

Child Exploitation



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Move from CSE to Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Dyfed Powys Police has recently changed its approach to consider its capability and capacity to tackle all forms of Child Criminal Exploitation as opposed to focusing on Child Sexual Exploitation.



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Definitions - CSE

It occurs when an **individual or group** takes advantage of an **imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive** a child or young person **U18yrs** into sexual activity

- a) in exchange for something the **victim** needs or wants, and/or
- b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator

The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. CSE does not always involve physical contact it can also occur through the use of technology.

- *Exchange does not have to be tangible ie love and affection*
- *Can be to stop something from happening ie threats of suicide and share images already sent.*



There is currently no legal definition of Child Criminal Exploitation.

Child criminal exploitation (CCE) is when children or young people Under 18yrs are manipulated or coerced into committing crimes on behalf of criminal gangs or individuals, such as forced begging, shoplifting, cannabis cultivation, drug dealing, County Lines and financial exploitation.

Child Criminal exploitation is a form of modern slavery. Children who are trafficked, exploited or coerced into committing crimes are victims in need of safeguarding and support. Historically these children have been criminalised and though we are starting to see a welcome shift in perception, these young people are still often criminalised and perceived as having '**made a choice**' to take part in illegal activity.



KEY COMPONENTS OF CHILD EXPLOITATION:-

- U18
- IMBALANCE OF POWER
- COERCION
- CONTROL
- MANIPULATION

CHILDREN CAN BE PERPERTRATORS AS WELL AS VICTIMS.

ANYONE UNDER 18 IRRESPECTIVE OF GENDER, ETHNICITY,
RELIGION



Case Study - County Lines Job Description:

- Regular work but opportunity for extension dependent on skill level
- Accommodation and food provided
- Travel expenses paid
- Provided with a work mobile phone and work equipment required to fulfil job role
- Opportunities for promotion
- Opportunities to meet new people
- Opportunities to travel
- Must be able to work flexible and unsociable hours
- If work completed ahead of schedule individual will still be paid full pay
- Cash in hand – Tax Free



Reality:

- 24/7 work; Coerced and threatened to deal further; no choice not to work
- In-habitual and dangerous living accommodation
- Trafficked across the Country via different methods of transport
- Provided with a phone 'line', drugs (Class A), drug paraphernalia and weapons
- Given responsibility within the OCG/ Urban Street Gang; drug dealing and increase in violence to earn 'status'
- OCG branding or clothing given as gifts so CYP is in debt
- Planned assaults and thefts on CYP to ensure debt
- Placed at serious risk of harm from drug users and rival gangs
- Missing a phone call has consequences of serious violence
- Risk of criminal record and having to relocate due to reprisals
- Risk to health by ingesting drugs to hide from authorities
- Threat to own life, family's life and even death

Salary: £2,000.00 (3 weeks work) ILLEGALLY gained; $24 \times 21 = 504$ hours of work / £2000 = £3.96 an hour = less than minimum wage!!!!



TYPES OF EXPLOITATION

These are fairly wide ranging and often include the following types of conduct:

- **Sexual Exploitation**
- **Labour Exploitation**
- **Forced Labour**
- **Forced Criminality** *drugs, cannabis farming, organised crime, begging, shoplifting etc.*
- **Criminal Exploitation**
- **Domestic Servitude**
- **Enabling others to acquire benefit**
- **Child Exploitation**



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Positive Engagement with Children and Young People

- Because of the complex nature of grooming and exploitation it can sometimes be hard for professionals to see young people as victims, particularly older teens and young adults.
- Anger and aggression are common responses to trauma and often surface when a young person feels scared or threatened. This includes encountering people in authority.



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Criminal Exploitation is a hidden crime.

Children do not see themselves as victims.

IMPORTANT:

GET THE VOICE OF THE CHILD - This is vitally important. It's OK to speak to the children individually; we need to listen to them, **hear their voice**, believe them, keep them safe and involve them in decisions. You should ensure that you always check on the welfare of children and record your observations of a child's behaviour and demeanour, so that a better assessment of their needs can be made

Professional Curiosity – by adopting the principle of professional curiosity, potential indicators of vulnerability can be identified at an early stage, presenting an opportunity for early intervention with partners so that the risk of harm is reduced. This is about spotting the signs, asking the right questions and speaking to the right people. Vulnerability may not be obvious.



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Reachable moments

For every young person at risk of or experiencing exploitation and abuse there are 'reachable moments' where an appropriate intervention could protect them from harm. Some key examples include:

Any police interaction

Attending A&E

Facing school exclusion

Returning from a missing episode

Youth offending appointments

Reachable moments provide a crucial opportunity to safeguard young people from abuse



SPOTTING THE SIGNS...

- Mood swings - angry, emotional, withdrawn, suicide attempts, depression
- Bruising, scaring on body
- Receiving gifts such as a new phone or money that can't be accounted for or new items of clothing
- Missing from Care Homes
- Secretive and distant towards family and friends
- Skipping education
- Involved in criminal activity



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SPOTTING THE SIGNS...

- Education grades dropping
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Pregnancy or miscarriage
- Using alcohol or drugs
- Eating disorders
- Not sleeping, nightmares, anxiety, panic attacks
- Violence or aggression towards parents, siblings or animals



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SPOTTING THE SIGNS...

- Withdrawal from usual group of friends and a mention of older or new friends
- Receiving a large number of calls or messages to their phone or being worried about being away from their phone
- Going missing from home or not showing up to school or regular afterschool groups or clubs
- Become involved in low level criminality such as antisocial behaviour



Are You Listening?' – New film to tackle Child Criminal Exploitation

<https://www.leics.police.uk/areyoulistening>



4. PREVENTION – To ensure good prevention around vulnerability, you need to ensure that you;

1. **THINK CONTEXT** – Establish history around people & households. Review Police & partner systems. **Explore & identify wider issues.**
2. **THINK DEEPER** - Why are we here...again? What is the root cause? **Alcohol, drugs, mental health?** How can we break the cycle?
3. **THINK MULTI-AGENCY** – is this something you can resolve yourself, within a single agency, or do you need the help and support of other agencies

THINK ABOUT SHARING INFORMATION - Who else needs to know what you know and have seen? How will you make them aware, **is a referral the only way?** Have you got **consent** to share what you know and endorsed this on any referral you may submit?



Working together...

We must all work together to help put an end to this abuse.

The police, education, local councils and health organisations all have an important part to play in preventing children being exploited and deal with those responsible.

We also need to know the signs and to act if you suspect a child is in danger.





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