

**SPEAK OUT**  
**Against Child**  
**Sexual and Criminal Exploitation**



**Guidance for**  
**Taxi and Private**  
**Hire Industry**



# **SPEAK OUT**

## **Against Child**

# **Sexual and Criminal Exploitation**

### **What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?**

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child abuse.

CSE involves offenders grooming young people and using this control to sexually abuse them. It can be part of a seemingly consensual relationship where someone pretends to be a young person's friend, boyfriend or girlfriend and manipulates them with bribes, threats or violence. Victims are forced to have sex, or do sexual things with the offenders or other people.

It can happen to any child or young person under the age of 18, from any background. It happens to boys and young men as well as girls and young women. Sexual exploitation affects thousands of children and young people every year.

Many young people who are being abused don't view themselves as victims and won't ask for help.

### **What is Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)?**

Child Criminal Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of a person under the age of 18 and may coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under that age into any criminal activity such as begging, transporting or selling drugs, and or stealing in exchange for something the victim needs or wants.

Victims will also often be controlled through violence or threat of violence.

Child exploitation is happening now and we can all play an important role in helping to end this abuse.

### **How does this affect the Taxi and Private Hire industry?**

Taxi and private hire vehicles are our eyes and ears, with your help we can make communities a safer place for everyone.

Many drivers have stories to tell about jobs that didn't seem right, situations that caught their attention, or passengers that concerned them. With your help, this information can be used to combat and interrupt the exploitation of children and young people.



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#### **Indicators of Child Exploitation for Taxis and private hire vehicles:**

- Adults putting a young person, who may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, into a taxi or private hire vehicle
- Young people who look concerned or frightened in the company of the adults they're travelling with
- Young people being picked up and taken to hotels at odd times of the day and night
- Young people appear to be travelling with adults they don't know
- Victims show inappropriate sexual behaviour or are dressed inappropriately for their age
- Victims have more money than a young person would ordinarily have or own expensive phones and clothing than you would expect for someone their age
- Overhearing conversations which don't seem right or witness sexual activity within the vehicle between a young person and an adult
- Fare paid by someone other than the young person in the vehicle
- Morning pick-ups from hotels and or Bed and Breakfast
- Young people travelling in your vehicle look dishevelled, distressed or disorientated

#### **Indicators of Child Exploitation continued...**

- Young people being dropped off by one car and being picked up by another
- Men who regularly request taxi rides to and from a certain location – taking young people with them
- Young passengers going to A&E or clinics with an adult who is not a parent
- Taking or collecting young people from obscure places which don't seem like an obvious destination
- Young people frequently using taxis during the day when they should be in school or college
- Attempts by young women to avoid paying fares in return for sexual favours
- A regular customer who has their fare pre-paid



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- Young people with injuries such as bruising or blood stains

### **Missing children**

Young people who run away from home are putting themselves at increased risk of exploitation. Missing children may:

- Seem unusually emotional
- Be carrying bags
- Have difficulty paying the full fare
- Be trying to get to a station or airport
- Be reluctant to discuss their destination

### **Additional safeguarding**

- If you refuse to take a young person tell police, hospital staff, family or security staff why you cannot take them so that they're given the necessary support
- Keep a record of any refusals – dates/addresses/phone numbers/descriptions of customers
- Always get a specific address from passengers

### **What should I do if you have concerns about a young person?**

If you think the young person is at imminent risk of harm, call **999** to report your concerns.

#### **Offer support to the young person:**

- Ask if they are ok
- Check that they are not receiving unwanted attention
- Check whether they know who they are with and if they feel safe being with them
- Offer to call a parent or carer



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### **Gather any relevant information:**

- Names
- Locations and addresses
- Document detailed descriptions of any suspected offenders
- Document detailed descriptions of the children and young people who you are concerned about
- Car registration plates, make and models of vehicles
- Description of suspicious activity

### **Report the concerns:**

If you suspect a child may be at risk, or have any information relating to child exploitation, we would prefer to speak to you:

- on the phone - call us on 101
- in person - [at a police station](#)

You can also report suspected child exploitation online- [fill in the Report a crime or incident form](#)

Don't hesitate. Information, however small it may seem, can help police build a bigger picture of what's going on and help stop children being exploited.



