

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

A TOOLKIT FOR PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

In collaboration with

**The
Children's
Society**

No child
should feel
alone

VS **VICTIM
SUPPORT**

 **NPCC**
National Police Chiefs' Council

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	2
Introduction and definition	3
Vulnerabilities and indicators	7
What can you do?	10
Effectiveness of CSAE Awareness with professionals working in the night time economy	12
What can you do for your business?	15
Resources	16
Research	18
Reference	19

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PLEASE NOTE: This guidance is based on our current understanding of the night time economy. Therefore this document will remain a living document and subject to change.

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INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITION

Over the last few years, there has been an increase in the profile and awareness of child sexual exploitation and other forms of child sexual abuse. The true scale of child sexual abuse is still not known, however we do know that in 2016 around 54,000 sexual offences against children were reported to the policeⁱ and 1 in 20 children and young people have experienced child sexual abuse.ⁱⁱ It is thought that this is just the tip of the iceberg and that the true figure may be much higher.

Whilst some may feel that sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse are an issue for the police and children's services to deal with; the reality is that we all come in to contact with a child or young person at some point in our lives, either personally or professionally. Therefore we can all play an active role in preventing sexual abuse and exploitation, help to create safer environments for children and young people, and support those who experience it in the best way we can.

This toolkit aims to offer some advice and information for professionals working in the night time economy in relation to child sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse, and hopefully provide insight for those working within this sector.

The Home Office updated the definition of child sexual exploitation for England in 2017:

*'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.'*ⁱⁱⁱ

However it should be noted that this definition has been described by some as 'hygienic' and 'abstract', and that it does not reflect the violence, injury, trauma and suffering experienced by children and young people.

In Wales, Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation Statutory Guidance defines child sexual exploitation as: 'The coercion or manipulation of children and young people into taking part in sexual activities. It is a form of sexual abuse involving an exchange of some form of payment which can include money, mobile phones and other items, drugs, alcohol, a place to stay, 'protection' or affection. The vulnerability of the young person and grooming process employed by perpetrators renders them powerless to recognise the exploitative nature of relationships and unable to give informed consent.'^{iv}

The Night Time Economy (NTE) is the fifth biggest industry in the UK, accounting for at least 8% of the UK's employment and 6% of the UK's total revenue per year.^v The NTE consists of many different businesses, services and licensed premises, including:

- Transport – taxis, trains, buses, car hire
- Retail and food outlets
- Security staff
- Licensed premises
- Accommodation (including hotels, B&Bs)
- Music/sporting events
- Street pastors
- Homeless shelters
- Other entertainment/leisure complexes and areas, such as gambling premises
- Convenience stores/petrol stations
- CCTV operatives
- A&E staff

Child sexual exploitation and other forms of sexual abuse (CSAE) which involved businesses such as taxi firms, hotels and fast-food outlets – as seen in cases in Rotherham and Rochdale – have received widespread public attention. As a result the NTE has been a key area to focus CSE awareness and preventative activity. Perpetrators of CSAE are known to target places and venues where children and young people go or use, to facilitate or commit abuse. Therefore it is extremely important that awareness, prevention and disruption methods are targeted here.

Recently, there has been a range of campaigns across the UK aimed at increasing the awareness of CSE including: Operation Makesafe (London Met and Gwent force areas, or Say Something if you See Something in West Midlands), Nightwatch: CSE in Plain Sight (Barnardo's in 12 sites across England), It's Not Okay (Greater Manchester) and See Me, Hear Me! (Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Walsall, Coventry, Birmingham, Solihull and West Midlands force area).

In the Government's Tackling CSE report, reducing vulnerability is one of the strategic aims, which includes tackling environmental weaknesses.^{vi} This is described as 'the factors that can make town centres and the night time economy unsafe for children and young people.' It also states how ensuring that professionals are equipped to understand and address the risk factors that can lead to abuse contributes to reducing vulnerability.

Providing industry-specific CSAE awareness-raising sessions and guidance among professionals and businesses working in the NTE can help identify and protect children and young people at risk. CSAE awareness sessions should particularly be targeted at workers who may have close or frequent contact with children and young people eg door staff, taxi drivers etc. Awareness sessions should educate NTE professionals and businesses on the warning signs of CSAE – what to look out for, what to do if they believe a child or young person is at risk of CSAE, and how to escalate information to the appropriate agencies in order to safeguard them.

