

# MY OASIS

Therapeutic Alternative Provision

## Child Sexual Exploitation Policy 2025/2026

Date of review:

<https://www.charlottelowepsychologicalservices.co.uk/>

# Table of Contents

## Contents

Table of Contents .....	2
Policy overview .....	3
Policy Aims .....	3
Policy Scope .....	3
Definitions .....	3
Legislation and Statutory Guidance .....	4
Indicators of Child Sexual Exploitation .....	7
Roles and Responsibilities .....	7
Response to Concerns .....	8

## Policy Overview

At My Oasis Therapeutic Provision, safeguarding the welfare and safety of all young people is our highest priority. This policy sets out our approach to identifying, responding to, and preventing Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). CSE is a form of child sexual abuse and a serious safeguarding concern that can have long-lasting impacts on a young person's development and well-being.

This policy outlines the roles and responsibilities of staff in recognising the signs of CSE and responding to concerns in line with legal requirements and local authority procedures.

### Policy Aims

- Ensure all staff understand what Child Sexual Exploitation is and how it can affect young people.
- Provide clear definition and indicators to help identify young people at risk of or experiencing CSE.
- Promote early identification and intervention to protect young people from harm.
- Clarify staff responsibilities for reporting concerns and following safeguarding procedures.
- Outline how My Oasis works with external agencies in responding to CSE.

## Policy Scope

This policy applies to all teaching, non-teaching, support, supply, peripatetic, contract staff, volunteers and wider groups working in or on behalf of My Oasis. All references in this document to 'staff' or 'members of staff' should be interpreted as relating to them mentioned unless otherwise stated.

## Definitions

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a young person into

sexual activity. This may be in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, or for the financial gain or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

CSE:

- May involve physical sexual contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts)
- Can include non-contact sexual activity (e.g. sharing images, sexual messages, webcam activity)
- Can occur online, offline, or in both environments
- May take place without the victim's immediate knowledge (e.g. images/videos shared without consent)
- Can affect any young person, regardless of age, gender, background, or ability – including those aged 16 or 17 who may legally consent to sex
- Can be perpetrated by adults or other young people, and by individuals of any gender
- Can occur as a single incident or a pattern of abuse, ranging from opportunistic exploitation to complex organised abuse
- Often involves victims who do not recognise the exploitation, as they may believe they are in a loving or consensual relationship

Even if a young person appears to consent, manipulation, coercion, or deceit means that true consent has not been given.

## Legislation and Statutory Guidance

This policy is written in accordance with the following statutory frameworks and guidance:

### **Primary Legislation**

- Children Act 1989 – Establishes key principles, including the welfare of the child being paramount, and sets out duties for local authorities and courts.
- Children Act 2004 – Introduced a statutory duty for agencies to cooperate in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- Education Act 2002 – Places duties on education providers to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils.
- Sexual Offences Act 2003 – Defines sexual offences against children, including grooming and exploitation.

- Serious Crime Act 2015 – Amends the law to improve protection for victims of FGM and child cruelty.
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021 – Recognises children as victims in their own right and defines abusive behaviours.
- Human Rights Act 1998 – Ensures fundamental rights and freedoms are respected in safeguarding decisions.
- Equality Act 2010 – Provides a legal framework to protect individuals from unfair treatment and promotes a fair and more equal society.
- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR – Regulates the use and protection of personal data, including sensitive safeguarding information.

### **Statutory Guidance**

This policy is informed by the following guidance:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), DfE, September 2024  
Statutory guidance for all schools and educational settings on safeguarding roles, responsibilities, and procedures.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018, updated 2023)  
Statutory guidance for inter-agency working and safeguarding arrangements.
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused (2015)  
Non-statutory advice to support practitioners in identifying and acting on child abuse and neglect.
- Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners (2018)  
Non-statutory guidance outlining principles and best practice for sharing information to safeguard children.

### **Local Frameworks**

We follow the safeguarding procedures and protocols set out by:

- Wigan Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership (WBSCP)
- Greater Manchester Safeguarding Children Procedures
- NSCP Protocol for Domestic Abuse – Notifications to Schools
- Local Thresholds of Need and Response Framework

We work closely with the local authority, social care, police, and other relevant agencies to ensure children receive coordinated and timely support.

### **Related Policies and Procedures**

This policy should be read alongside the following:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour and Anti-bullying Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse Policy
- Safer Recruitment and Staffing Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Protocol
- Data Protection and Confidentiality Policy

These documents work together to ensure a comprehensive safeguarding framework is in place at My Oasis.

# Indicators of Child Sexual Exploitation

All staff at My Oasis should be alert to the following signs specific to CSE:

- A young person having an older boyfriend or girlfriend
- Unexplained acquisition of money, gifts, or new possessions
- Regularly going missing or returning home late
- Suffering from sexually transmitted infections or becoming pregnant
- Inappropriate sexualised behaviour or language
- Involvement in sexual activity that seems beyond their level of maturity
- Changes in emotional well-being or disengagement from school

Not all young people experiencing CSE will display these indicators.

## Roles and Responsibilities

### **All Staff**

- Must remain vigilant to the signs of sexual exploitation.
- Have a duty to report any concerns or suspicion to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) immediately.

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

- Will assess and act upon concerns, including making referrals to:
  - Children's social care
  - The Police
  - Other safeguarding partners where appropriate
- Will ensure that accurate and secure records are maintained.

### **Provision Lead/Headteacher**

- Holds strategic accountability for the implementations of this policy.
- Supports the DSL and ensures staff receive training related to CSE.

## Response to Concerns

Any member of staff who suspects or becomes aware that a young person may be at risk of or is experiencing child sexual exploitation must:

- Immediately report the concern to the DSL.
- Refrain from conducting their own investigation.

The DSL will:

- Take appropriate action in line with local safeguarding procedures.
- Liaise with children's social care and the police where exploitation is suspected.
- Record the concern and outcomes in a secure and confidential manner.
- Ensure the young person receives appropriate support and protection.