

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY
PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE



Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Multi-Agency Guidance

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Responsible Manager	Public Protection Committee
Author	Name: Clare Cowan
	Designation: Lead Officer Child Protection
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse which happens in person or online or a combination of both. Perpetrators are often well organised and use sophisticated tactics to manipulate children and young people and evade detection. Victims may not understand the exploitative nature of the experience and therefore not receive the support and protection they need. In addition, society often ignores the issue, often unaware of the abuse young people are exposed to as a result of perceived views of groups of teenagers in the community. With regard to internet child sexual abuse, it can be difficult to offer protection in a space where CSE is further hidden and undetected. CSE alongside other forms of child sexual abuse is complex and largely under reported.
- 1.2 The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2021) updated 2023 states:
- ‘Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a person under 18 into sexual activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact. It can also occur through the use of technology. Children who are trafficked across borders or within the UK may be at particular risk of sexual abuse.’

2. Why It Matters

- 2.1. [OBJ] CSE is a **form of child sexual abuse**, always involving a **power imbalance** and **coercion**, regardless of perceived consent. As outlined, it is often **hidden and under-recognised**, which can delay protection and increase harm.
- 2.2. [OBJ] Children rarely disclose directly; **fear, shame, threats, stigma and trauma** commonly lead to delayed or partial disclosure, or retraction. CSE can cause serious **psychological, emotional and physical harm**, with vulnerability heightened by isolation, running away, substance use, bullying, poverty, learning needs or previous trauma.
- 2.3. [OBJ] Digital platforms increase risk via **grooming, coercion, sharing of images** (see [Practitioners Guidance to the Sharing of Nudes and Semi-Nudes](#)) and facilitating abuse online and offline.
- 2.4. CSE may be linked with Criminally Exploited Children (CEC) and **trafficking**, increasing danger and complexity in a child's circumstances. Children may be **wrongly criminalised** for behaviours arising from exploitation as some children affected by CSE may be **coerced into criminal behaviour** by their abusers. Such children require protection, not punishment. Children who are **trafficked**, both across borders and within the UK, may be at particular risk of sexual abuse.

3. Practice Considerations

- 3.1. A **child protection response is always required** when CSE is suspected - ***disclosure is not needed to act***. Practitioners should apply the **GIRFEC National Practice Model** within an effective child protection response using local inter-agency child protection procedures, including relevant risk assessment frameworks.
- **Exchange** (for example gifts, affection, substances, accommodation) is a **key feature** and distinguishes CSE from other forms of sexual abuse. Fear of what might happen if they do not comply can also be a significant influencing factor, for example a child who engages in sexual activity in order to avoid harm to their family or friends. In some situations, the abuser or facilitator may also achieve financial gain or status.
 - Use a **trauma-informed approach**: understand fear, shame and coercion; avoid victim-blaming and support the emotional safety of the child.
 - Consider the role of **grooming**, including long-term or online grooming whereby the groomer targets a child and builds an emotional connection with them so that they can manipulate and abuse them. Groomers may also form relationships with family members in order to make contact with children.
 - Think broadly about **perpetrators**: they may be family, peers, older adults, gangs or organised networks. Being aware of the signs and indicators of CSE is key.
 - Explore links with **CEC** and whether the child has been coerced into crime. These young people are sometimes wrongly **punished or criminalised** instead of being recognised as victims of sexual exploitation. Professionals must **engage, listen, and seek to understand the context** behind the child's actions. Children experiencing CSE need **protection, support, and a non-judgemental response**, not blame.
 - Assess for **trafficking indicators** (movement, transport, exchange, control) Children may be **recruited, transported or moved** over short, medium, long, or even international distances in order to be exploited. When assessing CSE concerns, practitioners must consider whether the child has been **trafficked for the purpose of exploitation**. The **immediate priority** is always the child's **safety and needs**, and cases where trafficking is suspected should be referred to the **National Referral Mechanism (NRM) (through MASH)**.
 - Note heightened risk in children who **run away**, are isolated from peers, or experience breakdowns in relationships or education. Refer to [D&G Missing Persons' Protocol](#) if a child missing. Complete Return Discussion form following a missing episode in order to gather contextual information to

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assess risks and target safety and support for the young person.

