

HOW DOES SEXUAL EXPLOITATION HAPPEN?

We know from experience that some adults target young people and draw them into abusive sexual relationships. This is how it works:

- ⚡ Adults show them a lot of interest and affection at the beginning, and make them feel special
- ⚡ Sometimes they ask groups of young people to come back to their house or go to parties
- ⚡ Young people are offered drugs and alcohol and a place to chill out
- ⚡ They may get presents like clothes, a mobile phone, or money to buy alcohol and cigarettes

After they have gained the youngster's trust and affection, things change

- ⚡ Adults will ask for sexual favours for themselves or other people, in return for alcohol, drugs, presents, money - all the things they started giving for free
- ⚡ They stop being nice and can become threatening or violent

WORRIED ABOUT A YOUNG PERSON? ACT NOW

Think a child is in immediate danger?

Call the police: 999
or 101 for non-emergencies

Concerned about a young person? Contact the First Response Team on 0845 460 0001 or email: cypfirstresponse@buckscc.gov.uk

GET ADVICE

There are specialists you can talk to anonymously.

NSPCC 0808 800 5000
Stop it now 0808 1000 900

USEFUL WEBSITES

R-U-Safe? www.barnardos.org.uk/rusafebucks
Stop It Now www.stopitnow.org.uk
Think U Know www.thinkuknow.co.uk

FIND OUT MORE AT

RUISE2IT.CO.UK

The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) is a statutory multi-agency organisation made up from key people who represent the many agencies in Buckinghamshire that work with children and their families.

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Children Board



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**A LEAFLET FOR PARENTS AND CARERS
ABOUT CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

WHAT IS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION?

A form of sexual abuse in which a young person is manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act often in return for attention, affection, gifts, money, drugs, alcohol or accommodation.

Some young people may think that their abuser is their friend or boyfriend/ girlfriend. In reality they are being used for sex and the 'boyfriend' or 'girlfriend' might physically or verbally threaten them, be violent towards them and may pass them on to other people too.

Sexual exploitation can also take place online and via text, without the young person being aware, for example, being persuaded to post or text sexual images of themselves.

In all cases, those exploiting the young person will control and manipulate them and try to isolate them from friends and family.

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CHILD OR TEENAGER?

Young people often show us rather than tell us that something is upsetting them. Sometimes things that seem like normal teenage behaviour could be a sign a young person is being sexually exploited.

SIGNS TO WATCH OUT FOR:

- ⚡ Becoming withdrawn, clingy or unusually secretive
- ⚡ Unexplained changes in personality, mood swings and seeming insecure
- ⚡ Nightmares or sleeping problems
- ⚡ Running away, staying out overnight, missing school
- ⚡ Changes in eating habits
- ⚡ Talk of a new, older friend, boyfriend or girlfriend and unexplained money or gifts
- ⚡ Spending a lot of time online talking to new people
- ⚡ Losing contact with family and friends
- ⚡ Physical signs such as unexplained soreness or bruises around private areas
- ⚡ Or you may just be worried about unsafe sexual behaviour

Any one sign doesn't mean that a young person was or is being sexually abused, but the presence of several suggests that you should begin to ask questions and consider seeking help. Keep in mind that some of these signs can emerge at other times of stress such as:

- ⚡ During a divorce
- ⚡ Death of a family member or pet
- ⚡ Problems at school or with friends
- ⚡ Other anxiety-inducing or traumatic events

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ANY YOUNG PERSON COULD
BECOME A VICTIM. BOYS
AND GIRLS.

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”