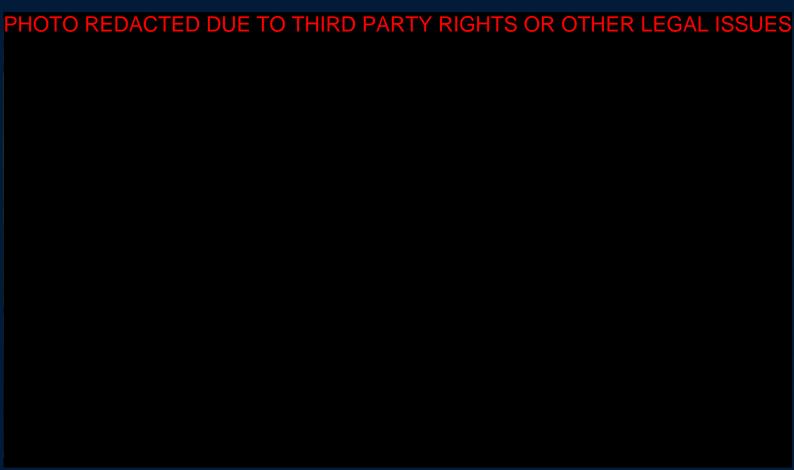
**Easy Read** 



# Keeping children safe from sexual exploitation



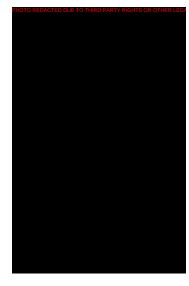
This is an easy read version of 'Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Statutory Guidance in relation to Part 7 of the Act – safeguarding children from child sexual exploitation'.

**July 2019** 

#### How to use this document



This is an easy read version. The words and their meaning are easy to read and understand. You may need support to read and understand this document. Ask someone you know to help you.



Some words may be hard to understand. They are in **bold blue writing**. They have been explained in a box below the word.

There is a response form to go with this document called **Keeping children safe from sexual exploitation – please tell us what you think by 7 October 2019.** Please look at the questions after reading this document.



Where the document says **we**, this means the Welsh Government. For more information contact **Sam Clutton**:

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This document was made into easy read by Easy Read Wales using Photosymbols.

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#### What this document is for

In Wales we have a law called the **Social Services** and **Well-being (Wales) Act 2014**. It helps keep people safe from harm.

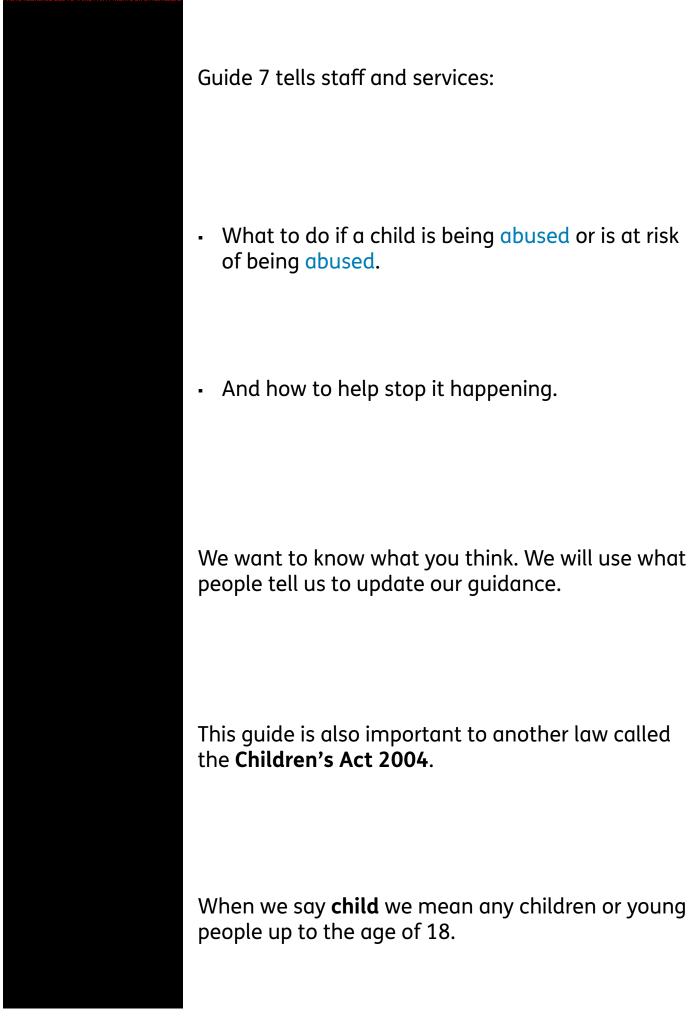
There are 7 guides that go with this law. The guides help services and organisations follow the law and keep people safe.

