PROJECT PHOENIX

Child Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse in which a young person is manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act often in return for attention, affection, money, drugs, alcohol or accommodation

The child might think that their abuser is their friend or boyfriend but the abuser might physically or verbally threaten them and be violent towards them. They will control and manipulate them and try to isolate them from friends and family

In organised sexual exploitation young people are passed through networks where they are forced into sexual activity with a number of men. This often takes place at 'sex parties' and the young people may be used to recruit others into the network

The more you know the more you see

There is no stereotypical victim of exploitation, but the below warning signs are an indication that a child may be being exploited:

- Regularly missing from home or school and staying out all night
- Change in behaviour – becoming aggressive and disruptive or quiet and withdrawn.
- Unexplained gifts or new possessions such as clothes, jewellery, mobile phones or money that can't be accounted for.
- Increase in mobile phone use or secretive use
- A significantly older 'boyfriend' or 'friend' or lots of new friends
- Spending excessive amounts of time online or on their mobile and becoming increasingly secretive about this activity.
- Sudden involvement in criminal behaviour or increased offending
- Sexual health problems
- Change in physical appearance

What can I do?

If you are worried that your child is at risk of Sexual Exploitation and would like to speak to someone for advice please contact Wigan Council Gateway Referral Team on 01942 486262. Gateway are an early intervention service that can offer support in the first instance with the opportunity to signpost to further services that have the ability to work directly with young people and their carers

If you have information regarding a young person who may be a victim of Child Sexual Exploitation or wish to share intelligence regarding possible perpetrators please contact Greater Manchester Police on 101.
In an emergency or if a crime is ongoing always call 999

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

www.wiganlscb.com