- Assess for **digital risk**, including image sharing, multiple phones, secretive contacts and online coercion.

Digital Risk	Description
Online grooming leading to offline abuse	Contact begins online and develops into in-person exploitation.
Viewing, sharing, or creating abusive images of children	Children may be exposed to, coerced into, or involved in the creation or distribution of abusive images.
Online advertising or arranging of children for offline exploitation	Digital platforms are used to facilitate or organise abuse that occurs offline.
Access to unsafe online environments	Chat lines, gaming platforms, social media, and similar spaces increase child–perpetrator contact.
Sharing intimate or sexual images	Children may be pressured or manipulated into sending sexual images, which can be used for coercion or further exploitation.

Practice Note:

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) can be carried out by **men or women**, from **any ethnic background**, acting alone or within **informal networks or organised groups**.

Group-based abuse means where multiple [i.e. two or more] individuals take advantage of a power imbalance to coerce, manipulate, or deceive a child into sexual and/or criminal activity.

While CSE is often associated with adults exploiting children, there is growing recognition of **peer-on-peer exploitation**, where children abuse other children within their social environments. In these situations, the roles of **victim and perpetrator can overlap**, as some children who are exploited may be coerced into exploiting others.

4. What to look for

There are several signs that a child may be being groomed for sexual exploitation, and practitioners who work closely with children play a vital role in recognising these signs and understanding them within the wider context of the child's life. Practitioners should remain **professionally curious** and

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act on **any** indication, however small, that a child may be at risk, ensuring timely, proportionate action and information-sharing.

Indicator of Possible CSE	What It May Mean / Why It Matters	Recommended Professional Response
Going missing from home, school, or care	May indicate grooming, exploitation, coercion, or fear of abusers.	Conduct a missing episode risk assessment ; explore push/pull factors; initiate inter-agency referral discussion (IRD) .
Multiple callers/visitors, including older youths or unknown adults	Could signal grooming, coercion, or exploitation networks.	Assess child's relationships; consider surveillance or safety planning; escalate via child protection procedures.
Being picked up/dropped off by unknown adults – this might involve being taken to private locations such as flats, houses or hotels to engage in sexual activity.	May indicate organised exploitation or trafficking.	Assess for trafficking ; consider referral to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) .
Unexplained physical injuries or signs of sexual assault	Possible violent coercion or sexual abuse.	Follow immediate child protection processes – forensic medical examination protocol will be followed.
Disclosure of assault followed by withdrawal	Fear, shame, threats, or manipulation may lead to retraction.	Maintain focus on safety; retraction should not halt investigation; take a trauma-informed approach.
Unplanned pregnancy or STIs	Suggests sexual activity under coercive or exploitative conditions.	Coordinate with health services; initiate child protection processes.
Peers involved in exploitation	Peer networks may be used by perpetrators; children may recruit others due to coercion.	Assess wider peer group; protect the child even if they have recruited others.

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Drug or alcohol use	Substances may be used as grooming tools or coping mechanisms.	Explore context; integrate substance use support; assess safety.
Social isolation or withdrawal from normal networks	Children may be isolated by perpetrators or feel unable to disclose abuse.	Strengthen support networks; explore emotional wellbeing; complete wellbeing assessment (GIRFEC).
School exclusion or repeated absences	May reflect grooming, disruption, or competing demands from abusers.	Work with education partners; increase monitoring; consider targeted support.
Relationships with controlling or much older adults, including abusive boyfriend relationships	Strong indicator of grooming, coercive control, or exploitation.	Immediate safeguarding response; multi-agency risk planning.
Unexplained gifts, money, new phones, clothing	Indicates exchange, a central feature of CSE.	Explore source of items; assess for exploitation; hold IRD if concerns persist.
Frequenting areas known for adult prostitution	Likely involvement in exploitation or grooming by adults.	Rapid safeguarding response; consider environmental risks.
Young children asking for sexual health advice (under 13)	Sexual activity under 13 is always a child protection concern.	Immediate IRD.
Concerning use of online platforms (sending/receiving sexual images)	May indicate grooming, coercion, blackmail, or manipulation through digital means.	Assess digital risk; provide online safety support; consider police involvement.
Multiple phones, secretive calls/messages	May indicate contact with exploiters, deal lines (CEC), or coercion.	Review phone activity contextually; assess for CEC and CSE; engage police if needed.
Self-harm, depression or suicidal thoughts	Trauma, shame, fear, or entrapment associated with exploitation.	Immediate mental-health support; ensure safety planning and ongoing monitoring.