Together the guides are known as **Working Together to Safeguard People**. 6 guides have already been written.

This document is about guide number 7. Guide 7 is about keeping children safe from **child sexual exploitation**.

**Child sexual exploitation** is when a child is **sexually abused** by someone.

**Abuse** is any kind of behaviour that causes harm to someone. **Sexual abuse** is when someone does something sexual to the child. Or shows a child sexual pictures.



#### 1. About child sexual exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is a type of sexual abuse. It involves the child either being given something good. Or having something bad taken away. For example:

• The child may be given something like gifts, money or attention for a sex act.

 The child might be told if they go along with the abuse they will not get hurt.

 Or a child might be told something bad will happen to someone else if they do not do what the person says.

Any child could be at risk of child sexual exploitation. No matter where they are from. Or if they are a girl or a boy.

It is important for people to understand the signs of child sexual exploitation.

It can be different in every situation. For example, some children may be groomed. **Grooming** is when a person will try and gain the trust of a child so they can abuse them. Or some people might try to control the child or force them to do something. It can also happen online – on the internet. The people who abuse children are often men. But sometimes they are women. It could be 1 person. Or it could be a group of people. It could be family members.

Sometimes children abuse other children.

Most children do not tell anyone that they are being abused.

So it is really important that staff in services for children look for the signs. And report it.

#### 2. Stopping Child Sexual Exploitation

It is important for people to understand what this type of abuse looks like.

It is also important to make sure children get help early on when they need it.

Sometimes children may be at risk in other ways. For example children who have had difficult lives. This is sometimes called **Adverse Childhood Experiences**.

It is important to make sure children grow up in a safe place with love and care. Sometimes, children who have had difficult lives also experience child sexual exploitation. We need to support children, families and their communities and help make them stronger. We need to make sure children are well cared for. This could be through family or going into care. This can help stop child sexual exploitation from happening. We need to support children who have had a lot of problems in their lives early on.

We need to make sure more people know what child sexual exploitation is.

We need to make sure there are safe places in the community for children.

#### 3. What to do if a child is being abused

There are rules in place to help protect children if they are being abused. These rules must still be followed by staff working with children.

The child must be put first.

And children should be asked how they would like to be supported when they have care and support needs. The rules for what to do are called **The Wales** Safeguarding Procedures. There are also guides for what to do in different situations. They are called **All Wales Practice Guides**. 4. Putting the child first Child sexual exploitation has a bad effect on children. It often affects them for a very long time. We must think about this when planning their care

and support.

Care and support is more likely to help the child when we understand what they have been through. And when we look at their strengths.

## 5. People who cause child sexual exploitation It is important that we can recognise the people who are causing the abuse. And stop them from doing it. The police work with organisations in Wales to help make this happen. We also need to make sure they are charged for their crimes. Children will need support when all of this is happening. And after someone has been to court. How to support the child should be written in the care and support plan.

## Understanding and reporting child sexual exploitation



Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government The Welsh Government has made guides about what to do.

The child must always be put first.

Everyone who works with children should understand sexual abuse better. And know how to report it.

They should tell their manager they are worried about a child.

They should tell Social Services.

In an emergency they should phone the police on 999.

