

# Contact us

## The Phoenix Project

-  0121 773 6144
-  07970 463 441
-  phoenixproject@spurgeons.org
-  @spurgeons
-  @spurgeonsUK
-  www.spurgeons.org

For further help:

### **MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub)**

**0121 303 1888**

**MASH@birmingham.gov.uk**

Secure email:

**Secure.MASH@birmingham.gcsx.gov.uk**

### **Local Safeguarding Children's Board**

**www.lscbbirmingham.org.uk/index.php/cse**

### **BLAST (CSE support for boys and men)**

**www.mesmac.co.uk/projects/blast/for-professionals/resources**

### **CEOP - Protecting children and young people from harm online:**

**www.ceop.police.uk**

### **Who we are**

Spurgeons Children's Charity provides support to vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families across England. We believe every child deserves the opportunity to live a hope-filled life. Through the delivery of support and intervention services and by speaking up on behalf of those who need us most, we give vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families the chance they need for a better present and more hope filled future.

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# The Phoenix Project

A confidential service across Birmingham to support children, young people and their families at risk of, or affected by, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

[www.spurgeons.org](http://www.spurgeons.org)

## The Phoenix Project

Spurgeons has run the Phoenix Project in Birmingham since 2013. The project supports children and young people aged 8-17 to make positive choices about healthy relationships and personal safety. Phoenix takes a holistic approach to supporting families, providing a package of support for parents/carers to help them understand childhood sexual exploitation and safeguard their child/young person.

*"The Phoenix worker was very supportive, and she helped me to look at things I wouldn't have thought of. She was very understanding and non-judgemental, she has been wonderful."*

Parent

## What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?

- Child sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse.
- It occurs where anyone under the age of 18 is persuaded, coerced or forced into sexual activity in exchange for, amongst other things, money, drugs/alcohol, gifts, affection or status.
- Consent is irrelevant, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them.
- Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact and may occur online.

### Warning signs

- Going missing
- Unexplained gifts
- Gang association
- Change in mood
- Low mood/depression
- Drug and alcohol misuse
- Becomes secretive
- Missing school
- Inappropriate sexualised behaviour
- Sexual health issues
- Vulnerability through the internet/social networking sites

## How we help

### Weekly support for young people

Following a needs assessment, Phoenix provides weekly support sessions to young people who are vulnerable to CSE.

This includes:

- Healthy and unhealthy relationships
- Risk management
- Grooming in relationships
- Consent and the law
- E-safety

### Awareness sessions for Practitioners

We deliver awareness raising sessions for practitioners and young people in schools.

### Advice and support for parents

We provide targeted work with parents/carers including:

- CSE awareness raising
- Understanding and living with risk and safety plans
- Abusive relationships and grooming
- Internet and e-safety
- Consent and the law

To make a referral please email us at phoenixproject@spurgeons.org or call 0121 773 6144

### What makes a young person more vulnerable?

- Disrupted family life
- Witnessing domestic abuse
- Being in (residential) care
- Historical abuse
- Social isolation/being bored
- Low self esteem/low mood
- Socio-economic disadvantage
- Living in a gang neighbourhood
- Learning difficulties or disabilities
- Bereavement
- Being bullied
- No positive relationship with a protective and nurturing adult
- Unsure about their sexual orientation or unable to disclose sexual orientation to their families

*"Phoenix showed me about relationships and patterns of behaviour and victimisation - it was like a profile of my situation. They're helping me."*

Young person