

TACKLING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Protecting and safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is our priority and at the heart of all we do. We take sexual exploitation extremely seriously and it is important we continue to work closely with communities and partners to tackle these issues.



VERA BAIRD
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE**
Proud to Protect

Tackling Sexual Exploitation



We have been working closely with our partners to ensure those who may be vulnerable in some way are protected from anyone who seeks to take advantage of them by committing sexual crimes against them.

These crimes can range from those offenders who deliberately set out to target specific women and girls over a long period of time to those who commit such crimes when they come across someone in a vulnerable state as a result of being under the influence of alcohol, drugs or for other reasons.

Only by working together can we make our communities safe and we all have a part to play. It is the responsibility of everyone to be vigilant and identify such criminal behaviour and to contact police if they have any concerns. If you witness something that doesn't look right or feel right then we need to know about it.

We have had tremendous support from the public and we need this to continue. Only then can we stop such crimes and bring offenders to justice.

Why does it affect you?

We believe that some of the victims may be targeted by bogus taxi drivers or transported in taxis by drivers who then take advantage of their vulnerability

and sexually assault or rape them. We also know that some women and girls are targeted when they are out and about socialising in our towns and cities and want to make sure you are aware of the support that is available should you find yourself in a vulnerable state for whatever reason or see someone else who appears vulnerable.

Tackling Sexual Exploitation

Please consider the following information when out and about:

- Planning on how you will get home, speaking to friends, keeping some spare cash in case you lose your purse and noting an emergency telephone number somewhere in case you lose your phone.
- Reporting to police officers, community support officers or street pastors any concerns you have that someone may be vulnerable.



If you get a taxi:

- Take a photo on your phone of the licence plate of the taxi you use.
- Use only official licensed taxis.
- Always book a taxi through a licensed reputable company or, if getting a taxi from a rank, only use authorised taxi ranks or marshalled taxi ranks.
- Have a few reputable companies' numbers saved in your phone in case of emergency.
- Never get into a car that doesn't look like a taxi or accept lifts from strangers in any circumstances.
- All licensed taxis operating in the area will have taxi plates on display both in and outside the vehicle.
- Take note, where possible, of the taxi licence number or plate or the driver's details.
- Try, where possible, to get a taxi with your friends and avoid travelling alone.
- Don't share taxis with strangers or those who have just befriended you.

Help is available:

- If you become separated from friends or can't get home, speak to a uniformed police officer or community support officer or a street pastor – they will all help you.
- Approach the staff in one of the licensed premises that displays the Safe Haven sign, they can help you.
- Visit the Safe Haven bus located in the Bigg Market on a Friday and Saturday evening, staffed by professionals who can help keep you safe.

Tackling Sexual Exploitation

If you witness anything that concerns you, have been the victim of such crime or know someone who has, then please contact police who will ensure you receive the right support.

Any victims who come forward can speak to us in confidence and will be given help in accessing support, whether they want to make a statement or not.

We have already received valuable information from the public that has helped to keep women and girls safe. We need this to continue. You are the eyes and ears in the community and can help stop this.

www.stop-cse.org/saysomething



If you see something, say something.

Let us know on 101 or in an emergency call 999.