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Whilst CSE can affect any young person, certain vulnerabilities can increase a child's susceptibility to exploitation as shown below:

Vulnerability Factor	Description
Disrupted family life	Parental separation, instability, or being looked-after. Young people in chaotic home environments are more easily targeted.
History of abuse	Emotional, physical, or sexual abuse, and neglect can heighten susceptibility.
Challenged parenting	Limited parental capacity, absence of protective parent, and early transitions to adult responsibilities create opportunities for exploitation.
Disengagement from education	Losing connection with school routines and peers increases risk and reduces protective oversight.
Learning difficulties	Young people with learning disabilities may struggle to identify danger or understand manipulation.
Going missing	Missing from home or care creates vulnerability to adults offering accommodation, attention, or support.
Poor health and wellbeing	Low self-esteem or emotional difficulties increase responsiveness to grooming tactics such as gifts, compliments, and attention.
Drug and alcohol use	Substances are used as grooming tools and incentives; existing substance use significantly increases vulnerability.

Practice Note:

Children who are being exploited may feel **intense pressure, fear, intimidation or dependence**, particularly when substance use is involved. As a result, they may **reject help or support**, even when they are at significant risk. Professionals therefore need to work in **flexible, persistent and creative ways** to engage them and support their safety.

We must not dismiss children's own views when helping them understand the abusive nature of their experiences, as doing so can increase their vulnerability and cause further harm. Support should follow **GIRFEC principles**, meaning it must be **child-centred, undertaken in partnership**, delivered in a **safe environment**, and paced according to the child's needs, often requiring **long-term involvement**. This work also needs to be **holistic**, addressing the

underlying vulnerabilities and risks that contributed to the exploitation, rather than simply restricting contact with individuals or environments

5. What do I do as a Practitioner?

- **Do not wait for disclosure**; use patterns, behaviours and indicators to guide decisions.
- **Act immediately** on concerns regarding child sexual exploitation and initiate a **child protection response** - follow local child protection processes and contact social work Single Access Point (SAP) in order that an Interagency Referral Discussion can take place. The IRD will consider relevant information from within police, social work, health and education, how the concerns regarding CSE should be investigated and the immediate safety of the child/ young person. It will also seek to identify any other children or young people potentially at risk and how these concerns should be responded to.
- Where injuries or sexual harm are suspected, practitioners must consider an appropriate **medical assessment**/Forensic Medical Examination. [Medical Examinations and Health Assessments of Children and Young People](#). If trafficking is suspected, a referral to the **National Referral Mechanism (NRM)** will be recommended. The child's support needs will be paramount and appropriate **mental-health and emotional support**, recognising the impact of trauma, fear and shame, will be identified. Dumfries and Galloway's Bairn's Hoose will ensure the child receives a trauma-informed response and identify recovery support mechanisms if a Joint Investigative Interview is required.
- **Following the IRD, risk assessments** will further explore risks from perpetrators, peers, online activity, and any coercive control. Consider **missing episodes** and peer associations, and whether there are several young people exposed to the same risk.
- **Assess contextual risks** – CSE generally takes place outside the home and it is therefore important to consider where the harm is taking place and how this can be made safer for young people. Working together with parents and agencies who give support outside the home, such as police and youth work, is important to understand contextual risks and reduce harm. This is particularly important when young people are in conflict with the law and ensuring that they are supported appropriately and **not criminalised** for behaviours arising from exploitation. They require a protective response.

