

Child Sexual Exploitation Raising Awareness

March 2017



Introduction

We have a moral duty to keep children and young people safe and help prevent their exploitation

This awareness training is designed to assist Operations/Hotel Managers brief their Teams in what Child Sexual Exploitation is, how they might recognise the potential signs of it and what to do if they have any concerns

It is recommended that the training session is undertaken as a group so that individuals can share their thoughts and discuss any concerns



What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is where children and young people are manipulated, or forced into taking part in sexual activity, doing things they don't want to do. This is often in return for attention, money, food, alcohol, clothes, somewhere to stay or gifts
- It can affect young people from any background, boys and young men, as well as girls and young women
- Parents are unlikely to be able to identify what is happening. They may suspect something is not right, but may not be in a position to stop it due to the control the exploiter has over their child due to threats, fear or other factors



What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

- Child Sexual Exploitation is not just carried out by men, women are known to be perpetrators of this crime too. They may use different grooming methods, but are known to target boys and girls. The imbalance of power and control is still present in these cases
- In many cases the child themselves may not realise or feel that they are being exploited and may become dependant on the person exploiting them
- Child Sexual Exploitation is not limited to physical sexual abuse. Exploitation can also occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; e.g. the child being persuaded to post images of themselves on the internet/mobile phones



Why is it an important issue?

- Child Sexual Exploitation is a serious issue facing society as a whole, not just hotels
- The Government has given dealing with Child Sexual Exploitation equal priority to Counter Terrorism, demonstrating the seriousness of the issue
- It is important that we work together with the Police and other agencies to deter and detect Child Sexual Exploitation
- We have a moral duty to keep children and young people safe from harm and exploitation
- As part of "Being Good Together" and supporting our communities, it is important we take our responsibilities seriously in this area
- Failure to act or not having the necessary safeguards in place may result in negative media attention, which could adversely affect Premier Inn's reputation
- And, most importantly, appropriate intervention may save a child from exploitation

How does it happen?

Child grooming is a carefully planned process with the aim of controlling a child or young person, ultimately for sexual purposes, which may involve the groomer:

- Initially targeting the vulnerable child or young person
- Befriending them and building trust
- Making them feel special and understood
- Entering into a relationship with them
- Building dependency while isolating the young person from their family, carers, school, friends and /or social group

The groomer has then gained control of the child or young person



How does it happen?

- Manipulation, threats, violence, coercion and intimidation are common in cases of Child Sexual Exploitation
- Involvement in exploitative relationships is often characterised by the child or young person's emotional vulnerability and/or their social and/or economic circumstances
- In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources



Question:

Ask the group what age is a child?

Discuss the answers before moving to next slide

The Age of Consent – What age is a child?

Under the Sexual Offences Act a child is generally someone under the age of 18 years old.

The age of consent to sexual activity is usually 16 years old. However, in some circumstances where a child of 16 years or older is not capable of making safe decisions e.g. due to learning difficulties, it may be deemed that they cannot consent to sexual activity. This may therefore be considered to be exploitation.

The table below helps to summarise the Sexual Offences Act (2003)

Sexual Offences Act (2003)				
Age 12 years 364 days (and under)	13 years	14 years	15 Years	Age 16 & 17 years old
<u>Any sexual activity is an offence</u> - the child is legally unable to consent to sexual activity	Sexual activity can be mutually agreed, <u>but</u> <u>remains an offence</u>			Sexual activity is <u>legal in a</u> <u>consenting relationship, otherwise</u> <u>it is a criminal offence</u>

The Law

Under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 persons could be charged for offences such as:

- Rape or sexual assault
- Sexual activity with a child
- Inciting a child to engage in sexual activity
- Making, distributing or possessing indecent images of a child
- Abuse of a position of trust
- Meeting a child following sexual grooming



Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

- There is an increasing expectation that hotel companies work with local Police authorities to combat the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation
- The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 enables the Police to require hotels in England & Wales, where they reasonably believe Child Sexual Exploitation has taken, or will take place, to provide the names and addresses of all guests staying over a 6 month period.

You should immediately contact the Safety & Security Team if you receive any such request.



Anti-social Behaviour,
Crime and Policing
Act 2014

Licensing Act 2003

- Our Premises Licences include conditions relating to:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The protection of children from harm



Licensing Act 2003

- Child Sexual Exploitation considerations are now more commonly raised by the relevant Responsible Authorities (e.g. child protection services and/or the Police) in relation to new Premises Licence applications and variations to existing licences
- A number of new Premises Licences now include a condition that we provide regular Child Sexual Exploitation awareness training and maintain evidence of this
- Premises found to be failing in their responsibilities are liable to face Review proceedings with potential ramifications including changes to their licence conditions or revocation of their Premises Licence

Licensing Act 2003 – current enforcement activity

- A number of Police forces are now conducting CSE style “test purchase” operations. This is a sign of assertive steps being taken by the Responsible Authorities to raise the profile of CSE issues across the industry
- For example, undercover Police officers accompanied by a young person have attempted to make a “walk in” booking at hotels and pay by cash without providing any ID
- Whilst these attempted bookings have been refused, on more than one occasion the Team Member concerned has advised the undercover Police officer to make a booking via the website so as to avoid the need to provide ID. **All relevant Team Members should be informed that they must not do this, as they may inadvertently be assisting someone who is exploiting a child or young person**
- During the test purchase operations the undercover Police officer has also attempted to purchase alcohol for the young person. **All relevant Team Members should therefore be reminded of the proper procedures to follow around underage alcohol sales and the recording of any refusals**

OXFORDSHIRE HOTELS FAIL CHILD EXPLOITATION TESTS

Numerous hotels and guest houses in Banbury and Bicester in Oxfordshire have failed child exploitation tests carried out by Thames Valley Police.

