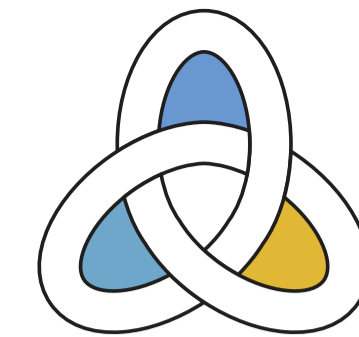


safenews

MARCH 2024



LEARNING TOGETHER
CORNWALL EDUCATION LEARNING TRUST

Bodmin College | Brannel School | Carclaze CP School | Fowey Primary School | Lostwithiel Primary School | Luxulyan School | Mevagissey Primary School | Mount Charles School | Newquay Junior Academy
Newquay Primary Academy | Newquay Tretherras School | Newquay Tretherras Sixth Form | Penrice Academy | Poltair School | Pondhu Primary School | Port Isaac Community Primary School | St Mewan CP School



Safeguarding vision at CELT -

- Safeguarding is the golden thread through CELT
- 'it could happen here'
- Ensure that every pupil and young person are heard
- Zero tolerance for discrimination
- Empowerment of our staff
- Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility

PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP
 ACCOUNTABILITY
 CARE SAFEGUARDING EMPOWER
 STRENGTHEN IMPROVE
 ENABLE EVERYONE VULNERABLE
 RESPONSIBILITY

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE).

The following has been taken from Barnardos



'Criminal exploitation is when an individual or a group manipulates, deceives, coerces or controls someone under the age of 18 to take part in any activity which breaks the law. All children are at risk of criminal exploitation, including girls.

Children may still have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears to be something they have consented to. Starting ages appear to be getting younger. It is important to remember that all children and young people are potentially vulnerable to exploitation and come from a range of backgrounds. This might include those who have experienced previous abuse, are homeless, are misusing alcohol and drugs, have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), are in care, are out of education, have run away/ gone missing from home or care, or are involved with a gang

Criminal exploitation can take many forms, from making children hold, hide or deliver drugs, money or weapons, to forcing children to steal, harm others or beg.

Common terms used are County lines, Gangs and Trafficking.

The common feature across all the forms of CCE is the imbalance of power. Children and young people will receive something in exchange for them completing acts or favours for the person exploiting them. This may be gifts, status in a group or gang, somewhere to live, etc. The acts or favours required in return are usually criminal in nature.

The imbalance of power means that consent is not considered, and the choices that the child or young person believes that they have, may be nothing of the sort.

Signs of CCE

Signs you may notice of a young person being criminally exploited are

- Increasingly disruptive, hostile or physically aggressive behaviours at home or school, including the use of sexualised language and language in relation to drug dealing and/or violence
- New peers groups and/or relationships / hanging out with older adults
- Often going missing from home or school, being found away from their normal area
- Reports of being taken to parties, people's houses, unknown areas
- Unexplained money, new clothes, designer wear, jewellery, gadgets or mobile phones
- Having multiple phones
- Getting lots of phone calls or texts
- Carrying weapons
- Self-harming and feeling emotionally unwell
- Using slang words

What to do

If you become aware or suspect a young person is being criminally exploited follow your safeguarding procedures and report immediately to your designated safeguarding lead.

Always take the young person seriously, listen to the young person and do not judge them. Take action and keep taking action until you are confident the young person is safe.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

The following has been taken from Barnardos

'Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. Child sexual exploitation is a term used to describe where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child under the age of 18 into sexual activity. The child may have been sexually exploited even where the sexual activity appears consensual. For instance, the child might have been led to believe they are in a consensual relationship with the person.'

CSE does not always involve physical contact- it can occur through the use of technology such as social media and gaming apps. The young person may be persuaded or forced to have sexual conversations by text or online. They may send or post sexually explicit images of themselves or take part in sexual activities via a webcam or smartphone.

