Act now to help keep children and young people safe from harm:

If it’s an emergency: **Ring 999**

If you have concerns regarding children in Rotherham: **01709 823987**
or Childline on **0800 1111**

If you would like to share information which might help protect a child you can contact Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** anonymously, or the Police on **101**
Are they staying out overnight?

Have they been missing from home?

Have they started to truant from school?

Have they been coming home with money, clothes, jewellery and mobile phones they can’t explain properly?

Have they begun a relationship that you are concerned about?

Have they been doing stuff they wouldn’t be allowed to do at home?

Have you had concerns that they could be using drugs and/or alcohol?

Has there been a change in their mood or behaviour?

Are they losing contact with family and friends of their own age, and associating with an older age group?

Are they secretive about where they have been and with whom?

Are they chatting online to people you have never met?

The sexual exploitation of young people may involve payment or reward of some kind.

Young people (under 18 years) can be drawn into providing sexual favours by older people. This can be in exchange for cigarettes, alcohol, drugs or other things. They may form a close relationship with someone who may sexually exploit them.

The emotional and psychological effects may lead them to self-harm, depression and suicide.

Children involved in sexual exploitation face great risks to their physical, emotional and psychological health.

Sometimes young people may be persuaded or forced to provide sexual acts in saunas, or by working on the streets or from a flat or other premises. The adults involved are making money by sexually exploiting and abusing young people.

Increasingly, adults are using the internet to groom young people for sexual exploitation and may then persuade them to meet face to face.

Adults who exploit young people in this way are skilled at ‘grooming’ vulnerable young people. They may offer them drugs or alcohol, and draw them into a sexual relationship. Gradually, parents may find that convincing their child to return home or to end the relationship is extremely difficult, because of the young person’s loyalty to their ‘friend’.

They are at risk of catching sexually transmitted infections.

They may also be the victims of violent sexual attacks such as rape or even sometimes fatal attacks.

They cannot afford to take these risks.