Some signs that someone is being abused: Physical signs: Bruising Injuries that cannot be explained Sexually transmitted diseases Sexually transmitted diseases are when someone catches a disease because of sex acts. **Emotional signs:** Very quiet

Mood changes Angry Self-harm **Self-harm** is when someone injures themselves on purpose. The person may want to kill themselves They may not want to be around other people

# Signs in their behaviour: They keep secrets. They go missing. • Seen with strangers. They seem out of control. Other signs: • They are using a different phone or computer. • Someone is worried about how they are using their mobile phone or the internet.

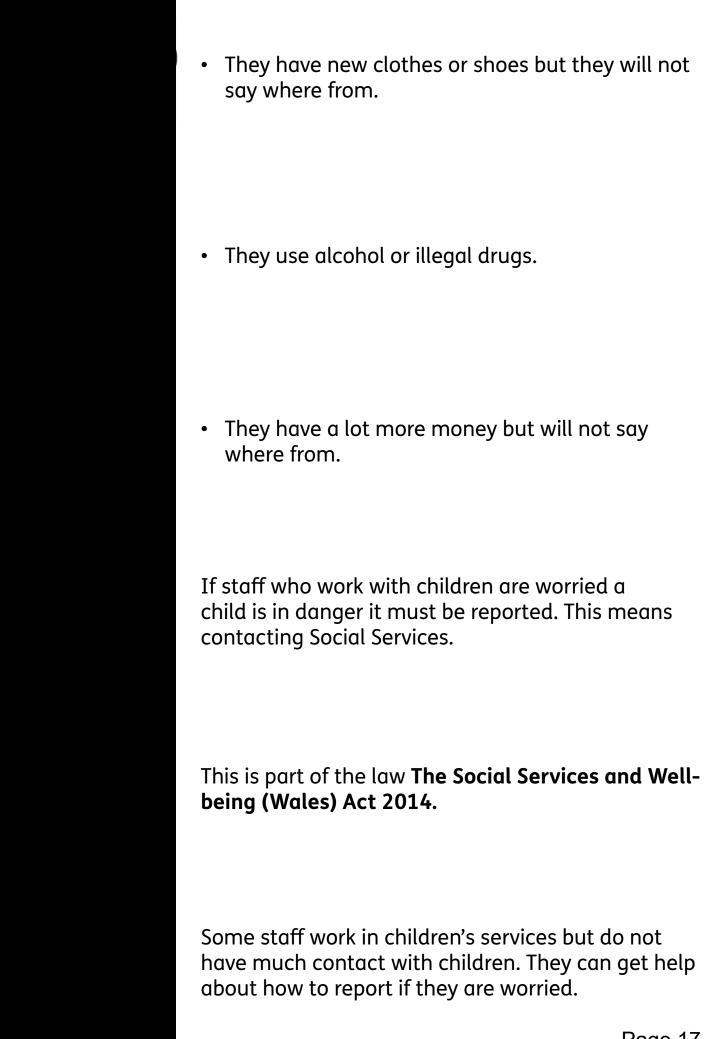
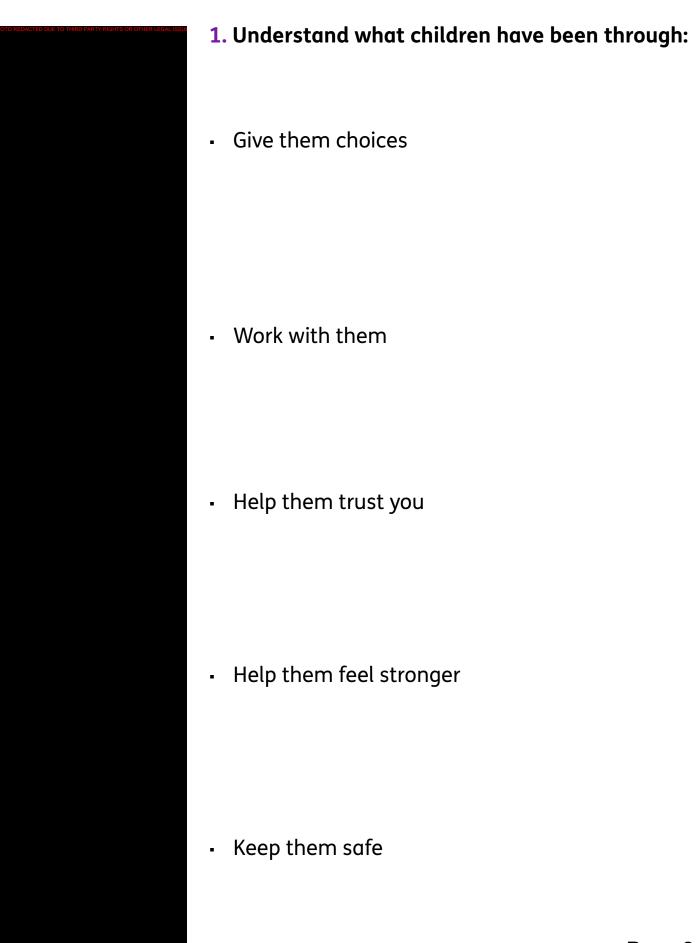


