

# Child Exploitation Guide

Advice outlining how professionals, organisations and individuals can help protect children and young people from all types of child exploitation

Child exploitation is a crime with devastating and long lasting consequences for victims and their families. Childhoods and family life can be ruined and this is compounded when victims, or those at risk of abuse, do not receive appropriate, immediate and on-going support.

The challenge of child exploitation and child sexual exploitation (CSE) has been well publicised in recent years. It's important that we widen our perspective to ensure we are protecting children from all types of exploitation.

Child Exploitation takes on a number of forms and in some instances children will be subject to multiple forms of exploitation. This document will provide information to raise awareness and guidance in identifying and dealing with:

- Exploitation of young people by gangs and gang affiliation
- Exploitation by county lines
- Child sexual exploitation
- Child exploitation

Children at risk of or being exploited or those affiliated to gangs are influenced by their peer group and/or adults external to the family network. This is often outside the control of their families. These children will be at risk of significant harm beyond their families and therefore safeguarding and child protection responses will be enhanced when assessments and interventions are expanded to include individuals and sectors who do have influence over/within extra-familial contexts. It is often a hidden crime and can happen to any child, at anytime, anywhere. Tackling it remains a high priority for all involved in safeguarding across Northamptonshire.

We aim to raise awareness of child exploitation by helping people recognise the signs, encourage reporting and providing support to victims.

## **Key Points**

- It can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;
- It can affect any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years;
- It can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
- It often involves grooming of a young person through enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- It can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults;
- It is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources. (Home Office, 2018)

Everyone who works with children has a responsibility for keeping them safe. No single practitioner can have the full picture of a child's needs and circumstances and, if children and families are to receive the right help at the right time,

everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.

Anyone who has concerns about a child's welfare should make a referral to Northamptonshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub ([MASH](#)) and should do so immediately if there is a concern that the child is suffering significant harm or is likely to do so. (Working Together, 2018)

**Anything within this document which is underlined and in purple is a web link.**

**Please note the videos have sound so you will need to make sure your computer is set up to support this.**

This guide will be looking at the following areas of child exploitation and other linked information which may be useful;

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## Child Criminal Exploitation

Child Criminal Exploitation has been defined within the Home Office Serious Violence Crime Strategy (2018) where:

“an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology”.

Being aware of the signs and symptoms which may indicate child exploitation can include:

- receiving unexpected gifts or money
- using their phone secretively
- having significantly older friends
- picked up from school by strangers and going missing from school or home
- showing signs of self-harm

## What are County Lines?

The definition from the UK Home office is:

"County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of 'deal line'. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons." Serious Violence Strategy, HO 2018

County lines is when criminals from major cities across the UK expand their drug networks to other areas of the country. The crime is called county lines because a single telephone number is used to order drugs, operated from outside the area.

County lines may also involve something called 'cuckooing' which is where a home, often that of a young person or vulnerable adult is taken over by a group of people and used to sell drugs from. Often the resident of the house feels intimidated and unable to get the people to leave. See **Appendix 1** for training tool.

County lines are a major, cross cutting across many facets involving drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and missing persons. The response to tackle it involves the police, the National Crime Agency, a wide range of Government departments, local government agencies and voluntary and community sector organisations.

County lines activity and the associated violence, drug dealing and exploitation has a devastating impact on young people, vulnerable adults and local communities.

Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, county lines exploitation:

- Can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;
- Can affect any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years;
- Can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
- Can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- Can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults;
- Is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

A young person's involvement in county lines activity often leaves signs. A young person might exhibit some of these signs, either as a member or as an associate of a gang dealing drugs. Any sudden changes in a young person's lifestyle should be discussed with them. Some indicators of county lines involvement and exploitation are listed below, with those at the top of particular concern:

- Persistently going missing from school or home and / or being found out-of-area;

- More than one mobile phone
- Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes, or mobile phones
- Excessive receipt of texts /phone calls
- Relationships with controlling /older individuals or groups
- Leaving home / care without explanation
- Suspicion of physical assault / unexplained injuries
- Parental concerns
- Carrying weapons
- Significant decline in school results / performance
- Gang association or isolation from peers or social networks
- Self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being

2018 Home  
Office  
Guidance of  
County Lines

[County Lines  
Guidance](#)



[What is County Lines?](#)

[County Lines -  
Fearless](#)

Fearless is an  
organisation  
providing people  
will information  
about crime.

[What is county  
lines? | The  
Children's Society](#)

## Places to get support

- ❖ Fearless is a website where people can access non-judgmental information about crime and criminality, they have information on county lines - [County Lines - Fearless](#)
- ❖ Information about County Lines can be found at - [What is county lines? | The Children's Society](#)
- ❖ A short video about what is County Lines - [What is County Lines?](#)
- ❖ If you are concerned that your address or someone you knows address is being used by others often for criminal gain, this is called cuckooing you can get help and information about this from - [Police](#) or you can call Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111.
- ❖ Home Office Guidance on County Lines - [2018 Guidance](#)

## Legislation to consider when thinking about County Lines

Modern Slavery Act 2015 – Section 45 [Act Information](#)

Section 45 Modern Slavery Act 2015 - Statutory defence for child victims of trafficking and

Slavery. Where a child commits an offence and they do so as a direct consequence of being or having been a victim of slavery or 'relevant exploitation', then section 45 Modern Slavery Act 2015 may provide a defence.

(4) A person is not guilty of an offence if—

(a) the person is under the age of 18 when the person does the act which constitutes the offence,

(b) the person does that act as a direct consequence of the person being, or having been, a victim of slavery or a victim of relevant exploitation,

and

(c) a reasonable person in the same situation as the person and having the person's relevant characteristics would do that act.

Youth Justice Legal Centre 2018 state;

If a child is suspected of being the victim of exploitation by county lines gangs, defence lawyers should consider whether the section 45 statutory defence under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 is available to their clients.

The definition of trafficking is wide and a child could be the victim of trafficking even if they have never been out of the United Kingdom (section 2, Modern Slavery Act 2015). The nature of county lines activity means that children who have committed offences for gangs may well fall within this definition.

