



## New CSE Risk Assessment Referral Form

In light of lessons learnt from recent CSE cases, the CSE Risk Assessment Referral Form has been revised to promote the use of your professional judgement, and allows you to share relevant information.

There is no longer a scoring system, however those completing the form must go through the list of vulnerabilities and risk indicators and tick where these may apply to the child or young person that you are worried about.

If you have ticked a box, please go on to describe what it is that you are worried about in the free text box at section 6. No in depth training is required – the form itself provide prompts.

Please complete it as fully as you can, however **do not let a gap in your knowledge of the case hold up sending the form in. You may be filling the gap in another professional's knowledge with what you know!**

The form must then be **referred in to the MASH** for the police CSE team to review the information as per the form .

[Download the new Referral Form Here](#)

## What is Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse that involves the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18 into sexual activity in exchange for things such as money, gifts, accommodation, affection or status. The manipulation or 'grooming' process involves befriending children, gaining their trust, and often feeding them drugs and alcohol, sometimes over a long period of time, before the abuse begins. The abusive relationship between victim and perpetrator involves an imbalance of power which limits the victim's options. It is a form of abuse which is often misunderstood by victims and outsiders as consensual. Although it is true that the victim can be tricked into believing they are in a loving relationship, no child under the age of 18 can ever consent to being abused or exploited. (Barnardo's, 2012).

This abuse often involves violent and degrading sexual assaults and rape. The Children's Commissioner's report on sexual exploitation by gangs and groups found that oral and anal rape were the most frequently reported types of abuse. Experts agree that these types of abuse are particularly humiliating and controlling, and, as such, may be preferred by those who exploit vulnerable young people (Berelowitz et al, 2012). Exploitation can also occur without physical contact when children are persuaded or forced to post indecent images of themselves online, participate in non-contact sexual activities via a webcam or smartphone, or engage in sexual conversations on a mobile phone (DfE, 2011).

Technology is widely used by perpetrators as a method of grooming and coercing victims, often through social networking sites and mobile devices (Jago et al, 2011). This form of abuse usually occurs in private, or in semi-public places such as parks, cinemas, cafes and hotels. It is increasingly occurring at 'parties' organised by perpetrators for the purposes of giving victims drugs and alcohol before sexually abusing them (Barnardo's, 2012).

The PSCB has reacted positively to CSE by establishing both strategic and operational CSE groups. There is a joint Peterborough and Cambridgeshire CSE strategy and supporting action plan which is being effectively worked by agencies across the County and monitored through the Strategic CSE group. The PSCB, has through the Independent Chair led on the partnership Gold Group, which was set up to deal with the series of investigations into CSE in Peterborough. This has allowed the PSCB to be at the centre of joint working.

The PSCB has delivered CSE awareness training to in excess of 480 taxi drivers, approved drivers and voluntary drivers. This will form part of an annual safeguarding update that will continue to be delivered to drivers across Peterborough. This ensures that people are fully aware of CSE and its implications.

The PSCB has contributed to the "Say something if you see something" campaign which to date has been delivered to targeted hostels and bars. The next phase is to deliver to environmental health colleagues so that fast food outlets can be targeted.

## The 4 models of Sexual Exploitation Activity

The [Health Working Group Report on Child Sexual Exploitation \(2014\)](#) describes the main ways that CSE can occur. They use both the Barnardo’s model and the findings from the Children’s Commissioners report (2013) into CSE, ‘If only someone had listened’. This report focussed on gangs and groups and was, by far, the most in depth review into prevalence of this type of abuse in England.

