



SAFEGUARDING

OUR BI-MONTHLY SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

JANUARY FEBRUARY 2023 • EXPLOITATION



WHAT'S INSIDE?

In our latest issue we will be discussing the exploitation of adults and what this can include,

If you require further support please see the links on the last page of the document.

INTRODUCTION

Exploitation is the deliberate manipulation of abuse of power used to have control over another person, usually for some form of gain. This can be for a range of reasons including personal, sexual or financial.

Exploitation can take many forms, the most common forms of exploitation are;

- Sexual Exploitation
- Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking
- Radicalisation
- County Lines
- Scamming
- Blackmail
- Fraud
- Mate Crime

We will breakdown these forms of exploitation in this newsletter, and discuss possible signs of exploitation and what actions to take if you suspect abuse, exploitation or neglect is taking place.

DEFINITION

Exploitation is the deliberate manipulation of abuse of power used to have control over another person, usually for some form of gain.





SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Adult Sexual Exploitation (ASE) is a form of sexual abuse that involves someone taking advantage of an adult, sexually, for their own benefit through threats, bribes, and violence. Perpetrators usually hold power over their victims, due to age, gender, sexual identity, physical strength or status.

Anybody can be a victim of sexual exploitation. While it mainly affects women, men can also be victims.

Adults can be sexually exploited in many ways. Examples include:

- rape
- sexual assault
- being tricked or manipulated into having sex or performing a sexual act
- being trafficked into, out of, or around the UK for the purpose of sexual exploitation (i.e. prostitution)
- being forced to take part in or watch pornography
- being victim to revenge porn (when a previously taken video or photograph, which was taken with or without consent, is shared online)

Common signs that someone is being sexually exploited include those listed below. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and that warning signs will show themselves differently in each person. It is important to explore all concerns over someone's behaviour and personal circumstances and to consider whether these could be signs of exploitation.

- evidence or suspicions of sexual assault
- self-harm or significant changes in emotional wellbeing
- developing inappropriate or unusual relationships or associations, including relationships with controlling or significantly older people
- displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour, language or dress
- being isolated from peers and social networks
- unexplained absences, including persistently being late or going missing
- unexplained acquisition of money, clothes and mobile phones.
- using more than one phone, especially if both are used to communicate with different people (for example, if one phone is used exclusively to communicate with a specific group of 'friends')
- receiving an excessive amount of texts or phone calls – these may be from multiple callers, some of whom may be unknown.

MODERN SLAVERY

Modern slavery is the act of exercising control or ownership over another person and using this power to exploit them.

Modern slavery can take many forms, such as:

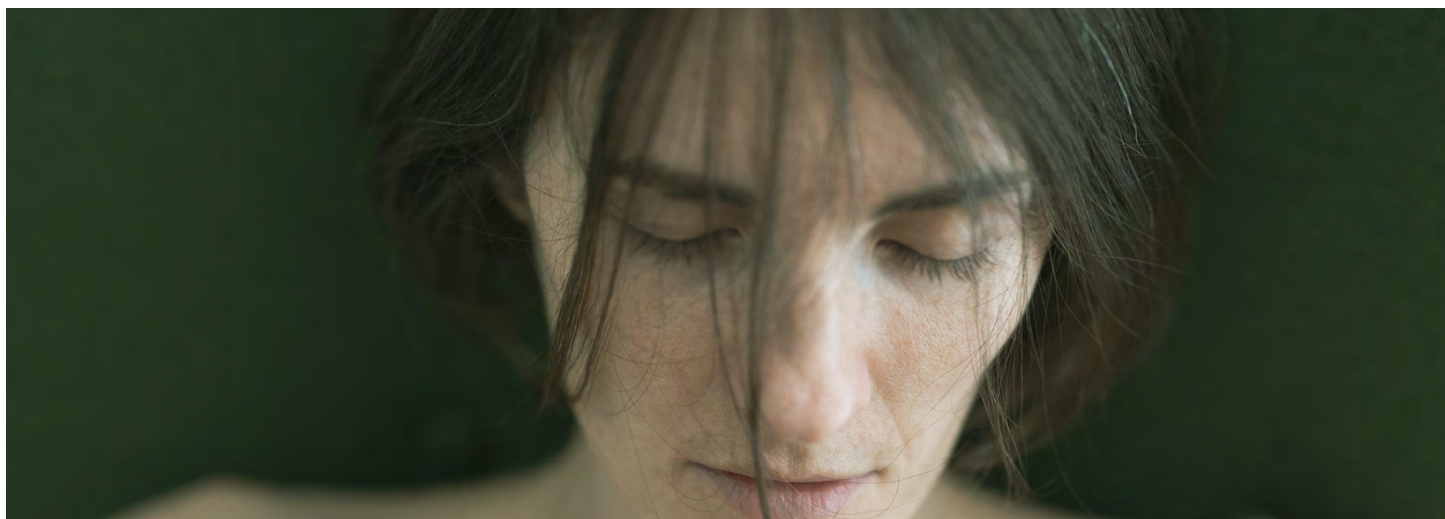
- forced labour – forcing someone to work against their will, often working very long hours for little or no pay, in poor conditions under verbal or physical threats of violence to them or their families
- sexual exploitation – forcing someone to perform non-consensual or abusive acts against their will
- criminal exploitation – forcing someone into crimes against their will, such as cannabis cultivation or pick-pocketing
- debt bondage – forcing someone to work to pay off debts that realistically they will never be able to do due to low wages or increased debts
- domestic servitude – forcing someone to carry out housework or domestic chores in private households with little or no pay, restricted movement, very limited or no free time and minimal privacy, often sleeping where they work

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery. It is a criminal act that involves the movement of persons with the intent to exploit them. Trafficking can occur within the same street, within the UK, across county borders, and also internationally.