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## Against Child

### Sexual and Criminal Exploitation

#### Safeguarding Code of Conduct for Taxi Drivers working with vulnerable passengers

Check at the point of booking if there are any vulnerability issues

Ask the person booking if an escort for the vulnerable passenger is required and if they are providing one

Let your head office know (or keep a record) of the time you picked up the vulnerable passenger, the time and place you dropped them off and whether there was any incident or anything significant on the journey If you refuse to take a passenger inform someone that you can't take them so they can deal with the person another way (e.g. hospital staff; family; security staff if a club/pub)

Record incidents and refusals

Be professional - try not to be over-friendly or talk about personal or intimate issues, don't exchange personal contact information such as passenger's telephone numbers or Facebook address

Avoid swearing or aggressive behaviour

Do not touch passengers

Never accept an offer of a sexual favour instead of payment

Make sure you are wearing ID, (your licence badge and your company uniform)

Sit lone passengers in the back unless otherwise agreed

Ask or explain to passengers if using a centralised locking system - don't just put it on without an explanation

**DON'T ASSUME** that your passenger wants help – **ALWAYS ASK**

Never follow a passenger into the house unless previously agreed/properly authorised



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#### **Safeguarding Code of Conduct for Taxi Drivers working with vulnerable passengers**

before making a journey shorter by going off the main roads/using isolated country roads, explain and give the passenger (or person booking) a choice of route

NEVER set off with a passenger without a specific destination address

NEVER double up on a booking – even if passengers are travelling in a similar direction

If you think the passenger is afraid, offer to ring head office to tell them you have a passenger named XXXX with you and give the address and approximate time of arrival; this reassures the person that they are safe

As with all professions if you are concerned about another driver's conduct report your concerns

Organisations should have a lead member of staff for Safeguarding

ALWAYS KEEP A RECORD either in your cab or at head office, of ANY incidents you were not happy with – the record should include a description of what happened and what you did to keep yourself/your passenger safe

Please visit our website for more information on child exploitation:

**Avon and Somerset Police**

[https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/advice/threats,-assault-and-hate-crime/child-sexual-exploitation-\(cse\)](https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/advice/threats,-assault-and-hate-crime/child-sexual-exploitation-(cse))



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### Help and support

Visit the following organization's websites for further help and support:

[Barnardo's](#) - Children's charity Barnardo's, supports children and families affected by issues such as child exploitation and domestic abuse.

[NSPCC](#) - The NSPCC provide a wide range of services for both children and adults, including national helplines for 24/7 help and advice.

[Thinkuknow](#) - A website for children and young people. Gives honest and frank advice on topics including sex and relationships, and the internet.

[CEOP safety centre](#) - If someone has acted inappropriately online towards you, a child or young person, or someone you know, find out what to do, and how to report it to police, by visiting the CEOP safety Centre.

[Young Victims Services](#) - This is a service for young people from 8-18 (up to 25 for those with additional needs) who have been victims of crime and/or antisocial behavior.

[The Blast Project](#) - The UK's Leading Male ONLY Exploitation Service. The Exploitation for boys and young men is often unrecognized and undisclosed; however boys and young men are also vulnerable to exploitation.

[The Survivor Pathway](#) - The survivor pathway is a guide for anyone wanting to know more about specialist sexual violence services. Anyone who has experienced rape or any kind of sexual assault/abuse needs to be involved in decisions about what happens next, be informed enough to make their own choices and have control over their journey.

[Parents Against Sexual Exploitation \(PACE\)](#) - Pace helps parents across the UK understand what is happening to their child and how they can leave exploitative relationships.

