

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

April 2023



ST MARY'S
COLLEGE

CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION – THE LOCAL LANDSCAPE

There are 22 known Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) that have been identified in Hull and the East Riding

- 17 in Hull
- 5 in East Riding

Primary Threats Hull

- 9 x Drugs
- 5 x County Lines
- 1 x CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation)
- 1 x Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- 1 x Organised Acquisitive Crime

Primary Threats – East Riding

- 2 x Drugs
- 2 x County Lines

Of the 22 mapped OCGs operating across Hull and the East Riding, 8 were identified as having children and young people involved. That's over 36% of OCGs identified as having children / young people associated to it.

The common theme is that CCE (Child Criminal Exploitation) has overtaken CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation).

County Lines and Organised Acquisitive Crime OCGs are the most common type of OCGs that are linked to children and young people.

Who is affected by CCE?

- Vulnerable children and those who do not have support networks are particularly at risk.
- Gangs and other exploiters target children with special educational needs, mental health difficulties or disabilities. Those exploiting children and young people also look for emotional vulnerability, such as children experiencing problems at home, absent parents or bereavement. Exploiters seek to fill that emotional gap for the child and become their 'family'.
- Boys are more likely to be exploited in this way but girls are also affected. The most common age for children to be exploited is between the ages of 15 and 16 but it can also affect children below the age of 11.
- Gangs and other exploiters are increasingly looking to recruit 'clean skins' i.e., children with no previous criminal record who are unlikely to be stopped by the police. Looked after children, particularly those in residential children's homes and those who have been placed out of their home area, are often targeted for exploitation.



What is Child Criminal Exploitation

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) occurs when 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. 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. Criminal exploitation of children is broader than just County Lines and includes, for instance, children forced to work on cannabis farms or to commit theft, as defined in Home Office guidance published in September 2018.

County Lines is a model of exploitation. The term county lines is 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. This type of movement of children falls within the legal definition of trafficking in the Modern Slavery Act 2015. Child trafficking is defined as the 'recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt' of a child for the purpose of exploitation.

CCE needs to be viewed in the context of broader vulnerabilities and other forms of exploitation and abuse. This could be within families, communities or more sophisticated organised crime groups.

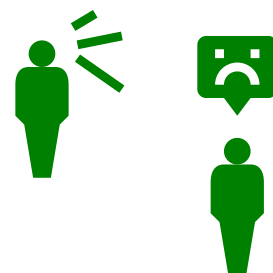
There needs to be consideration around the overlap and links between familial violence and/or criminality; trauma; peer to peer abuse; CSE; gang violence; going missing; trafficking and modern-day slavery.

It is important to highlight that the harm children experience when they are exploited happens outside of the home and is extra-familial. Therefore, it is important to understand the contexts within which the harm occurs in order to be able to safeguard the child.

Risk indicators for CCE

Anyone working with children and young people should be aware of the following risk indicators to help identify CCE:

- Persistently going missing from school or home and/ or being found outside of the area where they live;
- Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes, or mobile phones;
- Excessive receipt of texts/ phone calls;
- Relationships with controlling/ older individuals or groups;
- Regularly leaving their home without explanation;
- Suspicion of physical assault/ unexplained injuries;
- Significant decline in educational attainment and attendance.



USEFUL RESOURCES:

- <https://notinourcommunity.org/>

KEY REMINDERS

- The Contextual Safeguarding Priorities for SMC are Neglect and Mental Health and Wellbeing

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Andy Turner

Deputy DSL (DDSL): Rosa Flanagan

A banner for the Safeguarding Team at St Mary's College. It features the college's crest and logo on the left. On the right, there are two rows of portraits. The top row shows the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mr A Turner) and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Miss R Flanagan). The bottom row shows four Safeguarding Officers: Mrs S Appleyard, Mrs N Gibson, Miss K Leathley, and Mrs R Lusham. At the bottom of the banner, it says 'World Class Thinking - World Class Achieving' and 'World Class'.