

Suggested alternatives for describing behaviour around CSE concerns

Inappropriate terms	Suggested alternatives
Allegation of sexual activity / assault / abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports of (other crimes are not recorded as an allegation)
Putting themselves at risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child may have been groomed. • The child is at an increased vulnerability to being abused/exploited. • A Perpetrator may exploit the child's increased Vulnerability • Situation could reduce the child's safety • Location/situation could increase a perpetrators opportunity to abuse them. • Child in not in a protective environment • The location is dangerous to children • Not clear if the child is under duress to go missing • Concerns are that the child may be being sexually abused • It is unclear why the child is getting in to cars. • Concern that there is a power imbalance forcing the child to act in this way. • Concerns regarding others Influences on the child.
Sexual activity with...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have been sexually abused • They have been raped. • Report of sexual abuse • Child has described sexual activity, however concerns exist that they child may have been groomed/coerced.
Sexually active since (Age under 13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raped • Concerns exist that child may have been coerced, exploited or sexually abused. • Child may have been sexually abused.
Have been contacting adult Males/females via phone or internet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult males/females have been contacting the child. • Child may have been groomed. • Concerns that the adult is facilitating commination with a child. • Child is vulnerable to online perpetrators. • Concerns that others may be using online technology to access or abuse the child. • Adults appear to be using a range of methods to communicate with the child

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Offering her drugs seemingly in return for sex'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child is being sexually exploited • Concerns that the child has been raped • Perpetrators are sexually abusing the child • The child is being sexually abused • The child's vulnerability regarding drug use is being used by others to abuse them. • The perpetrators have a hold over the child by the fact that they have a drug dependency.
Involved in CSE	<p>This implies there is a level of choice regarding the child being abused a better term would be the child is vulnerable to being sexually exploited or they are being sexually exploited.</p> <p>A 5 year old would never be referred to as being involved in sexual abuse for the same reasons.</p>
Promiscuous	<p>This puts the blame on the child and implies they know what may be happening and therefore is not seen by practitioners as exploitative or abusive.</p> <p>Often used to describe female's behaviour.</p>
Prostituting themselves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This completely misses that the child is being controlled/manipulated. Changes in legislation have meant that child prostitution is no longer an acceptable term and should never be used
Boyfriend/girlfriend / in a relationship with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a relationship which professionals consider to be exploitative / abusive / controlling. <p>Children have been challenged in court with practitioner's recordings where their practitioner has referred to the perpetrator as the child's boyfriend or girlfriend.</p>