A study by Kerr et al., 2017^{vii} aimed to build an understanding of what NTE professionals know about CSAE and how they respond to it currently. The study consisted of 126 self-defined NTE professionals across industries within the public, private and third sectors, with the majority working in public transport.

Findings from online questionnaires completed by the professionals found that:

- Not all professionals who took part in the study felt equipped to recognise and respond to the warning signs of CSAE.
- Training is not widespread across the NTE, with levels of information and support around CSAE varying.
- Only 20% of the professionals had heard of one or more of the CSE campaigns across the UK.

- Factors found to influence the professional's decision-making when reacting to CSAE warning signs included:
 - Their role/remit specifically around child protection – several professionals did not see responding to CSAE as part of their role.
 - The degree of contact with CYP.
 - The perceived risk to the child.

This demonstrates that there is still a lot of work to do to support professionals working in the night time economy so that they are able to safeguard children and young people from sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse.

VULNERABILITIES AND INDICATORS

In our employment we all have a safeguarding responsibility and this is covered through legal contracts for keeping the public safe or in social responsibility policies covering our duty of care.^{viii} It is vital that if you are working in the night time economy, you know the warning signs and indicators of CSAE, and know what to do and how to report it to the police if you have suspicions.

VULNERABILITIES

There are some factors that can increase the vulnerability that a child or young person will be exploited by others. In order to understand these, it is helpful to draw on the contextual safeguarding^{ix} areas shown below, helping to picture the child or young person's individual factors, home, peers, school and neighbourhood.

Figure 1: Contexts of Adolescent Safety and Vulnerability (Firmin 2013:47)

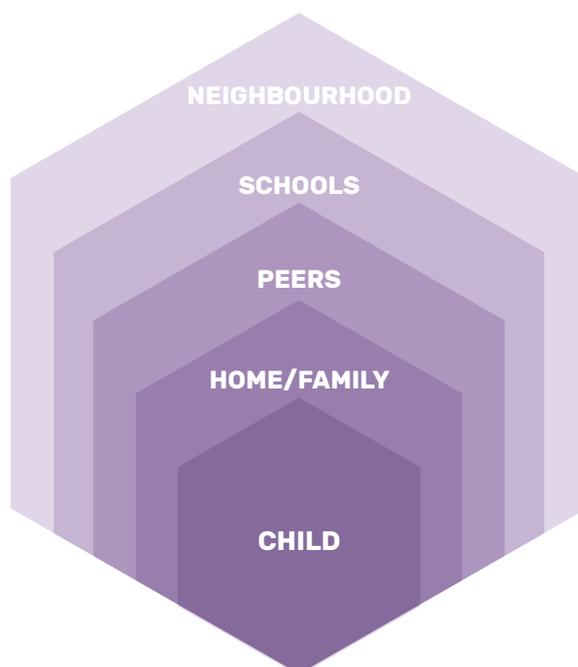


Illustration provided by the University of Bedfordshire, Contextual Safeguarding team

The following vulnerabilities do not mean that a child or young person will be exploited, but they are factors that could increase their risk of being exploited.

CHILD/INDIVIDUAL: If a child or young person is looked after, has learning disabilities, substance misuse issues, or mental health problems.

HOME/FAMILY: If there is neglect/abuse, exposure to or experience of violence, parental substance misuse, mental health issues and domestic abuse, poverty, lack of a positive relationship with a protective and nurturing adult, homelessness or insecure accommodation status.

PEERS: If the child or young person is exposed to other children and young people who are known to be exploited, or exposed to or experiencing peer-on-peer abuse.

SCHOOLS: If the child or young person has been excluded from school and is not in education, training or employment, or is exposed to or has experienced violent crime.

NEIGHBOURHOODS: If the child or young person has been exposed to or has experienced violent crime, or lived in a deprived neighbourhood.

WARNING INDICATORS

The warning signs for child sexual abuse and exploitation can also be attributed to other vulnerabilities for young people. Although, these indicators do not always mean CSAE is taking place, there are a number of indicators listed in the following table that could alert professionals working in the night time economy to a child or young person being exploited.

