



RISE Highlands

Reducing the Impact
of Child Sexual Exploitation



RISE Highlands aims to

Reduce the risk, harm and impact of exploitation for young people & families, provide support, training and consultancy to agencies, and assist the identification & disruption of criminality via intelligence sharing



What is Child Exploitation?

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse in which a person(s) of any age takes advantage of a power imbalance to force or entice a child into engaging in sexual activity in return for something received by the child and/or those perpetrating or facilitating the abuse. As with other forms of child sexual abuse, the presence of perceived consent does not undermine the abusive nature of the act.

Scottish Government 2016

CSE can be linked with, or operate similarly to, Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). Both can have devastating impacts and should be treated seriously as a child protection issue. Every agency has a role to play in reducing the incidence and impact of exploitation in the Highlands.



What are the indicators?

- Regularly going missing or returning home late
- Reduced attendance or performance at school/college
- Having money, clothes, mobile phones, keys and other items that cannot be accounted for
- Change in mood, mental health, or temperament - including becoming more secretive, or self-harming
- Signs of physical harm, or reporting sexually transmitted infections
- Becoming withdrawn from friendships/family - associating with peers who are involved in CSE, or beginning a 'relationship' with an older partner
- Accessing drugs and/or alcohol

This list is not exhaustive, and nor does it confirm CSE. However, if a child is **vulnerable and displays indicators**, further action is always warranted. Many young people do not recognise CSE and may believe their activity is consensual. The absence of a disclosure does not mean that no action should be taken.





How can RISE Highlands help your team?

- Reviewing existing CSE training for your agency and offering suggestions, inputs, and bespoke learning workshops
- Reviewing existing CSE education for young people and offering suggestions, inputs, and bespoke learning/awareness raising (e.g. schools and youth groups)
- Sharing resources, research, and advice with professionals - attending multi-agency meetings to offer case consultancy, and working with those closest to young people to shape case-specific support plans
- Listening to concerns and representing your/young people's interests at strategic groups, or in the development of new policies & practices
- Assisting and advising professionals & young people on where to turn to if they wish to report exploitation concerns or intelligence

We are always open to exploring new partnerships and opportunities which will reduce the risk, harm & impact of exploitation. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with RISE Highlands.

hollie.drever@barnardos.org.uk

07523944995