

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

As a driver of a taxi or private hire vehicle you may well have responsibility for transporting a child who is vulnerable. You have a duty of care to look after that child and you also need to protect yourself from any allegations the child could make.

What is Sexual Exploitation?

Sometimes young people receive something in return for engaging in sexual activities.

Offenders have power over victims due to their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.

Violence, coercion and intimidation are common.

Signs of child sexual exploitation 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. You may transport them to bars or hotels with older persons.

To protect yourself:

Do

- Remain professional at all times
- Sit children in the rear of the vehicle where possible
- Only have physical contact when appropriate and required
- Report any concerns, changes in behaviour etc., it could be an important part of the bigger picture
- Ask for advice – do not try and deal with concerns yourself

Never

- Become overfriendly or engage in any form of a relationship
- Give your private telephone number to children
- Have social contact with children outside of work (including social media sites)
- Give gifts, sweets, money etc
- Photograph or video passengers in your care
- Allow children to use your mobile phone or show them material on your mobile phone
- Stop anywhere other than specified pick up/drop off points

You may have:

- Concerns about locations/venues you drop young people off or pick up at.
- Concerns about adults paying for young peoples' taxi fares.
- Concerns about young person's conversation in your vehicle.

What should I do if I spot signs of CSE?

Police

Call 101 for non-emergencies and quote Operation Makesafe or ask for the Child Sexual Exploitation team.

Call 999 if you are concerned that a child is in immediate danger.

Crimestoppers

If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 or report online: www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/give-information-online/