The full document can be found at - [Full Document](#)



## What is Gang Involvement?

A useful definition of a gang is from Report of the Office of the Children's Commissioner 2017 (Children's Voices)

"A relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who:

- (1) see themselves as a discernible group
- (2) engage in a range of criminal activity
- (3) identify or lay claim over territory
- (4) have some form of identifying structural feature
- (5) are in conflict with other, similar gangs."

Teenagers can be particularly vulnerable to recruitment into gangs and involvement in gang violence. This vulnerability may be exacerbated by risk factors in an individual's background, economic vulnerability, including violence in the family, involvement of siblings in gangs, poor educational attainment, or mental health problems.

The teenage years are often the critical point for intervention to prevent the young person becoming further involved in gangs, gang violence and gang-related drug dealing activity. Crisis points in a young person's life such as arrest, school exclusion, or A&E admission can provide vital opportunities to persuade the young person to leave the gang lifestyle.

If the majority of offending is of a lower non-violent level then they could be considered as a peer group not a gang. See **Appendix 2** for training tool

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/grooming/>



Gang Grooming –

Gangline – London based support for getting out of gangs and leading a different life. Their website has information and you can phone them on 01322305105 - [Gangline](https://www.gangline.org.uk/)

## Referral process for a child being exploited or involved in a gang or county lines

The AIM team is running a force wide gangs intervention called CIRV (Community Initiative to Reduce Violence). This scheme is based on the highly successful, independently evaluated and evidence based programme of the same name which ran in Glasgow, Cincinnati and Boston (USA) that resulted in huge reductions in gang violence with increased life chances for participants.

Northamptonshire has, and continues to experience significant issues directly related to gang violence and associated crimes such as drug dealing. Steadily over time despite hundreds of years of custodial sentences being handed down, the issue of gangs has become worse and this issue now seriously threatens the safety and wellbeing of our communities and in particular young vulnerable people. <http://www.aimonline.org.uk/CIRV/>

CIRV is a multi-agency and community centered project designed to reduce violent behaviour amongst gang members and those at risk of gangs and county line exploitation across Northamptonshire. CIRV will help achieve other positive outcomes for Northamptonshire including reducing the impact and incidents of anti-social behaviour, reducing the involvement of young people in crime and reducing the fear of crime. The message perpetuated to street gangs is clear - the violence and drugs must stop.

CIRV co-ordinates law enforcement, service providers, and community members to ensure those who participate in violent gangs receive due consequences and those who choose to transition to a non-violent lifestyle, receive the appropriate services and support in the most effective, efficient and respectful manner possible.

One of the key tools that CIRV use to communicate the consequences of violent behaviour to the gang members is the "Self-Referral Session". This session demonstrates the availability of services for those choosing to get out of "gang life" and the expectations of the community and the consequences for them should violent acts continue. It is also a stated expectation that those attending the session will perpetuate the message to other gang members or prospective gang members outside of the self-referral session. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0BQTjc2VzQ>

After the self-referral session robust case management takes place for those choosing a nonviolent future.

## Legislation to consider when thinking about Gangs

The Government implemented the extended and amended gang injunction power in June 2015, including an updated statutory definition of gangs, and this allows the police and local authorities to take pre-emptive action against possible gang violence and drug dealing. Page 10 of this document talks about young people and how gang injunctions work for 14-17 year olds. [Gang Injunction Document](#)

NSCB gangs risk assessment <http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/about-northamptonshire-safeguarding-children-board/policies/gang-involvement-practice-guidance/>

Serious Crime Act 2015 – Part 3, section 45 - [Act Information](#)

The utilisation of Child Abduction Warning Notice are a valuable tool in the fight against Child Criminal Exploitation. [Child Abduction Warning Notices \(CAWN's\) | Safeguarding Hub](#). They can be issued against individuals who are suspected of grooming children by stating that they have no permission to associate with the named child and that if they do so they can be arrested under the Child Abduction Act 1984 and Children Act 1989.

## Places to get support

- ❖ Criminal Behaviour and Gang Involvement – if you are concerned that your child may be involved with criminal or gang behaviour then it is important to talk to your local Police on 101, or you may want to talk to one of your area's local PCSO's. In some cases when a young person is on the cusp of becoming involved in criminal behaviour then Northamptonshire Police may refer your child into a team called Prevention and Diversion (PaDs) which sits within the Youth Offending service.
- ❖ Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) is a multi-agency gang intervention programme designed to reduce gang violence and help those involved in gangs to live a life free of crime within Northamptonshire. <http://www.aimonline.org.uk/CIRV/>
- ❖ Gangsline – London based support for getting out of gangs and leading a different life. Their website has information and you can phone them on 01322305105 - [Gangsline](#)
- ❖ VOICE is a confidential support service for victims and witnesses of crime <http://voicenorthants.org/>

## What is Modern Day Slavery?

Modern Day Slavery (MDS) is the term used within the UK and is defined within the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The Act categorises offences of Slavery, Servitude and Forced or Compulsory Labour and Human Trafficking.

These crimes include holding a person in a position of slavery, servitude forced or compulsory labour, or facilitating their travel with the intention of exploiting them soon after. Although human trafficking often involves an international cross-border element, it is also possible to be a victim of modern slavery within your own country.

It is possible to be a victim even if consent has been given to be moved. Children cannot give consent to being exploited therefore the element of coercion or deception does not need to be present to prove an offence.

All UK referrals are reviewed by a trained decision maker who must consider whether the person is a victim of human trafficking. In England and Wales, if someone is found not to be a victim of trafficking, the Competent Authority must go on to consider whether they are the victim of another form of modern slavery, which includes slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking and ensuring they receive appropriate care. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-trafficking/research-resources/national-referral-mechanism-nrm/>

The NRM grants a minimum 45-day reflection and recovery period for victims of human trafficking or modern slavery. Trained decision makers decide whether individuals referred to them should be considered to be victims of trafficking according to the definition in the Council of Europe Convention.

