



Information for Taxi Drivers

What is child sexual exploitation?

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse, in which young people up to 18 years old are manipulated, or forced into taking part in sexual activity. This could be as part of what looks like a consenting relationship, or in return for attention, money, food, alcohol or somewhere to stay. The young person may think that their abuser is their friend, or even a boyfriend or girlfriend. But the abuser will put them into dangerous situations, forcing the young person to do things they don't want to do. The abuser may physically or verbally threaten the young person or be violent towards them. They will control and manipulate them, and try to isolate them from friends and family. Perpetrators of CSE are from any community, any religion, any race, any colour.

Signs to look out for and what to do

- Taking/collecting young people (girls and boys) from hotels/B&Bs/house parties;
- Picking up young people from other cars;
- Young people who look distressed or intimidated;
- Observing suspicious activity in hot-spot areas;
- Young people under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol in the company of older adults;
- Attempts by young women to avoid paying fares in return for sexual favours;
- Regular males requesting taxi rides to and from locations - taking young people with them;
- Taking young people to A&E, who are not with parents;
- Young people with injuries such as bruising or blood stains;
- Young people going by taxi to a hotel or other venue to meet a group of adults who do not seem to be family members;
- Young people out late with older adults who do not seem to be family members;
- Young people being bought alcoholic drinks by adults although the young person is already intoxicated;
- Young people in the company of adults who are known or suspected of being involved in adult prostitution;
- Young people being bought food or drinks by a much older adult whom they seem to see as a boyfriend / girlfriend;
- Indications of sexual activity with one or more adult who is significantly older than the young person;
- Indications of sexual activity involving a young person who you know or suspect to be under 16.

What to do:

- Make notes about the information you know
- Call the police non-emergency number 101 or the local Social Work Centre to report your concerns about possible sexual exploitation. If a crime is in progress please call 999

Information to share:

- Names
- Locations and addresses of concerns
- Descriptions of people
- Car registration plates, makes and models of vehicles
- Description of concerning activity

Contact details:

Police: 101/999

Social Work: Out of office hours: 01506 281028/9

Social Work Centres: Bathgate: 01506 776700

Bathgate: 01506 776700

Livingston: 01506 282252