



Signs and Indicators of Sexual Exploitation

Do you know a young person where any of the following apply?
Are you talking to other people who know that young person?
Are they concerned?

- ⌘ disengagement with school, not in school, truancy, exclusion
- ⌘ repeat sexually transmitted infections; in girls repeat pregnancy, abortions, miscarriage
- ⌘ hanging out with groups of older people, anti-social groups, other vulnerable peers
- ⌘ unexplained changes in behaviour or personality (chaotic, aggressive, sexual)
- ⌘ involved in abusive relationships, intimidated and fearful of certain people or situations
- ⌘ self-harming, suicide attempts, overdosing, eating disorders
- ⌘ injuries from physical assault, physical restraint, sexual assault
- ⌘ moving around the country, appearing in new towns or cities, not knowing where they are
- ⌘ sexting (sending and receiving explicit photos of themselves on mobile phones)
- ⌘ unexplained gifts
- ⌘ unaffordable new things (clothes, mobile) or expensive habits (alcohol, drugs)
- ⌘ engagement in offending, criminal activity
- ⌘ going missing, running away, homelessness
- ⌘ drug use, alcohol abuse
- ⌘ sexually risky behaviour, 'swapping' sex
- ⌘ gang fights, gang membership
- ⌘ getting into/out of different cars
- ⌘ accessing hardcore pornography on the internet
- ⌘ contact with known perpetrators
- ⌘ association with older men
- ⌘ inappropriate sexual behaviour
- ⌘ seen at known places of concern
- ⌘ police involvement, police records

**Talk,
Share,
Act**

If you are concerned that a child might be being sexually exploited contact the police's child protection department immediately on 0300 333 3000.
By law, sex with children under 16 is never consensual.

Please turn over for guidance about using the these signs and indicators.



Signs and Indicators of Sexual Exploitation

The list of signs and indicators overleaf is based upon that developed by the NSPCC and is not exhaustive or definitive. It does however highlight common signs which can assist professionals in identifying children or young people who may be victims of sexual exploitation. By understanding the signs, you can identify when a child or young person is at an increased risk of sexual exploitation.

It is not the case that a set number of signs mean definitively that a child or young person is a victim of sexual exploitation. The more signs, however, the greater the risk of sexual exploitation.

If you observe a number of these signs in a child or young person you know, talk to other people who know them to find out if they share your concerns. By working together you are more likely to spot patterns of behaviour which could identify further risk.

If you are sure, or think there is a likelihood, that a child or young person is being exploited, you have a responsibility to ensure those concerns are acted upon. Report your concerns to the police.

Report it to the police without delay

If you are concerned that a child might be being sexually exploited contact the police's child protection department immediately on 0300 333 3000.

By law, sex with children under 16 is never consensual.

If you are concerned that a child is at risk of being sexually exploited, possibly with some signs and indicators present, but the evidence isn't clear, additional support may well be helpful in preventing exploitation. Undertake a CAF and refer to your local Multi-Agency Group.

Assure yourself by speaking to colleagues and consider early help through a CAF or MAG