

# Young People and Sexual Exploitation

A briefing for homelessness services

**Let's end homelessness together**

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# Introduction

Young people who are homeless are particularly vulnerable to child sexual exploitation (CSE) and sexual exploitation. Perpetrators use an imbalance of power to control and sexually exploit young people. Power imbalances may be due to a range of factors, for example due to the young person's age, gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, social status or their access to economic and other resources, including a place to stay.<sup>1</sup>

The hidden and unstable nature of young people's homelessness increases their dependence on others for accommodation, placing them at greater risk of sexual exploitation.<sup>2</sup> While this may be seen as an 'exchange', the young person's choice is constrained and the situation is exploitative and non-consensual.

Many of the risk factors associated with homelessness are also associated with sexual exploitation,<sup>3</sup> for example experiences of the care system,<sup>4</sup> 'missing' episodes,<sup>5</sup> social exclusion including exclusion from school,<sup>6</sup> substance use,<sup>7</sup> and experiences of abuse and neglect as a child.<sup>8</sup> Perpetrators often use emotional connection as a way to gain the trust of young people who are socially isolated and who have limited support networks,<sup>9</sup> vulnerabilities associated with homelessness and insecure housing.<sup>10</sup>

Young people may have been sexually exploited prior to becoming homeless or during periods of hidden homelessness and/or rough sleeping. They also continue to be vulnerable to this form of abuse while living in supported accommodation and other forms of homelessness provision.

It is therefore important that homelessness organisations working with young people provide support structures and resources for staff around this key issue. Staff should have an awareness of what sexual exploitation is, and how they can support young people who have experienced this form of abuse. They need to be aware of the ongoing risk of exploitation, and understand their role in safeguarding against these risks.

This document provides an overview on child sexual exploitation and the steps that organisations and individuals can take to support the young people they work with.

## Definitions of Sexual Exploitation

### Child Sexual Exploitation

The government definition of child sexual exploitation (CSE) is:

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It happens when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through use of technology.<sup>11</sup>

A young person may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Sexual exploitation usually, but not exclusively, happens outside the home, and the risk comes from outside the family unit.<sup>12</sup>

### Adult Sexual Exploitation

Young people aged 18 and above are sexually exploited, however they do not have the same protection under legislation and safeguarding policies as those under 18. The UN defines sexual exploitation as:

“Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.”<sup>13</sup>

In the UK, sexual exploitation falls under the definition human trafficking and is defined under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 as:

“Sexual exploitation

(3) Something is done to or in respect of the person –

(a) Which involves the commission of an offence under –

(i) Section 1(1)(a) of the Protection of Children Act 1978 (indecent photographs of children), or

(ii) Part 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (sexual offences), as it has effect in England and Wales, or

(b) Which would involve the commission of such an offence if it were done in England and Wales.”

Further information on modern slavery can be found here:

[www.homeless.org.uk/our-work/resources/modern-slavery-human-trafficking](http://www.homeless.org.uk/our-work/resources/modern-slavery-human-trafficking)

## Models of sexual exploitation

Sexual exploitation can take different forms. While our understanding in the UK of different models of sexual exploitation mainly relate to CSE, these situations can also apply to individuals aged over 18:

- **The older boyfriend/girlfriend model.** The perpetrator grooms a young person into a ‘relationship’ and then coerces/forces them to have sex with friends or associates.
- **Peer on peer exploitation.** Young people are coerced into sexual activity by peers or associates of a similar age. This may be within gang activity, but not always. Peer on peer sexual exploitation can happen in public. It can be perpetrated by more than one person and can be filmed and distributed. In all cases of peer on peer exploitation, a power imbalance will still inform the relationship, but this might not necessarily be through an age gap between the abuser and the abused.<sup>14</sup>
- **Gang-related sexual exploitation.** This can include sexual exploitation through gang initiation rituals, gang pressure or as punishment for crossing areas/boundaries. Child sexual exploitation is not necessarily the common purpose of the gang. This may also intersect with criminal exploitation, for example when young people are forced or coerced in to running county lines.<sup>15</sup> Sex may be used more explicitly in exchange for safety, protection, drugs and belonging.
- **Organised/networked sexual exploitation or trafficking.** This form of exploitation is often the most readily reported in news stories. Young people are passed through organised networks where they are forced/coerced into sexual activity with multiple men. This differs from gang exploitation, as the networks are set up for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Organised exploitation varies from spontaneous networking between groups of offenders, to more serious organised crime where young people are effectively ‘sold’.
- **Opportunistic.** This may occur quickly and without any form of grooming. Typically, older males identify vulnerable young people who may already have been groomed or sexually abused. The

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perpetrator will offer a young person a 'reward' or payment in exchange for sexual acts. The perpetrator is often linked with a network of abusive adults.

- **Familial.** Children can be exploited by their parents and/or other family members. Parents or family members may also arrange the abuse of the child and/or control and facilitate exploitation.
- **Online.** Exploitation can happen in person or online. When sexual exploitation happens online, young people may be persuaded or forced to have sexual conversations by text or online, send or post sexually explicit images of themselves. Abusers may threaten to send images, video or copies of conversations to the young person's friends and family unless they take part in further sexual activity. Images or videos may continue to be shared long after the sexual abuse has stopped.<sup>16,17</sup>

## Who is at risk of sexual exploitation?

Research demonstrates that young people are vulnerable to CSE across every ethnic grouping, religion and sexual identity;<sup>18</sup> however, marginalisation due to poverty, racism, gender roles, homophobia and disability can increase someone's vulnerability to sexual exploitation and lead to specific barriers to receiving effective help.<sup>19, 20, 21</sup>

### Gender

It is important to recognise child and adult sexual exploitation in the wider context of sexual violence, gender based violence and gender power dynamics,<sup>22</sup> which affect young women's and young men's risk and experience of sexual victimisation.<sup>23</sup> The majority of reported cases of sexual exploitation are against girls and young women<sup>24, 25</sup> and perpetrated by men/boys.<sup>26</sup> Research links this disproportionality to wider societal attitudes and norms that encourage the sexual objectification of girls,<sup>27</sup> which can be frequently, but not exclusively, apparent in gang related contexts, which are particularly patriarchal environments.<sup>28</sup>

Young women are often blamed for their sexual victimisation by other young people<sup>29, 30</sup> and adults,<sup>31</sup> due to gender norms and double standards. For example, blame may be placed on young women due to the way they dress, behave, or their sexual history.<sup>32</sup> This affects the way young people identify and define consent, and can lead to assumptions that sexual violence is something that young women should be expected and/or tolerate.<sup>33, 34</sup>

Young men and boys are also the victims of sexual exploitation, with around a third of reported cases of CSE relating to young men.<sup>35</sup> Gender norms and expectation affect how young men process, respond and disclose their sexual victimisation. Research suggests that societal attitudes and expectations around masculinity lead to young men facing barriers in disclosing abuse, and that they are more likely to express their anger and trauma externally.<sup>36</sup>

There are also similarities between young women and young men's experiences of sexual exploitation, for example they are often linked with experiences running away and homelessness; being in care; being street homeless; and experiences of non-CSE-related violence.<sup>37</sup>

### Young LGBTQ+ People

Inequalities and experiences of discrimination can make young LGBTQ+ people more vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Young people identifying as LGBTQ+ may face hostility, homo-bi-trans-phobic bullying, hate

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crimes and family rejection because of their sexual orientation or gender identity,<sup>38</sup> which is a leading cause of homelessness among young LGBTQ+ people.<sup>39</sup>