Practice Note:

Parents, family members or carers may also be involved in CSE, i.e they have facilitated or been involved in harm wider than their individual family unit. This includes situations where children are sold for sex. However, in most cases, the primary risk lies **outside the home**, requiring a shift in safeguarding practice—moving from focusing solely on family-based risks to managing risks in the **wider community and online spaces**. Unless there is evidence to the contrary, parents and carers should be viewed as **partners in protection**, not assumed sources of risk.

6. Lack of Disclosure and Response

6.2. What prevents young people disclosing CSE?

- Young people rarely directly self-disclose, sometimes because they **don't recognise** the exploitation.
- Loss of supply of **alcohol, drugs**
- Loss of 'boyfriend' – **love and attention**
- Fear of **retribution** from other young people
- **Fear of domestic abuse from 'boyfriend'**
- **Shame** – family, friends and workers finding out
- Letting everyone down
- Threat to family members if they disclose
- Fear of being labelled a **prostitute or gay**
- Not being **believed**
- Fear of **separation** from family, change of placement
- Threat of **secure accommodation**
- Fear of **loss of control** following disclosure – reporting, investigations, court etc
- The perceived **benefits** of the exploitation appear to **outweigh** risks
- Fearing situation will get worse

6.3. What Are the Challenges for Practitioners?

Issue	Description
Age of the child or young person	Responses may vary, particularly for those aged 15 and over.

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Gender of the child or young person	Boys may receive different responses, and risks may be minimised.
Sexuality of the child or young person	Concerns may be misinterpreted as exploration of sexuality.
Detachment / difficult behaviour	Behaviour may mask exploitation and affect practitioner perception.
Scale of CSE	Some disclosures may seem implausible, leading to under-reaction.
Involvement in criminal activity	May complicate assessments and lead to inappropriate criminalisation.
Lack of specialist resources	Limited availability of specialist CSE services.
Lack of practitioner awareness / training	Insufficient knowledge can hinder identification and response.
Lack of disclosure	Children may minimise, normalise, or feel shame or fear.
Fear of opening a can of worms	Practitioners may fear complexity of escalating concerns.
Poor continuity in support	Inconsistent support leads to fractured intervention and increased risk.

7. Policy and Legislative context of CSE in Scotland

7.1 Whilst CSE is not a specific criminal offence in itself, there is range of criminal and civil options that can be used to disrupt and prosecute this form of abuse. Pertinent principles from these include: (Adapted from SBNI CSE Definition and Guidance 2014).

- The legal age of consent to sexual activity is 16
- If the child is under 13, under no circumstances can they be argued to have consented to sexual activity, nor is there any defence of believing the child was of an older age; ([Section 27 of the Sexual Offences \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#))
- It is an offence to intentionally cause a child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, even if you do not actually engage in sexual activity with them yourself; ([Sections 21 and 31 of the Sexual Offences \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#))
- It is an offence for a person to have a sexual relationship with a child under 18 if they hold a position of trust or authority in relation to them; ([Section 42 of the Sexual Offences \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#))
- The offence of paying for the sexual services of a child applies to all under 18s; ([Section 9 of the Protection of Children the Prevention of Sexual Offences \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#))
- Non-consensual sex is rape, whatever the age