- Spending a long time in one area.
- Seen out late at night, or when they should be at school.
- Appears to be travelling long distances, or are out of their local area.
- Is accessing places that are not age appropriate.
- Is with an older person who doesn't seem to be their parent or carer.
- Is with an older person, or a group of older people.
- They have been approached by someone unknown to them.
- They are given gifts (including food, cigarettes, alcohol) or are offered a place to stay.
- Other people are speaking on behalf of the young person when they are being directly spoken to.
- They may be presenting with volatile or aggressive behaviour, or may be quiet, withdrawn, trying to hide or be secretive.
- The child or young person may be presenting as anxious or distressed, dishevelled or tired.

- The child or young person appears to be alone.
- Physical signs of abuse – ie bruising or injuries.
- The child or young person appears to be under the influence of, or being given, alcohol or drugs.
- Evidence of self-harm or low self-esteem.
- Adults are frequently coming in to venues with different young people.

You can find more information to help understand the signs of child sexual exploitation [here](#) and in the resources section later in this document.

If you see any of the indicators it is advised that you monitor the situation closely and report any suspicions. You don't need to wait until you are certain that abuse has taken place. If something makes you feel worried about a child, it is best to share it immediately.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If you are worried about a child or young person there are a number of different things you can do to help.

- If you are concerned about a child's immediate safety call the police on 999.
- If you have safeguarding concerns about a child which are not immediate, please contact your Local Children's Services Safeguarding team or the NSPCC's helpline on 0808 800 5000.
- If you think a crime has been committed you can report this to the police by calling 101.
- If you have intelligence that may help the police you can contact Crimestoppers, anonymously, by phone on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org
- You can report any concerns about online grooming to CEOP.
- Please report any child abuse images you find online to the Internet Watch Foundation.
- If a child wants to talk to someone in confidence they can call ChildLine on 0800 1111 or Get Connected on 0808 808 4994 (text 80849).
- Tell your manager what you have seen and ask for support if you are unsure what to do.
- Be interested, professionally curious, listen to what the young person is saying and hear it from a safeguarding perspective.
- Don't make judgements.
- Do not intervene if it is going to put yourself or the victim at an increased risk. If you are unable to intervene at the time of the incident, it is important that this information is still passed onto the police as intelligence.
- Make a record of what you are concerned about. For example, if you see the same thing happening again and again, keep a record of the dates and times – this can be vital information and help safeguard the child or children. For more information about capturing and reporting intelligence please read our [guidance on capturing intelligence](#).

WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON CONFIDES IN YOU:**Do:**

- **Stay calm.**
- **Listen carefully to the child.** Avoid expressing your own views on the matter. A reaction of shock or disbelief could cause the child to 'shut down', retract or stop talking.
- **Let them know they've done the right thing.** Reassurance can make a big impact on the child, who may have been keeping the abuse secret.
- **Tell them it's not their fault.** Abuse is never the child's fault and they need to know this.
- **Say you believe them.** A child could keep abuse secret in fear they won't be believed.
- **Make a record.** Write down exact words if possible, including relevant information such as car registration plates.
- **Share what you have been told.** Explain to the child or young person that you must pass the information on and this is because you want to help make them safe.

Don't:

- Show shock or disgust.
- Prompt the child to share more by asking detailed or leading questions.
- Make assumptions or put words in their mouth.
- **Don't delay reporting the abuse.** The sooner the abuse is reported after the child discloses the better. Report as soon as possible so details are fresh in your mind and action can be taken quickly.
- **Don't talk to the alleged abuser.** Confronting the alleged abuser about what the child's told you could make the situation a lot worse for the child.

WHISTLEBLOWING:

If you have concerns about the behaviour of somebody who you work with, you are protected by law to raise these concerns as a 'whistleblower'. You shouldn't be treated unfairly or lose your job because you 'blow the whistle'. You can raise your concern at any time about an incident that happened in the past, is happening now, or you believe will happen in the near future.^x

If something doesn't sit right...report it! Follow your internal procedures if it feels safe to do so, or contact the 'Stop it Now' helpline on 0808 100 0900 for advice and support on what you can do.