The absence of a safe environment to explore sexuality, sexual identity or gender identity alongside a lack of representation of LGBTQ+ relationships in education settings<sup>40</sup> can leave young LGBTQ+ people isolated,<sup>41</sup> and lead them to seek advice from a community online and in secret, increasing their risk of being targeted by perpetrators. Young LGBTQ+ people can be influenced into believing their abuse is normal because of the 'experiential power' perpetrators hold.<sup>42</sup> Where a young person has not come out, perpetrators may use their identity and their fear of discrimination as a means to control, sexually abuse and exploit them.<sup>43</sup>

## Age

Anyone under the age of 18 years can experience child sexual exploitation. The average age where concerns first arise is 12-15, however research also highlights that CSE against 16-17 year olds is often overlooked because these young people are legally able to consent to sex.<sup>44</sup> This is despite data showing that 16 and 17 year olds are at the highest risk of sexual violence compared to other ages.<sup>45</sup>

Young people aged 18 and above, are vulnerable to exploitation, and experience particular barriers to support, as they are no longer protected by child abuse and safeguarding laws. Research has highlighted that women are often sexually exploited in childhood and this continues after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.<sup>46</sup>

## Experiences of abuse and neglect as a child

There is a link between sexual exploitation and experiences of maltreatment as a child, particularly child neglect.<sup>47,48</sup> Research suggests this is due to the impact of neglect and/or abuse on a child/young person's development and the affect this can have on forming supportive social relationships and networks.<sup>49</sup> Evidence shows a range of factors that can be mediators between the impact of neglect and elevated risk of sexual exploitation, for example childhood neglect is a predictor of missing episodes and of drug misuse, both of which are linked to CSE.<sup>50</sup>

## Children in care

Looked after children, particularly those in residential care who have interrupted care histories, are disproportionately likely to be victims of CSE.<sup>51</sup> Missing episodes and homelessness are both associated with experiences of care and CSE. There is also evidence that perpetrators of CSE will target residential care homes, or other locations where they know young people are placed, to groom and exploit them.<sup>52</sup> It is important to recognise this risk, particularly where services receive referrals from local authority care.

## Other violence and abuse

CSE and sexual exploitation are linked to other forms of violence. Safe Lives found that young people experiencing intimate partner violence are also targeted by other individuals who intend to exploit them sexually.<sup>53</sup> Where it is identified that a young person is experiencing other forms of violence consideration should be given to whether they are also being exploited.

## Learning disabilities

Young people with learning disabilities are particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation, which has been attributed to a range of factors including societal treatment of young people with learning disabilities, specific vulnerabilities relating to young people's disability and a lack of knowledge and awareness of the sexual exploitation of young people with disabilities.<sup>54</sup> Issues around the identification, diagnosis and assessment of

learning disabilities can also increase the vulnerability of young people to exploitation, as their needs have not been identified.<sup>55</sup>

## Practice recommendations

Services should be ready to respond to historic or current sexual exploitation through internal policies and ensure their staff are trained to respond to and support young people experiencing this form of abuse. Below we list some practical steps organisations and individuals can take and resources that can support these steps. Organisations should include information on responding to sexual exploitation in their inductions but also support staff to continue to reflect on their knowledge and practice, for example through staff briefings and team meetings.

### Staff receive training to identify potential signs of abuse

Young people may not recognise their experiences as abusive and exploitative. It is therefore important for staff to feel confident in recognising the indicators of sexual exploitation. Some indicators are:

- Missing person episodes and being found out of area, staying out late/missing curfew or unexplained absences, or not engaging with education or training
- Change in appearance, for example change in clothes
- Making disclosures and then withdrawing them
- Angry or aggressive behaviour which may appear 'anti-social'
- Unexplained money, gifts and/or possessions
- Repeat pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections
- Using sexual language that you wouldn't expect them to know
- Engaging less/withdrawal from usual social networks
- Appearing controlled by their phone, being secretive around their phone or having more than one phone.<sup>56, 57</sup>

Local safeguarding children boards may provide free training for professionals working with children and vulnerable adults. This may include training about child sexual exploitation, child abuse and sexual violence.

