

Practical tips

Get yourself educated with regard to e- safety.

Support the child's / young person's attendance at personal relationship educational programmes at school.

Keep a diary to catalogue your concerns (can be used for evidential purposes).

Keep your supervising social works and the child's social worker informed.

Talk to your supervising social worker regarding training opportunities.

Seek support from relevant agencies as listed opposite.

Useful Contacts

Parenting NI (028) 9031 0891

Regional Emergency Social Work Service (028) 9504 9999
(5.00pm - 9.00am, weekdays / 24hrs at weekends and bank holidays)

Barnardo's Safe Choices (028) 9065 8511
(Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm)

PSNI 101 or
999 in an emergency

Name of supervising social worker:

Contact number:

Name of child's social worker:

Contact number:

Child Sexual Exploitation

*Are you concerned regarding
your foster child's safety?*



What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

It is a form of sexual abuse in which a person(s) exploits, coerces and / or manipulates a child or young person into engaging in some form of sexual activity in return for something the child needs or desires and/or for the gain of the person(s) perpetrating or facilitating the abuse.”

(SBNI 2014 adopted from CSE Knowledge Transfer Partnership NI)

Possible warning signs:-

- Going missing ie. not knowing your child's whereabouts
- Unexplained physical injuries
- Drug & alcohol misuse
- Involvement in offending
- Repeated sexually transmitted infections (STI's), pregnancies and terminations
- Absent from school
- Change in physical appearance
- Evidence of sexual bullying / vulnerability through the internet and / or social networking sites
- Estranged from family / friends
- Receipt of gifts from unknown strangers
- Recruiting others into exploitative situations
- Poor mental health
- Self harm or thoughts of or attempts at suicide
- Getting picked up / left of by taxi / unknown cars
- Use of mobiles prior to going out.

The primary responsibility for safeguarding children rests with parents, who should ensure that children are safe from danger in the home and free from risk from others.

Foster / kinship foster carers take on a parenting role when children / young people are not able to live at home and therefore will do their utmost to keep them safe and promote their wellbeing.

Fostering is one of the most rewarding and fulfilling roles a person can undertake but it is not without its challenges.

Fostering teenagers can be particularly difficult as children transition into adolescence and try to assert their own independence and authority.

They often appear un-cooperative, difficult or hard to engage and it is important that carers try to keep lines of communication open.

It is important that when carers are struggling in their caring role that Social Work professionals work alongside them to maximise their capacity as a carer to safeguard the child.

Social Work professionals will work in partnership with foster / kinship foster carers by:-

- Adopting a holistic approach in working alongside the foster / kinship family
- Recognising that carers have their own support needs and if supported have greater resilience to safeguard the child
- Understanding the value of foster parent / kinship foster carers in disrupting and preventing CSE.

They will also do this by engaging with carers through :-

- Listening
- Adopting a non-judgemental approach
- Building relationships
- Using appropriate language
- Explaining agency procedures
- Explaining legislation
- Sign-posting to relevant support
- Including carers in decision-making
- Keeping carers apprised of any developments
- Inform carers how they can gather information and pass it on to the relevant authorities
- Offer carers training to assist them recognise the risks associated with CSE and how to respond appropriately.