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- If the victim is incapable because of the effect of drink or drugs, or the victim, or his or her family has been subjected to violence or the threat of it, they cannot be considered to have given consent (defined as “free agreement”) and, therefore, offences may have been committed.
 - Recruiting or moving a person for the purposes of exploitation (by them or others) constitutes an offence of human trafficking – this includes movement within Scotland as well as movement outside of Scotland; ([Section 1 Human Trafficking and Exploitation \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#))
 - The potential to place restrictions on (potential) perpetrators’ behaviour through use of civil orders such as sexual offences prevention orders, risk of sexual harm orders, trafficking and exploitation prevention orders or trafficking and exploitation risk orders. (For information on [SOPo](#)’s refer to the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (as amended); and for RSHO’s see the [Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#). See [part 4 of Human Trafficking and Exploitation \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) for trafficking exploitation prevention orders.
- 7.2. [The National Guidance in Child Protection in Scotland 2021](#) (updated 2023) provides a framework for all those working with children and young people to enable organisations, services, agencies, practitioners and individuals to protect children and promote their wellbeing. The guidance sets out key responsibilities and information regarding strategic planning of services and their delivery. Guidance on specific issues, such as CSE and Child Trafficking is also provided for practitioners working at local level. The guidance has specific sections, which should be read alongside this document.
- 7.3. [Getting it Right for Every Child](#) provides a framework for all professional who work with children, young people and their families. The Framework puts children and young people at the centre of service provision, as well as encouraging multi-agency working to ensure children and young people have the best start in life and get the right help at the right time from the right people. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 embeds the core principles of GIRFEC in legislation.
- 7.4. The [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#) is an international agreement, which protects the human rights of children under the age of 18 years. It forms the basis for GIRFEC, and the Scottish Government has committed to embed this agreement into all of its work with children and young people. The UNCRC is clear within articles 35 and 36 that the Government shall protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse, including ‘prostitution’, trafficking for sexual purposes and involvement in the production of child sexual abuse images.
- 7.5. [CELCIS](#) is currently the main knowledge bank for child protection in Scotland and contains a section relating to all key information about child sexual exploitation in Scotland.

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Appendix 1 - National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a UK wide framework through which potential victims of trafficking in the UK are identified, so that they can be supported and protected. It is a particular process to be followed when it is suspected that an adult or a child might be a victim of trafficking. In the case of a child, the child's best interests will be a primary consideration in the decision to make, or not to make, a referral into the NRM. This includes the internal trafficking of children and young people subject to CSE.

The National Referral Mechanism was established after the government ratified of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (ECAT), which came into force on 1 April 2009, and which commits the UK to minimum standards for the protection of victims of human trafficking.

Consent is not required if the potential survivor is a child; however, it is still important to ensure early access to legal advice so that children and young people understand the consequences of identification, and how to effectively participate and make informed decisions during the evidence gathering process.

Most child survivors in Scotland are referred to the NRM by Border Force, Police Scotland and the British Transport Police. However, in some cases, the local authority may act as First Responder; locally this is Social Work. If taken by a local authority, the decision to refer a child as a potential survivor of trafficking under the NRM falls within child protection duties of local authorities and should be taken within the relevant frameworks.

Appendix 2 - Criminally Exploited Children (CEC) & County Lines

Criminal Exploitation is a complex form of harm, often unrecognised and is a typical feature of county lines activity. CEC can mean children are more likely to be prosecuted for offending and criminal behaviour than recognised as victims of exploitation by organised networks or others.

CEC is increasingly used to describe this type of exploitation where children are involved, and is defined as:

Criminal Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

A common feature in all forms of CEC, similarly to forms of CSE, is the imbalance of power. Already highlighted within this guidance in respect of CSE, children and young people often receive something in exchange for them carrying out acts or favours for the individuals exploiting them. With CEC, these acts or favours required in return are usually criminal in nature.

CEC is common in County Lines, which is a major cross cutting issue involving drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and missing persons. County Lines can be defined as:

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phones lines or other form of "deal line." They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

The response to tackle this involves Police, National Crime Agency, health, local authority agencies and voluntary and community sector organisations.

Further information can be viewed here:

UK Gov. - [Criminal Exploitation of Children & Vulnerable Adults \(County Lines\) Guidance](#)

Resources can be found here:

The Children's Society - Tackling [Criminal Exploitation](#)

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Appendix 3 - Useful Contacts, Resources and Further Reading

Dumfries and Galloway Social Work Services

030 33 33 3001 (office hours)

Dumfries and Galloway Out of Hours Social Work Services (out of office hours):

01387 273660

Police Scotland Non-emergency number 101, In an emergency call 999

Childline 0800 1111

NSPCC 24 Hour Child Protection helpline 0808 800 5000

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Resources and further reading

Centre of expertise on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA Centre): [7 principles for using tools and checklists to assess risk of child sexual exploitation](#).