The Health Working Group also found an increasing use of the abuse being filmed giving the perpetrator more power over their victim(s)

1	Inappropriate relationships	Usually involving a sole perpetrator who has inappropriate power, or control, over a young person (physical, emotional or financial) and uses this to exploit them. One indicator may be a significant age gap. The young person may believe they are in a loving relationship.
2	'Boyfriend' model of exploitation and peer exploitation	In the boyfriend model, the perpetrator befriends and grooms a young person into a 'relationship', and then coerces or forces them to have sex with friends or associates. The young person believes they are in a loving relationship
3	Peer Exploitation model	A child is invited, (often by same sex friends), or forced, by peers or associates, to engage in sexual activity with several, or all, of the children present at the time. There is no pretence of a special or intimate relationship with any of the perpetrators.
4	Organised/networked sexual exploitation or trafficking	Young people (often connected) are passed through networks, possibly over geographical distances, between towns and cities where they may be forced / coerced into sexual activity with multiple men. Often this occurs at 'sex parties', organised by perpetrators for the purposes of giving victims drugs and alcohol before sexually abusing them. The young people who are involved may be used as agents to recruit others into the network. Some of this activity is described as serious organised crime and can involve the organised 'buying and selling' of young people by perpetrators.

The model multi-agency professionals will encounter most frequently is the second type. This makes it hard to get the child to disclose as they don’t believe, or understand, that they are a victim.



### What are the Signs?

Children and young people that are the victims of sexual exploitation often do not recognise that they are being exploited.

However, there are a number of telltale signs that a child may be being groomed for sexual exploitation.

These include:

- ⇒ going missing for periods of time or regularly returning home late
- ⇒ regularly missing school or not taking part in education
- ⇒ appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- ⇒ associating with other young people involved in exploitation
- ⇒ having older boyfriends or girlfriends
- ⇒ suffering from sexually transmitted infections
- ⇒ mood swings or changes in emotional wellbeing
- ⇒ drug and alcohol misuse
- ⇒ displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour.



**ALTER EGO HEATRE COMPANY**

**Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board**

**Chelsea's Choice**  
**Parents' Performance**

Dear Parent/Carer

You are invited to attend a performance of 'Chelsea's Choice' on Wednesday July 17th at Ormiston Bushfield Academy at 6 p.m.

Chelsea's Choice is an innovative 40 minute long Applied Theatre play aimed at raising awareness around the very sensitive issue of Child Sexual Exploitation. Great care has been taken to ensure that the subject matter is covered without being too graphic and that it is appropriate to the age of the intended audience. The play is hard-hitting and humorous in turns!

Chelsea's Choice tells the story of a group of three students who discover the diary of a girl called Chelsea. Chelsea was a young girl who, having fallen out with her friends and family, was approached by a man called Gary. Gary was older, owned a car, had a flat and treated her like an adult. Unfortunately Gary was not what he seemed to be! Chelsea's story is played out and examined by the three students along with their teacher in an attempt to understand what happened to Chelsea and how it could have been prevented. The play:-

- Raises awareness amongst young people and adults of the sensitive - sometimes taboo - issues surrounding Child Sexual Exploitation
- Raises awareness of the varying forms that Child Sexual Exploitation can take
- Raises awareness and understanding of 'The Grooming Process' and the differing forms that it can take.
- Promotes understanding of and a desire for Healthy Relationships
- Promotes safe internet use
- Sign-posts relevant service providers

The play is followed by a 20 minute Q&A session.

For more information or to book a place contact  
Peterborough LSCB on 01733 863747  
or email [pscb.training@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:pscb.training@peterborough.gov.uk)

[www.alteregotheatre.co.uk](http://www.alteregotheatre.co.uk)

## Impact of Chelsea's Choice

Following the November 2012 PSCB Annual Conference, the PSCB commissioned 'Chelsea's Choice' which is a drama production warning of the dangers of Child Sexual Exploitation with a target audience of Young People, warning of the dangers of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in it's various forms.

The performance was seen by mostly year 8 and 9 students and was well received, we believe that in total in excess of 3000 students watched the performance. The CSE awareness work has been followed up by the Police Safer Schools officers who have continued to roll out the "exploited" programme in secondary schools.

During May 2014, a consultation CSE questionnaire was developed by the PSCB for schools to fulfil two purposes:

1. To gain a current insight into young people's knowledge of CSE
2. to assess the impact that "Chelsea's Choice" had on young people in Peterborough 10 months after the performances had taken place.

