

WHAT CAN I DO

You can help by identifying a child who may be at risk:

- > Check social media sites, be aware of who they are friends with.
- > Be alert to changes in behaviour or any physical signs.
- > Think how you can support children to share information if they are worried about their own or others behaviour.
- > Recognise the importance of intervening early. It may be possible to protect a young person as risks emerge and prevent opportunities for sexual offending.
- > Be familiar with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) child protection procedures and understand your role in them (www.durham-LSCB.org.uk / www.darlington.gov.uk/lscb)

You can also help by sharing information about possible offenders, locations or vehicles that may concern you.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.

If you have concerns that a child is being sexually exploited you should make a referral:

For Durham contact:
First Contact Service on 03000 26 79 79

For Darlington contact:
Darlington Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub on 01325 742 020

Concerned about a location, a website, a vehicle or a possible offender?

You can share the information easily and in confidence with the Police by emailing: requestforchecks@durham.pnn.police.uk

For more information, including the form to use go to: www.darlington.gov.uk/lscb or www.durham-lscb.org.uk

**REMEMBER
IF YOU SEE SOMETHING,
SAY SOMETHING**

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ERASE EXPLOITATION



IT HAPPENS HERE

Child Sexual Exploitation happens across County Durham and Darlington.

This is child abuse carried out by people who have power over young people and use it to control and sexually abuse them.

Young girls and boys can be groomed and then abused, leaving them traumatised and causing lifelong harm.

A child may believe their abuser is a boyfriend or girlfriend, but their abuser can use that trust to manipulate them, expose them to dangerous situations and could force them to do things which they would otherwise not willing do. This is often in exchange for attention, accommodation, gifts or alcohol.

It is common for victims not to recognise that they are being abused and rarely make complaints. So it is important for everyone else to try and protect them.

If you see something, say something.



Who might be targeted?

Any child may be targeted; however some groups are particularly vulnerable. These include children and young people who:

- > Have low self-esteem and/or low self-confidence.
- > Have a history of running away or going missing from home.
- > Are in residential or foster care.
- > Are disengaged from education.
- > May be abusing alcohol and drugs.

What are the possible signs of sexual exploitation?

- > Going missing for periods of time or regularly returning home late.
- > Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions.
- > Possession of multiple phones and preoccupation with them.
- > Having older boyfriends or girlfriends.
- > Isolated from peers and social networks.
- > Suffering from sexually transmitted infections
- > Mood swings, challenging behaviour or changes in emotional wellbeing.
- > Drug and alcohol misuse.
- > Showing inappropriate sexualised behaviour.
- > Involved in anti-social behaviour and crime such as shoplifting.
- > Having friends on social networking sites e.g. Facebook who are not their friends in real life.