

# CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION POTENTIAL INDICATORS

Health	
Physical injuries / symptoms of sexual / physical no explanations	Strong indicator
Chronic fatigue	
Sexually active	
Recurring or multiple sexually transmitted infection	Warning sign
Pregnancy and / or seeking abortion	
Evidence of substance use (drugs or alcohol)	
Sexually risky behaviour (multiple partners)	Warning sign
Self harming (cutting; overdose; eating disorder)	
Low self image / self esteem	
Significantly older girl / boyfriend (sexual relationships)	Warning sign
Behaviour	
Volatile behaviour exhibiting extreme mood swings / use of abusive language	
Aggressive / violent behaviour	
Involved in petty crime (shoplifting / stealing)	
Secretive behaviour	
Entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults / known CSE adults	Warning sign
Leaving home / care setting in clothing unusual for the individual child (inappropriate for age, borrowing clothing from older people etc; overtly sexualised clothing)	
Has money, expensive clothes, mobile phones or other possessions without plausible explanation	Strong indicator
Unusual hours / regular patterns of child leaving or returning to placement	
Change in appearance	
Detachment from age appropriate activities	

Social relationships	
Unexplained relationships with older adults	Strong indicator
Isolated from peers	
Inappropriate use of internet and forming relationships, particularly with adults, via internet	
Phone calls / text messages / letters from unknown / multiple adults	
Adults or older youths loitering outside child usual place of residence	
Associating with other young people who are known to be sexually exploited / clipping (money then run)	Warning sign
Accounts of social activities with no plausible explanation of the source of necessary funding	
Movement / location	
Missing long periods (2+ nights) with no known home base	Strong indicator
Pattern of street homelessness / unsuitable accommodation	
Gone missing from local authority care	
Placement breakdown	
Persistently missing, staying out overnight or returning late with no plausible explanation or known links	
Returning after having been missing looking well cared for in spite of having no known base	Warning sign
Having keys to premises other than those known about	
Going missing / found in areas where they have no known links	
Education	
Truancy / suspension / disengagement	
Behavioural - poor concentration or memory, irritable / unsociable / aggressive behaviour in school or placement	

Exploitation	
Located / seen in a place known to be used for sexual exploitation (hot spots, flats, cars, houses etc)	Strong indicator
Being taken to clubs/hotels/houses and engaging in sexual activity	Strong indicator
Discloses sexual/ physical assault	Strong indicator
Discloses sexual/ physical assault – followed by refusal to complain or withdrawal of complaint	Strong indicator
Reports from reliable sources suggest likelihood of sexual exploitation	Strong indicator
Abduction / forced imprisonment	Strong indicator
Paid / given money for sex	Strong indicator
Under 16 and meeting adults to engage in sexual activity	Strong indicator
Family history and relationships	
History of abuse / neglect / domestic abuse	
Hostility in relationships to parents / carers / family members	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 5px;">Vulnerable</div> <div style="background-color: orange; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 5px;">Warning sign</div> <div style="background-color: red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Strong indicator</div>	

Adapted from

Durham SCB [www.durham-lscb.gov.uk/documents/Child%20Sexual%20Exploitation/CSE%20Risk%20assessment%20matrix.doc](http://www.durham-lscb.gov.uk/documents/Child%20Sexual%20Exploitation/CSE%20Risk%20assessment%20matrix.doc)

Leicester SCB <http://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/pdfs/LSCB%20CSE%20MULTI%20AGENCY%20PRACTICE%20GUIDANCE.pdf>

DCSF [www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DCSF-00689-2009](http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DCSF-00689-2009)

Barnardos [www.barnardos.org.uk/barnardos\\_s\\_cymru\\_sexual\\_exploitation\\_risk\\_assessment\\_framework\\_report\\_-\\_english\\_version-2.pdf](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/barnardos_s_cymru_sexual_exploitation_risk_assessment_framework_report_-_english_version-2.pdf)