*"some people are aware, some aren't. I'm not!"*

In excess of 500 young people from across the city responded to the consultation. A high percentage of young people that responded said they knew what CSE was but 54% of Year 7 had indicated that they did not know what CSE was.

A more in-depth analysis of responses revealed that the majority of responses (89%) were accurate and some were very detailed and explicit. The use of force, control and manipulation for sexual activity was the most common response. Young people recognised that sexual exploitation could include taking photos, videos of young people as well as physical sexual acts. However, there was also a number of misconceptions amongst some of the young people. For example the suggestion that CSE would only refer to a specific age group, or that CSE was a "group on the internet who stopped abuse" This information evidences the importance of professionals ensuring that when a young person says that they know what CSE is, this is not taken on face value but explored in more detail.

## Raising Awareness in the Local Business Community

The PSCB has been involved in the delivery of the "If you see something, say something" campaign which has now been delivered to in excess of 480 approved drivers and passenger assistants.

This will form part of an annual safeguarding update that will continue to be delivered to drivers across Peterborough. This ensures that people are fully aware of CSE and its implications.

How to effectively raise public awareness of CSE will continue to be considered regularly and is supported by the joint CSE strategy and action plan to ensure a proactive local response to any national/ local publicity around CSE cases.

## Warning Signs and Vulnerabilities Checklist

The following are typical vulnerabilities in children prior to abuse:

- Living in a chaotic or dysfunctional household (including parental substance use, domestic violence, parental mental health issues, parental criminality).
- History of abuse (including familial child sexual abuse, risk of forced marriage, risk of 'honour'-based violence, physical and emotional abuse and neglect).
- Risk of forced marriage and/or 'honour' based violence
- Recent bereavement or loss.
- Gang association either through relatives, peers or intimate relationships (in cases of gang associated CSE only).
- Attending school with young people who are sexually exploited.
- Learning disabilities.
- Unsure about their sexual orientation or unable to disclose sexual orientation to their families.
- Friends with young people who are sexually exploited.
- Homeless.
- Lacking friends from the same age group.
- Living in a gang neighbourhood.
- Living in residential care.
- Living in hostel, bed and breakfast accommodation or a foyer.
- Low self-esteem or self-confidence.
- Young carer.

The following signs and behaviour are generally seen in children who are already being sexually exploited.

- Missing from home or care.
- Physical injuries.
- Drug or alcohol misuse.
- Involvement in offending.
- Repeat sexually-transmitted infections, pregnancy and terminations.
- Absent from school.
- Change in physical appearance.
- Evidence of sexual bullying and/or vulnerability through the internet and/or social networking sites.



- Estranged from their family.
- Receipt of gifts from unknown sources.
- Recruiting others into exploitative situations.
- Poor mental health.
- Self-harm.
- Thoughts of or attempts at suicide.

Evidence shows that any child displaying several vulnerabilities from the above lists should be considered to be at high risk of sexual exploitation. Professionals should immediately start an investigation to determine the risk, along with preventative and protective action as required. However, it is important to note that children without pre-existing vulnerabilities can still be sexually exploited. Therefore, any child showing risk indicators in the second list, but none of the vulnerabilities in the first, should also be considered as a potential victim, with appropriate assessment and action put in place as required.

## Meet Hannah Campling, PSCB CSE, Trafficking, and Missing Coordinator



The Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board has recruited Hannah Campling, to help address the challenges of child sexual exploitation (CSE), trafficking and young people missing from home, care or education in the city.

This specialist role has been created to ensure the response to CSE investigations are recognised, challenged and co-ordinated between agencies.

Having worked in the Youth Offending Service for six years, Hannah has a wealth of experience working with vulnerable young people and a good understanding of their complex needs.

Hannah explains: “My responsibilities include establishing multi-agency connections to ensure CSE and trafficking referrals are assessed and appropriate interventions are provided. Similarly, I coordinate information and ensure missing from home, care or education cases are acted upon. In addition, I feedback key themes that arise from cases into practice. I’m excited by the challenges this role will undoubtedly present and look forward to building connections with agencies to improve the lives of young people in Peterborough.”

