

# IT HAPPENS HERE — HELP AND SUPPORT IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CSE

We all have a duty to keep children and young people safe.



*She's making me go to another party tonight...*

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a crime which can have devastating and long-lasting consequences for its victims and their families. Being able to access appropriate support and protection is essential.

CSE is happening in Dumfries and Galloway. Understanding the signs of CSE and knowing where to get help and support if you are worried about a child or young person will help keep them safe.

If you think a child or young person is in immediate danger, dial 999 and speak to the Police

If you are worried that a child or young person may be at risk of or experiencing child sexual exploitation please call 030 33 33 3001 and ask for the Child MASH.

You can find more information about Child Sexual Exploitation on - [www.pppdg.org.uk](http://www.pppdg.org.uk)

**NSPCC**  
SCOTLAND



# Child Sexual Exploitation IT HAPPENS HERE Dumfries and Galloway



*He buys me gifts when I do things for him...*

We all have a duty to keep children and young people safe. By understanding the signs of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and knowing where to get help and support if you are concerned about a child or young person, we can work together to keep them safe.

CSE is happening in Dumfries and Galloway, not just in cities like we see on the news. This leaflet has been produced as part of a local campaign to raise awareness of CSE in Dumfries & Galloway.

## IT HAPPENS HERE - WHAT IS CSE?

CSE, a form of sexual abuse, involves a young person under the age of 18 being manipulated, forced or pressured into taking part in sexual activity in exchange for things such as gifts, money, alcohol or affection.

Due to the manipulative tactics abusers often use, a young person may believe that they are in a loving and supportive relationship and may not be aware that they are a victim of abuse.

## IT HAPPENS HERE — WHO'S AT RISK OF CSE?

CSE can happen to young people of any age, gender, sexual orientation, background or race.

CSE can happen:

- online
- on a one to one basis between an abuser and a young person
- in gangs and groups.

Sexting is sending sexual images or words of or to a young person under 18. Young people should never feel pressured into doing this, it is breaking the law.

## IT HAPPENS HERE — HOW DOES CSE HAPPEN?

In the beginning the young person is made to feel special by showing them interest and affection. This grooming can take place online or in person.

They may be given gifts, somewhere to hang out, alcohol, cigarettes, a mobile phone or money for example.

Once the abuser has gained the young person's trust they may request sexual favours for themselves and/or others in return.

The abuser then stops being nice and can become threatening and violent.

Abusers can be men or women, from any background, race or religion. They may be the same age – even attending the same school - or older than the young person.

They will hold power over the young person – this may include being older, physically stronger, more popular or having more money.

## IT HAPPENS HERE - SPOTTING THE SIGNS OF CSE

Spotting the signs of CSE isn't always easy – the warning signs can be similar to the ups and downs young people experience as part of growing up.

These signs on their own might not mean a young person is experiencing CSE, however, there are changes in behaviour that might be a sign that something serious is going on. The more you're aware of what to look out for, the better placed you'll be to help protect the children and young people in your community.

A child or young person could be at risk if you spot any of the following:

- Mood swings and changes in emotional wellbeing
- Secretive behaviour
- Skipping school
- Coming home late or staying out over night
- New friends
- An older boyfriend or girlfriend
- Constantly on the phone or online
- Unexplained, expensive new things
- Using drugs or alcohol
- Change in style, tastes or behaviours
- Unexplained marks or scars
- Being picked up and dropped off by people you don't know
- Losing touch with their family and usual friends
- Unsafe sexual behaviour or infections
- Hanging out with other young people involved in exploitation
- Displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour
- Receiving messages or calls from new contact



*I didn't want to...but  
he asked me to be nice  
to his friends...*