**What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?**

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is when a young person under 18 is manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act in exchange for material goods, reward or affection. This means that someone may be tricking you into having sexual contact with them or other people and in return giving you gifts, money, favours, somewhere to stay or drugs and drink.

The person doing this could be male or female. They may know you or they will look for places where young people hang out or will create false profiles and make contact with you on the internet. They normally show an interest in you and offer you a cigarette, drink or just someone to talk to. They may buy you presents and to keep in contact with you buy you a mobile phone. This process is called grooming and makes you trust them. They may enter a sexual relationship with you, treat you kindly and take you to nice places. You will think everything is fine and that you are in control.

Over time, your relationship with them might change and they may then force or persuade you to have sex with them and others or film you doing sexual things. They may do things that are dangerous and against the Law such as taking or selling drugs, or they may be involved in some form of criminal activity.

**The Law and Your Rights**

- In Scotland a child or young person is anyone under the age of 18.
- It is everyone’s job to protect you from harm, abuse and exploitation.
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that every child has the right to be free from abuse, exploitation or kidnap.
- It is against the Law for anyone to have sex with a person under the age of 16.
- It is illegal for a person of authority such as a doctor, teacher and carer etc to engage in a sexual act with anyone under the age of 18.
- Nobody has the right to touch you if you do not want to be touched or persuade you to engage in sexual acts if you do not want to.

**How to keep yourself safe**

**Speak Out**
If you feel something is not right then tell someone you trust. If they won’t listen tell someone else. Trust your gut instinct. It may be embarrassing but abuse is never your fault.

**Avoid Drinking Alcohol**
Do not drink too much alcohol. If you do have a drink ensure you look after it. Drugs are often used to spike drinks and are hard to spot.

**Say No**
If you do not want to do something it’s ok for you to say no. It is your choice. Also, do not force or pressurise anyone else into doing something they clearly do not want to do.
**Have Enough Money to get Home**
Always make sure you have enough money to get home and share a taxi with friends. If you have to get a taxi alone let someone know the firm or driver’s badge number.

**Tell Someone Where you are Going**
Always tell your parent, carer, or friends where you are going and when you will be back. Ensure your mobile is fully charged and has credit.

**Stay Safe Online**
Never put your personal details on the internet such as address, mobile phone number, or even your full name. Use a nickname if you can. Your friends will know who you are. Always use privacy settings.

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**Useful websites**

- **Perth and Kinross CSE**
  www.pkc.gov.uk/cse

- **Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre**
  http://ceop.police.uk
  www.thinkuknow.co.uk

- **Children 1st**
  www.children1st.org.uk

- **NSPCC Scotland**
  www.nspcc.org.uk

- **Barnardos Scotland**
  www.barnardos.org.uk

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**How to get help**

You are not alone eg speak to a trusted friend or adult, a parent, carer, teacher, social worker, youth worker or any other adult you trust. If you need help or you have concerns regarding a friend please contact:

- **Child Protection Duty Team**
  01738 476768 (24hrs)
  or
  **Police Scotland**
  Non-emergency number 101
  In an emergency call 999

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You can also send us a text message on 07824 498145.

All Council Services can offer a telephone translation facility.

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