### List of Local Safeguarding Child Boards:

[www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/list-of-lscb-local-safeguarding-child-boards/](http://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/list-of-lscb-local-safeguarding-child-boards/)

### Guidance on how to identify abuse

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners)

[www.childrensociety.org.uk/knowning-the-signs-of-child-sexual-exploitation](http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/knowning-the-signs-of-child-sexual-exploitation)

[www.barnardos.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/our\\_work/sexual\\_exploitation/what-is-cse/cse-spot-the-signs](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/sexual_exploitation/what-is-cse/cse-spot-the-signs)

### Safeguarding

Organisations working with young people should ensure their safeguarding policies are up to date and staff are able identify and respond to safeguarding concerns relating to sexual exploitation and sexual violence. Local authorities have a responsibility to safeguard young people under 18 in their area. It is important to have clear internal policies that outline the safeguarding roles and responsibilities of different staff within the

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organisation and how staff should raise concerns related to sexual exploitation. Staff should know how their concerns will be escalated and have an understanding of local procedures and multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. If a young person is in immediate danger, the police should be contacted.

It is important for staff to have an awareness of local processes around transitions, and how they can liaise with adult services in order to maintain as much continuity of support as possible, for those who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and require support after they turn 18.<sup>58</sup> Free training may be available through the local authority safeguarding boards. Staff should be made aware of local policies designed to safeguard adults from gendered violence, for example Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs), which can usually be found on local authority websites. Young people aged 18 and over who are being sexual exploited may be protected under legislation relating to modern slavery and through referrals to the National Referral Mechanism.

### NICE Guidelines

[www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng43](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng43)

### Modern Slavery & National Referral Mechanism

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms/guidance-on-the-national-referral-mechanism-for-potential-adult-victims-of-modern-slavery-england-and-wales](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms/guidance-on-the-national-referral-mechanism-for-potential-adult-victims-of-modern-slavery-england-and-wales)

<https://www.homeless.org.uk/our-work/resources/modern-slavery-human-trafficking>

### Embedding a gender and trauma informed response

Organisations working with young women should have policies, training and guidance to support staff to respond to experiences of gendered violence. Staff should receive training about sexual exploitation and other forms of violence against women and girls in order to avoid stigmatisation, victim-blaming language and ensure that young people are provided with non-judgemental support.

Sexual abuse is strongly associated with trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder.<sup>59</sup> Staff should have an awareness of trauma, and how to recognise how trauma affects behaviour, engagement and stress responses.<sup>60</sup>

#### Young Women's Housing Project (YWHP)

YWHP are a specialist service in Sheffield offering supported accommodation and therapeutic provision to young women aged 16-25 years and their children, who have been affected by sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and intimate partner abuse.

They provide holistic support, and have a multi-disciplinary team able to offer different levels of support to young women based on their individual needs. Support sessions focus on: resilience, recovery and wellbeing, safe and healthy relationships, successful parenting, social and financial inclusion, effective future engagement with universal services and participation in the wider community. The service works with young women at their own pace

<https://www.ywbp.org.uk/>

Services should recognise how gender socialisation influences development and experiences of trauma, and provide gender responsive support. For example, evidence suggests young women are more likely to internalise their trauma and would benefit from interventions promoting self-determination and empowerment.

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This might include support that focuses on exploring the young women's internal world, and helps her to develop resources to make sense of how she is feeling and manage difficult emotions.<sup>61</sup>

Young men are more likely to express their trauma externally through outward expressions of anger. Practitioners should recognise that this behaviour may be a response to trauma, and support them in engaging with emotional expression, controlling impulses and emotional regulation, through taking the time to build trust and creating a non-stigmatising environment.<sup>62</sup> Staff should be empowered and supported to challenge gender norms/stereotyping within their services.