Potential victims of trafficking are likely to be extremely vulnerable. They may fear revealing their status or experiences to state authorities and will often mistrust individuals in authority. Their ability to participate in any future proceedings, for example as a witness, will depend largely on their psychological, emotional and physical health.

If you suspect that someone is a potential victim of modern slavery or just feel that '*something is not quite right*' you should report the matter. Act quickly as victims can be moved out of the area.

A range of agencies may be involved in a trafficking case such as the police, the UK Border Agency (UKBA), local authorities and non-governmental organisations such as charities.

The NRM makes it easier for these agencies to co-operate, share information and facilitate access to advice, accommodation and support. See **Appendix 3** for training tool.



What is Modern  
Slavery?

**BBC**  
**NEWS**

BBC News -  
Modern Slavery



Modern Slavery  
Act

National Referral  
Mechanism (NRM)  
is there to support  
victims of  
trafficking or  
modern slavery,  
National Crime  
Agency - National

## Referral process for identifying and supporting victims of modern day slavery

Worried about a child?

If you think a child is in immediate danger, contact the police on **999**.

If you receive information on a potential trafficker or you think a child is a victim of trafficking:

- professionals: contact the [Child Trafficking Advice Centre \(CTAC\)](#) for information and advice
- general public: [contact us](#) to discuss concerns with one of our counsellors, or you can contact your local police or children's services.

Formally identifying a child as a victim of trafficking helps to ensure the child is appropriately safeguarded and protected and helps the UK to tackle child trafficking.



## **Legislation to consider when thinking about Modern Slavery**

### [Human Rights Act, 1998](#)

Prohibits all forms of slavery and forced labour.

### [UK Modern Slavery Act, 2015](#)

Defines criminal offences of human trafficking, slavery, forced labour and servitude and provides for sentences of up to life imprisonment. It further sets out victim protection provisions and creates a role of UK Anti-Slavery Commissioner. Article 54, Transparency in Supply Chains provision creates the obligation on businesses that operate in the UK and have a certain annual turnover (£36 set in statutory guidance) to produce annually modern slavery statement and disclose what steps the business is undertaking to prevent and address this issue in their supply chains.

### [Human Trafficking and Exploitation \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#)

Creates criminal offences of human trafficking slavery, forced labour and servitude and victim protection measures in Scotland. Article 39, Offences by Bodies corporate, provides for liability for offence covered by the act committed by businesses through consent, connivance or attributable to any neglect.

### [Human Trafficking and Exploitation \(Criminal Justice and Support for Victims\) Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015](#)

Creates criminal offences of human trafficking slavery, forced labour and servitude and victim protection measures in Northern Ireland.

### [UN Declaration of Human Rights - Article 4](#)

"No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms."

### [International Labour Organisation - Forced Labour Convention, 1930 \(No. 29\) - Article 1](#)

Provides a definition of forced labour as "any work or service exacted under menace of any penalty to which a person has not offered himself voluntarily".

### [ILO Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 - Article 1](#)

Signatory states commit to measures to prevent and eliminate its use, to provide victims with protection and access to appropriate and effective remedies, such as compensation, and to sanction the perpetrators of forced or compulsory labour.

### [Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 \(No. 105\) - Article 1](#)

Signatory states commit to suppress and not to make use of any form of forced or compulsory labour.



## Places to get support

- ❖ National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is part of the National Crime Agency and is there to support victims of trafficking or modern slavery, you do need to be referred to this service, but the website does explain everything and could be a helpful starting point – speak to the Police on 101 or - [National Crime Agency - National Referral Mechanism](#)
- ❖ Modern Slavery Helpline and website can offer support, help and guidance - [Modern Slavery Helpline](#)
- ❖ There are some documents online which have been produced by the Government about people who have been a victim of modern slavery, they have been produced in 11 languages - [Support for victims of modern slavery](#)
- ❖ The British Red Cross has lots of information on their website which could be helpful for victims - [British Red Cross](#). The British Red Cross can also be helpful because it is a recognised organisation which may feel more comfortable for a victim of modern slavery who has come from a different country.
- ❖ A document written by Birmingham University which may also offer some ideas around practical support for victims - [Interventions to support victims of modern slavery](#)
- ❖ The Barnardo's Independent 24/7 Child Trafficking Advocate helpline number is 0800 043 430



## What is Trafficking?

The Anti-Slavery Organisation defines trafficking as;

Human trafficking involves recruitment, harbouring or transporting people into a situation of exploitation through the use of violence, deception or coercion and forced to work against their will.

Many children are trafficked into the UK from abroad, but children can also be trafficked from one part of the UK to another and legally the definition is met simply by moving a child from one location to another. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-trafficking/> Traffickers may use grooming techniques to gain the trust of a child, family or community. Traffickers may promise children education or persuade parents their child can have a better future in another place.

Child trafficking and modern slavery are child abuse. Children are recruited, moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold.

Sometimes families will be asked for payment towards the 'service' a trafficker is providing – for example sorting out the child's documentation prior to travel or organising transportation. Traffickers make a profit from the money a child earns through exploitation, forced labour or crime. Often this is explained as a way for a child to pay off a debt they or their family 'owe' to the traffickers.

Although these are methods used by traffickers, coercion, violence or threats do not need to be proven in cases of child trafficking - a child cannot legally consent so child trafficking only requires evidence of movement and exploitation. See **Appendix 4** for training tool.

[http://northamptonshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p\\_trafficked\\_ch.html](http://northamptonshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p_trafficked_ch.html)

Children are trafficked for:

- child sexual exploitation
- benefit fraud
- forced marriage
- domestic servitude such as cleaning, childcare, cooking
- forced labour in factories or agriculture
- criminal activity such as pickpocketing, begging, transporting drugs, working on cannabis farms, selling pirated DVDs and bag theft.



Lives Bought & Sold

An article about trafficking –  
What is human trafficking? - Anti-Slavery International



Ida's Story



What is Human Trafficking?

## Legislation to consider when thinking about Trafficking;

Sexual Offences Act 2003 - [Act Information](#)

[Human Rights Act, 1998](#)

Prohibits all forms of slavery and forced labour.

