

What can you do?

You are not to blame if this is happening to you. The adults who have taken advantage of you are responsible and they are the people who have done something wrong. They might have told you it is your fault and you will get in trouble but that is just a lie to frighten you.

If you are worried about another young person or if you think you have been sexually exploited you should talk to an adult you trust straight away.

If you think you are being abused or are worried about a friend call our Children's Services Access and Referral Hub: **0300 300 8585**.

There are specialists in the team who can help stop the abuse.

If you think a child is at immediate risk call 999

Contact us...

If you are worried about a child call our call our Children's Services Access and Referral Hub:
0300 300 8585.

There are specialists in the team who can help stop the abuse.

We are worried about you

If you think you have been sexually exploited you should talk to an adult you trust straight away



We are worried about YOU

Does it sound like you?

- You are friends with older adults
- You have an older boyfriend or girlfriend
- You stay out late and even all night
- You don't stay in with your family, and friends your own age, very much
- You have lost contact with friends
- You don't go to school
- You've tried and use drugs and alcohol
- You are chatting to people online who you have never met

If some of this sounds like you, then you are at risk of being sexually exploited.

What is sexual exploitation?

Sexual exploitation can involve swapping sexual favours for drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and other presents. Or it may be having sex for money with several adults. Young people may feel they must have sex because an adult gives them something, or because they feel threatened or frightened.

Some young people may want to have sex because they think the adult is their boyfriend or girlfriend. In reality they are being used for sex, and the 'boyfriend' or 'girlfriend' may pass them on to other people too. (Remember – sexual abusers can be women, as well as men.)

How does it happen?

We know from experience that some grown-ups target young people and draw them into abusive sexual relationships. This is how it works:

- Older adults show the young person a lot of interest and affection at the beginning, and make them feel special,
- Sometimes they ask groups of young people to come back to their house or parties with other adults, which makes the child feel grown up,
- They are offered drugs and alcohol, and a place to chill out,
- The young people may get presents like clothes, a mobile phone, or money to buy alcohol and cigarettes
- After the grown-up has gained the young person's trust and affection, things change,
- They will ask for sexual favours for themselves or other people, in return for alcohol, drugs, presents, money - all the things they started giving for free,
- They stop being nice and can become threatening or violent.