

Cumbria categories of 'active' child sexual exploitation

The following categories of active CSE are identified after early help, YOS or Child and Family assessment following the initial CSE screening by Cumbria Safeguarding Hub, or by professionals in the districts of Cumbria.

Clear indicators shown on the assessment tool (appendix 3) must be evident **within the last 3 months**.

A team manager or overseeing agency safeguarding/CSE personnel must agree with the frontline practitioner to categorise a young person as being actively sexually exploited i.e. 'active CSE' in one of the categories 1 to 3 below.

Online exploitation may exist in conjunction with any of the categories of active sexual exploitation below. This will be where 1 or more adults has regularly coerced the child or young person to provide indecent photos or material in exchange, or when threatening a child they will disclose the child's involvement.

Children Up to 18 years old should be allocated CSE status on ICS CIN tab.

Category 1: ***early help/prevention category, vulnerability, being groomed, strong warning signs on the assessment tool, but no offences evident at this stage.***

Category 2: **a child targeted for opportunistic sexual abuse**, at high risk of future exploitation and definitely engaged in **direct physical/sexual contact relationships** with at least one or multiple older adults. This involves **swapping sex** for perceived affection, sense of belonging, drugs, accommodation, money or other return in kind. The likelihood of coercion and control is high.

Category 3: **a child whose sexual exploitation is repeated and regular**, often self-denied, at high risk of continuing exploitation and definitely engaged in direct physical/sexual contact relationships with one or multiple older adults and where coercion or control is implicit.

Care leavers 18 and older are adults; they may be vulnerable sexually exploited adults, so staff should recognise the risks and the categories, but not put on ICS status tab. Prosecution options change for adults