

Concerns for Children at Risk of Exploitation

The purpose of this guidance is to provide professionals who are working with children to have a better understanding and knowledge of the indicators of exploitation and what to do with concerns they may have.

Types of Exploitation that you may come across include:

- Sexual
- Trafficking
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Gangs/Groups
- And Radicalisation

Some of the indicators that a young person/child may present with that may cause concerns of exploitation include:

- Poor self-image/self esteem
- Experimenting with drugs or alcohol
- Poor mental health
- Eating disorders
- Self-harm
- Changes in behaviour, e.g. secretiveness
- Parental domestic abuse
- History of neglect/physical/sexual abuse
- History of domestic violence
- Reduced contact with family and friends
- Unaccounted money or gifts
- Missing from home and/or education or truanting
- Being a Child in Care
- Obtaining a sexually transmitted disease

If you should be concerned of any of the above, you can refer to the CSE toolkit provided on this link: <http://www.suffolkscb.org.uk/assets/Safeguarding-Topics/Child-Sexual-Exploitation/2017-06-02-CSE-Toolkit.pdf>. This toolkit also provides guidance on procedures to follow should concerns be indicated at a low, medium or high risk level.

In addition the Make A Change team are available for an informal discussion. This team specialises in working with children at risk of child exploitation. Contact details as follows:



Landmark House
4 Egerton Road
Ipswich
IP1 5PB
Tel: 01473 263507

Missing Children Guidance for Schools

The purpose of this guidance is to ensure all instances of children missing from school are responded to in the same way across the county. It is the school's responsibility to ensure a child whose whereabouts is unknown and cannot be ascertained, is reported missing to the police. Whilst it is important for parents/carers to be notified of this, it should not be assumed that this is solely the parents/carers responsibility to notify the police.

Please ensure the below process is followed for children whose whereabouts is unknown and cannot be ascertained.

For general advice or guidance surrounding this, please contact the missing children coordinator for Directorate of Health, Wellbeing and Children's Services via Missing.children@suffolk.gcsx.gov.uk. Please note: **this inbox should not be used to report children missing. Missing reports should be made via 101 or in an emergency situation 999.**