In partnership with Cherwell District Council, police visited 20 establishments during the operation, earlier this month. The objective was to test the reaction of front of house staff when a man and 15-year-old girl attempted to book a room.

Nine hotels failed the test, agreeing to rent a room without checking the identification of the guests. Other hotels correctly asked probing questions and passed their concerns on to police.

www.thecaterer.com

Potential Signs of Child Sexual Exploitation

Ask the group to think about and write down what could be some potential signs that Child Sexual Exploitation is taking place in a hotel.

Consider:

- Bookings
- Check In
- Bedrooms
- Bar, Restaurant and public areas

Hold a brief discussion around the points raised before moving on to the next slide

Potential Signs of Child Sexual Exploitation

Room bookings

- Guests requesting a room that is isolated or a number of rooms situated adjacent to each other
- Guests with a local address booking a room
- Last minute / walk-in bookings
- Bookings made in a different name to those who check-in



Potential Signs of Child Sexual Exploitation

Check in

- Guests requesting a room that is isolated or a number of rooms situated adjacent to each other
- The person checking in speaking a different language to the person who made the booking
- Adult guest wishing to pay in cash but reluctant to provide ID
- Guests who do not have any luggage or ID
- Guests arriving and asking for a specific room number, but they don't know the name in which the room is booked
- Guests who appear secretive or evasive about the reasons for their stay



Potential Signs of Child Sexual Exploitation

Check in

- Young people with significantly older boyfriends / girlfriends
- A child or young person who appears withdrawn or tries to hide their face, or appears to be afraid or disorientated
- A child who is restricted from moving, communicating or who appears to be acting under instruction
- A child or young person who does not speak the same language as the person checking in
- Young persons who appear overly made up



Potential Signs of Child Sexual Exploitation

Bedrooms

- Guests that don't want their room entered or cleaned
- Guests trying to conceal their activities in the room or who they are with
- Noise disturbances from a bedroom or many visitors to a particular bedroom
- Excessive alcohol containers in a bedroom
- Items associated with drug taking e.g. spoons, syringes in a bedroom
- Excessive used condoms or condom wrappers found in a bedroom or waste bin
- Signs of items being removed from a bedroom by a guest e.g. bin containing bedding



Potential Signs of Child Sexual Exploitation

Bar, Restaurant and Public Areas

- A young person being bought alcoholic drinks by an adult, particularly if they already appear to be intoxicated
- A young person being bought food or drinks by a much older adult, who they seem to see as their boyfriend/girlfriend
- A young person meeting, or out late with, a group of adults who do not seem to be family members
- Frequent visitors to the hotel who do not appear to have a reason for being there
- Teenagers loitering in public areas or external areas of the premises
- Individuals who appear to be monitoring public areas



Potential Signs of Child Sexual Exploitation

Other Suspicious Behaviour

- The same adults visiting the hotel regularly but with different children/young people each time
- The same adult and child/young person visiting in a regular pattern e.g. on the same day every week
- A child/young person being taken into a bedroom by one or more adults who do not seem to be family members
- A child/young person in a bedroom that is visited or requested by a number of additional adults
- Adults trying to sneak children/young persons into the hotel
- A child/young person in the company of adults known, or suspected, to be involved in prostitution
- Indication of sexual activity between a young person and one or more adult, who is significantly older than the young person
- Guests who regularly move in and out of the hotel at unusual hours

01:10 AM

02:44 AM

03:36 AM

04:52 AM

“Usual” vs. “Unusual” Behaviour?

We must be aware that this is a sensitive issue and we need to differentiate between suspected exploiters and genuine adults e.g. Mums and Dads with their own children.

The potential signs of Child Sexual Exploitation mentioned on the previous slides are only potential indicators and do not necessarily mean that exploitation is taking place.

You should therefore trust your instincts as to what is “usual” vs. “unusual” behaviour.

We deal with genuine guests day in, day out, but should look out for any behaviours which are “out of the ordinary”. If you are unsure, share your concerns with your colleagues to see what they think.

Grooming of Hotel Employees

- Exploiters have been known to become friendly with hotel employees in an attempt to avoid suspicion or encourage them to turn a blind eye to “unusual” behaviour
- Sometimes hotel employees may be offered payment, gifts or some other reward
- All Team Members should report any such approaches to their Line Manager and ensure they comply with Whitbread’s Hospitality and Gifts Policy at all times
- Individuals who are proved to have assisted or encouraged Child Sexual Exploitation will themselves have committed a Criminal Offence and may be prosecuted accordingly



What to do if you have a concern

If you spot any potential signs of Child Sexual Exploitation and you believe the behaviour is unusual you should:

- Raise your concerns with a Manager or, if unavailable, talk to another Team Member to see what their view of the situation is
- If you reasonably believe exploitation is taking place or about to take place you should raise your concerns with the Police on 101
- Managers can contact the Police on 101 to report any potential concerns. However, they should call 999 if a child or young person appears to be in immediate danger
- You should not approach or challenge guests directly
- Preserve evidence - do not touch, move or remove any items from the bedroom. If the room has been vacated, do not let anyone go into the room until the Police arrive or instruct you otherwise
- Inform the Safety & Security Team on 01582 888829

**If you see
something,
say something.**

Let us know on 101
or in an emergency call 999.

- Child Sexual Exploitation can quite literally happen to any child or young person
- By knowing the potential signs, being vigilant and raising any concerns you will help to ensure that Premier Inn acts responsibly and we meet our collective moral duty to protect children from harm
- Most importantly, your actions may save a child or young person from sexual exploitation

