Inspection Top Tips – Exploitation
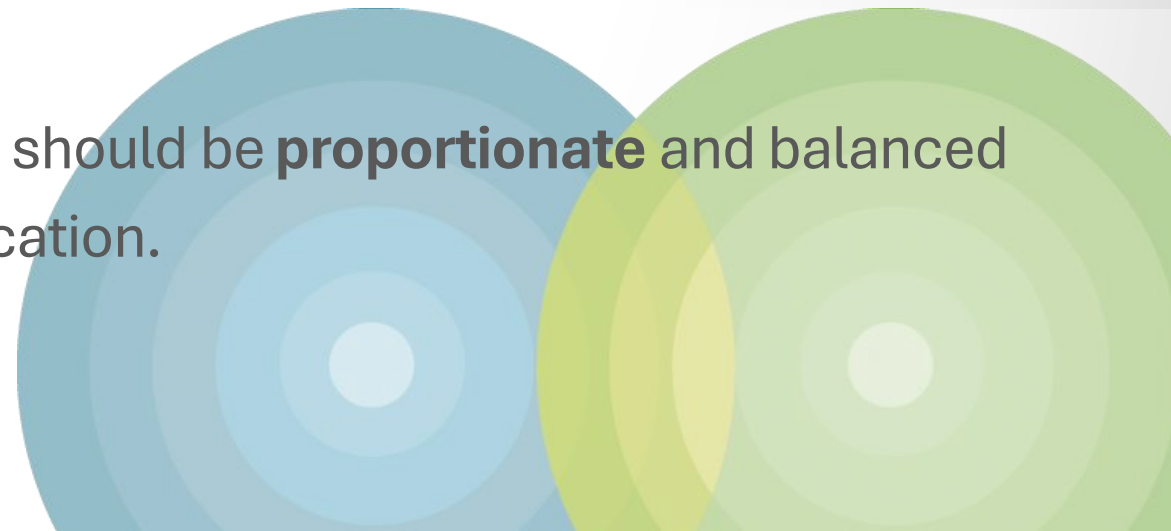
February 2025

dialogue

Children's Homes SCIFF

The SCCIF does not specifically reference CSE, it mandates that residential homes implement comprehensive safeguarding measures to protect children from all forms of exploitation and harm. There is reference to online safety

Access to Safe Technology

- Children should have **appropriate access to the internet** while being safeguarded from harmful content.

- Restrictions (e.g., filters, monitoring software) should be **proportionate** and balanced with children's rights to privacy and communication.

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Exemplar inspection finding

Comment on recent inspection of a children's home that supports girls and young women at risk of child sexual exploitation, grooming, and other community threats:

"the Inspector commended staff's creativity around safeguarding, mindfulness, and key work sessions, and the efforts made to address contextual safeguarding risks in the local area"

Top tips...

1. **Importance of Relationships**

- CSE victims may have experienced manipulation, coercion, or abuse, leading to distrust of adults.

- Use a trauma-informed approach—be patient, non-judgmental, and consistent in your support.

- Offer a safe space for open conversations, ensuring young people feel heard and valued.

2. **Recognise Risk**

- Train all staff to identify signs of CSE, such as sudden changes in behaviour, new unexplained possessions, going missing, or associating with older individuals.

- Maintain clear risk assessments and safety plans tailored to each child's vulnerabilities.

- Have robust missing-from-care protocols, ensuring swift action when a child is at risk.

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Top tips continued...

3. **Implement Effective Online Safety Measures**

- Many CSE cases involve online grooming. Educate children on online risks without restricting access to technology unnecessarily.

- Use monitoring tools responsibly while respecting young people's privacy and promoting healthy digital engagement.

- Support young people in developing critical thinking skills to recognize unsafe online situations.

4. **Partnership working with the safeguarding agencies**

- Work closely with police, social workers, health professionals, and specialist CSE services to create a multi-agency safety plan.

- Ensure information sharing follows safeguarding protocols to prevent further exploitation.

- Encourage the child's participation in their own safeguarding plans, empowering them to regain control of their lives.

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