It's important that we recognise that exploitation is child sexual abuse and should be seen as such. (Child sexual abuse (CSA) involves forcing or persuading a child or young person under the age of 18 to take part in sexual activities)

Some children and young people are more vulnerable to abuse when they:

- Have prior experience of neglect, physical or sexual abuse
- Lack a safe/stable home environment- now or in the past
- Experience a bereavement or loss
- Are socially isolated or have social difficulties
- Are in care
- Have connections with other young people who are being sexually exploited
- Have a physical or learning disability
- Don't have a safe environment to explore their sexuality
- Are economically vulnerable

Some of the warning signs to look for are similar to CCE. It may be that a child or young person:



- Acquires money, clothes, mobile phones or other expensive items when you don't know they have bought them
- Is excluded/suspended from school or has unexplained absences from school
- Is persistently going missing from home/school or returns late
- Receives excessive amounts of texts/calls, is reluctant to give up their phone
- Self-harms or displays significant changes in emotional well-being, mental health or self-esteem
- Having more sexual knowledge or displaying more sexualised behaviour than is developmentally appropriate for their age

Child sexual exploitation is never the young person's fault. Avoid suggesting young people might be making 'lifestyle choices' to be abused, or minimising concern because they have agreed to or received something for the abuse.

What to do

If you become aware or suspect a young person is being sexually exploited follow your safeguarding procedures.

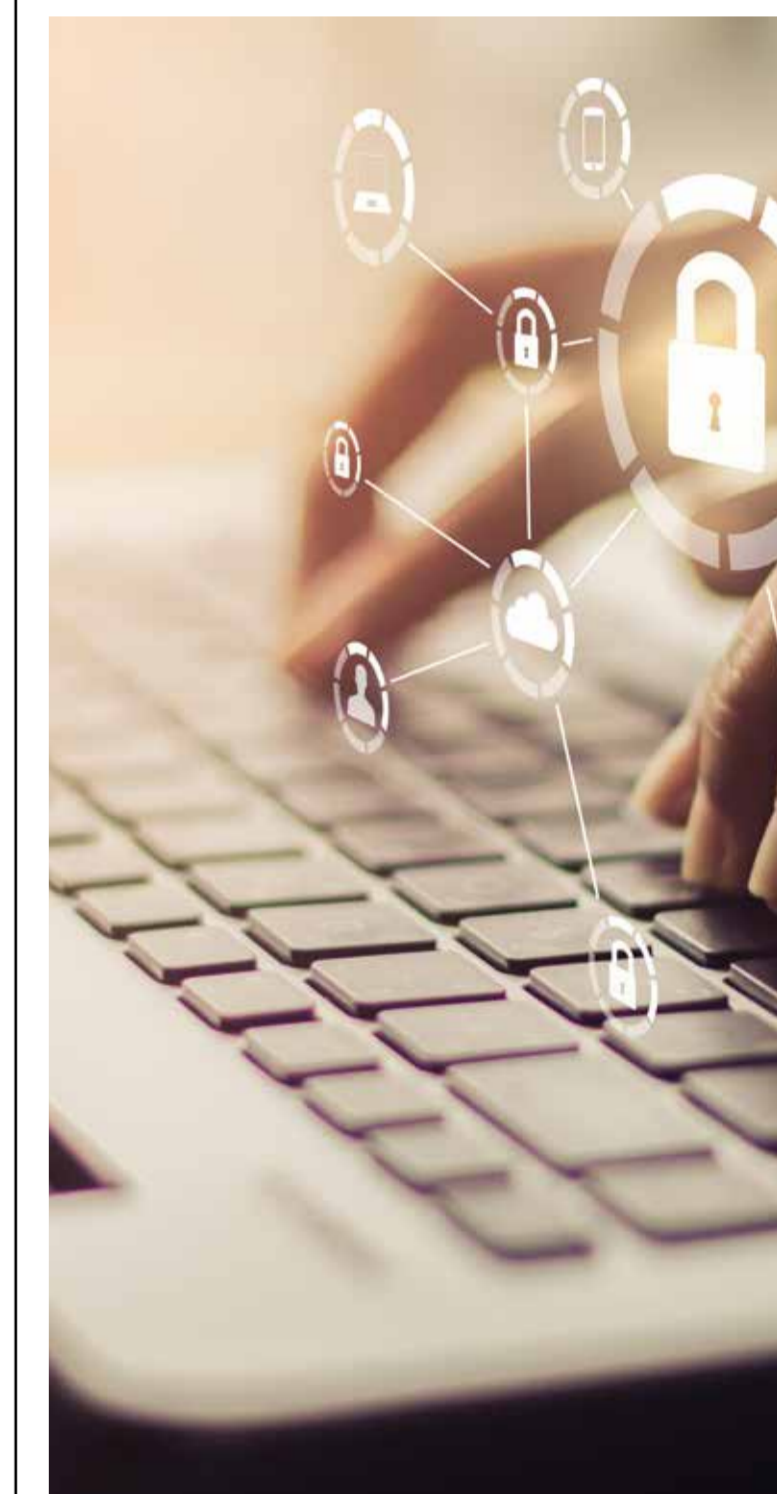
Always take the young person seriously and use your relationships with the young person to understand what is happening. Listen to the voice of the young person and do not make assumptions or judge them. Remember it can be very hard for children to speak out about abuse. They fear there may be negative consequences if they tell anyone what's happening to them.

