



Dear Licence Holder,

### **National Campaign: Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation**

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and trafficking can involve all sorts of licensed premises, including yours. The Licensing and Public Protection Committee and Executive Director of Children's Services have asked me to contact every premises licence holder in the City (Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005) to ensure you are apprised of this important information.

**You** have the power to help prevent child sexual exploitation and trafficking at your premises.

#### **Please act now.**

Birmingham City Council is committed to tackling the sexual exploitation of children and young people in our city and we are writing to you because we believe that you can play a positive role in preventing child sexual exploitation, which puts children – and your business – at risk.

#### **Child Sexual Exploitation involves:**

Young people under the age of 18 who are encouraged/ forced into a sexual relationship or situation by an adult or older young person. It often involves young people being offered something in return for performing sexual acts, for example:

Alcohol, Cigarettes, Mobile Phones, Gifts, Money, Drugs, Affection.

This is called grooming and gives offenders power over the child or young person, enabling them to manipulate and control them, and sexually exploit them by forcing them into sexual activity.

Child Sexual Exploitation can happen to any child; male or female, from any background, ethnicity or religion.

The leaflet included with this letter gives you more information about the signs to look out for which may help you to identify grooming or child sexual exploitation occurring in or around your premises.

#### **Where does it happen?**

Young people can be groomed and sexually exploited at a variety of premises and locations such as:

- Pubs/ Clubs/ Bars
- Restaurants/ Takeaways
- Taxi ranks
- Shopping Centres
- Parks
- Hotels/ B&B's/ Serviced Apartments
- Leisure venues
- Residential properties

It is the responsibility of premises licence holders and their managers to make sure that suitable control measures are in place at licensed venues for the protection of children from harm. This is a legal requirement under both the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005.

**Act now!**

Failure to comply with your legal obligations can lead to consequences such as:

- Financial and/or reputational damage
- Revocation or other restriction of licence (such as suspension or imposition of conditions)
- Prosecution
- Antisocial Behaviour Closure Order

Birmingham City Council's commitment to tackling Child Sexual Exploitation as well as the actions of the West Midlands Regional See Me Hear Me CSE campaign and the national Say Something if you See Something campaign will mean that enforcement agencies will be closely monitoring CSE risks and activity within local businesses. We want to assist you so that you are complying with duties set out in Law. Incidents can often attract negative media attention to your business and damage your reputation. Some simple steps taken now could help to prevent it.

When issues arise at licensed premises in relation to child sexual exploitation, it is vital that action is taken to reduce harm to children. We ask that you contact us immediately and let us know if there are any problems at your premises so that we can assist:

**Birmingham City Council Licensing Team**- 0121 303 9611 [licensing@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@birmingham.gov.uk)

**West Midlands Police** -101 for non-emergencies / -999 for emergencies

**Crimestoppers** – 0800 555 111

You can find more information about Child Sexual Exploitation as well as a number of posters and leaflets which you may wish to print and display in your premises, at [www.seeme-hearme.org.uk](http://www.seeme-hearme.org.uk) and [www.nwgnetwork.org](http://www.nwgnetwork.org)

Everyone has a role in protecting children and young people from sexual exploitation – including you. **\*\*\*PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR STAFF\*\*\***

Please do not hesitate to contact me via [licensing@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@birmingham.gov.uk) if you have any further questions or concerns regarding this information, or if you would like to arrange CSE awareness training for your staff.

Yours faithfully,

Emma Rohomon