

CSE Warning Signs

Often children and young people who are victims of sexual exploitation do not recognise that they are being abused. There are a number of warning signs that can indicate a child may be being groomed for sexual exploitation and behaviours that can indicate that a child is being sexually exploited. To assist you in remembering and assessing these signs and behaviours we have created the mnemonic 'SAFEGUARD'. Beware, this is not an extensive list.....

	S	Sexual Health and Behaviour Evidence of sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy and termination; inappropriate sexualised behaviour
	A	Absent from school or repeatedly running away Evidence of truancy or unexplained absences from home or care
	F	Familial abuse and/or problems at home Familial sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect as well as forced marriage or honour-based violence, domestic abuse; substance misuse; parental mental health concerns; parental criminality; experience of homelessness; living in a care home or temporary accommodation
	E	Emotional and physical condition Thoughts of, or attempted suicide or self-harming; low self-esteem or self-confidence; issues relating to sexuality; learning difficulties or poor mental health; unexplained injuries or changes in physical appearance or identity, unexplained health concerns
	G	Gangs, older age group and involvement in crime Involvement in crime; direct involvement with gang members or living in a gang-afflicted community; involvement with older individuals or lacking friends from the same age group; contact with other individuals who are sexually exploited
	U	Use of technology and sexual bullying Evidence of 'sexting', sexualised communication on-line or problematic use of the internet and social networking sites
	A	Alcohol and drug misuse Problematic substance misuse
	R	Receipt or unexplained gifts of money Unexplained finances, including phone credit, clothes and money
	D	Distrust of authority figures Resistance to communicating with parents, carers, teachers, children's services, health, police and others