

What can be done to help?

- We believe that the adults who exploit young people should be held responsible and that your child is a victim of sexual abuse.
- We want to identify the people who target and abuse children.
- We want to provide help, support and advice to parents who feel their children may be at risk.
- We want to work with parents to protect children to ensure that their future is not permanently damaged by sexual exploitation.
- We want to work with you and your child to form an individual plan and package of support to ensure that your child is no longer left vulnerable to those who wish to exploit them.
- It may be that you have identified the risks to your child before any damage has been done, in which case we can provide information and support for you and your child in avoiding dangerous, coercive, and controlling relationships.



Who to contact for advice and support?



The Shield Team
St Johns House,
St Johns' Street, Abram,
Wigan WN2 5JY

Tel 0161 856 5312
www.wiganlscb.com/shieldteam



CROP
Coalition for the Removal Of Pimping
34 York Road,
Leeds LS9 8TA

Tel: 0113 240 3040

Information and advice 24/7



Parents and carers can get information and advice via the www.thinkuknow.co.uk website and report inappropriate online sexual contact.

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Information for parents and carers



Shield Team
Recognising Sexual Exploitation
of Children & Young People

**HOW TO GET HELP IF YOU
THINK YOUR CHILD IS BEING
SEXUALLY EXPLOITED.**



How to get help if you think your child is being sexually exploited.

Worried about your child?

- Are they staying out overnight?
- Have they been missing from home?
- Have they started to truant from school?
- Have they been coming home with money, clothes, jewellery and mobile phones they can't account for?
- Have they come home with a laptop computer or is their internet usage secretive?
- Do they have a USB Modem for internet access that they can't account for?
- Have they begun a relationship with an older male or female that you are concerned about?
- Have you had concerns that they could be using drugs and or alcohol?
- Has there been a change in their moods and behaviour?
- Are they losing contact with family and friends of their own age, and associating with an older age group?
- Do they lack self-esteem?
- Are they secretive about where they have been and with whom?

If all or some of these apply to your child or young person please read on.



Have you considered that your child may be at risk of sexual exploitation?

- The sexual exploitation of young people may involve payment or reward of some kind.
- Young people (under 18 years) can be drawn into providing sexual favours by older people. This can be in exchange for cigarettes, alcohol or drugs. They may form a close relationship with an older male/female, who may in fact be, or become, a pimp.
- Adults' who exploit young people in this way are skilled at 'grooming' vulnerable young people. They may offer them drugs or alcohol, and draw them into a sexual relationship. Parents may find that convincing their child to return home or to end the relationship is extremely difficult, because of the young persons loyalty to the person who is exploiting them.
- Increasing adults are using the Internet to groom young people for sexual exploitation and may then persuade them to meet face to face.
- Your child may be persuaded to provide sexual services in sauna's, or by working on the streets or from a flat or other premises. The adults involved are making money by sexually exploiting and abusing your child.
- Children involved in sexual exploitation face great risks to their physical, emotional and psychological health.
- They are at risk of catching sexually transmitted infections and can be the victims of serious and sometimes fatal attacks.
- They may also be the victims of violent sexual attacks such as rape.
- The emotional and psychological effects may lead then to self-harm, depression and suicide.

They cannot afford to take these risks.

**Please act now if you believe your child is at risk of or is being sexually exploited.
Contact Shield Team and or the Duty Team overleaf.**