

# DSCP Factsheet

## CSE Information for Taxi Drivers / Firms



This leaflet provides information to identify signs of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and what you can do to help prevent CSE. Taxis drivers can form a crucial part of the fight against CSE and be the eyes and ears of the community, providing potentially important information to the Police.

Durham is one of the safest counties in England. Durham SCP are looking to engage with all communities to help prevent children becoming victim of child sexual exploitation. We believe that local businesses can play a positive role in preventing CSE.

You have the power to help prevent child sexual exploitation and trafficking.



## What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

Child sexual exploitation involves young people under the age of 18 who are encouraged or forced into a sexual relationship or situation by an adult. It often involves young people being offered something in return for performing sexual acts, these could be:

*Alcohol, Cigarettes, Money, Drugs, Mobile Phones, Affection and other Gifts*

## Where does it happen?

Young people can be groomed and sexually exploited at a variety of premises and locations such as:

*Parks, Shopping Centres, Taxi Ranks, Bus Stops, Pubs, Bars, Clubs, Restaurants, Take-aways, Gyms, Leisure Centres, Hotels, Hostels, and Online*

## Trafficking

Children and young people who are victims of sexual exploitation are also vulnerable to trafficking across cities and counties within the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation. Trafficking in the UK applies irrespective of distance travelled, and can be applied to movements within the same city.

## How does this affect you?

- Taxis are a very safe and reliable way to get around and we want to keep it that way
- The Police know that some victims are transported in taxis to addresses where they are then sexually assaulted or raped
- They also know that some men have posed as taxi drivers and picked up women who have then been assaulted or raped
- The Police need the help of all legitimate taxi drivers to help them stop this criminal behaviour

**If you see  
something,  
say something.**

Let us know on 101  
or in an emergency call 999.

## Signs to look out for

- Passengers who appear to be in a vulnerable state due to alcohol / drugs
- Passengers who are accompanied by a man or woman when in this state and don't know where they are going
- Unlicensed vehicles hanging around areas where there are likely to be young people in a vulnerable state looking for taxis to go home.
- Taking/collecting young people (girls and boys) from hotels / B&Bs / house parties
- Adults requesting taxi rides to and from locations - taking young people with them
- Taking young people to A&E, who are not in the presence of parents
- Young people who look distressed or intimidated

## What to do

- Make notes about the information you know
- Call the police non-emergency number 101 to report your concerns about possible sexual exploitation
- Report to Police through Crimestoppers 0800 555 111
- Or text information anonymously to 'say something' 166 000

## Information to share

- Names
- Locations and addresses of concerns
- Descriptions of people
- Car registration plates, makes and models of vehicles
- Description of concerning activity
- Information which may be 'rumour'

## What are Durham SCP doing about CSE?

We have developed a CSE Strategy and Action Plan to detect, prevent and disrupt all forms of child sexual exploitation including online child abuse as well as contact offences. The child sexual exploitation procedures focus on early identification and prevention meaning we identify children at risk and work to reduce this risk, rather than waiting for harm to occur before we act. We have:

- Developed a CSE Disruption Toolkit
- Trained hundreds of police officers and other agency staff in a new and proactive training tactic - IPC
- Carried out LSCB audits for both CSE and missing children incidents
- Undertaken an audit of responses for named suspects
- Created the 'ERASE' brand, Team and Website (Educate and Raise Awareness of Sexual Exploitation)
- Widen our training and awareness to those services not traditionally associated with safeguarding
- Develop stronger relationships with communities through Area Action Partnerships (AAP), raising awareness of CSE and how to report concerns or intelligence of CSE
- Actively engage young people within identified vulnerable groups
- Working closely with Licensing Dept of Durham County Council



County Durham has a dedicated new multi-agency team developed to improve our response to CSE and intervene early with young people who go missing from care or their own homes. The team scrutinise every absent and missing case to ensure a proportionate response.

All CSE intelligence will be shared with operational meetings to plan responses and disruption to offenders.