Barnardo's (Scotland) (2021) Complex Abuse and Exploitation Risk Approach (CAERA) Development Project. Findings on Professional, Young People and Parent/Carer Consultations

Brown, S., et al. (2017) [The use of tools and checklists to assess the risk of child sexual exploitation: an exploratory study \(PDF\)](#). London, Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse

Carpenter, J. Et al. (2016) [Letting the Future In: a therapeutic intervention for children affected by sexual abuse and their carers: an evaluation of impact and implementation](#). London: NSPCC.

Education Scotland CSE resources:

<https://education.gov.scot/resources/safeguarding-child-sexual-exploitation>

Hamilton-Giachritsis, C., et al (2017) [“Everyone deserves to be happy and safe”: a mixed methods study exploring how online and offline child sexual abuse impact young people and how professionals respond to it](#). London: NSPCC.

Home Office (2020) [Characteristics of group-based child sexual exploitation in the community](#)

Internet Matters/Youth works (2020) [Look at Me: teens, sexting and risk report](#)

Internet matters/Youthworks (2019) Vulnerable Children in a Digital World. [Vulnerable children in a digital world report](#)

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Henderson G, Kurlus I, Parry R, Baird N; Dagon D, Kirkman M (2020) [Sexual exploitation of children involved in the Children's Hearings System](#). Scottish Children's Reporter Administration/Barnardo's Scotland

National Autistic Society: Safeguarding children with autism.

Lefevre M, Hickie K, Luckock B, Ruch G. 2017. [Building trust with children and young people at risk of child sexual exploitation: The professional challenge](#). The British Journal of Social Work 47(8): 2456– 2473

Scottish Government/ Police Scotland [Child Exploitation Disruption Toolkit](#) Child sexual exploitation disruption toolkit.

Advice and support for parents, carers and professionals:

[Thinkuknow](#)

[Stop It Now! \(Scotland\)](#) work to prevent child abuse happening, whether online or in person. They provide support to post arrest online offenders and their families.

[Childnet](#)

[Internet Matters](#)

[NSPCC](#)

[5Rights](#)

[Respectme](#)

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Internet enabled sexual offending

May-Chahal C, Palmer E, Dodds S, Milan S (2018) [Characteristics and vulnerabilities of victims of online-facilitated child sexual abuse and exploitation. Rapid Evidence Assessment](#). University of Lancaster

Independent Inquiry into Sexual Abuse:

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20221215030740/https://www.iicsa.org.uk/key-documents/17805/view/internet-investigation-report-march-2020.pdf>

[UK Government \(2019\) Online harms research publications](#)

Wager N, Armitage R et al (2018) [Rapid Evidence Assessment: Quantifying the extent of online facilitated sexual abuse](#). University of Huddersfield

[NSPCC Letting the Future In](#)

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What works for children's social care: evidence review (2019). [Therapeutic interventions for children who have experienced trauma through abuse and neglect](#).

[Rape Crisis: Deaf Access to Support](#)

Links:

Barnardo's Scotland 'Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation – A Practitioner's Resource Pack' [Resources to help identify and engage young people at risk of sexual abuse and exploitation | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#)

Scottish Government - [Child Sexual Exploitation Definition and Practitioner Briefing Paper](#)

Scottish Government - [National Action Plan to Prevent & Tackle CSE 2016](#)

[Criminal Exploitation of Children, Young People and vulnerable adults: County Lines Guidance](#) (2023)

Scottish Government – [Child Sexual Exploitation: a guide for Health Practitioners](#) (2017)

Legislation

[Children \(Scotland\) Act 1995](#)

[Children's Hearing \(Scotland\) Act 2011](#)

[Sexual Offences \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#)

[Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#)

[Equality Act 2010](#)

[Human Trafficking and Exploitation \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#)