

### WHAT IS CSE?

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is when an adult coerces or gives a child something in exchange for allowing sexual acts to be performed by or on them. This could be in person, online or on camera.

CSE can be very hard to spot. Sometimes young people themselves don't realise what is happening. They may believe they are in a loving relationship. They may believe what they're being asked to do is 'normal'. If they do realise they are being abused, they may feel trapped. They may feel unable to tell anyone what is going on.

### CSE CAN HAPPEN TO BOYS AS WELL AS GIRLS

Groomers and abusers may sometimes use different techniques to draw boys in, but the outcome is the same. Our response should be the same too, but there are a number of additional things to think about:

- Boys are more likely to be criminalised for their behaviour.
- Boys often find it more difficult to seek help because of the stigma associated with being an abuse victim.
- Often adults miss the signs or CSE in boys or put it down to teenage bad behaviour.

## 1 in 3 victims of CSE is a boy

### WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR



- ↗ skipping school
- ↗ staying out late or overnight
- ↗ unexplained gifts or new possessions
- ↗ using drugs and drinking alcohol
- ↗ friendships or relationships with older adults
- ↗ inappropriate or sexualised behaviour
- ↗ being secretive
- ↗ changes in appearance (clothes, hygiene etc.)
- ↗ significant changes in mood or behaviour
- ↗ youth offending behaviour run ins with the police or involvement in youth justice system
- ↗ becoming withdrawn or isolated
- ↗ poor mental health. Eg: self-harm
- ↗ excessive time spent on social media talking to 'friends' they haven't met
- ↗ recurrent STIs