## Peterborough social worker shares learning from child sexual exploitation cases

Estelle Thain explains how she and her colleagues built trusting relationships with victims whose trust had been abused

There are some professions where the fruits of your labour are clear for everyone to see. For example, we all know doctors cure the sick and teachers educate our children.

Social work is one of those professions where the good, and at times painstaking, work often goes unnoticed. This is because it involves some of the most vulnerable and is therefore highly confidential.

Every so often people get a glimpse into our world and recently was one of those occasions. Five men and boys were found guilty of the rape and [sexual assault of five girls in Peterborough](#).



*“They often feel like nobody understands them and they don’t realise they have been exploited”*

### Positive acknowledgement

When the verdicts were returned the chief executive and director of children’s services for Peterborough council stood up and told the media this important outcome owed much to the incredibly close relationships I and my colleagues had built with the victims.

Their positive acknowledgement of the work we had done over the past 18 months, and what we had achieved as a result, was extremely important. We had secured justice for the girls, which was always our aim, and we felt very proud to have achieved that.

Life as a social worker is always busy, but the past year exceeded anything I’d experienced previously. This was because of the time we invested cultivating close relationships with the victims to enable them to share details of the awful crimes they’d endured.

Relationships are key to all social work, but they are absolutely vital when you are supporting children who have developed strong emotional connections with people they trusted who went on to abuse that trust.

### The extra mile

They often feel like nobody understands them and they don’t realise they have been exploited. Gaining their trust in me as a social worker was vital. I supported two sisters. The youngest, who is now 14, was the lead witness, but has a learning disability. She needed constant reassurance that I’d be there every step of the way, which often led to calls out of hours and at weekends.

It was important to go that extra mile, making sure we were available for them when they needed us. Actions speak louder than words, so if they needed us outside of working hours we made it our priority to meet those needs by making a visit or phone call. We also supported them through experiences that caused them distress or anxiety, such as meeting new people and visiting new places. It was all a necessary part of the process for us, but an often difficult part of the process for them.

The dedication was worthwhile. Once the girls felt they could depend on us they then felt able to reveal the awful details of what they had experienced.

### **Victim focus**

Once the police investigations began it was critical to maintain that trust. Working with the police, we made sure that the interviews were very much focused on the victims, to ensure they felt able to give their evidence.

In the months between the police interviews and the trial, there were numerous occasions when the girls would feel anxious and unsettled about the trial. I found with the girls I supported, and particularly the lead witness because of her learning disability, timing was a big issue.

So I created a wall chart that she could use to count the days until the trial. I also wrote things down that I had told her so that she could look at it when I was not there. These little things really helped to keep her calm.

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*“Too often there is a lack of communication between agencies, but in this investigation the police and the council worked together at every level and most importantly listened to one another.”*

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As the trial drew closer we had to focus our efforts on supporting the girls to give their evidence. It was immensely stressful for the victims and understandably there were times when the enormity of what they had to do became overwhelming for them.

We prepared the girls as much as we could for the experience, talking them through what they would be doing in great detail. It was a great reassurance for them to know we would be sat beside them as they gave their evidence in court – for some of them this was key to them doing so.

### **Advice for other social workers**

Looking back it's clear that unlocking abuse is all about time and patience. When it was identified there was child sexual exploitation in Peterborough, the city council set up a dedicated team to work with the victims and police.

At the time, when we were all learning, this was critical as it gave us time to develop those crucial relationships, not only with the victims, but with each other as a newly formed team and with our police colleagues. Those close working relationships provided us all with much needed emotional support.

If there was one piece of advice that I would offer a social worker who was in the early stages of identifying child sexual exploitation, it would be to put all your time and energy into developing close relationships with the victims. I know it sounds obvious, but go above and beyond, pull out all the stops to ensure they know they can trust you implicitly.

My other piece of advice would be to ensure there are close working relationships with partner agencies. Too often there is a lack of communication between agencies, but in this investigation the police and the council worked together at every level and most importantly listened to one another. There was never a culture of secrecy; we shared everything.

