

STOP CSE

**TOGETHER WE CAN STOP SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

National Child Exploitation Awareness Day 18th March 2023

This day aims to highlight the issues surrounding child exploitation, raise awareness and encourage everyone to think, spot and speak out against abuse.

Child Exploitation is a form of abuse that involves the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18.

The National Child Exploitation Awareness Day aims to highlight the issues surrounding Child Exploitation; for 2023 we are focusing on **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)** and encouraging everyone to **think, spot and speak out** against abuse and adopt a zero tolerance to adults developing inappropriate relationships with children or children exploiting and abusing their peers.

What does that actually look like?

Exploitation is a type of **child abuse**, it is **never the fault of the child**. It is often characterised by an imbalance of power, exchange and (the restriction or absence of) consent.

Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an **imbalance of power** to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child (under the age of 18 years):

(a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or

(b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

Money, gifts, accommodation, affection, status, food, drugs or alcohol may be freely given to the child but then they will be expected to engage in sexual and/or criminal activities in return. Exploitation is where a person (adult or peer) or group forces, tricks or manipulates a child into doing something for them.

The child often trusts the person exploiting them and may not know that what is happening to them is exploitation. A child may be being exploited even if they appear to agree to the activity. They may be scared of what will happen if they do not do what their abuser says.

Sometimes young people can be used to exploit other children through peer groups or gangs.

It is a **serious crime** and the young people and families around them are victims, even if they may not recognise themselves as such.

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Partnership have lots of information, advice and guidance for parents, carers and young people in relation to Child Exploitation please visit via this link

<https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/be-aware-parents-and-carers/>

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)

A national children's charity, preventing abuse and helping those affected to recover.

Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE)

The leading national charity working with parents and carers of sexually exploited children.

ECPAT UK

A UK organisation campaigning against child trafficking and exploitation.

Fearless

A service that allows you to pass on information about crime 100% anonymously.

Enough Campaign

A national campaign to tackle violence against women and girls.