Gender training for management and frontline staff in homelessness services should be standard practice to avoid indirect discrimination and work in ways that are sensitive to young people's experiences and needs. Mixed services should create women-only spaces, women-only session/groups, and employ female staff members who have knowledge and experience required to respond to disclosures of sexual violence.

### Resources on gender informed response to CSE:

Young women and girls

<https://avaproject.org.uk/resources/practice-guidance-engaging-young-women-experiencing-domestic-sexual-violence-substance-use-mental-health-problems-2013/ywi-practice-guidance-final/>

Young men and boys

[www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/toolkits](http://www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/toolkits)

[www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/sites/default/files/Boys%20and%20Young%20Men%20Toolkit.pdf](http://www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/sites/default/files/Boys%20and%20Young%20Men%20Toolkit.pdf)

### Homeless Link resources on Trauma informed care and gender informed practice:

[www.homeless.org.uk/trauma-informed-care-and-psychologically-informed-environments](http://www.homeless.org.uk/trauma-informed-care-and-psychologically-informed-environments)

[www.homeless.org.uk/our-work/resources/webinar-catchup/basic-intro-TIC](http://www.homeless.org.uk/our-work/resources/webinar-catchup/basic-intro-TIC)

[www.homeless.org.uk/supporting-women-who-are-homeless](http://www.homeless.org.uk/supporting-women-who-are-homeless)

#### YMCA WiSE Project

YMCA WiSE works across Brighton and Hove, Surrey and East Sussex to support children and young people to stay safe in their relationships. They provide support to young people up to 25 through one-to one support, joint working with existing professionals in a young person's life, or through group work and outreach.

#### WiSE Up to Boys

The WiSE project ran a campaign and produced resources to raise awareness about the sexual exploitation of young men.

<https://www.ymcadlg.org/what-we-do/support-and-advice/wise/>

## Healthy relationships

Young people accessing homelessness services have often had limited education around sex and relationships. This may be due to school exclusion or, as highlighted above for young LGBTQ+ people and young people with learning disabilities, because information provided has not been adequate or appropriate for

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their needs.<sup>63, 64</sup> Delivering or signposting to support around healthy relationships can be beneficial to support young people in identifying abuse and asking for help.

The charity Brook provide a range of resources for professionals to talk about healthy and unhealthy relationships with young people, including free e-learning courses and toolkits: [www.brook.org.uk/](http://www.brook.org.uk/)

### Your Voice, Your Choice Herts Young Homeless

Herts Young Homeless deliver interactive sessions in schools on a range of subjects including healthy relationships. These sessions support young people so they are able to:

- Be able to identify the key elements of a healthy relationship.
- Have up-to-date information on current law and issues of your chosen subject.
- Be confident in applying their learning to everyday relationships.

[www.hyh.org.uk/our-services/education](http://www.hyh.org.uk/our-services/education)

## Language

Professionals should actively reflect on the language they use, and avoid victim-blaming language. For example, using terms such as 'putting themselves at risk' or 'involved in CSE' implies there is a level of choice, and that the young person is responsible for the risks presented by the perpetrator.

CSE Police and Prevention have developed guidance for practitioners on appropriate language when speaking about sexual exploitation, which provide information on what not to say and suggests alternatives:

[www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/toolkits](http://www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/toolkits)

[www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/sites/default/files/Guidance%20App%20Language%20Toolkit.pdf](http://www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/sites/default/files/Guidance%20App%20Language%20Toolkit.pdf)

Young people may not identify their experience as exploitation, or may feel complicit in the abuse. They may not relate to words such as exploitation, assault and rape. They may believe they are in a relationship with the perpetrator of abuse, and have a strong attachment to the individual. Professionals should consider this when speaking to young people, and try to understand how the child or young person views their situation. Their feelings towards the perpetrator and their experience of exploitation may affect how they receive support. If a young person does not feel that their perspective is acknowledged it can affect their willingness to engage, and professionals should be mindful and sensitive to this.