[UK Modern Slavery Act, 2015](#)

Defines criminal offences of human trafficking, slavery, forced labour and servitude and provides for sentences of up to life imprisonment.

[Human Trafficking and Exploitation \(Criminal Justice and Support for Victims\) Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015](#)

Creates criminal offences of human trafficking slavery, forced labour and servitude and victim protection measures in Northern Ireland.

[UN Declaration of Human Rights - Article 4](#)

"No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms."

## Places to get support

- ❖ National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is part of the National Crime Agency and is there to support victims of trafficking or modern slavery, you do need to be referred to this service, but the website does explain everything and could be a helpful starting point – speak to the Police on 101 or - [National Crime Agency - National Referral Mechanism](#)
- ❖ Spot the Traffik website has a lot of links about where to find help and support - [Spot The Traffik](#)
- ❖ The Human Trafficking Foundation based in London can also offer support - [Human Trafficking Foundation](#)
- ❖ Migrant Support Services - [Report highlights gaps in support for trafficking victims - Migrants' Rights Network](#)

## Signs of Child Exploitation

It is very possible that a child may be a victim of more than one form of exploitation, for example a child may be in a gang but may be being sexually exploited by other gang members, or may be involved in a gang which have radical views and they are slowly being radicalised. So it is important to look out for signs and signals that may be able to help you to raise your concerns to protect the child in question.

The following is a list of things you might want to consider when thinking about a child that you feel may be being exploited. It is also important to take into account that in normal growing up teenagers can be secretive, moody and display new and challenging behaviours.

- Regularly going as missing from school or home
- Being found out of their normal area
- Often out at all hours of the night and will not say where they have been.
- Parents are unable to stop them going out.
- Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes, phones etc. / saying these are gifts.
- Excessive receipt of texts/phone calls (that may affect their behaviour)
- Recent change in their relationship with their parents.
- Attendance issues at school.
- Behaviour issues and exclusions at school.
- Significant decline in school performance/achievement.
- Associating with older people or groups who are controlling and who are known to the police or social services.
- Started stealing from home.
- Child's personality/views have changed.
- Caught carrying weapons or known to have weapons.
- Becoming isolated from peers and normal social networks.
- Significant changes in emotional wellbeing.
- Involved in criminal activity.
- Gang symbols appearing on the child's clothing, room, personal items.
- People/peers/school are saying that the child is in a gang.
- Child gets picked up or dropped home by lots of different cars.
- Child is using illegal drugs.
- Child is drinking a lot of alcohol.
- Child will not talk about their new friends.
- Child comes home often with bruises or injuries.
- Change in child's eating / sleeping patterns.
- Child has started to look unhealthy (tired, weight loss or gain, pale etc.)
- Child has become very secretive.
- Child has started self-harming.
- Child has become more aggressive when questioned.
- Their friends are concerned about them and worried about who they associate with.
- They frequently attend A&E with injuries/ are accompanied by older adults.
- They often need emergency contraception.

When thinking about the list of behaviours above it is important to remember that a child does not need to be displaying all of the behaviours to be being exploited. There might just be one thing that changes that you are concerned about and feel that you need further support or information about exploitation. **See Appendix 7 Support Agencies available**

## Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

"Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 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. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology". Department of Education (2017)

Perpetrators and victims of CSE can be any age, any gender, any ethnicity, from any religion, from any economic background and from any geographic location. See **Appendix 5** for training tool.

Due to the powerful nature of the grooming process, young people may not recognise that they are being subject to sexual exploitation and may believe that they are exercising agency in their decision-making. This should not prevent young people from being recognised as victims of abuse.

Even where young people are aged 16 and over and can legally consent to sexual activity, the law states that consent is only valid where they have the freedom and capacity to make that choice. Consent cannot be legally given if a child feels they have no other meaningful choice, is fearful of what will happen if they don't comply and/or is under the influence of substances or alcohol.

Child sexual exploitation has links to other forms of crime, such as gang-related activity, exploitation through county lines, modern slavery, trafficking, domestic abuse and immigration-related offences. Where someone who works with children has a concern that a child may be being sexually exploited, they should complete a CSE risk assessment which will support them to assess risk of CSE and to make appropriate referrals.

<http://northamptonshirescb.org.uk/tackling-child-sexual-exploitation-cse/>



Child exploitation and CSE offenders can be brought to justice under regulations within [the Sexual Offences Act 2003](#). More details on CSE legislation, policy and guidance can be found on the [NSPCC website](#).

## Referral process for a child at risk of CSE

Offenders can be anyone from any social or ethnic background, but they all have one thing in common: abusing children and young people and using their status or position to exploit these vulnerable victims.

The RISE team is a multi-agency team who provide intervention to young people assessed as being at risk of CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) within the county. This includes engagement workers and management from Children First Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire Police and Health. RISE stands for Reducing Incidents of Sexual Exploitation.

The engagement workers are allocated to children and young people who have been accepted by RISE. This intervention involves following the Barnardo's 'Real Love Rocks' programme in addition to other pieces of direct work which also gathers the wishes, feelings and views of children and young people. The engagement workers can support young people to attend sexual health appointments to include appointments for contraception.

RISE has a team of Police Officers who investigate any offences which are identified as crimes related to CSE for the children and young people who are open to the service.

RISE has a CSE specialist nurse who liaises with her health colleagues to ensure the health of all of the children and young people open to RISE are managed appropriately. This includes their sexual, physical, emotional and mental health.

At a minimum of every 8 weeks the partnership meet to review the individual 'risk management plan' formulated for the child/young person at the time that RISE intervention commenced to review and set actions to reduce the CSE risks. Engagement workers will also complete reports and attend relevant meetings for young people to regularly update professionals on anything significant regarding that child/young person. Professionals can also contact RISE on [rise@northants.pnn.police.uk](mailto:rise@northants.pnn.police.uk) to request any specific updates.

