

# Would you know if your child is being sexually exploited?

Sexual exploitation is when young people are manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act or having a sexual act performed on them.

A young person often doesn't recognise that they're being exploited. This is because they tend to be 'groomed' by an adult or peer who befriends them and makes them feel special by buying them gifts and giving them lots of attention. They can also be introduced into sexual exploitation by other young people.

It can happen to any child/young person from any background. It happens to girls and boys.





## **Some of the signs of sexual exploitation to look for are:**

- Going missing for periods of time
- Regularly returning home late
- Regularly missing school
- Having unexplained gifts or new possessions
- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends
- Drug and/or alcohol misuse
- Inappropriate sexualised behaviour
- Associating with others who are sexually exploited
- Associating with gangs

If you're concerned that a child, or someone you know, is being sexually exploited (or could be at risk of sexual exploitation) you can get advice and support from;

**Brent Family Front Door on 020 8937 4300  
or ChildLine on 0800 1111**

**If your child is at immediate risk ring the police on 999.**