Reporting to CEOP

CEOP is a command of the National Crime Agency and are dedicated to protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation both online and offline

You can report concerns about grooming and sexual abuse directly to CEOP. Remember, as a parent or carer you know your child better than anyone. If you feel something isn't right, you can report it to CEOP.

When should I report?

If you're worried that your child is being groomed online or sexually exploited you should report your concerns to CEOP.

It is not always easy to spot the signs of online grooming and sexual exploitation so if you have any concern at all about someone your child is in contact with, you should get in touch.

You should always report if your child is or has been in contact with someone who is:

- Chatting online to your child about sex
- Asking them to do sexual things on webcam
- Asking to meet up if they've only met them online
- Requesting sexual pictures
- Forcing them into sexual activity
- Making them feel unsafe

CEOP can investigate what is happening – with the assurance that the safety and wellbeing of your child is paramount at all times.

If you are concerned that your child is in immediate danger, please call 999.

How do I make a report?

You can find information and advice on reporting and make a report directly to CEOP using the CEOP Safety Centre - https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre.

You will need to complete an online form which will ask you for your contact details and information about what has happened. It will ask:

- What happened?
- Who did it happen to?
- What do you know about the suspect involved?

You should complete the form as fully as you can but don't worry if you don't have all of the details.

Do I have to give my name?

When completing a CEOP report you are reporting suspicions of crime to law enforcement so we can't receive anonymous reports.

If you want to discuss your concerns with someone first then call the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000.

Who receives the report and what happens next?

All of the reports are first reviewed by child protection social workers. They will:

- Read the report and assess the risk to your child
- Look to make contact with you to discuss next steps
- Give safeguarding advice and support

Supporting your child

It is important to remember that it can be difficult for a child to come forward and tell an adult what has happened to them – they are often embarrassed, fear adults won't understand , scared they will get into trouble or that adults will over react. Ensure you tell your child that whatever has happened, it is not their fault and you are on their side.

Finding out your child has been sexually abused can be a traumatic experience. You may need additional support (www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Finding-out-your-child-has-been-sexually-abused-or-exploited/) to come to terms with what has happened to your child.

This information has been adapted from the Thinkuknow parents and carers website – **www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents**

Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency CEOP command. The CEOP command works to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation both online and offline. Thinkuknow offers a range of safety information for children, young people, practitioners and parents/carers

The CEOP Safety Centre offers information and advice for children and young people, parents/carers and professionals on reporting child sexual exploitation and abuse and provides a route to report directly to CEOP – **www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre**.