

Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness



Introduction

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is not a new phenomenon, nor are the perpetrators limited to 70s and 80s TV personalities or any social or racial grouping. By the modern definition, CSE has always existed.

Two of the four licensing objectives are potentially impacted by this activity namely:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The protection of children from harm

So have you taken reasonable steps to detect and/or deter CSE in your business?

Responsible operators are aware of the benefits of good training. Customer experiences are improved, efficiencies are gained and regulatory interventions are reduced; these are just a few of the benefits.

Modern induction training often covers a range of subjects from drug policies and under age challenges to food hygiene and customer service. Does your induction training package include CSE training and if not, why not?



Barnardo's has created a video showing how front line workers in the night time economy can play an important role in helping keep young people safe from sexual exploitation. To view click image above.

What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)...

The NPCC (National Police Chiefs' Council) defines CSE as:

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where the young person (or third person/s) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or others performing on them sexual activities.

CSE can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.

Alcohol, Cigarettes, Mobile Phones, Gifts, Money, Drugs, Love

An Operator may not include CSE training within their staff training packages because they believe:

- CSE would not take place within their business; or
- CSE is not a significant risk to their business.

As an Operator in the leisure industry, if this is your view, or a version of your view, then we would ask you to review.

CSE is not an isolated act occurring when a victim is assaulted. Before the assault there are many points where an intervention could take place to stop the assault.

According to official statistics, the overwhelming majority of victims are female (80%) and white (90%). The average age of victims is between 14 to 15 years of age.

This majority of offenders are male (90%) and white (70%). The average age of offenders is 26 years old. Media reports regarding some offending groups (e.g. younger Asian offenders) appear to be disproportionate.

Between 2012 and 2015 an increase of incidents was recorded across the following categories, recent cases, non-recent cases, victims under the age of 13, and victims over the age of 13.

Statistical evidence would support the contention that this activity is not diminishing but escalating in the UK, a trend many experts predict will continue.

Grooming of victims takes place in all types of licensed premises and is not limited to any single sector.

This briefing note is directed to the industry with the aim of raising awareness and encouraging clients to give this serious issue due consideration. In instances of CSE the greatest physical and emotional impact is always felt by the victim. Their suffering is above all the greatest negative impact.

	Offenders	Victims
Gender	90% Male	80% Female
Race	70% White	90% White
Average Age	26 years old	14-15 years old

NPCC Regional Problem Profiles 2016

In addition to the clear moral imperative to protect the young and vulnerable in our society, CSE can have considerable impact upon the premises in which victims are groomed and/or potentially abused.

- Under the terms of the Licensing Act 2003, premises found to be failing in their responsibilities to promote the Licensing Objectives are liable to face Review proceedings with potential ramifications include the revocation of the premises licence.
- For multiple site operators CSE damage may be felt much wider than the specific premises concerned. Reputational damage to the brand and business could be immeasurable in terms of good will and loss of business.
- Staff working at premises, who are unprepared to deal with potential CSE situations, could be seriously traumatised by actions they were not aware of or trained to identify.

CSE can occur in any premises; it is not an isolated act. The offenders do not wish to be detected and there is no definitive list of warning signs for which a person can look out; vigilance and awareness of the risk is the best starting point. Training cannot therefore be as simple as experienced in some other areas of your business. This is not a reason to not train staff; instead training must be designed to engage staff in consideration of the issue as a real danger in the business and to empower staff to report suspicions to the proper Authorities. In respect of hotels or other businesses which offer accommodation, a list of potential 'red flags' may include:

- Guests refusing to provide credit card details and paying in cash, refusing to provide any form of identification;
- Guests who live locally seeking to rent a room without explanation;
- Teenage loitering near premises;
- Guests requesting isolated rooms and/or appearing secretive;
- Unexplained visitors to a guest's bedroom from within the hotel or from the street;
- Guests declining housekeeping;
- Bedding being removed from the room;
- Rooms with significant numbers of condoms or wrappers;
- Signs of drug or alcohol misuse.

These are some of the signs of which the Authorities increasingly warn. None of these 'red flags' in isolation or combination is definitive evidence of CSE - but could be. This is the challenge in preparing training materials/programmes. If your training documentation does not include a unit on CSE, this is a gap we recommend should be addressed.



Increasingly the authorities (child protection services and /or the police) are promoting courses locally for businesses. Sheffield's Safeguarding Children's Board are one organisation who offer a free course to local businesses.

CSE – Current Enforcement Activity

CSE considerations are now more commonly raised by relevant Responsible Authorities in relation to new premises licence and variation applications.

