

# Safeguarding

## Child Sexual Exploitation (1) – Building Resilience



### Child Sexual Exploitation

What is CSE?

The revised definition for Child Sexual Exploitation in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 is:

“Child sexual exploitation 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 child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) 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.”

A list of useful resources that can support you in further developing your knowledge of CSE can be found at:

<http://www.lcitylscb.org/information-for-practitioners/safeguarding-topics/child-sexual-exploitation-cse-trafficking-missing/cse-resources/useful-websites/>

It would be easy to assume that CSE is not a concern for those of us working with our youngest children, and that the issues occur when a child reaches their teenage years. This is not the case. Children are accessing digital media younger and younger and are exposed to risks that we could overlook if we are not vigilant. It is important that as practitioners, we reflect on our practice and work closely with parents to establish healthy internet habits from the start.

Developing a healthy relationship with the internet and providing children with knowledge of the potential dangers from a young age will enable practitioners and parents to build children's resilience to potential abuse.

## **Task 1**

- Spend a little time talking with the children in your care about their experience of technology. What they use in the setting and what they have access to at home?
- Task a member of the team to do a little research, to understand the functions of identified apps/websites/games that children use, to enable you to have more informed discussions about the potential dangers and advice for keeping themselves safe.

## **Task 2**

Continue to reflect on staff's knowledge, understanding and confidence regarding the child sexual exploitation. Some prompts have been added below to support your reflection.

- What opportunities are there for staff to develop their confidence in articulating their knowledge of CSE e.g., through professional discussion, team meeting activities etc.?
- Have staff had access to any form of CSE training? If not, consider what CPD opportunities staff could be offered.
- Can staff articulate their understanding of the signs and indicators of CSE? What opportunities are there for them to practice this?
- Are staff able to explain how they support children in developing resilience to CSE from a young age?
- Is there adequate communication with parents regarding CSE; what you do at the setting and what they do at home?
- Does the settings safeguarding policy given reference to CSE?
- Do staff understand the steps they are required to take should they suspect CSE?