



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# Keeping children safe from Child Sexual Exploitation

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014



Consultation for young people

## Positive relationships are good for you and help you. But, it's important to know when a relationship is unhealthy and bad.

**Child Sexual Exploitation** is when someone can control and use a child for a sexual purpose. It can be:

physical contact:

- unwanted kissing or touching
- rubbing outside clothes
- oral sex
- rape

non-physical contact:

- forcing a child to send naked pictures or sexual images or other online acts
- forcing a child to look at sexual images or activities

**It's not always easy to spot when it's happening, how it's happening or the damage it is doing in someone's life.**

**Being sexually exploited is never the child's fault.**



The Welsh Government wants all children to be safe and have healthy relationships. It's everyone's job to keep children safe.

**So, we're updating our Child Sexual Exploitation guidance and we want to know what you think.**

The guidance is to help people working with children:

- understand that CSE is sexual abuse
- spot when CSE is happening
- know how to report and stop it
- know how to support children better

# Chapter 1: Understanding Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is sexual abuse

Everyone that works with children has a duty to report a child at risk.

## Who it happens to

Sexual Exploitation happens:

- to boys and girls
- to children of different ethnicity, sexuality or background
- in different areas across Wales, urban and rural

## Who does it

People who sexual exploitation others are called **Perpetrators**. They:

- come from different backgrounds
- can be male or female
- can be working alone, with others, or be a group or part of a gang
- may know the child – they may be a family member or family friend.
- they can be the same age, or even a friend

## How it happens

Exploiting a child happens in different ways. But, often there is an exchange for doing something sexual. A child could be given:

- the idea they are in a loving relationship
- gifts, money or affection
- alcohol or drugs
- invites to parties or events
- a place in a group that offers them friendship, security or a sense of belonging



## **i** Facts

A child is anyone up to the age of 18.

A child could be sexually exploited in different ways:

- **Grooming** – building an emotional connection or friendship to gain trust
- **Control** – having the power to influence or change a child's behaviour
- **Coercion** – using force or threats to get a child to do something
- **Trafficking** – illegally transporting a child from one place to another to exploit them



# More on chapter 1:

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) involves a child.** It can happen to anyone up to the age of 18.

**It is sexual abuse that includes:**

- sexual activity with a child
- making indecent images like naked photos
- making any other indecent material involving children

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) involves some kind of exchange.** It can include:

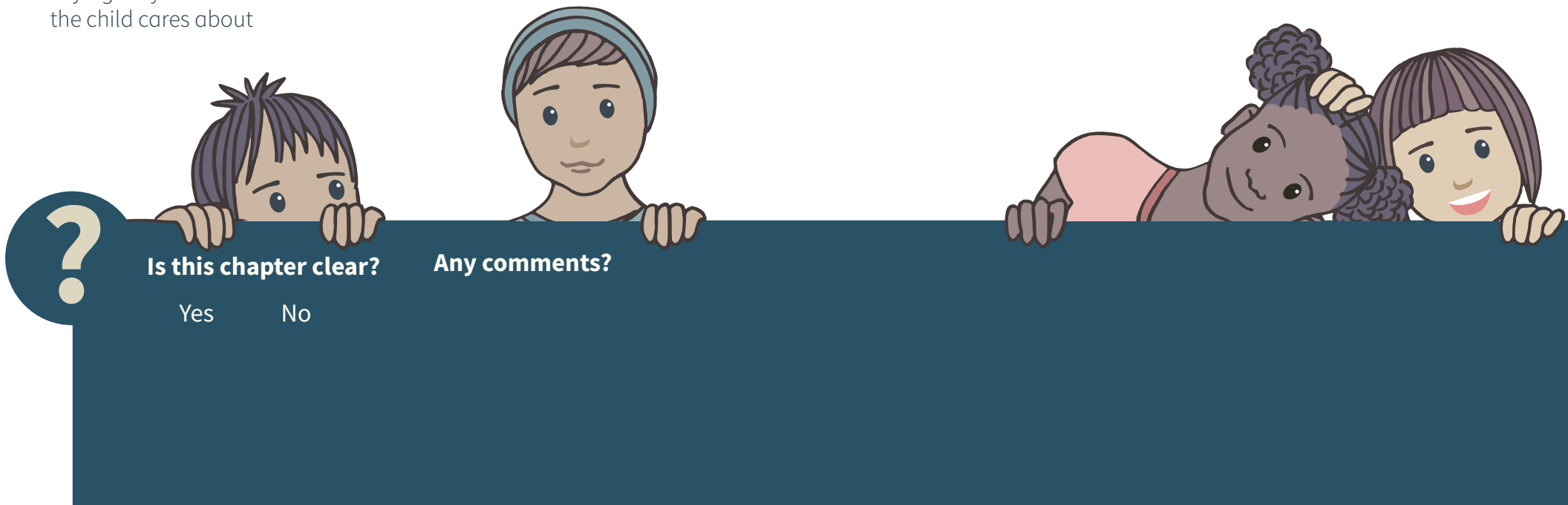
- gifts or money
- stopping being violent towards the child
- saying they won't harm someone else the child cares about

Sometimes, someone else is involved in the exchange. They may get something. The child might not get anything.

