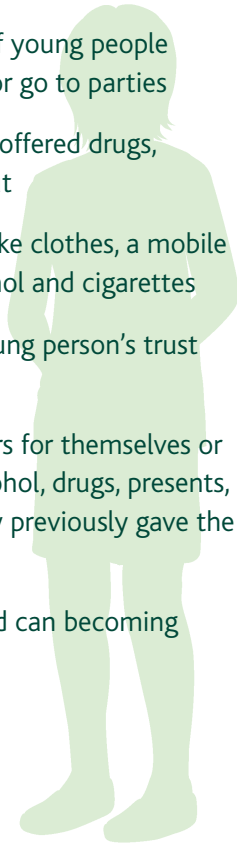


How does it happen?

We know from experience that some grown-ups target children and young people and draw them into abusive sexual relationships. This is how it can happen:

- At the beginning, adults make young people feel special by showing them a lot of interest and affection
- Sometimes they ask groups of young people to come back to their house or go to parties
- Sometimes young people are offered drugs, alcohol and a place to chill out
- They may be given presents like clothes, a mobile phone, or money to buy alcohol and cigarettes
- After adults have gained a young person's trust and affection things change
- They will ask for sexual favours for themselves or other people in return for alcohol, drugs, presents, money etc. All the things they previously gave the young person for free.
- The adults stop being nice and can becoming threatening or violent

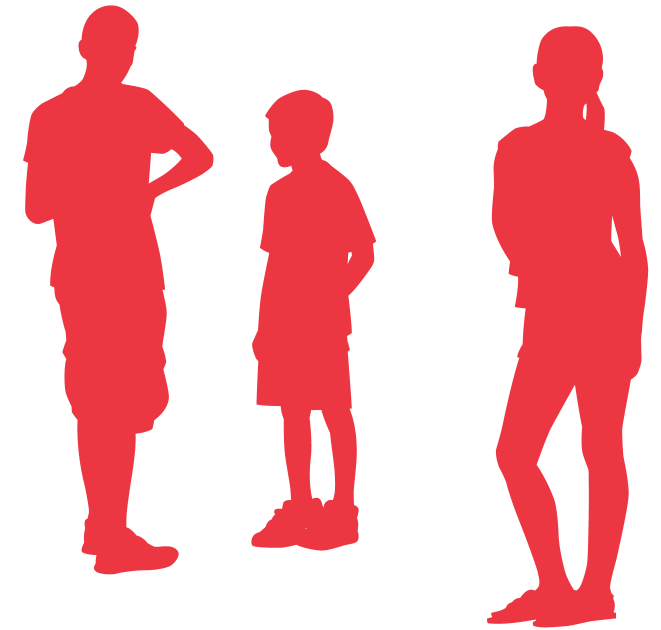


If you think a child is at immediate risk call 999

For confidential support and advice on sexual exploitation call the Kingfisher Team

Tel: 01865 335276

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/saferchildren



This document can be supplied in alternative formats, please contact:

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board

Tel: 01865 815843

www.oscb.org.uk



Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board



Oxfordshire



THAMES VALLEY POLICE



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

How to get help if you think your son or daughter is being sexually exploited



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CHILD OR TEENAGER?



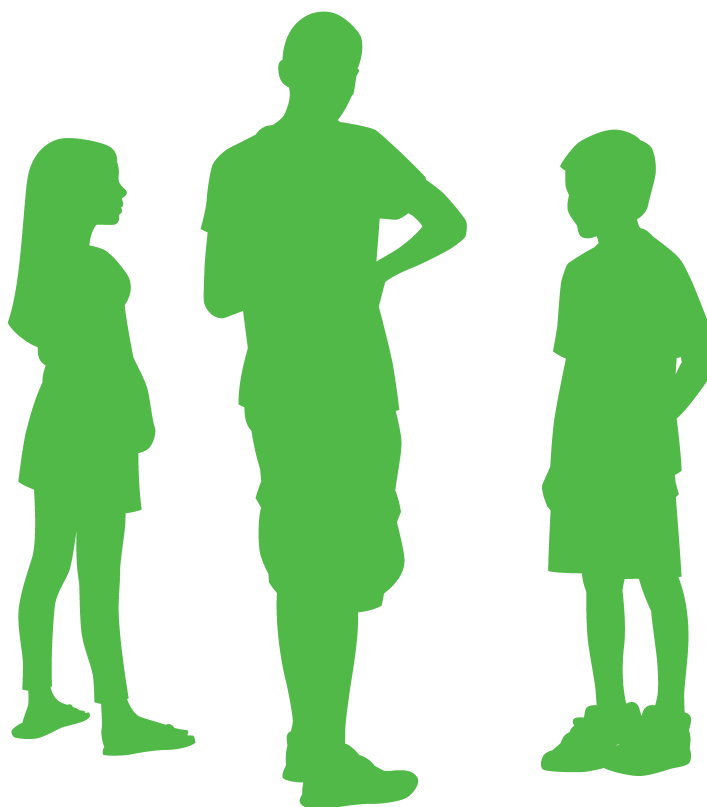
- Do they stay out overnight?
- Have they been missing from home?
- Do they skip school?
- Have they come home with money, clothes, jewellery or a mobile phone they can't account for?
- Do they have an older boyfriend or girlfriend you are concerned about?
- Are you worried they are using drugs or alcohol?
- Have they lost contact with family and friends of their own age?
- Do they lack self-esteem?
- Are they secretive about where they go and who they see?
- Do they chat to people online they have never met?
- Are you worried about unsafe sexual behaviour?

If this sounds familiar, your child could be at risk of sexual exploitation by adults. Taking risks is part of growing up, but sometimes children get out of their depth.

What is sexual exploitation?

Sexual exploitation can involve swapping sexual favours for drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and other presents. Or it may be having sex for money with several adults. Young people may feel they must have sex because an adult gives them something or because they feel threatened or frightened.

Some young people may want to have sex because they think the adult is their boyfriend. In reality they are being used for sex and the 'boyfriend' or 'girlfriend' may pass them on to other people too. (Remember – sexual abusers can be women or men.)



What can you do?

If you are worried about a child or young person, you must do something – but it may not be easy to find out what is going on from them.

Your child may have been told not to talk about what they are doing or threatened with violence. Or they may think they have an exciting grown-up life with a boyfriend or girlfriend, which they don't want to end.

Try to find a time to talk to them calmly about how they feel. Your child may open up and admit they are unhappy about a part of their life. They may even admit they need help.

But if they won't talk to you, please do not let the matter drop. Is there someone else that you both trust that could talk to them – a grandparent, uncle or family friend. Or someone from your religion or local community? Tell the trusted person about your concerns and ask them to have a word.

Child sexual exploitation is a crime – the police and social services will act to stop it happening. If you are still worried call our confidential helpline number on **01865 335276**.

There are specialists in the team who can advise you on what to do next. They can also talk to any child or young person themselves.