### Sexual Exploitation – what is it?

It can be very difficult to recognise that you or a friend is being sexually exploited or is at risk of being exploited in this way.

You may believe that you are in a great relationship with someone or a number of people but they may be taking advantage of your trust in them.

You may have someone special that you consider as your boyfriend or girlfriend – you may have known them for some time, or you may have only just got to know them. It could be someone you have met on the internet on a social media website.

Whoever it is, they may be very clever at taking advantage of your relationship which means that you may be in danger of being harmed.

#### Who can I contact if I am worried?

www.justwhistle.org.uk

www.stopitnow.org.uk

www.barnardos.org.uk

www.nspcc.co.uk

**Emergency Services** 

**Devon and Cornwall Police** 101

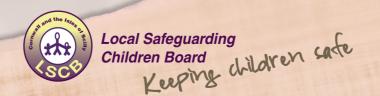
Cornwall Children's Social Care Multi-Agency Referral Unit MARU) 0300 123 1116

Cornwall Children's Social Care -Out of Hours 01208 251300

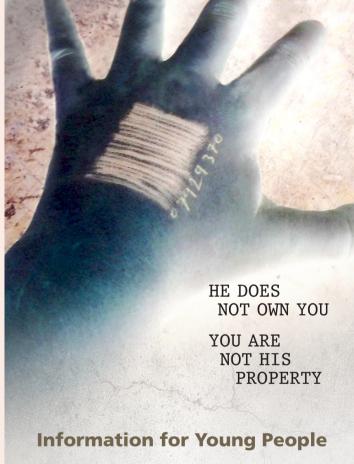
Isles of Scilly Children's Social Care 01720 424354

Isles of Scilly Children's Social Care -Out of Hours 01720 422699

**Cornwall Safeguarding Children Standards Unit**01872 254549

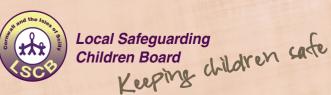


#### **Child Sexual Exploitation**



How to keep yourself and your friends safe from sexual exploitation

The sexual exploitation of children is child abuse



# TONIGHT CLIVE IS TAKING ME TO MEET MORE OF HIS FRIENDS...

## What are the warning signs that you should look out for?

Someone who you think is your friend may give you affection, money or gifts, alcohol or drugs and then expect you to do one or more of the following in return:

- Have sex with them
- Have sex with someone else
- Do something sexual to or for them
- Be touched in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable
- Look at sexual images including films and pictures
- Take photographs or films of yourself and send the photograph to them

You may think that you can consent to a sexual relationship if you are 16 or over but this may not be the case.

#### How do you know if you can trust someone?

This type of abuse can happen to any young person from any background. Some groups may be particularly vulnerable. It happens to boys and young men as well as girls and young women.

It is very difficult to know if you can trust someone. Your relationship with them may develop from a normal healthy relationship to an abusive relationship without you realising that it is happening. They might buy you presents and ask you to do things that seem exciting or fun. They may then start to control you or threaten you.



# What can I do to help myself or my friends?

If you think something is wrong, or someone makes you feel unsafe or frightened, you should ask for help.

Even if you have already done something that you are now concerned about, it's not too late.

You will probably know if your friend's mood or behaviour has changed. You will probably know if something is worrying them.

If you are worried about your friend you should talk to an adult that you trust as soon as you can.

I LOVE HIM SO MUCH,

I HAD BETTER DO WHAT HE WANTS...

Front cover image reproduced by kind permission of 'WRSAC' and 'They Underestimated Us'

- Be aware
- Stay alert
- Keep yourself safe
- Help keep your friends safe
- Talk to someone