**Children who are involved in abusing others need help too. There is other guidance on this.**

## **The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 is a law.**

It helps services work together to keep children, young people and adults safe. The law has different parts on different areas. This guidance is in Part 7 of that law.



Is this chapter clear?

Yes

No

Any comments?

# Chapter 2: Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation – stopping children at risk from being sexually exploited

**Some children are more at risk than others.** This includes children who have had Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) like:

- living in a home with domestic violence, alcohol or drug problems
- being abused or neglected

They can also be children:

- who are in care
- who haven't had stable carers, or foster placements
- who have been sexually exploited in the past

We want to focus on stopping this. We want to:

**Build resilience** – with children, families and communities so they know how to tackle sexual exploitation.

**Step in early** – to support children at risk and stop them being sexually exploited later in life.

**Create safer places** – working with communities so people know more about Child Sexual Exploitation. This can stop perpetrators being able to harm children.

**Train everyone working with children** – giving staff the skills to spot risks early and keep children safe.



**Is this chapter clear?**

Yes

No

**Any comments?**

# Chapter 3: Responding to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) – following safeguarding procedures

There are clear standards and rules on how to keep children safe. These are called safeguarding procedures.

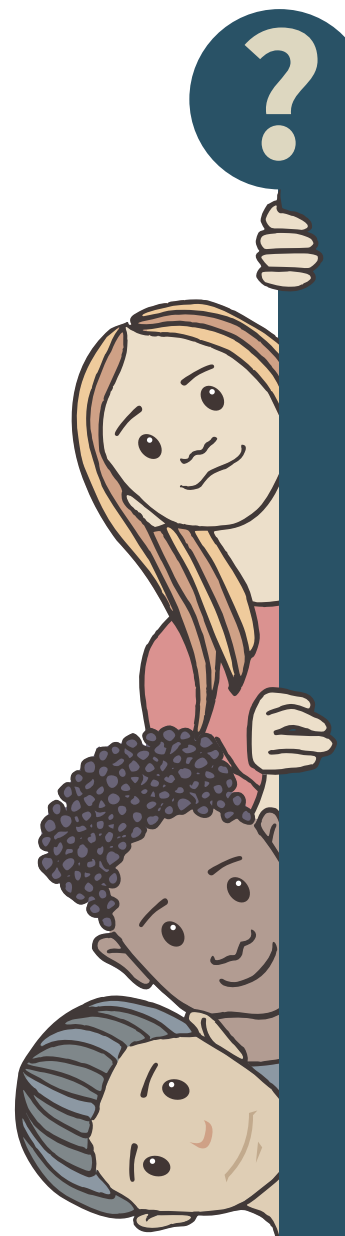
**i** **Safeguarding** – protecting people from abuse or neglect.  
**Procedures** – the way to doing something.

We want everyone to follow:

**Their Workplace safeguarding procedures** – every service or business working with children must have rules to keep children safe.

**The Wales Safeguarding Procedures** – these are standards for keeping children safe across Wales.

There are guides to help people follow these.



**Is this chapter clear?**

Yes      No

**Any comments?**

# Chapter 4: Responding to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) – putting children at the centre of all care and support plans

Being sexual exploited harms many parts of a child's life and well-being. It can be scary, upsetting and damaging to their education, health and other relationships.

It's important to reduce the risk of children being sexually exploited. Looking at their behaviour can help to keep children away from the people who could harm them.

## But, support must also focus on improving their life and well-being:

- all children must get the care and support they need
- every situation is different
- every child is different
- there isn't one way to support all children
- children need safe adults in their life to offer them a positive relationship where they feel valued

The best way to care and support a child is to:

- **put them at the centre of all care and support plans**
- **understand the level of support they need**
- **work together as services to meet their needs better**

Children should be involved in planning their care and support. This includes plans to keep them safe.



Is this chapter clear?

Yes

No

Any comments?

# Chapter 5: Responding to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) – disrupting and taking criminal action against perpetrators while supporting children

**i** **Disrupting** – is getting in the way or stopping something.

## Disrupting and taking criminal action

Disrupting and catching people that sexually exploit children, is the best way to keep children safe.

The UK Government is responsible for policing across the UK and in Wales. But, the **Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014** means police in Wales can work with other services and British Transport Police.

This helps keep children safe at a local, regional and national level.

They can share information. Having the right information means the police can disrupt a person from contacting a child and do a criminal investigation.

## Supporting children

When there is a criminal investigation, children need support. A care plan should explain:

- what will happen
- who will keep them up-to-date
- who to talk to if the adult isn't being charged
- what support they will get



Is this chapter clear?

Yes No

Any comments?





# Thank you for reading this

This is all about keeping children safe. So we want to make sure this guidance works.

 Is there anything you think we have missed out?

Is there anything else you want to tell us about the guidance?



If you need help – talk to someone you trust or call:

**Childline**  0800 1111  
[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

**Please send your answers to:**

 [takingsocialcareforwardSymudGofalCymdeithasolYmlaen@gov.wales](mailto:takingsocialcareforwardSymudGofalCymdeithasolYmlaen@gov.wales)

 Sustainable Social Services Implementation Branch  
Social Services Directorate  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

 by 7th October 2019

The full consultation is available here:  
[link](#)