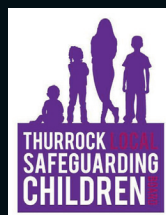




A SAFER SEASIDE TOWN

A guide for
community
safety

Workers within Essex's seafront economy help to create a vibrant hub for entertainment and socialising, but are also exposed to issues that affect the safety and security of the town and its residents. Here's what you need to know.



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A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY

Leisure industry employees, particularly those working at night, are the eyes and ears of Essex's streets. With your help, we can make the county a safer place to live and work.

With increased focus on safeguarding the public, central and local government alike recognised the need for better links with workers within the night-time economy, and identified several groups as invaluable sources of information.

Councils across the country have made efforts to ensure that bar staff, door staff, cab drivers, hospital workers, and other key members of the area's economy are aware of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and feel able to report their concerns.

Many people have stories to tell about events that caught their attention, situations that didn't seem right, or customers that worried them; with your help, this information can be used to uncover domestic abuse, combat sexual violence, and interrupt the sexual abuse of children and young people.

What you know can make a difference.

What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

“Exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where the young person (or someone else) receives ‘something’ (food, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, accommodation, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.”

How can I help?

Urgent? Call 999
Not urgent, but worried? Call 101
or Crimestoppers:
0800 555 111
More information?
nspcc.org.uk

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

In some situations and in some circles, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation can be an open secret. Just one tip-off could bring it to an end sooner, so knowing how to report concerns is vital.

KNOW THE SIGNS

Victims may be males or females under 18, and are sometimes manipulated to believe that their abuser is their boyfriend or girlfriend. This makes it difficult for them to see that they are in danger. A victim may:

- Be bought expensive gifts like mobile phones and designer clothes.
- Be friends with other exploited young people or be involved with gangs.
- Have frequent physical injuries, or have been abused before.
- Be missing from home or not in contact with their family.
- Be in care, or live in a foster home, a hostel, or a bed and breakfast.
- Have problems with drugs or alcohol, or with mental illness and self-harm.
- Have repeated sexually transmitted infections, or multiple pregnancies and terminations.

Leisure industry staff may encounter victims of child sexual exploitation when they visit their venue to meet their abusers or to engage in sexual activity with them on or around the premises. They may also grow familiar with the people involved due to repeated visits.

Victims may show inappropriate sexual behaviour or be dressed inappropriately for their age, or appear to be drunk or under the influence of drugs. Victims may also have more money than a young person ordinarily would, or may own more expensive phones and clothing than you'd expect for someone their age. You may also overhear conversations or witness sexual activity inside or outside the venue.

Colleagues may tell you that they see similar situations regularly, or that a person, a group, or a place is known to be involved in exploitation.

RUNAWAYS

Young people who run away from home are putting themselves in danger of sexual exploitation. Children missing from home may be vulnerable to exploitation by trying to survive or find somewhere to spend the night. Although the young person is unlikely to talk about their situation, you may notice that they seem unusually emotional, are carrying bags, or trying to meet someone to stay with for the night.

Missing?

Every year in the UK, 250,000 people are reported missing: of these, two-thirds are under 18 and over half are girls. Young people who are absent from home or from foster care are at risk of harm through sleeping rough or being groomed and exploited. Not all missing young people choose to leave the home; some may be forced or abducted. An estimated two-thirds of missing children aren't reported missing at all.

How can I help?

Urgent? Call 999
Not urgent, but worried? Call 101 or Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111
More information? missingpeople.org.uk

What is Child Abuse?

“Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Someone may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. An abused child is a girl or boy under the age of 18, who has suffered physical injury, neglect, emotional or sexual abuse.”

How can I help?

Urgent? Call 999
Not urgent, but worried? Call 101
or Crimestoppers:
0800 555 111
More information?
nspcc.org.uk

CHILD ABUSE

Child abuse is frequently in the news, but it's easy to forget that abuse comes in many forms and that abusers may be male or female, adults or children.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

This can involve the abuser hitting, burning, shaking, throwing, drowning, or suffocating the child, or making the child ill.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

This can involve the child seeing another person being mistreated, or any behaviour likely to cause long-term emotional harm.