Referrals are made by completing the CSE Assessment Tool - [RISE Referral](#) See **Appendix 6** RISE Referral process



## Support Opportunities

- ❖ [The Children's Society](#) Telephone - 0300 303 7000
- ❖ [NSPCC](#) Telephone - 0808 800 5000
- ❖ PACE – Parents against Child Sexual Exploitation who offer a great deal of support around most issues linked to CSE - [Pace](#) . Another area of the PACE website which is very helpful is there library section which has information on a range of topics from legislation to disclosures. The library can be found by clicking on this link - [PACE Library](#)
- ❖ MOSAC – This organisation is support non-abusing parents and carers of sexually abused children. This organisation is not specifically working just with victims of CSE, but sexually abused children as a whole and is celebrating 25 years of helping people. It has a lot of ways of gaining support, from groups to telephone help - [MOSAC](#)
- ❖ Marie Collins Foundation – This organisation works together with other agencies in order to offer direct work with children and advising other professionals assessments - [MCF](#)
- ❖ NAPAC – This organisation not only offers support for parents and carers but also for the child themselves. NAPAC is based on supporting survivors of child abuse and they also offer a telephone advice service - [NAPAC | Supporting Recovery From Childhood Abuse](#)
- ❖ The National Working Group (NWG) – produce a large amount of resources for parents and professionals around CSE. They also run support groups and information days. They have also produced a guide for parents which can be found at - [Online: Onguard – A guide for parents](#)
- ❖ Parents Protect, Lucy Faithfull Foundation – This organisation again has lots of helpful information and also includes resources such as a family safety agreement which some parents may find very useful - [Parents Protect](#)
- ❖ Northampton Rape Crisis, Support for anyone affected by sexual abuse, assault or rape. Telephone – 01604 250721 - [Northamptonshire Rape Crisis](#)
- ❖ Survivors UK, Support for men who have been victims of sexual abuse or rape. Telephone – 02035983898 - [Male Rape And Sexual Abuse | SurvivorsUK](#)
- ❖ Serenity – Provide support for anyone who has been a victim of rape or serious sexual assault – 01604 601713 - [Serenity Northants](#)

## Push and Pull Factors

All children are vulnerable to child exploitation, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, age or social background, however, some vulnerabilities may increase a young person's risk of exploitation – these are known as push factors.

### Push Factors –

- ❖ Children who have been the victim of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and emotional abuse.
- ❖ Children from households where domestic violence and abuse has been a feature.
- ❖ Children of parents with a high level of vulnerabilities (e.g. drug and/or alcohol abuse mental illness, learning disability, their own history of an abusive childhood).
- ❖ Family breakdown / disrupted family life / problematic parenting.
- ❖ Economic difficulties and challenges.
- ❖ Homelessness or uncertainty about their accommodation status.
- ❖ Questioning of their sexual/gender identity, trying to make sense and understand their sexual/gender identity and/or not having somewhere to explore their sexual identity safely.
- ❖ Connections with other young people who are being exploited or a family history of older family members being involved in illegal activity, such as drug dealing, gang activity or sex work.
- ❖ Children in Care, especially if there have been significant placement moves and breakdowns.
- ❖ Recent bereavement or loss.
- ❖ Social isolation or social difficulties.
- ❖ Insecure immigration status.
- ❖ Children who have physical or learning impairments.

**Perpetrators may use certain behaviours to groom, coerce or manipulate a young person into exploitation. These behaviours are known as pull factors.**

### Pull Factors

- ❖ Being liked by someone older.
- ❖ Treated like someone older.
- ❖ Being liked/fancied enough that a stranger asks for their mobile number.
- ❖ Meeting someone who tells them they are special.
- ❖ Receiving alcohol, drugs, money or gifts.
- ❖ Getting a buzz and the excitement of forbidden behaviour.
- ❖ Being offered somewhere to stay where there are no rules or boundaries.
- ❖ Being taken along to adult entertainment venues, red light or gay cruising areas (public sex environments).
- ❖ Being given lifts, taken to new places, and having adventures with a casual acquaintance.
- ❖ Threats of violence or abuse against a young person and/or family members, including threats to post explicit images on line.



## Perpetrators

Perpetrators may be of any age, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, economic background and religious background and from any location. They can be the same age as the child, live in the same street and go to the same school. They can be a member of the child's family, a friend of a friend or someone the child has never met before.

Perpetrators can use a great deal of ways to contact and meet young people such as;

- ❖ By phone
- ❖ Online – by messaging, gaming or through friends of friends
- ❖ At school
- ❖ In their neighbourhood
- ❖ In their place of worship
- ❖ At their sport club
- ❖ Through friends
- ❖ At bus stops
- ❖ At shopping centres
- ❖ Any place that young people gather – this is often places with free Wi-Fi such as fast food restaurants

Perpetrators use a process of grooming to gain the child's trust. They befriend, pay attention to the child and involve the child in exciting activities, have shared interests to the child, put doubt into the child's mind about their 'real life' and look to brainwash the child to believe their parents are 'in the wrong and don't understand', isolate the child from 'real life', make promises to the child (I can get you a job, I can help you etc.) often whilst making the child believe they are in control and an 'equal' member of the relationship.

This grooming process can go in one of two ways, either the groomer then needs to use force, fear and control to manage the young person or the groomer makes the child feel that they are the ones in control, who hold the power and are making conscious choices. This difference can be seen when we look at the different types of CE, often a gang member will feel in control and that they have made a choice, where as a victim of slavery may know the perpetrator has control over them and they have no power at all.

A young person, especially in a gang situation can be a victim and also a perpetrator, may have been coerced or groomed into committing offences. This is often because their view of 'normalised' behaviour has been so changed by their involvement with a gang that they neither see themselves as a perpetrator or victim.

# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1 - County Lines

### Concern or Not?

Each example below is fictitious and could be a concern linking to County Lines they have been designed to promote discussion within your organisation/team or just for yourself which is why there have been some questioned posed underneath.

- ❖ A 17 year old comes into A&E with a small stab wound but refuses to talk to the Police about the incident.

Who did they attend with?

How did they say it happened?

