

## Z Cards for Shopping Malls/Centres



### What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

- A form of sexual abuse.
- When children and young people receive “something” (e.g. food, alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, somewhere to stay) for taking part in sexual activity.
- When offenders have power over their victims.
- When perceived consent does not undermine the abusive nature of the act.

### Some Known ‘Hotspots’

- Shopping centres
- Arcades
- Fast food outlets
- Alcohol outlets (inc. corner shops)
- Pubs/clubs
- Public parks
- Car parks
- Organised events
- Public transport hubs
- Taxi ranks
- Hotels
- Public sex environments
- Public conveniences
- Leisure facilities

### What are the signs to be aware of?

- Young people being in and around shopping centres during school hours or later at night.
- Young person at cosmetic counters with older females /other adults.
- Young people in the company of adults who are known to you or suspected of criminal activity.
- A range of young people and adults frequently using the toilets.
- Adults hanging around the funfair, ice rink but not going on the rides or skating.
- Young people being bought food or drinks by older adults whom they seem to see as a boyfriend/girlfriend although the young person is already intoxicated.
- Young person becoming/looking intoxicated whilst their “friend” is sober.

### How does this make me feel?

- I’m worried for them?
- None of my business?
- Do their parents know?
- Oh well – we were all young once?
- Wouldn’t let mine or those close to me do this?
- What if that was my child?

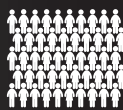
### If you feel a young person is in immediate danger **call 999**

If you have concerns about a young person or a situation you have witnessed **call 101**

Always take notice of behaviour, note descriptions of individuals/ clothing/vehicles.

**And remember** CSE relates to anyone aged under 18 years.

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Sexual exploitation affects **thousands of children and young people** across the UK every year.



CSE involves perpetrators grooming their victims in a range of ways, such as in **person, via mobiles or online**, to gain their trust before emotionally and sexually abusing them.



This is an issue that affects both **girls AND boys**.



Barnardo's is the largest provider of child sexual exploitation **support services** in the UK. We worked with over **5000 children, young people and their family members** in 2015-16.



Victims are often **too scared** to come forward, or might not recognise that they are being exploited. They need our help.



Most sexual exploitation **takes place in private**, but public places are often used to meet, groom and abuse young people.



Children are most vulnerable to sexual exploitation between the **ages of 13 and 15**, but younger victims are being targeted all the time.



As a business, you may notice **behaviours that give you cause for concern**, it may be nothing but it also may be something. It is important you don't keep any concerns to your self.