SEXUAL ABUSE

This can involve forcing a child to watch or participate in sexual activity, leading to sexually inappropriate behaviour.

NEGLECT

This involves failing to meet a child's care needs, leaving the child dirty, unfed, alone, or unprotected from harm.

BULLYING

This involves deliberately hurtful behaviour from an adult or child that the victim is unable to defend themselves against.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Across England and Wales, seven women a month are killed by their partner, and the average victim of violence experiences 50 incidents of abuse before getting help.

One in four women and one in eight men experience domestic violence. Victims and abusers can be male or female, straight or gay. An abuser can be a partner or a member of the victim's family.

KNOW THE SIGNS

A victim of domestic violence may be:

- Insulted, intimidated, or threatened.
- Controlled by bullying and manipulation.
- Made to conceal injuries from attacks.
- Told relationship problems are their fault.
- Told that they deserve the abuse.
- Expected to make excuses for the abuser.
- Prevented from having money of their own.
- Stopped from making their own decisions.
- Kept from going out, studying, or working.
- Kept from seeing friends or relatives.
- Made to check in with their abuser often.
- Pushed, slapped, punched, or choked.
- Forced into sex acts they don't want.

If you witness any of the abusive behavior described above, don't challenge the abuser unless you can't avoid it; this can make things worse in the short term, both for the victim and for you.

What is Domestic Abuse?

"Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between people who are, or who have been, intimate partners or family members. The abuse can be psychological, physical, financial, emotional, or sexual."

How can I help?

Urgent? Call 999
Not urgent, but worried? Call 101
or Crimestoppers:
0800 555 111
More information?
endthefear.co.uk

What is Sexual Violence?

“Any behaviour perceived to be of a sexual nature which is unwanted or takes place without consent or understanding. It may include non-contact sexual activities, such as stalking, indecent exposure, or being made to watch sexual activities.”

How can I help?

Urgent? Call 999
Not urgent, but worried? Call 101
or Crimestoppers:
0800 555 111
More information?
sosrc.org.uk

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Sexual violence is an issue of growing concern, however, many people have misconceptions about types of sexual violence, who can commit sexual violence, and who can be affected.

Anyone can be a victim of sexual violence, regardless of gender, age, sexuality, or background. Violence can be committed by a partner, with or without existing abuse in the relationship; by a friend, acquaintance or relative; or by an opportunistic stranger.

Contrary to many people’s expectations, more than half of all recorded rapes are committed by the victim’s current or former partner, and 89% of female and 83% of male victims of serious sexual assault say that their attacker was someone they knew. As with domestic violence, victims may struggle to accept and identify what’s happening and may experience multiple incidents before they seek help.

A TYPICAL VICTIM?

There’s no such thing as a typical victim. Statistics show that most perpetrators are male and most victims are female, and that people who were abused in childhood, people with disabilities, and young women who have been drinking are more likely to be victimised, but this doesn’t exclude people to whom none of these factors apply.

MALE VICTIMS

Every year, 75,000 men are victims of sexual assault, while more than 1 in 10 victims of rape are men. Many victims don't report it because they fear no-one will believe them, but provisions for both young and adult male victims are becoming more readily available.

LGBT VICTIMS

About 25% of lesbian, gay, bi and transgender people experience relationship abuse. LGBT people may also experience sexualised harassment or sexual violence from people who are intolerant of their sexual orientation or gender identity, which is a hate incident under UK law.

CONSENT

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 states that 'a person consents if they agree by choice, and have the freedom and capacity to make that choice'. The ability to give consent may be impaired by consuming alcohol or drugs. Many activists now promote the concept of "enthusiastic consent": the absence of a "no" is not a "yes", and a "yes" should be given freely, not in fear or under coercion.

Only people over the age of 16 are legally able to consent to sexual activity. Children under 13 are unable to consent to sexual activity.

Sexual Assault or Rape?

Sexual assault is any sexual act carried out without the consent of one of the people involved. Rape is the penetration of the vagina, anus, or mouth by a penis, and assault by penetration is penetrating the vagina or anus with any other body part or object.