Were they carrying a knife themselves – were they very concerned about removing their clothing or bags?

Are there any other injuries you can see – bruises, burns, self-harming scars etc.?

- ❖ A 17 year old is moved to the area because they have moved in with an Aunt. The family is financially stretched but the young person has recently been arrested for having £2000 worth of class A drugs on them?

Who sold them the drugs?

How did they afford them?

Do they feel resentment against other older people?

- ❖ A 16 year old is found in the address of an older vulnerable male, the address is thought to be used as a 'cuckooing' address. Some Class A drugs are also found in the property.

Why are they in the address?

How do they know the vulnerable adult?

Who said the address was a known 'cuckooing' address?

- ❖ A 15 year old has been arrested by the transport Police for not having a ticket on board a train, they have been arrested because it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time this has happened.

Why were they on the train?

Where were they going?

Why didn't they pay for a ticket?

## Appendix 2 – Gangs

### Concern or Not?

Each example below is fictitious and could be a concern linking to gangs, they have been designed to promote discussion within your organisation/team or just for yourself which is why there have been some questioned posed underneath.

- ❖ A 12 year old is found with drugs in their school bag.

What are they saying about the drugs?

Have they been missing school?

Is the quantity of drugs large?

- ❖ A 17 year old has been making comments at college about how there 'family' will sort out some problems they have been having. Other students have been making comments that this young person is in a gang.

Is it a gang or hearsay?

What are the problems the young person has?

What would be your concern about their behaviour?

- ❖ A 15 year old boy has come in for a full STI screening, he is very hesitant to talk about why he thinks he needs a test and his sexual history.

Is he just nervous?

Has he been involved in some form of sexual initiation?

What details is he giving you, and what isn't he giving you?

## Appendix 3 - Modern Day Slavery

### Concern or Not?

Each example below is fictitious and could be a concern linking to modern slavery, they have been designed to promote discussion within your organisation/team or just for yourself which is why there have been some questioned posed underneath.

- ❖ A 16 year old has got a job with a friend of his washing cars at a local car cleaning company. He is really pleased with the job but he doesn't seem to be getting paid much.

How much is he getting paid?

What makes you concerned about his wages?

Is his job impacting on other areas of his life?

- ❖ You have visited a house to complete a midwife visit, the house is huge and you notice, through the window someone cleaning. When you go in the house there is no sign of them, and when you ask if the mother will have any help because it's her third baby and you mention the person you saw cleaning, she denies there was someone in the house.

Why did she pretend there wasn't someone in the house?

Who do you think the person was?

What could you do about it?

## Appendix 4 – Trafficking

### Concern or Not?

Each example below is fictitious and could be a concern linking to trafficking, they have been designed to promote discussion within your organisation/team or just for yourself which is why there have been some questioned posed underneath.

- ❖ A 17 year old goes to the pharmacy for emergency contraception for the third time in 3 months.

Is she taking contraception?

Who did she attend with?

Does she has a prescription or has she paid for the tablets?

If she didn't pay did someone pay for her, if so who?

- ❖ You enter a multi occupancy home and there are a number of rooms with at least 4 people sleeping in each. Everyone is very worried about speaking to you and one person does all the talking for the others?

What is said?

Is the property safe?

Do they people look frightened or afraid?

Is there any justification about where they have come from?

Should you get an interpreter?

Does it matter if you can't speak to all of the people involved?

- ❖ A 15 year old boy is found miles away from his home address with some drugs on him. He doesn't want to speak but does say he was dropped off there by someone.

Is he involved with county lines?

County Lines is also linked to trafficking?

What does he say about the drugs?

## Appendix 5 - Child Sexual Exploitation

### Concern or Not?

Each example below is fictitious and could be a concern linking to CSE, they have been designed to promote discussion within your organisation/team or just for yourself which is why there have been some questioned posed underneath.

- ❖ A 15 year old comes to have an STI screening and is found to have chlamydia.

They are under the age of 16.

Who did they attend the test with?

What information did they give about their sexual history?

Are they overly concerned about parents/carers knowing?

- ❖ A 15 year old goes missing, which is not unusual, however this time they are overheard talking about what they did in London and how great it was staying at a hotel with older 'friends'.

What comments are they making?

Do they mention who they have gone with?

If they give details about what they did do you think they could afford this with their own money?

Did they mention going with anyone else?

- ❖ A 15 year old keeps coming home high on cannabis and smelling of alcohol.

Where are they getting the drugs and alcohol from?

How can they afford the drugs and alcohol?

Who are they taking the drugs and alcohol with?

- ❖ A 17 year old girl has made comments about how her girlfriend is older and can sometimes tell her what to do.

Has she had support about LGBTQ+ needs?

Is her relationship respectful?

Does she have a support network to discuss her concerns?

## Appendix 6 – RISE Referral Process



Amended version  
CSE-ASSESSMENT-Fin



## Appendix 7 - Support Agencies available to vulnerable children

Often young people who are victims of child exploitation face other vulnerability issues which can impact on them. Drug use, alcohol use, sexual transmitted infections or new mental health concerns can indicate that a young person is being abused in the form of child exploitation. It could also be that a young person had some vulnerability issues which due to the exploitation have now been exasperated. Below is a list of services to support young people with any additional vulnerability which they might be facing.

### Rape and Sexual Assault Centre

- ❖ [Rape and sexual assault referral centres - Serenity - Northamptonshire SARC](#)

### Domestic Violence

- ❖ Sunflower Centre – Support for all victims of domestic abuse – 01604 888211 - [Sunflower](#)
- ❖ Women's Aid / Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service – an organisation run to support men and women escaping from domestic abuse – 0300 0120154 - [NDAS](#)

### Specific Drug and Alcohol Services

- ❖ Aquarius - A highly recommended service called who can be contacted on 0300 456 4292, they are based on St Giles Street in Northampton and can support a range of addictive behaviours, such as drug and alcohol problems.