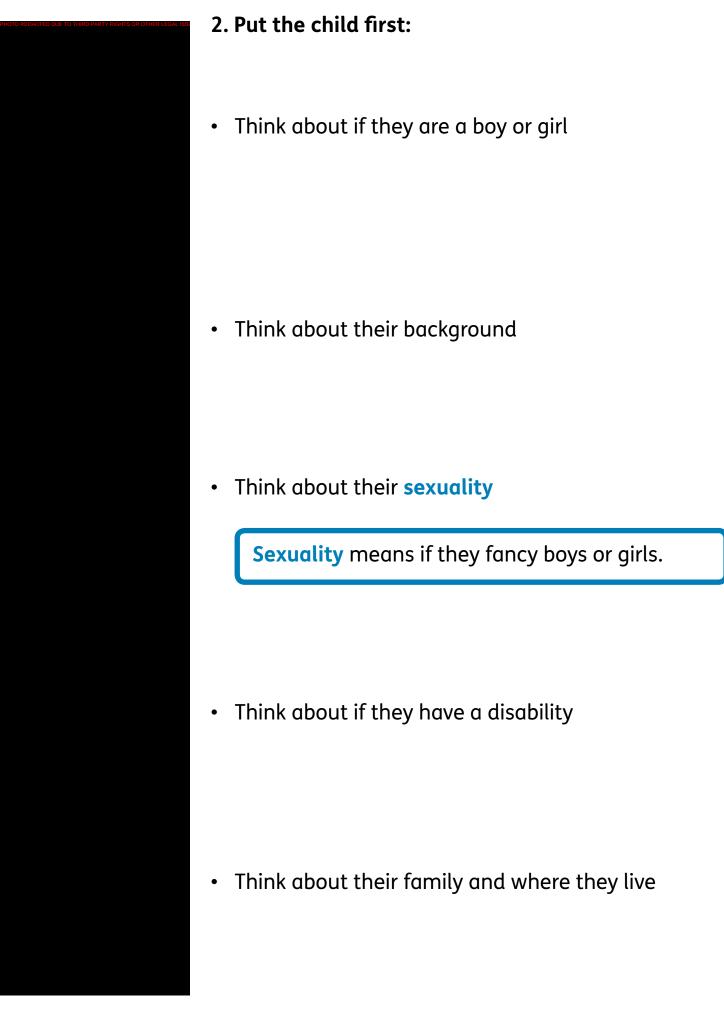
PHOTO REDACTED DUE TO THIRD PARTY RIGHTS OR OTHER LEGAL ISSUE	There are questions they can answer that help find out if a child is at risk. They should ask their manager for the questions.
	Children do not normally tell someone they are being abused.
	They may be frightened.
	They may not know what is happening to them.
	They may think people will not believe them.
	Child sexual exploitation can happen to any child. But it is more likely to happen where the child has had a lot of other problems.

Children that have more learning needs may be more at risk. It can happen to girls or boys. It is harder for some children to report it. For example, if they come from another background. Or if they are disabled. Some children do not report what is happening to them because they are getting something they want for it. They may think it is the best choice they have. They may feel they are not important so they deserve it.

