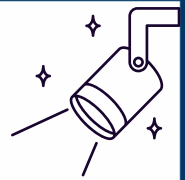




SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT



Exploitation

**WARNING – SOME OF THE CONTENT IN THIS EDITION MAY BE TRIGGERING.
PLEASE SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM IF YOU WOULD LIKE SUPPORT**

What is Exploitation?

Exploitation can happen when a child or young person is manipulated or pressured into a situation that may impact on them negatively, and at times may really hurt; this can happen by one person or a group of people.

They may use different things to build a relationship with the young person to gain their trust like: food, clothes, a place to go, drugs and alcohol, and giving them affection, friendship, time, pretending to love, care and offer protection. They trick and manipulate children and young people to gain their trust; this gives them power over the child or young person so they can control them and get them to do what they want.

They may abuse the child or young person physically, sexually, emotionally or get them in trouble by being made to do illegal things. This can happen in person or online. All of this can be difficult to recognise for children and young people and can lead to confusion.

Watch [THIS VIDEO](#) for a full explanation and overview of exploitation

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. Child sexual exploitation is a term used to describe where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child under the age of 18 into sexual activity. The child may have been sexually exploited even where the sexual activity appears consensual. For instance, the child might have been led to believe they are in a consensual relationship with the person. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology, such as social media and gaming apps. It's important that people recognise that exploitation is child sexual abuse and should be seen as such.

[READ MORE ABOUT CSE](#)

[READ MORE ABOUT CCE](#)

CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION (CCE)

Criminal exploitation is when an individual or a group manipulates, deceives, coerces or controls someone under the age of 18 to take part in any activity which breaks the law. All children are at risk of criminal exploitation, including girls.

You may have heard the term "[county lines](#)," this is one form of criminal exploitation. It is when people involved in criminal activity identify, target and befriend children, either online or offline, and manipulate them into dealing drugs or other activities across geographical areas.

Criminal exploitation can take many forms, from making children hold, hide or deliver drugs, money or weapons, to forcing children to steal, harm others or beg.

Children can also be exploited in other ways, such as through sexual exploitation. Sometimes a child can be exploited criminally and sexually at the same time.

SIGNS OF EXPLOITATION

It can sometimes be difficult to spot the signs of exploitation. Some common ones are:

- Missing episodes
 - Skipping college/school
 - Multiple Phones
 - New unexplained clothing or gifts
 - Older/Adult friends
 - Experimenting with drugs
- [Click HERE for a comprehensive list.](#)

NRM – NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.

Modern slavery is a complex crime and may involve multiple forms of exploitation. It encompasses:

- human trafficking
- slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour

An individual could have been a victim of human trafficking and/or slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.

Victims may not be aware that they are being trafficked or exploited, and may have consented to elements of their exploitation, or accepted their situation. If you think that modern slavery has taken place, the case should be referred to the NRM so that the relevant competent authority can fully consider the case. You do not need to be certain that someone is a victim.

This guidance explains how first responders should complete the referral form before it is considered by the relevant competent authority within the Home Office.



'Cuckooing' is a form of criminal exploitation and the term used when criminals use or takes over a person's home for criminal purposes such as to cut, prepare, store or deal drugs or storing firearms and money relating to drugs. Criminals will often target and exploit adults who have vulnerabilities.

HOW WILL COLLEGE SUPPORT ME IF I HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF EXPLOITATION ?

The safeguarding team sit on the local vulnerable persons group, so may be aware if you have been recognised as a victim of exploitation in the Middlesbrough area.

You will be treated as a victim and offered support, your concerns will be taken seriously.

If any staff member has a concern that you are being exploited, they will speak to you about this and chat through their concerns, this will be shared with the safeguarding team and at this point someone may call home and make a referral to social services for support. If a crime has been committed they will need to report this to police.

If you have any criminal convictions as a direct impact of your exploitation you will need to declare these to the safeguarding team, a safety plan will be put in place if required and risk assessment may be carried out. They will communicate with any external services supporting you, and will keep them up to date with your progress at college.

Please be aware we cannot guarantee confidentiality.

There may be times we have to share information with local authorities, police or parents/carers, regardless of age. Drop into the wellbeing centre, email safeguarding@mbro.ac.uk, text SAFE to 60081 or speak to a tutor.