### Victim Support

- ❖ Victim Support – This organisation provides lots of information for parents about how to keep their children safe, they have also produced a toolkit for parents and their website contains lots of useful links for further support - [Resources to support your child | Victim Support](#)

### Other Organisations

- ❖ TPS (Telephone Preference Service) – this is a national organisations that help you block calls from people and organisations you may not want to hear from - [TPS](#)

## Wellbeing, Mental Health and Physical Health

- ❖ The Lowdown – Another highly recommended service based in Northampton which offers young people a range of support, from self-harm, to sexual health advice to counselling. They also have support for young people who are part of the LGBTQ community and can work with any young person between the ages of 12 to 25. They can be contacted on 01604 634385 and their website offers lots of advice - [THE LOWDOWN](#)
- ❖ BACP – British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy. On the BACP website there are some useful links and information on counselling, something which at some point may be helpful for you or your child. It is very important that if you are recommending your child goes to a counselling service that they are ready for this and made the decision to attend freely - [BACP](#)
- ❖ CAMHs - CAMHs can support with specific mental health concerns you will need to have your child referred to them via certain routes such as from your GP or Social Worker, the information on referral processes is available here - [CAMHs](#)
- ❖ Sexual health testing services and other support such as free condoms and emergency contraception can be found at hundreds of venues around Northamptonshire, a full list of these services can be found at the following link – [NHS services](#)
- ❖ The NHS has a great website called Your pregnancy and baby guide, this will support you with the questions you will be asked and what will happen during your pregnancy, a useful website if you are anxious about your pregnancy due to any historic abuse you may have experienced - [Your antenatal care - NHS](#)
- ❖ Mind – support for all types of mental health concerns, their website also has a link for people who feel like they may need urgent help to manage a crisis – 0300 1233393 or text 86463 their website can also offer lots of information - [Mind](#)
- ❖ Jonny's Happy Place – a weekend run center in Kettering supporting people who may be struggling with an aspect of their mental health - [JHP](#)
- ❖ The Samaritans – help when you are feeling you need to talk to someone, they don't just deal with suicide but will listen to anyone, any time, any problem – 116 123 - [Samaritans](#)

- ❖ Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM), support for Men who are struggling with suicidal thoughts – 0800 585858 – [CALM](#)
- ❖ Crisis cafés – These drop in centers (open Mon-Tues 5-10pm and Sat 2-10pm) are run by Mental Health professionals who are there to support people to reduce the risk of a crisis with their mental health - 01604 634310/624951 – [Crisis cafés | NHFT](#)
- ❖ me2Talk, Service 6 and Youth Works offer counselling support for young people as well as helping with other problems. Time2Talk – 01327 706706, Service 6 – 01933 277520, Youth Works – 01536 518339. The Time2Talk website has links to all three - [Time2Talk](#)
- ❖ The Mix – 0808 808 4994 – helping with all types of issues such as mental health, money, break ups and drug use. The service is only for people under 25 years old – [The Mix](#)

### **Education, Training and Employment**

- ❖ The Princes Trust – A youth charity that helps young people aged 11 to 30 get into jobs, education and training – 0800 842842 – [The Prince's Trust | Youth Can Do It](#)
- ❖ Corby – [Student Support | Tresham College](#)
- ❖ Northampton – [Northampton College - College life, bursaries and financial support](#)
- ❖ Wellingborough – [Student Support | Tresham College](#)
- ❖ Kettering – [Student Support | Tresham College](#)
- ❖ Moulton – [Moulton College Student Welfare / Support - Moulton College](#)

## Drug and Alcohol Services

- ❖ Bridge – drug and alcohol support for 18 year old and above in Northamptonshire, they can offer mentoring and befriending services, housing support and mental health support - [Bridge](#) – 01604 621259
- ❖ NGAGE With Aquarius Young people drug and alcohol service with workers based in each locality offering prevention, brief advice and information, schools drop ins and 1:1 support for young people misusing drugs and/or Alcohol. 01604 633848 <https://aquarius.org.uk/our-services/ngage-northamptonshire/>

## Employment

- ❖ Goodwill Solutions – supporting people in Northamptonshire to gain employment skills in their back to work program – 01604 422464 - [Learning Academy | Goodwill Solutions](#)
- ❖ The Princes Trust – A youth charity that helps young people aged 11 to 30 get into jobs, education and training – 0800 842842 – [The Prince's Trust | Youth Can Do It](#)
- ❖ The Good Loaf – an organisations which provides employment opportunities to vulnerable local women to help break the cycle of poverty, unemployment and offending. – 01604 824084 - [The Good Loaf - Home](#)

## Getting out of a gang

- ❖ CIRV Northampton – helping people get out of gangs, housing and employment opportunities. They will take any one of any age. CIRV Northampton – CIRV - Community Initiative to Reduce Violence If you are in a gang and want to get out ring 07539 183975 24 hours a day 7 days a week. We have a team ready to help you. <http://www.aimonline.org.uk/CIRV/>
- ❖ Gangsline – London based support for getting out of gangs and leading a different life. Their website has information and you can phone them on 01322305105 - [Gangsline](#)

## Sexual Abuse Support

- ❖ Northampton Rape Crisis, Support for anyone affected by sexual abuse and rape. - 01604 250721 - [Northamptonshire Rape Crisis](#)
- ❖ Survivors UK, Support for men who have been victims of sexual abuse or rape - 02035983898 - [Male Rape And Sexual Abuse | SurvivorsUK](#)
- ❖ Serenity – Provide support for anyone who has been a victim of rape or serious sexual assault – 01604 601713 - [Serenity Northants](#)
- ❖ Sunflower Centre – Support for all victims of domestic abuse – 01604 888211 - [Sunflower](#)
- ❖ NSPCC – The NSPCC have a section on their website for adults who were abused as children – 0808 8005000 - [Non-recent abuse | NSPCC](#)
- ❖ NAPAC (National Association for People Abused in Childhood), website has information on local support, national groups and they run a free support line – 0808 8010331 - [NAPAC](#)
- ❖ Women's Aid / Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service – an organisation run to support men and women escaping from domestic abuse – 0300 0120154 - [NDAS](#)