Report immediately to your designated safeguarding lead.

Take action and keep taking action until you are confident the young person is safe.

When logging an incident on CPOMS, remember to

- Use the dashboard search for the student and press 'add incident'
- Record the incident as Cause for Concern 23
- Record a subcategory – Choose a subcategory- Cause for concern, Drug/ Substance misuse, Medical, Online Safety, Smoking and e-cigarettes and Wellbeing
- This is then triaged by your safeguarding team who will then add extra categories so that it is consistent throughout all schools.
- Every half term your safeguarding team will audit CPOMS and record all cause for concerns
- The safeguarding team can then look at trends and take actions to ensure all our young people are safeguarded.



Awareness Days in March

International Womens Day

Friday 8th March.

International Women's Day is a day to join voices with people around the world and shout message for equal rights loud and clear:

"Women's rights are human rights!"

It is a celebration for all women, in all their diversities. It embraces their facets and intersections of faith, race, ethnicity, gender or sexual identity, or disability. It celebrates those who came before, those who stand beside women now, and those who will come after.

It's a time to celebrate the achievements of women, whether social, political, economic or cultural.

This year's theme is to 'Inspire Inclusion'



National Child Exploitation

Awareness Day

Monday 18th March

This aims to highlight the issues surrounding Child Exploitation; for 2024. It is about encouraging everyone to think, spot and speak out against abuse and adopt a zero tolerance to child exploitation.

Young Carers Action Day

Wednesday 13th March

Young Carers Action Day is an important day in the calendar to create action, influence and raise awareness for young carers and young adult carers.

The Young Carers Action Day 2024 theme is fair futures for young carers which will be focusing on why caring should not be a barrier to learning, earning or being able to get on in life.

DSLs across the Trust

It's normal to feel overwhelmed and confused if a child reveals they're being abused. It's a challenging subject that can be both difficult to accept and talk about. However, you must be aware of your safeguarding information sharing (or disclosure) responsibilities so you can take the correct course of action to ensure the safety of the child or young person.

Although the abuse could be kept a secret out of fear, children experiencing distress may speak to you as they find you trustworthy and deem the school a safe place. It's also not unusual for them to choose particular staff members that they feel have less authority or are less intimidating. Remember we are all Emotionally Available Adults to our students.

