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What do we mean?

- Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is when a child is forced or persuaded to take place in sexual activities (physical and/or non contact)
- Contact abuse includes penetrative or non-penetrative acts.
- Non-contact abuse involves activities where there is no physical contact, and can happen online.
- Children do not always know they are being abused

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What do we know?

- A significant level CSA happens in or around the family.
- Most victims of CSA do not come to the attention of statutory services.
- Many victims are abused by several perpetrators.
- Some children could be more at risk due to physical/ learning difficulties or if they have experienced other forms of abuse.

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Impact, Signs & Indicators...

- Experiencing CSA can have an ongoing negative impact that can extend into adulthood e.g. mental health difficulties, harmful behaviours, relationship difficulties, revictimisation.
- Physical indicators could include: bruising, bleeding, discharge, pain/soreness in the genital or anal area, STIs.

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Reflection...

1. Am I prepared to think the unthinkable?
2. What would I do if I had concerns about CSA?
3. What do I need to know so that I can respond effectively to CSA within my role?
4. How will I make sure that I gain the knowledge & skills needed within my role?
5. Who can support me when working with CSA?

4

Signs & Indicators...

- Emotional & behavioural indicators could include: fear and/or avoidance of a particular person (including family member or friend), having nightmares or bed-wetting, being withdrawn, alluding to "secrets", self-harm, missing episodes, sexualised behaviour or knowledge that's inappropriate to age, substance misuse.



Useful links:

1. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/child-sexual-abuse/>
2. https://seriouscasereviews.rip.org.uk/lscbs-new/#lscb_introduction
3. <https://www.csacentre.org.uk>
- 4.. <https://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/>