

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Not in our City. Not to our Children

Information for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers

This guide is to help inform Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers about child sexual exploitation, what it is, how it might impact on you and how you can help keep children safe.

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg.



What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a hidden form of child abuse and is a crime. CSE involves both male and female children being tricked, coerced or manipulated into sexual acts. It is very unlikely that children who are sexually exploited will tell the adults around them what is going on. This might be because they don't think anything is wrong or because they are afraid.

Children might be given physical things such as alcohol, drugs or gifts like trainers or jewellery by the abuser. The abuser may also draw children in by making them believe they are in a relationship. A child is unable to see that they are being used for sex because the abuser has tricked them or may hold power over them in some way. For example, they may have an explicit photo of the child that they use to threaten them and make them do what they want. This grooming and abuse can start online before happening in person and can take place within groups of friends of a similar age.

Abusers know how to target vulnerable children and they are skilled in approaching them and gaining their trust. This makes it difficult for exploited children to see and understand what is happening to them when they are being targeted, controlled, manipulated and used.

Where does it take place?

Child Sexual Exploitation and grooming happens in public places like hotels, pubs, clubs, takeaways, fast food outlets and parks, but it mostly takes place in people's homes. Child Sexual Exploitation happens in every area of the UK. Cardiff is no exception.



What can you do?

You are the eyes and ears of our city. CSE is a hidden form of abuse and the abusers rely upon the silence of those involved in order to operate. CSE cannot be dealt with by the police alone. By working together with the police and other agencies you can help make the difference to a child in danger. Everyone who comes into contact with children has a role to play in safeguarding. Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility.



Spot the signs

What would you do if you have a bad feeling about a child or young person you have come into contact with?

Example 1

You are working a night shift and a young person gets into your taxi with a visibly older person. This does not look like a young person with a parent or sibling. The older person asks for them to be taken to a hotel. You suspect that the young person may be under the age of 18.

What would you do?

As there is an immediate danger to the young person, you should contact the police and tell them of your concerns as soon as possible by contacting 999.

Example 2

You are working a night shift when you pick up a pre-booked fare. A young person gets into your vehicle with a visibly older person. The pre-booked destination is a private address. The conversation and actions of the older person make you uncomfortable and you hear them talking about sexual activity. You suspect that the young person may be under the age of 18.

What would you do?

As there is an immediate danger to the young person, you should contact the police and tell them of your concerns as soon as possible by contacting 999.

Example 3

You are waiting outside a pub at 11:30pm when you notice a young person leaving the premises who appears to be very drunk. The young person is approached by someone they don't seem to know who offers them a ride home. The young person is joined outside by their friends from the pub and doesn't get in the car.

What would you do?

As there is no immediate danger to the young person, you should take them to the address and call 101 to inform the police about your concerns.

Example 4

Your booked pickup is a club at 4.30am where three young people, who appear to be drunk, are waiting for you. The pre-booked destination is a private address. You think the individuals may be aged under age 18.

What would you do?

As there is no immediate danger to the youths, you should take them to the address and call 101 to inform the police about your concerns.

Example 5

You are booked to pick up at midnight from an address you know provides supported accommodation to vulnerable people including children aged 16 and 17 years. A young person you think may be under 18 gets in and is met at the destination by someone who looks much older who pays the fare.

What would you do?

As there may be an immediate danger to the child, you should contact the police and tell them of your concerns as soon as possible by contacting 999.

You may overhear or see something in your car you are not happy with, or hear conversations at work between other drivers. Always listen to your gut instinct; if you see something that doesn't seem right pass it on.



‘Pass it on!’

If you have seen or heard something that concerns you, call the police to talk to them about what you have observed. **If you are concerned for the immediate safety of a child, phone 999.** If there are no immediate concerns you can ring 101 for advice.

Make a note of what happened. Include as much information as possible such as descriptions of people, names or nick names and car registration numbers. You can use the pages at the end of this guide to record any information about vehicles, properties or people of concern. Making notes straight away can help you recall vital information that may help the police if they have to take action.

If you identify venues or areas of concern you can pass this on to police on 101. You can also contact your local neighbourhood policing team, licensing department, public protection units and children’s services for further advice and guidance.

DO NOT put off that call to the Police. The Police will respond to all calls of concern.

Remember this is a HIDDEN CRIME.
Make the call – make the difference to the child.

Sharing Information

Information that would be most helpful to include when reporting an incident to the police

- Person description
- Time and date of sighting
- Male/Female
- Age
- Build/Height
- Ethnicity (*White, Black, Dual Heritage, Asian, Chinese, other*)
- Languages spoken
- Accent
- Clothing
- Hair colour/type
- Additional Information
(What happened? Where? Were they carrying anything? Where did they go? Did they have any distinguishing features? Did you hear them speak?)
- Vehicle description
- Time and date of sighting
- Vehicle colour
- Make/Model
- Clothing
- Registration/Part-registration
- Additional information
(What happened? Where? Who was in the vehicle? How many occupants? Where did they go? Did they have any distinguishing features?)