Regardless of your role, if a child approaches you to indicate abuse or disclose harm, your role is to recognise and refer the abuse - not to investigate.

Please speak to a member of the Safeguarding Team

Trust Safeguarding Lead	Amy Daniels	adaniels@celtrust.org
Safeguarding Trustee	John Simeons	JSimeons@gov.celtrust.org

School	DSL	Email Address
Bodmin	Emma French Sue Gilbert (Operational)	efr@bodmincollege.co.uk
Brannel	John Doherty	dsl@brannel.com
Carclaze	Simon Pollard	dsl@car.celtrust.org
Fowey	Liz Measom	dsl@fow.celtrust.org
Lostwithiel	Elaine Badger	dsl@los.celtrust.org
Luxulyan	Nathan Cooper	dsl@lux.celtrust.org
Mevagissey	Ben Ringrose	dsl@mev.celtrust.org
Mount Charles	Rachel Nile	dsl@mcs.celtrust.org
Newquay Junior	Tania Findlay	dsl@nja.celtrust.org
Newquay Primary	Craig Hayes	dsl@npa.celtrust.org
Newquay Tretherras	Jacqui McGlynn Laura Thomas (operational)	dsl@tretherras.net
Penrice	Claire Gurd Abby McDonald (operational)	dsl@penrice.org.uk
Poltair	Heidi Spurgeon	dsl@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk
Pondhu	Rachel Clift	dsl@pon.celtrust.org
Port Isaac	Emma Williams	head@port-isaac.cornwall.sch.uk
St Mewan	Karen Dickens	dsl@stm.celtrust.org
CELT Hub	Andy Egford	dsl@hub.celtrust.org



TRAINING THIS MONTH

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse is a difficult area for any practitioner to have to deal with and subconsciously we may find ourselves looking for other explanations for what we are seeing. It is however important we understand the signs and symptoms of sexual abuse and always consider whether a child may be being sexually abused.

Definition

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

Keeping Children Safe in Education

What and who does it involve?

The abuse may involve physical contact or non-contact activities. Sexual abuse can take place online, and / or technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse (e.g., grooming of the victim).

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children including siblings and peers. Children are usually sexually abused by someone that they know who has spent time building a trusted connection with them, meaning the offender can work to reduce the risks of getting caught.

Abusers may use their role within organisations to create opportunities and develop relationships with children and young people. It is therefore important we understand that **it could happen in our organisation**, and we know how to report our concerns.

Sexual Offences Act 2003

Whilst the legal age to consent to sex is 16, the

law has three categories of offences:

- **Children under 13** - children under 13 are deemed not able to consent to any form of sexual activity.
- **Children aged 13-16** - Whilst it is still an offence to have sex with a child under the age of 16, the law is clear that if it is two children of similar age and there is consent then they will not be criminalised.
- **Under 18's** - this links in with child sexual exploitation which is a form of child sexual abuse. Victims can be sexually exploited even if the activity appears to be consensual. It can occur in person or using technology.

It is an offence for anyone who is deemed to be in a position of trust to cause or incite anyone under the age of 18 to engage in sexual activity or to have sex with them.

Signs of sexual abuse

As with all safeguarding issues, the signs may be indicating sexual abuse but could also be linked to other issues. We should actively consider whether sexual abuse may be taking place. Signs may include:

- soiling or wetting the bed or clothes.
- discharge / sexually transmitted infections.
- recurrent abdominal pains / pregnancy / soreness of the genital area.
- eating disorders.
- spending a lot more or less time online.
- secretive behaviours.
- age-inappropriate sexual language, behaviour or knowledge.
- being sexually active at a very young age.
- risky sexual behaviour in adolescents.
- avoiding being alone with or frightened of particular people.
- depression / self-harm / lack of self-esteem.

If you have concerns talk to your DSL. If you have concerns about a colleague, make sure you act.

<https://safeguarding.network/sexual-confidence-in-safeguarding>

March 2022