Could this be you or a friend?

- Have you been missing from home?
- Do you miss school?
- Does a grown-up outside your family give you money, clothes, jewellery, a mobile phone or other presents?
- Do you hate yourself sometimes?
- Do you have an older boyfriend or girlfriend?
- Are you losing touch with your family and friends?
- Do you chat to people online you have never met?
- Are you secretive about where you go and who you see?
- Do you take drugs or drink alcohol?
- Do you stay out overnight?
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.)

If you are worried that an adult is trying to abuse you, or worried about a friend, tell someone you can trust.

If you can, talk to your parents, your carer or a close member of your family. Sometimes it is difficult to talk about personal problems like sex.

Perhaps you think your parents or carer will be angry or upset, or you will get into trouble with the police.

Even so, it is better to ask for help if you are unhappy about the way you are being treated by an older person. Is there someone else you could talk to – such as a teacher or someone from your religion or local community?

Tell the trusted person about your concerns. Child sexual exploitation is a crime – the police and social services will act to stop it happening.

If you think you are being abused or are worried about a friend call the NSPCC helpline number on 0800 1111. There are specialists in the team who can help stop the abuse.
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.

IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL 999

This document can be supplied in alternative formats, please contact: Kingston and Richmond Safeguarding Children Board.

www.kingstonandrichmondlscb.org.uk  www.safefrom.info