

Child Sexual Exploitation is happening in Lewisham....do you know the signs?



Together against sexual exploitation of children

CSE Awareness Day is 18 March 2019

WHAT IS CSE?

The sexual exploitation of children and young people **under 18** involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) **receive 'something'** (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts and money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.

CSE can occur through use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example the **persuasion to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones** with no immediate payment or gain.

Statistics show that increasing numbers of younger children are now being sexually exploited and groomed online from as young as 10 years old. Barnados Online Grooming Survey 2016 is just one source which shows evidence of this:
<http://www.barnardos.org.uk/barnardos-online-grooming-survey-2016.pdf>

● BEHAVIOR

- mood swings
- sudden changes in temperament
- sudden changes in self-esteem/self-image
- becoming withdrawn
- becoming aggressive
- youth offending
- truancy
- unexplained absences
- withdraws from school/friends
- sexual behavior/promiscuity

● GIFTS

unexplained gifts/money/items

● DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

- Evidence of drug alcohol use:
- slurred speech
- difficulty concentrating
- strange smell
- dilated/constricted pupils (non-light based)
- difficulty balancing
- sleeping more/disturbed sleep

What Are The SIGNS?

● TECHNOLOGY

- spending more time on
- internet/phone
- secretive about internet/phone use
- new phone
- unexplained credit

● PEOPLE

- suddenly mentioning unknown people
- suddenly many new friends, no natural reasons
- car rides from unknown adults
- favours/treats from unknown people

STOPCSE
 AWARENESS DAY 18TH MARCH

What is sexting?

Sexting is when someone shares sexual, naked or semi-naked images or videos of themselves or others, or sends sexually explicit messages.

They can be sent using mobiles, tablets, smartphones, laptops - any device that allows you to share media and messages.

Sexting may also be called:

- trading nudes
- dirties
- Pic for Pic.

Why do young people sext?

There are many reasons why a young person may want to send a naked or semi-naked picture, video or message to someone else.

- joining in because they think that 'everyone is doing it'
- boosting their self-esteem
- flirting with others and testing their sexual identity
- exploring their sexual feelings
- to get attention and connect with new people on social media
- they may find it difficult to say no if somebody asks them for an explicit image, especially if the person asking is persistent



What are the risks of sexting?

No control of images and how they're shared

It's easy to send a photo or message but the sender has no control about how it's passed on.

When images are stored or shared online they become public. Some people may think that images and videos only last a few seconds on social media and then they're deleted, but they can still be saved or copied by others. This means that photos or videos which a young person may have shared privately could still be end up being shared between adults they don't know.

The sharing of indecent images with anyone under the age of 18 is a criminal offence and the Police can be involved if a young person is found sharing or possessing such images.

It may feel awkward, but it's important to explain to children the risks of sexting, how to stay safe and remind them that they can talk to you if something ever makes them feel scared or uncomfortable.



What are parental controls?

Parental controls are software and tools which you can install on phones or tablets, games consoles or laptops – and even your home broadband.

You can also use them to help you block or filter the content your child sees when searching online. And family-friendly public WiFi can help when you're out and about.

Parental controls are also available to help you to:

- plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for
- stop them from downloading apps they're too young for
- manage the content different members of the family can see.

So whatever your child is doing online, there's a way that you can help keep them safe.

NSPCC with O2 can help you with this:

It's simple to get started. And, along with talking to your child regularly, using parental controls is one of the best ways to help keep children safe online. You'll find lots more information below – or give us a call on [0808 800 5002](tel:08088005002) to chat to one of our expert NSPCC and O2 advisors.



Do you know what the APPS are that your children are using on their devices? Do you understand them and what they allow your children to do?

Please follow the below link which will allow you to browse popular Apps and gain a better understanding -

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

If you have any concerns or need advice regarding possible CSE please contact the relevant person or organisation below:

If you believe a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999.

- <http://www.childline.org.uk/> T: 0800 1111
- NSPCC national helpline 0800 800 5000
- <http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/> T: 0870 000 3344
- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
- www.barnardos.org.uk
- Local Police non-emergency number T: 101
- @MPSLewisham – Twitter we will be holding a Twitter Q&A on 17/03/2016 between 1600-1700

There is also additional information about CSE available on the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) website: <https://www.safeguardinglewisham.org.uk/lscb/lscb/parents-carers/sexual-exploitation-1>