Requests for evidence of CSE training has become an increasingly common request. As a practice we have seen an increase in CSE related enforcement action across the country. We

are aware of Police forces conducting CSE style 'test purchase' operations. This is a sign of assertive steps being taken by the Responsible Authorities to raise the profile of CSE issues across the industry. They are no longer acting in a passive way reacting to new applications or specific incidents.

Through Police campaigns such as "Operation Makesafe", enforcement authorities are increasingly testing that businesses in their communities reflect their core principles of:

- Prepare: Provide strong local leadership and effective systems in partnership to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation.
- Prevent: Raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation among the business community to prevent incidents / repeat incidents of Child Sexual Exploitation within their premises/environment.
- Protect: Establish working practices that enable the safeguarding of vulnerable young people and support to victims.
- Pursue: Establish a framework for a flow of intelligence and information to assist agencies to disrupt, arrest and prosecute offenders.

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

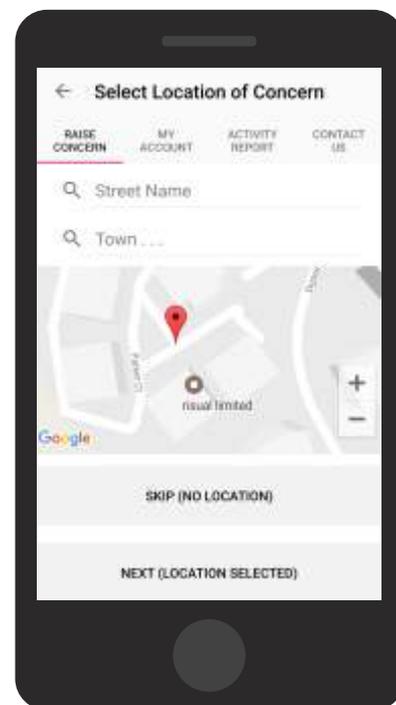
Hotel operators should also be aware that under the above Act, the police, where they reasonably believe child sexual exploitation is taking place, can now request the owner, operator or manager of hotel style premises to provide information about their guests. This includes the name and address, and other relevant information - e.g age. The information supplied can be used as intelligence to support the investigation of any criminal offences which may have been or are being committed on the premises involving possible child sexual exploitation.

CSE – IT Solutions

CSE is difficult to detect. With a limited number of personnel available to monitor and react to issues within their communities, intelligence is the key to deploying limited resources as effectively as possible.

In South Yorkshire a new pilot scheme has been launched to enlist the local licensed community and taxi drivers in the collection of 'soft intelligence', which is a term given to suspicions that fall short of actually witnessing CSE activity. The collection of this intelligence from multiple resources could lead to the detection of many incidents of CSE currently evading detection. The power of such intelligence is underlined by the "See Something, Say Something" campaign promoted by children safeguarding boards and police forces around the county.

Using a free smartphone app members of the licensed trade are empowered to report their suspicions directly to the relevant Police



Authorities. This information is collected, sifted and acted upon where appropriate.

The app allows users to push forward information but does not retain any potential sensitive information on the device itself. Individual users are identifiable (although anonymity is an option) via a unique marker which is attached to their report. This allows authorities to follow up on reports and report outcomes, where appropriate.

The app has also been designed to allow authorities to 'push' notifications to users such as missing child reports.

The pilot scheme is initially scheduled to run for 6 months with the aim of testing the principal and (with all pilot schemes) identifying bugs and improving the platform.

We are liaising with the developers and will report further on the outcomes of the pilot. Further details can be made available upon request. This use of IT to help reduce incidents of CSE is one example on how collectively the industry can tackle CSE.

CSE – The way forward for Operators

- All Operators need to be alert to the possibility of their premises being used for CSE activities.
- Staff need to be trained to be alert to the signs of such use.
- Such training, as with other training, should be recorded and regular refresher training undertaken. We can assist with content, if required.
- Hotels and premises providing accommodation need to be particularly alert to the possibility of CSE activity. For such premises the authorities increasingly expect such policies to be in place and regularly reviewed.
- Incident records should be maintained and periodically reviewed.
- Protocols should be in place (and understood) as to how when and where to report potential or actual suspicious activities. Information is better the fresher it is, systems facilitate the information reaching the relevant authorities as quickly as possible.
- Consider a way to share such reports within your locality with other businesses who may be affected.

We have examples of CSE avoidance policies and training materials. If you need any further help or assistance, please get in touch by either telephoning one of the Partners at JG&P or email CSE-Aware@John-Gaunt.co.uk.

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