

# CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

**CAN YOU SPOT THE SIGNS?**



city & hackney  
safeguarding  
children board

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**WHAT** is child sexual exploitation?



**It is a form of child abuse**

**Child Sexual Exploitation** (CSE) involves young people under the age of 18 being encouraged, trapped, forced or coerced into a sexual relationship or situation.

The young person is often offered something in return for performing sexual acts, such as alcohol, cigarettes, gifts, money, drugs, affection or somewhere to stay.

# Boys as well as girls can become victims of CSE.

In **Hackney**, like other areas of **London**, it's most likely to happen between young people of a similar age, and it might not always be obvious what's going on.

There can also be a link between CSE and when someone goes missing from school or home.



# Rachel's Diary

(Compiled from young people's stories)

My name is Rachel, I'm 15 years old and I live at home with mum, dad and brothers. I had lots of friends, but now I have a really close friend, Anna, who I tell lots of things to, things I couldn't tell anyone else.

When I was 14, I met someone. We'd talk every day over Facebook. He was really friendly, older than me, about 19 or 20, and he was way more popular than I was!

One day he asked me to send him a photo, so I sent him one and then he asked for more sometimes with me wearing clothes, sometimes without.

When he said he wanted to meet me in person I was so excited. He asked me not to tell anyone so I didn't. Obviously I didn't tell my parents! Like he said, they'd never understand.

He took me shopping and said I could buy whatever. OMG! I bought new make-up, dresses and even a pair of Nike trainers, the really expensive ones. He also bought me a new phone so he could call me whenever he wanted.

He had lots of friends and one day he took me to a party and he told me one of his friends wanted to go into the bedroom with me. He gave me a drink and he asked me to do it, just for him, so I did.

He would tell everyone I was his girlfriend  
-I was so happy.

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A few days later, he asked me to go to another party. I didn't want to go back but he had photos of me and my mobile number... I had to go to a few more parties with him and his friends. He kept buying me new stuff and giving me alcohol too. I had to hide things under the bed so that my mum wouldn't start asking questions.

Having an older boyfriend wasn't how I thought it would be. I didn't want to do the things he asked me to do with his friends but he said I'd do it if I loved him!



I couldn't stop crying when I was on my own...

My counselling session with Anna has just finished, she's not really a friend but someone I can talk to. I have been coming here for nearly six months ever since my friends told my brothers about my boyfriend. My brothers told mum and she found the trainers and the photos I sent to him.

I don't see him anymore.

I had to speak with a police officer and social workers and they introduced me to Anna. Anna really understands and she also talks to my family.

I am ready to go back to school now...




so excited!

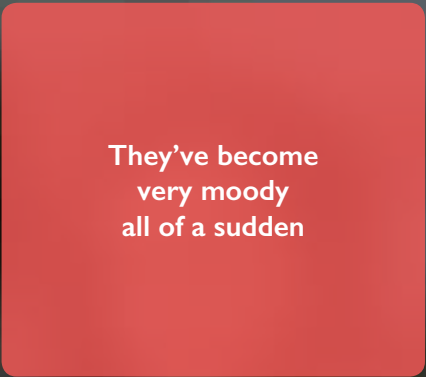
# SPOTTING the signs

There are lots of reasons why a child or young person might start acting differently, but slight or major changes in their behaviour can be a sign that they are mixed up in something dangerous, such as sexual exploitation. It's not always easy to spot, especially if those exploiting them are of a similar age.


Remember to consider CSE if one of the following crosses your mind:



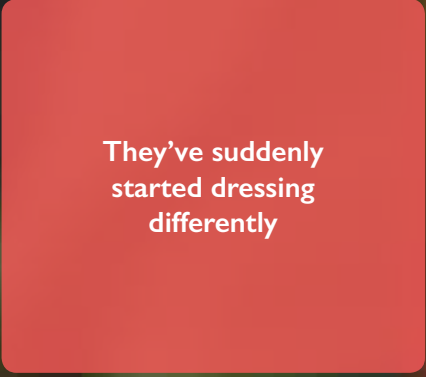
They've got some bruises and marks, maybe they are being hurt



They've become very moody all of a sudden



I don't recognise any of the new group they're hanging out with



They've suddenly started dressing differently

**They've become more secretive about the things they are doing**

**Their new friends are all much older than them**

**They don't spend time with their old friends anymore**

**They have more money than usual and they've got lots of new things**

**They are staying out later, sometimes all night and they're missing school**

**If you've noticed any of these signs it doesn't mean a young person is definitely at risk.**

**However, it is always better to talk to someone if you're unsure or uncertain about something.**

# WHERE to go for help

Any of these organisations can give you free advice and support. The Police and NSPCC can be contacted 24/7 and calls can be made anonymously.

**Child Exploitation Helpline – 0808 800 5000**

**Metropolitan Police Service** Call 101

In an emergency always call 999

[www.content.met.police.uk/Borough/Hackney](http://www.content.met.police.uk/Borough/Hackney)

**Hackney Children  
and Families**

**First Access  
and Screening Team**

Call 020 8356 5500  
[fast@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:fast@hackney.gov.uk)  
[www.hackney.gov.uk/  
children- and-families](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/children-and-families)

**NSPCC**

Call 0808 800 5000  
[help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)  
[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

**Young Hackney**

Call 0208 356 7404  
[www.younghackney.org](http://www.younghackney.org)

**Safer London**

Call 020 7021 0301  
[info@saferlondon.org.uk](mailto:info@saferlondon.org.uk)  
[www.saferlondon.org.uk](http://www.saferlondon.org.uk)

**Parents Against Child  
Sexual Exploitation (PACE)**

For information that can help you understand what is happening and how you can help visit:  
[www.paceuk.info](http://www.paceuk.info)

**School Safeguarding Officer**

All schools have someone who can give advice if you are concerned about a child. Ask a teacher or at the school's office.