

1.10 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Policy

To be read and followed alongside our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies.

Policy Statement

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. At The Rocking Horse it is our duty to protect all children in our care from any type of abuse and report any concern immediately. We will, with our knowledge, skills, professional curiosity and assessment, analyse the risk factors and personal circumstances of individual children to ensure that the signs and symptoms are interpreted correctly and appropriate support is given immediately.

It is important to remember that many children who are sexually exploited may have been victims of other forms of abuse; the grooming methods that may be used can mean that children who are sexually exploited do not always recognise they are being abused, which can also affect detection rates. What is clear is that child sexual exploitation can occur in all communities and amongst all social groups and can affect girls and boys.

Definition:

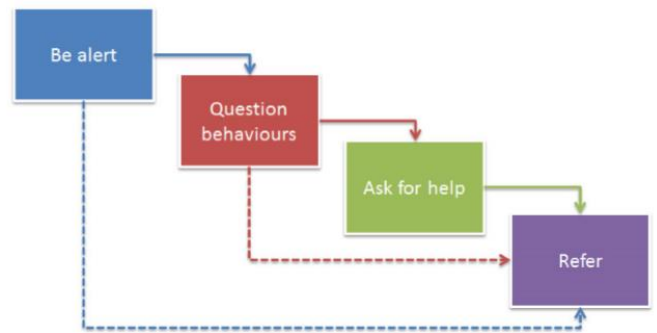
Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. DfE.

Potential Indicators of risk:

- Exclusion or unexplained absences from nursery.
- Inappropriate sexualised behaviour for age/sexually transmitted infections;
- Evidence of/suspicions of physical or sexual assault;
- Relationships with controlling or significantly older individuals or groups;
- Increasing secretiveness around behaviours;
- Self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being.

Procedure to follow if concern is highlighted:

- Record immediately with the below information:
 - Child's name
 - Child's address
 - Age of the child and date of birth
 - Date and time of the observation or the disclosure
 - Exact words spoken by the child
 - Exact position and type of injuries or marks seen
 - Exact observation of an incident including any other witnesses
 - Name of the person to whom the concern was reported, with date and time; and the names of any other person present at the time
 - Any discussion held with the parent(s) (where deemed appropriate).
- Report to Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) immediately.
- If concerns regarding the child are not being acted upon, it is your responsibility to take action – Early Help Assessment.
- If you feel the child is in need or is being harmed a referral to children's social care must be made immediately.
- After a referral has been made you may be involved in an 'Early Help Assessment', 'Strategy Meeting', 'Initial Child Protection Conference' and 'Core Group'.



Child Sexual Exploitation Team – Call 101 (Operation Willow)

Documents used to form this policy:

Department for Education: 'Child sexual exploitation: definition and guide for practitioners (2017)'; 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused: advice for practitioners (2015)'; 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)'; 'Keeping Children Safe in Education (Sept 2023)'.

Kent Safeguarding Children's Multi-Agency Partnership has further information:
<https://www.kscmp.org.uk/guidance/exploitation/child-sexual-exploitation>