



## Spot the signs of criminal exploitation

Children are being groomed and forced into criminal activity. It can include moving drugs, theft and deceptive crimes. Knowing the signs can help to intervene early and keep children safe.

### Some facts



- Boys and girls are both at risk
- Children tend to be living at home
- Children are being targeted in every area of the UK

### Signs

- Frequently going missing from home or school
- Coming home after missing episodes looking unwell
- Being found with drugs
- Being found in a different area
- Increasingly disruptive or aggressive at school and home
- Anxiety/distress over mobile phone
- Unexplained money, mobile phones, clothes or electronics
- Increased interest in money
- Increased alcohol or drug use
- Having friends or associates who they are secretive about

**Worried**  
about your  
**child?**

#### Contact the Police

If you think a young person is in immediate danger, call the Emergency Services on 999.

#### Contact Pace

Parents can access support and advice from Pace about how to intervene early, liaise with local services and put measures in place to keep children safe from exploitation.

[www.paceuk.info](http://www.paceuk.info)



## Spot the signs of Child Sexual Exploitation

Children are often groomed into believing they are in a relationship with the exploiter. They can be manipulated into sexual acts through blackmail, threats and coercion. Children may be given items such as money, drugs and phones. The offenders can make the child feel protected, loved or dependent on them. Children can be exploited online without ever meeting the offender.

### Some facts



- Children can be targeted from any location or background
- Offenders can be male, female, groups or individuals
- Victims of CSE rarely disclose their abuse

### Signs

- Frequently going missing from home or school
- Being secretive
- Physical signs of abuse
- Changes in mood or behaviour
- Unexplained absences from home or school
- Anxiety/distress over mobile phone
- Unexplained money, mobile phones, clothes or electronics
- Increased alcohol or drug use
- New friends or associates who they are secretive about
- Unexplained injuries or marks

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