EFFECTIVENESS OF CSAE AWARENESS WITH PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Barnardo's Nightwatch: 'CSE in Plain Sight'^{xi} was delivered in 12 sites across England – West Sussex, Bristol, Birmingham, Buckinghamshire, Leeds, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Plymouth, Rotherham, Sheffield, Bradford and Wakefield – with the aim of raising CSE awareness, and giving advice and guidance to businesses and services working in the NTE (D'Arcy and Thomas, 2016).

Feedback from NTE professionals who attended the sessions was positive and particularly informative. Some of the key conditions deemed effective by the Nightwatch practitioners and the NTE professionals who attended the sessions were:

- Localised examples of CSE.
- Adopting a friendly, non-judgemental approach that does not attribute blame, focusing on a joint approach to tackle CSE.
- Multi-agency working and information sharing allowing NTE professionals to feel more confident when reporting.

Examples of good practice:

There have been lots of innovative and interesting ways to work with individuals and organisations working in the night time economy, where the awareness-raising and working together has helped protect children and young people. Examples include a CCTV operative who had been trained in spotting the signs of CSE calling the police when he noticed a young female in a car with an older male. The CCTV operative's concerns were proven to be correct and the child was appropriately safeguarded.

Engaging taxi drivers

In 2016, Caerphilly County Borough Council offered all taxi services within their area free safeguarding awareness training sessions delivered by the local police force. Taxi services were notified about the training and were required to either attend the free session by the council, or pay for an approved alternative provider at their own expense. It is now mandatory for all those who wish to apply for a taxi license to pay to attend a safeguarding course. Caerphilly County Council also teamed up with the police to promote Operation Makesafe in their area.

As well as posters, beer mats, leaflets, key fobs and taxi air fresheners, Caerphilly provided safeguarding training focusing on CSE to local pubs and clubs: <http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/News/News-Bulletin/November-2017/Working-together-to-tackle-child-sexual-exploitation>

Shopping centres and fast food outlets

In 2017, The Sexual Exploitation Team (SET) within the Metropolitan Police identified four offences of rape within a four month period, from three victims under the age of 16. The SET identified the meeting point prior to these offences to be the same location within a shopping centre with late night fast food outlets. There were numerous other vulnerable CSE victims and missing young people from across the area who were also linked to this location.

As a result, the SET team ran a police operation which aimed to:

- Identify and safeguard vulnerable children in the location of the shopping centre.
- Identify offenders of CSE and create maximum disruption to their activities.
- Create a visible presence in order to disperse groups and educate the public and businesses through open communication and the distribution of literature.

A CSAE Prevention Officer from The Children's Society supported the operation, providing recommendations for CSAE prevention and awareness-raising activity with the security teams, fast food outlets and local business operating in the shopping centre. They also provided resources and guidance for those individuals and businesses. CSE resource packs were distributed to young people including lip balm, headphones, a wristband and information card, as well as vital information about services in the area for young people to access and where to go to for support. These 'CSE packs' helped police officers to start conversations with young people. Information and advice was also distributed to parents and carers on how to protect their children and young people.

The operation resulted in a number of arrests and numerous young people being safeguarded. Coverage in local and national media raised awareness with members of the public, highlighting the scale of the problem across the UK. It also prompted members of the public to contact police and CSAE Prevention Officer to share further intelligence and concerns. This level of impact is best achieved when different individuals and groups within communities work together to create safer spaces for children and young people.

Licence holders:

The Security Industry Authority have demonstrated their commitment to raising awareness to their licence holders across a number of settings, including shopping centres, event spaces, door staff and holiday resort staff. They have produced information Z cards to give out to all frontline operatives and are producing a webpage aimed at equipping frontline staff with resources and guidance to respond to CSE.

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

Now you have this information you may feel compelled to do something to make a change in how your team, business or organisation responds to this issue – and there are lots of things you can do.

You can:

- Ensure everyone in your team knows what child sexual exploitation and other forms of sexual abuse are and how to spot the signs.
- Make sure everyone knows how to report any concerns or intelligence.
- Display campaign information in your offices (see resources section).
- Add child sexual exploitation and abuse awareness to any team meeting agendas, and talk about the issue regularly – the more you talk the more confident you will feel in addressing the problem.
- Mandate Safeguarding of children and vulnerable people training for all staff – this should include sexual exploitation as well as other forms of abuse.
- Identify a safe place and a safe person for young people to speak to if they have concerns.
- Engage with other businesses and organisations you work with who may be able to help create safe spaces; share information on what to look for and what to do.
- Become a CSAE Champion and raise any concerns with managers to make sure there are appropriate policies in place.

