



Child Sexual Abuse Newsletter September 2018

This bulletin on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), aims to spread awareness of what CSA is, and help you spot the signs, let you know what to do and where to seek guidance.

In Northumberland over the last 18 months we have had two Serious Case Reviews and undertaken a large scale case File Audit into CSA; see below for the reports and team briefs.

[Molly SCR](#), [Molly Seven Minute Guide](#), [Olivia SCR](#) and [Olivia Seven Minute Guide](#) and [CSA Audit](#)

What is Sexual Abuse?

This is really something none of us needs to see in print, or really want to read, but we need to think the unthinkable. Sexual abuse of children thrives on secrecy and lies. So please read on:

- **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.**
- **The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing.**
- **They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).**
- **Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males.**
- **Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children**

We could go on to talk about the various forms of sexual assault and the law we just need to be aware: **It will be happening in our County, probably right now!**

In law children under 16 years of age cannot consent to any sexual activity occurring, although in practice young people may be involved in sexual contact to which, as individuals, they may have agreed.

Children under 13 years cannot in law under any circumstances consent to sexual activity and specific offences, including rape, exist for child victims under this age.

All girls and boys are at risk of sexual abuse: It is seriously harmful to children both emotionally and physically.

Signs of Sexual Abuse

The fact is, boys and girls of all ages may be sexually abused and are frequently scared to say anything due to guilt and/or fear. This is particularly difficult for a child to talk about (and for a parent/carer to hear) and full account should be taken of the cultural sensitivities of any individual child / family. Recognition can be difficult, unless the child discloses and is believed. There may be no physical signs and indications are likely to be emotional and/or behavioural.

There are many **Behavioural Indicators**, and they will depend in part of a child or young person's age, but here are a few common signs to look out for:

- Inappropriate sexualised conduct / sexually harmful behaviours
- Sexually explicit behaviour, play or conversation, inappropriate to the child's age
- Continual and inappropriate or excessive masturbation
- Self-harm (including eating disorder), self-mutilation and suicide attempts
- Indiscriminate choice of sexual partners
- An anxious unwillingness to remove clothes for - e.g. sports events (but this may be related to cultural norms or physical difficulties)
- Running away

Physical Indicators:

- Pain or itching of genital area
- Recurrent redness that is unexplained
- Unusual vaginal discharge
- Sexually transmitted infections, Blood on underclothes, Pregnancy
- Physical symptoms e.g. injuries to genital or anal area, bruising to buttocks, abdomen and inner thighs, presence of semen on vagina, anus, external genitalia or clothing.

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[NSPCC guide into Signs and Indicators](#)

Please see out NSCB Seven Minute Guides into:

[Child Sexual Abuse](#)

[Familial Sexual Abuse](#)

[Child Sexual Exploitation](#)



1 in 3 children sexually abused by an adult did not tell anyone.

Over **90%** of sexually abused children were abused by someone they knew.

Source: Radford, L. et al (2011) Child abuse and neglect in the UK today.

In an emergency always telephone 999 or to make a referral ring OneCall on 01670 536400

NSCB website <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Safeguarding.aspx>

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is also a form of Sexual Abuse, which both girls and boys are vulnerable to. Sexual exploitation involves exploitative situations, contexts & relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.

For more information on this please see our [NSCB page on CSE](#)

Guidance

[NSCB Procedures](#)

[NSCB Guidance Harmful Sexual Behaviours](#)

[NSCB Guidance Allegations of Harm Arising from Under Age Sexual Activity](#)

[NSCB Guidance Safeguarding Children and Young People from Child Sexual Exploitation](#)

[Victim and survivor voices from The Truth Project](#)

[NSPCC Exploring the relationship between neglect and adult-perpetrated intrafamilial child sexual abuse](#)

[Department of Education Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges](#)

Training

[Seen & heard e-learning](#)

[Bradford LSCB Jack SCR presentation](#)

[Basic awareness training for parents and carers](#)

[The Parents Protect! Child Sexual Abuse Video Learning Programme](#)

Please note that NSCB does not endorse these sites and takes no responsibility for the contents therein. These links are given for information only.

NSCB Training

[NSCB Multi-agency training programme](#)

Resources

[Link to the NSPCC 'PANTS' Underwear Rule Campaign](#)

[NSPCC 'PANTS' song and animation](#)

[NSPCC 'PANTS' Underwear Rule flyer for parents](#)

[NSPCC 'PANTS' Underwear Rule flyer for foster carers](#)

[NSPCC 'PANTS' Underwear Rule flyer for children](#)

[No one noticed, no one heard – A study of disclosures of childhood abuse by the NSPCC](#)

[CEOP Resources: The Thinkuknow Toolkit](#)

[Seriously Awkward: How vulnerable 16-17 year olds are falling through the cracks](#)

[Together, we can tackle child abuse – DfE campaign toolkit](#)

[Brook Sexual Behaviour Traffic Light Tool](#)

[The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse \(CSA\)](#)

[Childline Share some secrets resource](#)

Videos

[NSPCC 'PANTS' song and animation](#)

Video for young children: Meet Pantosaurus - our pant-wearing Dino! He wants every child to stay safe and strong, just like him, and he's on a mission to share an important message.

[NSPCC Sarah's Story](#)

Adult reflecting on the CSA she suffered as a child

['My Dangerous Loverboy'](#)

Website which includes short DVD films, e.g. animation called 'Me, Jenny and Kate', the trailer for the film of 'MDL' and details of resources and projects, e.g. 'Love and Lies' education pack.

['East Enders Plot – Tiffany'](#) Sexual Exploitation of young people – can you recognise the signs (Child Line and Association of Police Officers)

['THISTLE'](#) A short awareness film – 7 mins – on CSE, made by young people for young people with Gwent Police

[NSPCC The Story of Jay](#) CSE outlining a form of CSE how a girl was used by the man she thought she loved.

Resources

[Seven Minute Guide – Learning from the CSA Audit](#)

[Seven Minute Guide – NSCB Team Brief Familiar Sexual Abuse](#)

[Seven Minute Guide – NSCB Team Brief Sexual Abuse](#)

[Seven Minute Guide Child Sexual Exploitation](#)

Poster

[Stop it Now Resources for Team rooms and waiting areas.](#)