It is really important that staff do something when they are worried about a child. Child sexual exploitation is usually done by someone outside of the family. Children at risk should be given support to help stop abuse from happening. Staff must also report any worries they have about the family.

### How to support children who have been abused in this way





#### 3. Help the child feel stronger

• Let the child set their own goals

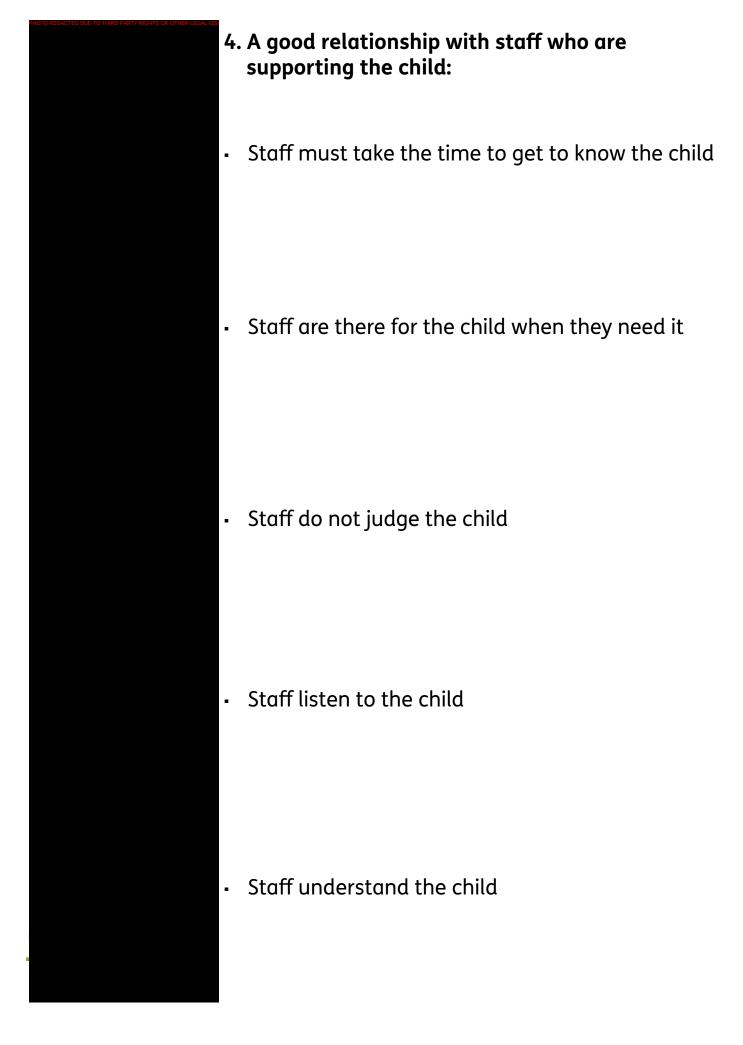
 When the child is assessed look at what they are good at

An **assessment** gathers lots of information so you can understand someone better. It helps you make decisions about how to support them

 Look for support from other people in the child's life and community

 Help the child be positive – hopeful, happy and confident

 Listen to the child and understand they know their feelings best



- Staff are interested in the child - Staff talk to the child about what is happening and their care and support Staff do what they say they will do Staff are honest 5. Working together: - Staff should tell children and families about services that could help them

#### Hard words

#### **Assessment**

An assessment gathers lots of information so you can understand someone better. It helps you make decisions about how to support them.

#### **Abuse**

Abuse is any kind of behaviour that causes harm to someone.

#### **Child sexual exploitation**

Child Sexual Exploitation is when a child is sexually abused by someone.

#### **Grooming**

This is when a person will try and gain the trust of a child so they can abuse them.

#### Self-harm

This is when someone injures themselves on purpose.

#### Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse is when someone does something sexual to the child. Or shows a child sexual images.

#### **Sexuality**

Sexuality means if a person fancies boys or girls.

#### Sexually transmitted diseases

Sexually transmitted diseases are when someone catches a disease because of sex acts.