

STOPCE

AWARENESS DAY 18TH MARCH

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For: **Immediate Release**

- Start -

Join us in the Fight Against Child Exploitation

National Charity NWG Network asks all to unite against child sexual exploitation for their National Child Exploitation Awareness Raising Day – 18th March.

The focus of this, our 9th annual Awareness Day is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse that involves the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18 into sexual activity.

The National Child Exploitation Awareness Raising Day aims to highlight the issues surrounding child sexual exploitation; encouraging everyone to **think, spot and speak out** against abuse and adopt a zero tolerance to adults developing inappropriate relationships with children.

Previous National Child Exploitation Awareness Raising Days have seen hundreds of events take place across the UK, ranging from poster and leaflet displays to whole authorities embarking on targeted campaigns across public services and shopping centres.

Working with over 13,000 professionals across the UK to help prevent and raise awareness of child sexual exploitation, NWG Network continue to leverage the strength of that network in order to tackle the problem head on.

“Each year we use our campaign to raise awareness of Child Exploitation and encourage everyone in our society to tackle the issues of exploitation of our children.

If you ensure you share our social media messages along with the web address to point everyone to signs and symptoms and where to go for help it would be another step to spreading the word and helping to reduce the abuse of our children.

*NWG is committed to **raising awareness** and **training professionals** to help create zero tolerance to child sexual exploitation. Your donation will help us continue this invaluable work and ensure that as many people as possible think, spot and speak out about against exploitation of the young and vulnerable and help heal the wounds of victims and their families.”*

Commented Sheila Taylor MBE, CEO

Notes to Editors:

- NWG Network is the only child exploitation (CSE) network working across voluntary/statutory agencies tackling child exploitation, with links across Europe, South East Asia, Africa, Canada and USA.
- The NWG Network has worked with or is currently working across the UK with professionals from Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB's), Police Forces, Health, Community Safety Partnership's, Voluntary and private sector organisations.
- NWG Network holds approximately 40 events every year that bring a range of organisations together to continually improve how we tackle CE in the UK and across the world.
- The NWG Network in the UK spans across over 330 organisations with 14,000 + points of contact to disseminate information on the issue of child exploitation.
- Our reach and national oversight allow us to address the issues surrounding CE, Trafficking and Modern Slavery from Central Government level all the way through to hotel workers.
- Child Exploitation happens in ALL Towns and Cities. An Independent report found at least 1,400 cases between 1997 and 2013 (Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham 2014)
- an increase of 27% (to 3,239) in the number of modern slavery offences involving a child victim recorded by the police in England and Wales in the year ending March 2021 compared with the previous year.
- In the year ending March 2021, police recorded modern slavery offences involving a child increased by 27% to 3,239, continuing the upwards trend seen in recent years.
- The most common reasons for children to be trafficked are labour exploitation and sexual exploitation (National Crime Agency 2017)