### **Challenges and rewards**

The past 18 months have perhaps been the most challenging of my career, but they have also been the most rewarding. My colleagues and I feel so very proud of the girls and immensely privileged to have been part of their journey, to have shared their experiences and supported them through the highs and lows.

However, it doesn't end there. Yes, justice has been done, but now we need to help the girls pick up the pieces of their lives so that they can grow into adults and have healthy relationships. This is the time they need us the most.

That is a challenge we are only just embarking on, but the close relationships we have built with the girls so far will give us the best possible chance of helping them recover.

Estelle Thain is a senior children and families social worker at Peterborough City

Council. In 2012 she was named [Social Worker of the Year](#).

Source [Community Care](#) 22nd January 2014







## Internet Safety

### Cyberbullying

New technologies provide an apparently anonymous method by which bullies can torment their victims at any time of the day or night. While the bullying may not be physical, the victim may receive an email, chat or text messages or be the target of unfavourable websites or social networking profiles that make them feel embarrassed, upset, depressed or afraid. This can damage their self-esteem and pose a threat to their psychological well-being. For more advice on preventing and responding to cyberbullying see: [www.digizen.org](http://www.digizen.org)

### What are the risks?

The internet opens up so many educational and social opportunities to children, giving them access to a world of information and experiences.

For most children and young people, the internet has become an integral part of their lives where they play video games, download music and videos and chat to people via social networking sites such as MySpace, Bebo, Facebook, Twitter or Ask.fm.

Using the internet can also expose your children to risks such as:

- Revealing personal information and/or contact details.
- Receiving upsetting texts or e-mail messages.
- Being 'groomed' by an adult with a view to meeting a child for their own illegal purposes.
- Posting on the Internet malicious details about, or inappropriate images of, other people (cyber bullying).
- Ignoring copyright law by downloading music or video material.
- Accessing age inappropriate illegal websites or those that incite hatred or violence.



### What can you do?

- Get to know your child's online habits. Children are inquisitive. They will look to explore the internet as much as they do the real world. Knowing the sites they go to, the people they meet there and what they do, will help to keep your child safe.
- Keep the computer in a family room where you can monitor what is going on, not tucked away in a bedroom.
- Use a general family email address when signing up to websites, not the child's specific name.
- Advise them to only text, chat or webcam to people they know and to raise concerns if they are asked to do something they are uncomfortable with.
- Help your child to understand that they should never give out personal details to online friends they do not know offline. Encourage the child to see it like giving out personal details to a stranger in the street.
- Discuss how people hide their identities on-line and the importance of never meeting new online 'friends' for real without their parents/carers permission and presence.
- Encourage them to think carefully about what photographs or videos they post online because they can be tampered with by others and never completely erased.
- Discuss the fact that taking and sending inappropriate images by mobile phone or email is a criminal offence.
- Filtering software can help to block inappropriate material but it is not 100% effective and is no substitute for good adult supervision.



## Sexting [verb] = sending a sexually explicit message

The term 'sexting' describes the use of technology to share personal sexual content.

It's a word-mix of sex and texting. Other nicknames you may hear might be 'cybersexing', 'doxing' or 'selfie'.

The content can vary, from text messages to images of partial nudity to sexual images or video.

This content is usually created to be sent to a partner, but can be between groups and can use a range of mobile devices, technologies and online spaces.

Photos and videos are often created via webcam or smartphone camera, and are shared on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, Flickr and video sites such as YouTube.

### Useful resources

Use the following resource to help you educate young people about how adults can groom online and who to report to if it happens:

[So you got naked online?](#) - A guide for young people, produced by the South West Grid for Learning, offering information and practical advice for action following a sexting incident.

[Child Exploitation and Online Protection centre](#) - CEOP can provide advice to young people and parents/carers after a sexting incident has been reported using their online reporting button.



## Sexting and the Law

If a young person under the age of 18 engages in sexting by creating an explicit photo or video of themselves then they have potentially **created** an image of child abuse. By sending this content on to another person, they have **distributed** an image of child abuse. By receiving content of this kind from another young person, they are then in **possession** of an image of child abuse.

