



Information for Parents & Carers

Child Sexual Exploitation - How to keep your child safe

What is child sexual exploitation?

It involves perpetrators grooming youngsters and using their power to sexually abuse them. It could be a seemingly '*consensual*' relationship with an older person, or a young person manipulated into having sex in exchange for material goods, reward or affection

Scottish Government Definition (October 2016)

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse in which a person(s), of any age takes advantage of a power imbalance to force or entice a child into engaging in sexual activity **in return for something** received by the child and/or those perpetrating or facilitating the abuse. The presence of perceived consent does not undermine the abusive nature of the act.

What can I do as a parent/carer?

As a parent/carer, it is important to discuss with children the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships to help them recognise potential risks.

There are also a number of practical steps you can take to protect your children as such as:

- Be alert to changes in their emotional presentation, behaviour or any physical signs.
- Be aware and ask about new unexplained gifts or possessions and carefully monitor any episodes of staying out late or not coming home
- Exercising caution around older friends your child may have, or relationships with other young people where you think this does not seem right
- Make sure you understand the risks associated with your child being online and putting measures in place to minimise these risks

Where can I get more information about sexual exploitation from?

Barnardos—<http://www.barnardos.org.uk>

PACE (Parents against sexual exploitation) - <http://www.paceuk.info>

Think U Know - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/parentsguide/>

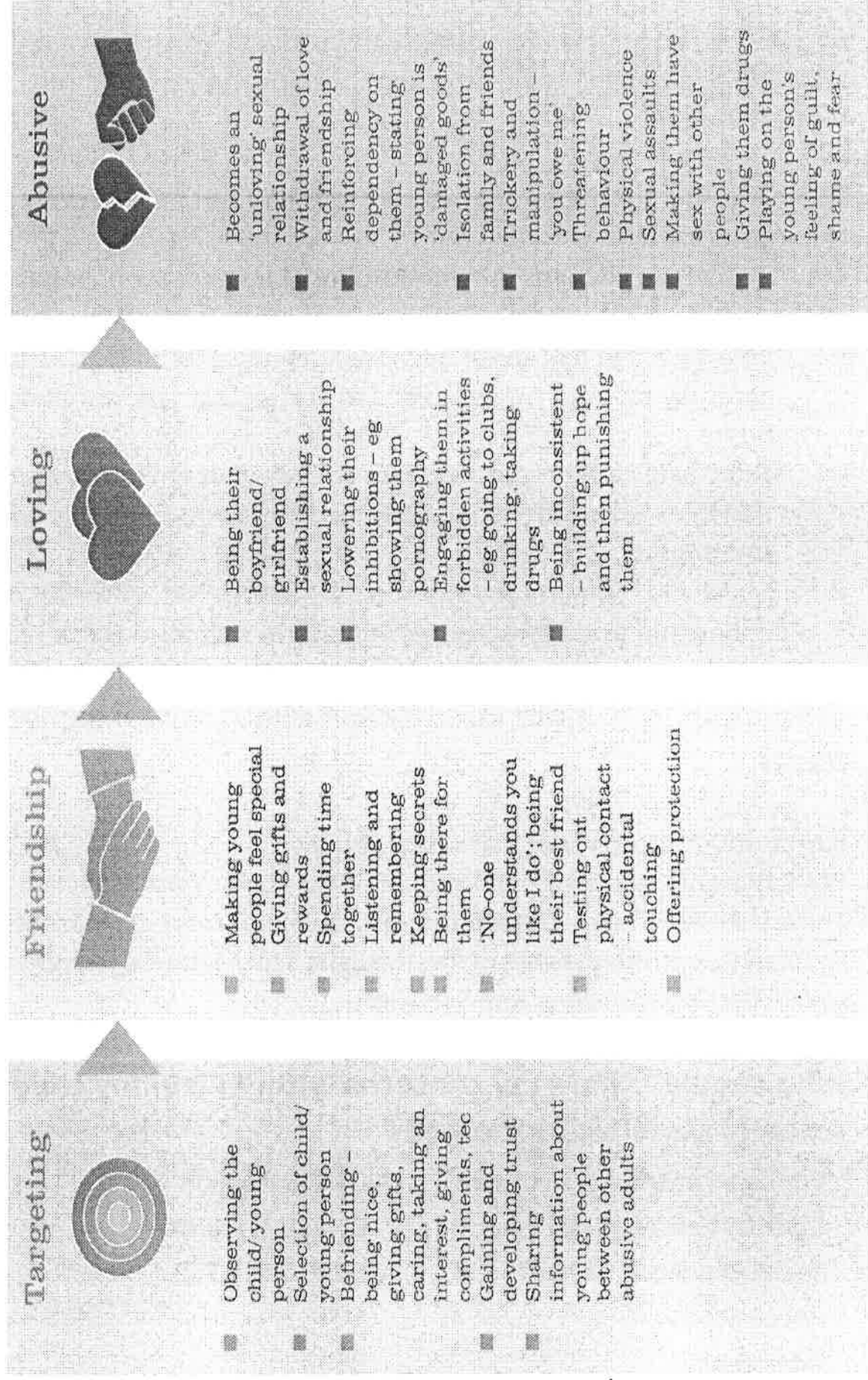
Scottish Government—<http://csethesigns.scot/parents/recognise-the-signs/spotting-the-signs-and-symptoms>

Who should I share my concerns with if I feel my child is being sexually exploited/ groomed?

Contact Centre East Lothian	01875 824309
Contact Centre Midlothian	0131 271 3900
Social Work out of hours	0800 731 6969
Police Scotland	101
Emergency	999

What are the signs my child might be being sexually exploited or groomed?

Stages of grooming



Risk Indicators of CSE

