

# 01

## Background

Sexual exploitation is a type of abuse which can happen to children irrespective of social background, gender, ethnic and other backgrounds.

This is an issue of abuse and should not be mistaken for a lifestyle choice.

# 02

## Why it matters

Sexual exploitation of children is child abuse...as well as a crime. Children and young people who become involved face huge risks to their physical, emotional and psychological health and long term wellbeing.



# 07

## Questions to consider

- What sort of issues might make some young people more vulnerable to CSE?
- How might you come across children, young people or their families where Child Sexual Exploitation is an issue?
- How might you observe any of the warning signs?
- How might you be groomed?



# 03 Information



In 2014-15, 1515 children were referred to the specialist teams for CSE in Lancashire. 529 CSE related crimes were recorded in the year by the Police. Sexual exploitation of children and young people under

18 often involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where they receive 'something' (e.g. affection, attention, food, gifts, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, money) as a result of a sexual act or activities. Many young people don't think of themselves as victims because they are led to believe they are in control or making their own choices whereas in reality their behaviour is not voluntary or consenting.



# 06



## What to do

Remember to .....

- Recognise (know and heed warning signs)
- Record (write down what was said and done, by whom)
- Refer (discuss with manager/ safeguarding lead, speak to the 3 CSE teams:
  - Awaken 01253 477261 (Lancaster, Morecambe, Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde)
  - Deter 01772 209122 (Preston, Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancs)
  - Engage 01254 353589/353651 (Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Ribble Valley and Rossendale)

Even adults and professionals can be groomed in order to facilitate abuse!

# 04

Certain factors make children more vulnerable to sexual exploitation. In general, they are the factors within the family, young person or social situation which renders young people vulnerable. Warning signs might be:

- Social: Going missing from home or care or school. Estranged from their family. Being collected from home /school in unknown cars. Secretive Mobile phone use. Being friends with significantly older people. Becoming involved in crime e.g. Stealing
- Physical: Physical Injuries/ unexplained bruising. Drug and Alcohol Misuse. Sexually Transmitted Infections/ Pregnancy/ termination. Change in physical appearance.

# 05



Poor mental health/Self harm/ thoughts of suicide. Unexplained gifts or money

What all CSE offences have in common is grooming. Grooming is preparing the child/location/situation in order to exploit and take advantage of the child/young person. Grooming aims to manipulate others into believing that it is their fault/choice. This can happen over a long time or very quickly.