## Modern Slavery & Trafficking

- ❖ National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is part of the National Crime Agency and is there to support victims of trafficking or modern slavery, you do need to be referred to this service, but the website does explain everything and could be a helpful starting point – speak to the Police on 101 or - [National Crime Agency - National Referral Mechanism](#)
- ❖ Daughters of Eve – an organisations which supports women who have been the victims of FGM. Their website is full of links to other organisations and how to get help – Text 07983030488 - [Daughters of Eve - Home](#)

## Homelessness

- ❖ Hope Centre Northampton offer support for those who are homeless or struggling with poverty related issues, you can call them on 0845 5199371 - [What we do – Hope Centre](#)
- ❖ NAASH / Oasis House – support for homeless people, substance misuse, people working within the sex industry, medical services and housing advice – 0845 206 8646 - [NAASH](#)

## Physical Health and Wellbeing

- ❖ The NHS has a great website called Your pregnancy and baby guide, this will support you with the questions you will be asked and what will happen during your pregnancy, a useful website if you are anxious about your pregnancy due to any historic abuse you may have experienced - [Your antenatal care - NHS](#)
- ❖ Mind – support for all types of mental health concerns, there website also has a link for people who feel like they may need urgent help to manage a crisis – 0300 1233393 or text 86463 there website can also offer lots of information - [Mind](#)
- ❖ Jonny's Happy Place – a weekend run center in Kettering supporting people who may be struggling with an aspect of their mental health - [JHP](#)
- ❖ Sexual health testing services and other support such as free condoms and emergency contraception can be found at hundreds of venues around Northamptonshire, a full list of these services can be found at the flowing link – [NHS services](#)
- ❖ British Red Cross – Links to subjects such as loneliness and getting support at home – 0344 8711111 - [British Red Cross](#)
- ❖ The Samaritans – help when you are feeling you need to talk to someone, they don't just deal with suicide but will listen to anyone, any time, any problem – 116 123 - [Samaritans](#)
- ❖ Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM), support for Men who are struggling with suicidal thoughts – 0800 585858 – [CALM](#)
- ❖ ChildLine for children and young people under the age of 19 to help you with a range of problems and concerns – 0800 1111 - [Childline](#)
- ❖ Crisis cafés – These drop in centers (open Mon-Tues 5-10pm and Sat 2-10pm) are run by Mental Health professionals who are there to support people to reduce the risk of a crisis with their mental health - 01604 634310/624951 – [Crisis cafés | NHFT](#)

### **Range of Support in one place**

- ❖ The Lowdown which is based in Northampton – will offer support with counselling, drugs, STI testing, mental health concerns and much more – 01604 622223 - [THE LOWDOWN](#)
- ❖ C2C Social Action – support for ex-offenders they are based just off Overstone Road in Northampton and you can call them on 01604 824080 - [C2C Charitable Trust](#)
- ❖ The Mix – 0808 808 4994 – helping with all types of issues such as mental health, money, break ups and drug use. The service is only for people under 25 years old – [The Mix](#)

### **Other agencies and support networks**

- ❖ Adult Social Care in Northamptonshire – this organisation will support adults with a whole range of services from housing, health, caring someone else, getting support or a disability. You can phone on 0300 1261000 or access the website - [Adult social care - Adult social services](#)
- ❖ Reporting online material promoting terrorism or extremism - [GOV.UK](#)
- ❖ If you are concerned that your address or someone you knows address is being used by others often for criminal gain, this is called cuckooing you can get help and information about this from - [Police](#) or you can call Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111.
- ❖ TPS (Telephone Preference Service) – this is a national organisations that help you block calls from people and organisations you may not want to hear from - [TPS](#)
- ❖ Police – Telephone - 101



**Post 16 – support available from local Colleges or Northampton University you may wish to access the support available through them,**

- ❖ Northampton University – The University run a counselling support service at both St George’s Avenue and the Waterfront Campus, which can offer students up to 6 sessions of specialist counselling support or they may signpost you to different services if they feel this may be more useful. The can be contacted on 01604 892833 or email [counsellors@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:counsellors@northampton.ac.uk)
- ❖ Corby – [Student Support | Tresham College](#)
- ❖ Northampton – [Northampton College - College life, bursaries and financial support](#)
- ❖ Wellingborough – [Student Support | Tresham College](#)
- ❖ Kettering – [Student Support | Tresham College](#)
- ❖ Moulton – [Moulton College Student Welfare / Support - Moulton College](#)



## Appendix 8 – Definitions

**Abuse** – can be a single act or something which happens over a long period of time. It can be a multitude of different things such as discrimination, physical, financial, sexual or psychological

**Child Criminal Exploitation** - has been defined within the Home Office Serious Violence Crime Strategy (2018) where “an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology”.

**Child grooming** - Grooming involves someone befriending a child by gaining their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse, exploitation or [trafficking](#). Children and young people can be groomed by a stranger or by someone they know and with the increase in the use of social media, it's becoming easier for offenders to approach and begin [talking to young people online](#).

**Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**, there will be one at a child's school who will be able to support any concerns you are having or they will be able to signpost you to the appropriate service.

**Gang** – It has been simplified so that a gang is now defined as having one or more characteristics that enable its members to be identified as a group by others. Many of the definitions of a gang focus on criminal behaviour, however a child or young person may not see a lot of anti-social behaviour or petty crime as criminal and may not feel they are in a gang because to them, it's just their group of friends.

**Reducing Incidents of Sexual Exploitation (RISE)** – The RISE Team are run jointly by the Police, County Council and Health to provide support and education for young people who are victims of CSE.

**Victim Blaming Language** – this is sometimes done with no malice but it can be very damaging. The language which is used to describe young people who are victims of exploitation needs to be carefully considered, the following short film explains that [Video Clip](#). If you are concerned about the language that is used then you have every right to raise this with the person who is speaking to you or follow the specific organisations complaints procedure.

**Youth Offending Service (YOS)** – This is an organisation which works with 10-18 year olds who have committed a criminal act. Like Social Care they are governed by the government and have Ofsted inspections to make sure that they are working appropriately.