnership with parents by:-

- Adopting a holistic approach in working alongside the family
- Recognising that parents have their own support needs and if supported have greater resilience to safeguard their child
- Understanding the value of parents in disrupting and preventing CSE.

They will also do this by engaging with parents through :-

- Listening
- Adopting a non-judgemental approach
- Building relationships
- Using appropriate language
- Explaining agency procedures
- Explaining legislation
- Sign-posting to relevant support
- Including parents in decision-making
- Keeping parents apprised of any developments
- Inform parents how they can gather information and pass it on to the relevant authorities
- Work with young person and parents to offer parallel support.

What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

It is a form of sexual abuse in which a person(s) exploits, coerces and / or manipulates a child or young person into engaging in some form of sexual activity in return for something the child needs or desires and/or for the gain of the person(s) perpetrating or facilitating the abuse."

(SBNI 2014 adopted from CSE Knowledge Transfer Partnership NI)

Any young person, male or female and from any sector of society can be a victim of Child Sexual Exploitation.

Victims are not to blame as they are often manipulated, groomed or coerced into compliance by perpetrators.

Possible warning signs:-

- Going missing ie. not knowing your child's whereabouts
- Unexplained physical injuries
- Drug & alcohol misuse
- Involvement in offending
- Repeated sexually transmitted infections (STI's), pregnancies and terminations
- Absent from school
- Change in physical appearance
- Evidence of sexual bullying / vulnerability through the internet and / or social networking sites
- Estranged from family/friends
- Receipt of gifts from unknown strangers
- Recruiting others into exploitative situations
- Poor mental health
- Self harm or thoughts of or attempts at suicide
- Getting picked up / left of by taxi / unknown cars
- Use of mobiles prior to going out.