The Association of Chief Police Officers of England, Wales and Northern Ireland have stated that young people engaging in sexting should not face prosecution as first time offenders, but the situation will be investigated to ensure the young people involved are not at risk. Repeat offenders and more extreme cases are reviewed differently, still with a focus on avoiding prosecution unless absolutely necessary.

### What other risks are there?

- **Reputation damage:** with young people connecting via a wide range of technologies and social media sites, sexting content can be distributed to other users very quickly. This prevents the young person from controlling where the content is posted. This can result in damage to a young person's reputation in their school or local community, and in online communities. As content posted online can potentially exist forever in the public domain, this can have longer term effects on a young person's reputation and aspirations.
- **Emotional and psychological damage:** the distribution of sexting content to others can cause distress and upset to the young person involved, especially if the content is distributed by someone they entrusted it to. The effects of others seeing this content can lead to negative comments and bullying, and may result in a young person losing confidence or self esteem, and in extreme cases can lead to depression and other risks.

### What advice can I give to young people?

- **Resist peer pressure:** the creation of sexting content is quite often due to pressure from a partner or group. Discussing peer pressure with young people is a positive way to encourage them to take responsibility for their own actions and resist pressure from others to engage in activities they are uncomfortable with, or know to be against the law.
- **Know the law:** although young people will be treated as victims in instances of sexting, it is important to educate them about how such behaviour breaks the law, and the potential consequences.
- **Understand the consequences:** increasing young peoples awareness about what can happen after sexting content has left their control is very important in helping them to understand the effects that may have on their reputation and psychological wellbeing; both short term and long term.
- **Lose your inhibitions and you lose control:** the distribution of sexting content is often deliberate but can also happen in a less planned way, for example through spontaneity or peer pressure, or if a young person is under the influence of alcohol or drugs and their judgement is impaired. Remind young people that they have control over the images they create and share, but once they have shared that content, it is out of their control.

**It's never too late to tell someone:** encourage young people to speak to someone they trust if they are involved in a sexting incident. Although it may feel like the end of the world to a young person, there is always a way back. The quicker they speak to someone, the better the chance of managing the spread of the content.



## Online Grooming

The internet can be a fantastic place for children and young people to connect with their friends; discover new things and be creative. However, 'friends' made online may not be who they say they are. This is a difficult concept for children to understand.

### What is grooming?

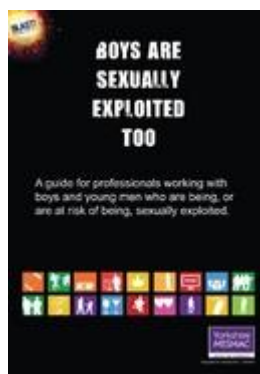
Online grooming is the process by which an adult with an inappropriate sexual interest in children will approach a child online, with the intention of developing a relationship with that child, to be able to meet them in person and intentionally cause harm. For more information and age appropriate resources for children relating to online grooming, visit [Thinkuknow](http://Thinkuknow).

### What should I do if I have concerns?

If you are at all concerned that a child in your care has been contacted by an adult online, it is imperative to tell someone straight away. Ensure that you are familiar with reporting procedures in your workplace and that confidentiality is not promised to the child in question. Report immediately to the designated person, for example the Child Protection Officer so that the correct steps are taken from the outset. Ensure that the child's own words are used and are not changed in any way. The child or young person in question may want to accompany you when you make your report, to be part of the process.

Reports can be made to the [Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre \(CEOP\)](http://Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)) and further information can be found at [Virtual Global Taskforce](http://Virtual Global Taskforce). Child sexual abuse content found online can also be reported to the [Internet Watch Foundation \(IWF\)](http://Internet Watch Foundation (IWF)).

## Sexual Exploitation of Boys and Young Men



The sexual exploitation of boys and young men (BYM) is often unrecognised and underreported leading to a misconception that this issue applies mainly to girls. This leads to services being developed for, and geared towards supporting girls and young women (GYW), making them exclusionary of, and inaccessible to BYM.