RESOURCES

ORGANISATION	TITLE	WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?	WEBSITE
NWG and The Children's Society	See Something Say Something campaign	Posters aimed at small businesses, transport, music/sport events.	http://www.stop-cse.org/ssss/
Barnardo's	Night Watch Video	Awareness-raising video to be used with night time economy staff.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhX2gzxjhdM
Metropolitan Police	Operation Makesafe	CSE awareness posters, training sheets and postcards for hotels, taxis, pubs and licensed premises.	https://www.met.police.uk/about-the-met/campaigns/operation-makesafe/
Gwent Police	Operation Makesafe	CSE training packages, postcards and posters for; hotels and B&Bs, taxis, education, healthcare, licensed premises, parents and carers, general advice and 'Are you being exploited'?	https://www.gwent.police.uk/en/newsroom/operations-campaigns/operation-makesafe/
Project Phoenix	It's Not Okay.	Provides professionals, businesses, parents/carers and young people with resources.	http://www.itsnotokay.co.uk/
West Midlands Police	See Me Hear Me	Includes posters, resources, other campaign material and help and advice.	https://www.seeme-hearme.org.uk/resources

ORGANISATION	TITLE	WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?	WEBSITE
The Children's Society	Intelligence guidance	Guidance for professionals on what intelligence is and how to report in to police.	https://www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/sites/default/files/Guidance%20Cap%20Intel%20Toolkit.pdf
British Transport Police	Text number -61016	Use this number to text BTP about non-emergency incidents.	http://www.btp.police.uk/61016_text_service/how_to_use_the_text_number-1.aspx
Security Industry Authority	Z cards / webpage	Z cards available to security staff with an SIA license – signs to spot CSE and how to report it.	Contact the Security Industry Authority directly
Lincolnshire County Council, supported by National Pub Watch	Ask Angela	Ask Angela campaign is distributed to bars through Pubwatch schemes in the county and lets people know that if they are in a situation where they don't feel safe, they can ask bar staff for help.	https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/news/ask-for-angela-international-success-to-raise-awareness-of-sexual-violence/130376.article http://www.nationalpubwatch.org.uk/news/national-pubwatch-supports-ask-angela-campaign/

RESEARCH

Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse – Responding to child sexual abuse and exploitation in the night time economy

<https://www.csacentre.org.uk/research-publications/night-time-economy/responding-to-child-sexual-abuse-and-exploitation-in-the-night-time-economy/>

Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse – Scale and nature of child sexual abuse and exploitation

<https://www.csacentre.org.uk/research-publications/scale-and-nature-of-child-sexual-abuse-and-exploitation-report/scoping-report/>

University of Bedfordshire – CSE in plain sight

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/nightwatch_cse_in_plain_sight.pdf

University of Bedfordshire – Contextual Safeguarding

<https://www.beds.ac.uk/ic/current-projects/contextual-safeguarding-programme>

University of Bedfordshire – Outreach work

<http://www.dmss.co.uk/pdfs/outreach-work-cse-rea.pdf>

Jessica Eaton and Dez Holmes – Working effectively to Address Child Sexual Exploitation: Evidence Scope (2017)

<https://www.rip.org.uk/resources/publications/evidence-scopes/working-effectively-to-address-child-sexual-exploitation-evidence-scope-2017->

<http://www.oscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/SCR-into-CSE-in-Oxfordshire-FINAL-FOR-WEBSITE.pdf>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-exploitation/preventing-cse/>

<https://cornerstonebarristers.com/cmsAdmin/uploads/night-time-economy-final.pdf>

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Please note that this guidance and definition is currently under review.
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- viii NWG Small businesses pack <https://resources.nwgnetwork.org/resources?-types%5B0%5D=45&cats%5B0%5D=9004&cats%5B1%5D=9005&cats%5B2%5D=9014&cats%5B3%5D=9016&cats%5B4%5D=9017&page=1>
- ix <https://contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/>
- x <https://www.gov.uk/whistleblowing>
- xi http://www.barnardos.org.uk/nightwatch_cse_in_plain_sight.pdf