### Spotting the signs: CSE National Pro forma

The British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) and Brook developed a child sexual exploitation (CSE) pro forma '*Spotting the Signs*' that can be used by professionals to identify young people who may be at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation.

The guidance was developed based on focus group with young people, and provides questions to help people identify young people's circumstances. It was developed initially for health professionals but could be used in a number of settings. The guidance highlights the importance in asking exploratory questions in a conversational way, and providing clear information on confidentiality.

<https://legacy.brook.org.uk/our-work/spotting-the-signs-cse-national-proforma>

### Strengths-based holistic approach

Staff should consider the wider needs, strengths and resources of the young person; recognising them as more than 'victims of (child) sexual exploitation',<sup>65</sup> and focusing exclusively on risk posed against them. Young people who have been sexually exploited have had power, control and choice taken away from them. Positive approaches such as strength-based practice, which focus on young people's asset and aspirations, can elevate young people's self-worth, and rebuild their sense of control. This can be done through activities such as mapping strengths and thinking about goals.

### Positive approaches guidance

[www.homeless.org.uk/connect/blogs/2018/sep/26/positive-approaches](http://www.homeless.org.uk/connect/blogs/2018/sep/26/positive-approaches)

Building resilience is about building internal strengths in order to overcome adversities and avoid negative consequences. Strengths based approaches should not be a substitute for other forms of support or safeguarding procedures.

### Partnership working

Services should work alongside social services and the police. Organisations would benefit in identifying and working with other local services that can provide young people with specialist support around experiences of exploitation. Local authorities often publish lists of services they commission on their websites, which can be used to identify potential partnerships.

Organisations should be aware of the multi-agency safeguarding meetings in their local area and be present at meetings that relate to the young people they are supporting, for example multi-agency child exploitation (MACE) meetings and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC). Information on how to make a referral to these meetings is made available by the local authority usually through their website, and child or adult safeguarding teams.

## Further Resources

### Safeguarding guidance

#### Guidance on adult sexual exploitation

[www.ripfa.org.uk/resources/publications/brief-guides/sexual-exploitation-brief-guide-2017/](http://www.ripfa.org.uk/resources/publications/brief-guides/sexual-exploitation-brief-guide-2017/)

*Provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities of social care services around the sexual exploitation of adults*

#### Guidance on child sexual exploitation

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/591903/CS\\_E\\_Guidance\\_Core\\_Document\\_13.02.2017.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591903/CS_E_Guidance_Core_Document_13.02.2017.pdf)

*Non-statutory guidance to help practitioners, local leaders and decision makers who work with children and families to identify child sexual exploitation and take appropriate action in response.*

#### Safeguarding women and girls from violence

[www.preventionplatform.co.uk/](http://www.preventionplatform.co.uk/)

*The prevention platform provides online tools and resources to give practitioners knowledge and tools to prevent Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). Developed for education professionals, information can be adapted for different settings.*

#### Safeguarding young people outside the home

[www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk)

*Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families.*

#### Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Guidance for frontline staff

[www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/Safeguarding%20guidance%20March%202018.pdf](http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/Safeguarding%20guidance%20March%202018.pdf)

#### Accessing Social Care Assessments using the Care Act 2014 Guidance for frontline staff

[www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/Accessing%20social%20care%20assessments%20using%20the%20Care%20Act.pdf](http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/Accessing%20social%20care%20assessments%20using%20the%20Care%20Act.pdf)

#### Transition from children's to adult's services for young people using health or social care services

[www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng43](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng43)

*Nice Guidelines to support transitions for practitioners working with young people who are in contact with health and social care services.*

#### National Referral Mechanism

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms/guidance-on-the-national-referral-mechanism-for-potential-adult-victims-of-modern-slavery-england-and-wales](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms/guidance-on-the-national-referral-mechanism-for-potential-adult-victims-of-modern-slavery-england-and-wales)

