



06.4 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)/Children at Risk of Exploitation (CRE)

All staff will be trained to recognise signs which may indicate sexual exploitation and to identify children in the early years and childcare setting who may be at risk and to report this.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of child sexual abuse. It occurs where 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.

It can occur online, and many young people can be persuaded or forced to have sexual conversations by text or online, send or post sexually explicit images of themselves, take part in sexual activities via a webcam or smartphone.

We recognise the following risk factors for Child Sexual Exploitation(CSE)/Children at Risk of Exploitation (CRE) and will remain alert to these risk factors in the wider community and family context for our children.

Risk factors may include:

- Engagement in offending
- Disengagement from education
- Using drugs or alcohol
- Unexplained gifts/money
- Overly secretive
- Repeat concerns about sexual health
- Decline in emotional wellbeing
- Association in gangs
- Unexplained injuries
- Carrying weapons, access to or carrying unusual number of mobile phones

All suspected or actual cases of CSE/CRE are a Safeguarding concern in which Child Protection procedures will be followed; this will include a referral to the police. If any staff are concerned about a child or young person, they will refer to the Safeguarding Designated Lead/s in our early years and childcare setting.

Child Sexual Exploitation February 2017 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners>