

Child sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse. Victims, aged under 18, are manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act, either as part of a seemingly consensual relationship, or in return for attention, gifts, money, alcohol, drugs or somewhere to say.

How does this involve licensed businesses?

As a business you may notice behaviour involving children which seems unusual.

Unfortunately, premises can be misused for the grooming of young people either by people socialising or potentially by staff.

Taxis can also be used to transport young people to and from venues where they are sexually exploited.

You are expected to have systems and training in place to safeguard children and young people.

Why is this important?

Under the Licensing Act 2003, one of the licensing objectives is to protect children from harm. This is a fundamental principle and steps should be taken to uphold this objective and actively promote it.

It is important to remember that taxi drivers can be charged with human trafficking if they intentionally arrange or facilitate the travel of a person for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

What you and your staff should know

Outlined here are six protection steps which will help to safeguard young people, your staff and your business. They cover what your responsibilities are.

Each step is also a staff training subject. Talk with your staff about spotting the signs of child sexual exploitation, procedures for keeping records and reporting information.

Protection steps

1. Spot the signs

Signs of child sexual exploitation on your premises or within your vehicle could range from young people having older 'boyfriends', dressing or acting older than their age, being given alcohol, drugs, jewellery, money and gadgets and the use of taxis.

2. Age verification

Ensure you and your staff know the types of age identification (ID) which are accepted, the signs of a purchase of alcohol or cigarettes made on behalf of a young person, and who to contact if you need advice or to report a concern.

3. Patrol records

Ensure CCTV and patrol records are in place and regularly checked.

4. Incident logs

Ensure incident logs are kept and include areas for recording names, descriptions, vehicle registrations, and who to contact if you need advice and support.

5. Supervision of a vulnerable person

Make sure you have advice and who to contact if you need support on caring for a vulnerable person, or where to report a concern.

6. Staff training records

Record the staff training which takes place within your premises and include training around these 'protection' steps.

Visit www.lrsb.org.uk/cse or www.lcitylscb.org/information-for-practitioners/safeguarding-topics/child-sexual-exploitation for record and log templates.

Say something if you see something



Say something if you see something is a national campaign tackling child sexual exploitation in the hospitality industry. For more information www.nwgnetwork.org