How can I help?

Urgent? Call 999
Not urgent, but worried? Call 101
or Crimestoppers:
0800 555 111
More information?
survivorsuk.org

What is Human Trafficking?

“The trade of humans, by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, most commonly for the purpose of sexual slavery, forced labour or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others.”

How can I help?

Urgent? Call 999
Not urgent, but worried? Call 101
or Crimestoppers:
0800 555 111
More information?
stopthetraffik.org

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Anyone who makes regular trips to airports or seaports within Essex may already be aware of Essex Police’s efforts to tackle human trafficking, but everyone should be aware of this troubling issue.

Due to the close proximity to London, trafficking is an area of particular interest to Essex Police. Summer can be a particularly busy time for trafficking, due to the need for extra workers to harvest fruit throughout the Southeast. This is often forced labour, working long hours for little or no pay, yet many trafficked people find themselves in very different circumstances.

Young women in particular may be told that they will be given bar work or waitressing jobs in the UK, and will pay traffickers - often members of criminal gangs - several months’ wages to be brought into the country. Once here, they find themselves forced into prostitution and victims of violence and rape.

People can be trafficked within a country, too. UK citizens manipulated or forced into prostitution may be moved between towns and cities often, and the frequent moves make the victim more isolated and less able to seek help. Leisure industry workers should remain aware of unusual situations and guests who could be abusers or victims.

KNOW THE SIGNS

- They are unable to move freely, and may be watched or guarded. They will be unable to travel or get by alone.
- They seem uneasy or afraid of the people they are travelling or working with, and the person they're with may be carrying their personal or legal documents.
- If they're travelling, they don't appear to be carrying much luggage with them, especially personal items and tickets.
- They may not be sure where they're travelling to or staying, or their answers sound like they've been told what to say or change when asked again.
- They may fear authority figures like police or immigration, or be unwilling to discuss themselves in public and look to the person they're with to answer questions.
- They're dressed unsuitably for the weather or the season, such as wearing only light summer shoes in winter or inappropriately sexually revealing clothing during the day.
- Their accommodation seems cramped, unhygienic, unsuitable, or has heavy security measures like barred or blacked-out windows.
- They may show signs of physical violence, such as bruises or burns, may appear malnourished, may be unwell and in need of medical treatment, or may seem to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Which industries use trafficked people?

Trafficked people may be used in agriculture or horticulture, construction, garments and textiles production, food processing, catering and restaurants, health care, contract cleaning, domestic work, entertainment and the sex industry.

How can I help?

Urgent? Call 999
Not urgent, but worried? Call 101
or Crimestoppers:
0800 555 111
More information?
unseenuk.org

In an emergency

For very urgent concerns or crimes in progress, always call Essex Police on 999. All other numbers given below are intended for information, advice, and non-urgent reporting.

Please refer your concerns to Crimestoppers, the Police, or the organisations listed here. Unless you cannot avoid it, don't place yourself in danger by attempting to tackle a situation yourself.

RESOURCES

Childline, for advice on **any issue** affecting children or young people: 0800 1111

NSPCC helpline for children or adults concerned about **child abuse**: 0808 800 500

Say Something helpline for children facing **sexual exploitation**: call/text 116000

Women's Aid and Refuge line for women living with **domestic violence**: 0808 2000 247

Men's Advice Line, for male victims of abuse and **domestic violence**: 0808 801 0327

Broken Rainbow helpline, for LGBT people facing **domestic violence**: 0300 999 5428

SurvivorsUK helpline for male victims of **sexual violence**: text 020 3322 1860

Home Office helpline for **trafficked** or exploited workers and modern slavery: 0800 0121 700

The Poppy Project helpline for **trafficked** women: 020 7735 2062

To report a **concern about a child or young person** call:

Essex Family Operations 0345 6037627
Southend Council 01702 534495 / 01702 534496
Thurrock MASH 01375 652802

Essex Rape Crisis Partnership for victims of **sexual violence**:

Centre for Action on Rape & Abuse 01206 769795
South Essex Rape & Incest Crisis Centre 01375 381322
Southend On Sea Rape Crisis 01702 667590