The issue of BYM and sexual exploitation is well documented; The Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP) released their "Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse" in June 2012, stating that difficulties in recognising the sexual exploitation among boys and young men are likely to have led to an underrepresentation of male victims.

In November 2013 the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Gangs and Groups produced their final report. This also stated that boys too often remain invisible victims, as the assumption is that only girls are subjected to these assaults.

In autumn 2013 YouGov released "Are parents in the picture? Professional and parental perspectives of child sexual exploitation" which stated both professionals and parents strongly disagree with the assertion that sexual exploitation only happens to girls, with 96% of professionals and 95% of parents in disagreement.

As the grooming and sexual exploitation of BYM is being increasingly acknowledged in various research and guidance, it is disappointing to hear that dual gender CSE services report that they are working with a significantly higher number of girls.

Professionals should remember that simply because girls and young women (GYW) make disclosures and engage with services at a higher rate than BYM, does not mean that BYM are at less risk. It is also important that when professionals are assessing the risk of BYM with regard to sexual exploitation, that they are not inappropriately influenced by gender.

The BLAST Project remains the UK's only male sexual exploitation project and has provided information and support to thousands of boys and young men since 2003. The specialist work of the BLAST Project was acknowledged in 2011 in the Department for Education's 2012 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan, Progress Report'.

Since 2013 the BLAST Project has been working with various CSE services across the country as part of the 'Excellence for Boys' project, a national development programme which aims to make CSE services more accessible to, and inclusive of, boys and young men. As part of this work they have launched the 'Boys are Sexually Exploited Too' national campaign, which includes [online resources](#), [awareness posters](#), [awareness leaflets for BYM](#) and a [professionals' guide](#).





**A man from Peterborough has been jailed for 12 years for having sex with an underage girl.**

Mohammed Abbas (30) groomed the girl when she was 12 years old and took her to a park where he tried to have sex with her.

He would drive her around in his black BMW and take her to houses for sex. She would often not return home for several days.

The offences came to light as part of Operation Erle, a proactive inquiry by Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Peterborough City Council into child sexual exploitation.

Abbas, previously of Gladstone Street, Peterborough, initially went on trial in June, however a jury at Peterborough Crown Court failed to reach a verdict. A retrial started on Monday 22nd September and he was convicted of two counts of sexual assault on a girl under 13 by penetration and two specimen charges of sexual activity with a child.

He was sentenced on Wednesday to 12 years for the sexual assault charges and eight years for the sexual activity, to run concurrently.

He will be deported after serving his sentence.

Abbas is the ninth person to be convicted under Operation Erle and brings the total sentences passed by judges in the inquiry to 101 years and nine months. Further trials are anticipated

Detective Superintendent Gary Ridgway said: "Abbas targeted and groomed a girl he knew to be underage for his own sexual gratification. His actions have hugely disrupted this young girl's life and will have a lasting effect on her. She has shown great bravery in giving evidence against him at both trials in order that he be brought to justice and hopefully the verdicts will help her start to move on with her life. This is another example of how determined we are to tackle the exploitation of young people and will continue to work with partner agencies to identify those at risk and keep them safe from harm."

The council's executive director of children's services, Sue Westcott, said: "This verdict represents further proof that we, alongside the police, are working relentlessly to bring to justice men who prey on young people. Once again this represents justice for a victim who had the courage to stand up in court and relive some very difficult experiences. Without this we could not have achieved this result. We are determined to stop these crimes happening in our city and we will continue to do everything in our power, along with the police, to stop girls becoming victims in the first place. We cannot do it alone; we need everyone in Peterborough to be aware of the signs and raise the alarm if they suspect that a young person might be at risk."

**SAY  
SOMETHING  
IF YOU  
SEE  
SOMETHING**

**Sexual exploitation  
is abuse and a crime.**

If you think it is happening here talk to your supervisor or call Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

**WATCH FOR:** a lot of male visitors to one room. A party room with lots of men, girls, drugs and alcohol. A lot of condom wrappers in the bin. Men paying with cash.

**QUIET PLEASE.**  
Let's just keep this between you and me.

CRIMESTOPPERS  
0800 555 111