*Government guidance on the national referral mechanism, a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.*

#### Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Guidance for homelessness services

[www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/Modern%20Slavery%20Human%20Trafficking%20and%20Homelessness%202018.pdf](http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/Modern%20Slavery%20Human%20Trafficking%20and%20Homelessness%202018.pdf)

## Practice guidance and resources

### Positive Approaches

[www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/Positive%20approaches%202018\\_0.pdf](http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/Positive%20approaches%202018_0.pdf)

### Safety planning with young people

[http://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/YP\\_safetyplan.pdf](http://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/YP_safetyplan.pdf)

*Resource to explain and create safety plans with young people experiencing abuse*

### Identifying sexual exploitation

<https://legacy.brook.org.uk/our-work/spotting-the-signs-cse-national-proforma>

*A framework to support conversations with young people around CSE linked to latest research and evidence bases.*

### Engaging with young women experiencing domestic and sexual violence, substance use and mental ill-health

<https://avaproject.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/YWI-Practice-Guidance-FINAL.pdf>

*Practical guidance to support young women experiencing multiple disadvantage including sexual violence. Produced to be reading in conjunction with “Complicated Matters: a toolkit addressing domestic and sexual violence, substance use and mental ill-health”*

### Child sexual exploitation: practice tool

[www.rip.org.uk/resources/publications/practice-tools-and-guides/child-sexual-exploitation-practice-tool-2017-open-access](http://www.rip.org.uk/resources/publications/practice-tools-and-guides/child-sexual-exploitation-practice-tool-2017-open-access)

The document developed by the Home Office and DfE giving an overview of the issue of child sexual exploitation and an evidence-informed set of principles for responding.

### Language

[www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/sites/default/files/Guidance%20App%20Language%20Toolkit.pdf](http://www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/sites/default/files/Guidance%20App%20Language%20Toolkit.pdf)

Resource providing guidance for professionals on appropriate language when talking about Child Sexual and/or Criminal Exploitation

### Adversity and trauma-informed practice

<https://youngminds.org.uk/media/3091/adversity-and-trauma-informed-practice-guide-for-professionals.pdf>

A short guide for professionals developed by Young Minds that provides frontline professionals with examples of how to develop adversity and trauma informed practice

### Child Sexual Exploitation: Practice Tool

[www.rip.org.uk/resources/publications/practice-tools-and-guides/child-sexual-exploitation-practice-tool-2017-open-access/](http://www.rip.org.uk/resources/publications/practice-tools-and-guides/child-sexual-exploitation-practice-tool-2017-open-access/)

*Commissioned by the Department for Education this briefing provides professionals with further background information about child sexual exploitation and offers additional commentary around some of the complexities of practically responding to the issue.*

### Healthy Relationships

<https://freedomprogramme.co.uk/>

*The Freedom Programme is a domestic violence programme that examines the roles played by attitudes and beliefs on the actions of abusive men and the responses of victims and survivors. The aim is to help them to make sense of and understand what has happened to them*

<https://legacy.brook.org.uk/shop/category/resources>

Brook provides wellbeing and sexual health support for young people and has a range of free resources and e-learning for professionals.

[www.loveisrespect.org/is-this-abuse/power-and-control-wheel/](http://www.loveisrespect.org/is-this-abuse/power-and-control-wheel/)

Website aimed to engage, educate and empower young people to prevent and end abusive relationships, includes the Teen Power and Control Wheel resource.

### Thinkuknow

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

Thinkuknow is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline. Different pages have been developed for different ages.

## Endnotes

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<sup>14</sup> [www.escb.co.uk/working-with-children/child-exploitation/sexual-exploitation/what-is-child-sexual-exploitation-cse/](http://www.escb.co.uk/working-with-children/child-exploitation/sexual-exploitation/what-is-child-sexual-exploitation-cse/)

<sup>15</sup> County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas (within the UK), using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of 'deal line'. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move (and store) the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) or weapons.

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