



# Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

## What is it?

**The criminal exploitation of a child or young person involves someone encouraging and/or coercing them to commit offences. The criminal exploitation of children and young people is nothing new but is becoming a more commonly seen phenomenon. It is used as a tool by Organised Crime Gangs (OCGs) to further their profits.**

County Lines (the movement of young people to deal drugs) is one form of CCE.

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) have a dedicated team tackling organised crime called Challenger. They have a project called Trapped that deals with young people who are the victims of CCE. More information about this project is available on their website.

Many young people do not understand that they have been groomed and that what is happening to them is abuse. Professionals encountering this stance should not accept that they are making life style choices but remember that whilst the young person may appear to be a willing participant they are being controlled by others with more power than them.

### Modern Slavery/trafficking

Young people who have been exploited may be trafficked (moved from one place to another) This may not involve great distances, for example, they may be moved from house to house on the same street. Under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 moving or facilitating the movement of an individual for the purposes of exploitation is an offence even if they consented.

If there are concerns about a young person being trafficked they should be referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) This is a framework for identifying the victims of human trafficking and ensuring they receive appropriate care. Bolton Council is a first responder and can make this referral on behalf of other organisations. More information about the National Referral Mechanism can be accessed via the National Crime Agency website.

Greater Manchester also have access to support from Barnardo's Independent Child Trafficking Service (ICTA). This team can support and offer advice to staff. To make a referral go to the Barnardo's website, ICTA page.

### Vulnerabilities

Adolescents can be vulnerable to exploitation as it is a natural part of their development to separate from their caregivers and seek new experiences and associations. However, some may be more vulnerable due to certain indicators:

**Individual** – learning needs, emotional and mental health issues, previous or current experiences of neglect, violence or other forms of abuse, substance misuse, LAC status.

**Family** – poverty, limited capacity to protect the child, parental mental health or substance misuse problems, parental offending, lack of positive role model/nurturing relationships, insecure accommodation.

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**5** Minute Facts

**Peers/Neighbourhood** – exposure to negative peers/adults, exposure to violence, criminality/anti-social behaviour/drug use.

**Education Training and Employment (ETE)** – Children and young people not in school.

## Warning signs

It is possible that a young person may be exploited and show none of the signs below.

Always use your professional judgement, if something doesn't feel right seek support.

- Missing from home, school, and care/ being found or arrested out of area
- Unexplained money and items such as clothes, mobile phones etc
- Excessive and/or secretive use of phone/ social media
- Leaving home/school without explanation

- Involvement in violence/carrying weapons/ unexplained physical injuries
- Isolation from usual peers/social networks
- Decline in emotional wellbeing
- Decline in school performance/attendance
- New negative peer group/association with new adults

## What to do?

If you are concerned that a child or young person you know is being criminally exploited, you should consult with the EXIT team on **01204 337195** or email any enquiries to [exitteam@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:exitteam@bolton.gov.uk)

If you believe that there are immediate safeguarding issues you should call the police on **999** and refer to the Integrated Front Door **01204 331500**.

## For more information...

[Greater Manchester Police](#)

[Barnado's](#)

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