People are victims of human trafficking if they have been moved for the purposes of exploitation, even if this exploitation is yet to take place.

People can be trafficked for many different forms of exploitation such as forced prostitution, forced labour, forced begging, forced criminality, forced marriage, domestic servitude and forced organ removal. Traffickers and 'slave masters' use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.



Common signs that someone is being exploited include those listed below. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and that warning signs will show themselves differently in each person. It is important to explore all concerns over someone's behaviour and personal circumstances and to consider whether these could be signs of exploitation.

- lacking personal items and identity documents – these may be in the possession of another person
- fearful or withdrawn behaviour, or efforts made to disguise this
- having their communication controlled by another person – may act as though they are instructed by or dependent on someone else
- tattoos or other marks indicating ownership
- physical or psychological abuse, ill health, exhaustion or injury – may look unkempt and malnourished.
- working and living in the same location or building
- dirty, cramped, unhygienic or overcrowded accommodation, including shared houses, caravans, sheds, tents and outbuildings
- working in a job different to that specified at the time of recruitment.
- reluctance or inability to provide details about their personal circumstances – such as work or accommodation addresses

RADICALISATION

Radicalisation is the process through which people come to support increasingly extreme political, religious or other ideals. This can lead them to support violent extremism and terrorism.

People can 'self-radicalise', by reading or listening to extremist literature or speakers. More commonly, there may be an individual or group actively seeking to persuade others to adopt their views.

Belief in an extremist cause and membership of an extremist group can offer people a sense of purpose, identity and community. This may be particularly appealing to someone who is experiencing difficulties and challenges in their life

Signs that someone is being radicalised may be (but are not limited to):

- isolation or withdrawal from family and friends
- obsession with and secrecy around the internet and social networking sites
- becoming uncooperative and disengaged
- using abusive, aggressive or extremist views/comments/threats/language
- a fascination with weapons, chemicals, explosives or extremist activity and events
- significant changes in relationships
- the use of seemingly scripted speech
- change in behaviour or appearance due to new influences
- seeking to recruit or 'groom' others to an extremist ideology
- possession of violent extremist literature

COUNTY LINES

County lines is when criminals from larger cities expand their drug networks to other areas of the country – usually rural and suburban areas.

The crime is called county lines because dealers use dedicated mobile phone 'lines' to supply drugs. These criminals often exploit vulnerable adults to move and store drugs and money and regularly use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

County lines activity can still be exploitation even if it appears consensual. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence.

Sometimes drug dealers will take over the home of a vulnerable person – this is known as cuckooing.

Common signs that someone is being exploited include those listed below. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and that warning signs will show themselves differently in each person. It is important to explore all concerns over someone's behaviour and personal circumstances and to consider whether they could be signs of exploitation

- becoming more secretive, aggressive or violent
- meeting with unfamiliar people
- persistently going missing – someone may go missing from their home or local area when they are trafficking drugs along 'deal lines'
- leaving home without explanation or staying out unusually late



- loss of interest in school, college or work and decline in performance
- suspicion of physical assault or unexplained injuries – including 'DIY injuries', (knife and puncture wounds) which are signs of punishment for drug-related debts
- using language relating to drug dealing, violence or gangs
- carrying a weapon.
- associating with a gang
- becoming isolated from peers and social networks
- having a friendship or relationship with someone who appears older or controlling
- using drugs, especially if their drug use has increased
- unexplained acquisition of money, drugs or mobile phones.

SCAMMING

Scamming is when someone misleads or deceives you through unsolicited or uninvited contact in order to obtain money.

There are two main types of scams:

- A mass marketing scam is a misleading or deceptive business practice where the person is 'cold-called' (unsolicited or uninvited contact) by letter, email, phone or advertisement and false promises are made to obtain money.
- A doorstep scam is where victims are cold-called at their homes and persuaded to part with money.

It's easier to spot a scam if you know what to look for. Be careful if:

- an opportunity comes out of the blue or from someone you don't know
- something sounds out of the ordinary – such as winning the lottery, or being invited to invest in an 'amazing' scheme which must be kept secret
- you are asked to pay for something in advance – especially by bank transfer
- you are asked for personal information – such as bank details, computer passwords or PIN numbers
- you are pressured into buying something or making a decision quickly – a trustworthy company will be happy to wait
- you are asked to phone an expensive number – these usually start with 070, 084, 087, 090, 091 or 098

BLACKMAIL

Blackmail is a form of exploitation and can involve emotional abuse.

It is an act of coercion, often criminal, using the threat of revealing or publicising either substantially true or false, and often damaging, information about a person, to the public, family members, or associates unless certain demands are met.

It may involve using threats of physical or emotional harm, or of criminal prosecution, against the victim or someone close to the victim. It is normally carried out for personal gain – most commonly of position, money (a type of financial abuse), or property.

FRAUD

Fraud is when someone tricks or deceives you to gain a dishonest advantage – usually money, goods, services or property.

Anyone is susceptible to fraud, and every day criminals invent new ways of taking money from innocent people.

If you think that you've already experienced fraud, you should report the crime or incident to Action Fraud, not your local police service (unless it is an emergency). Action Fraud will initiate any necessary police investigation into your loss.

MATE CRIME

Mate crime is when a person is harmed or taken advantage of by someone they thought was their friend.

This can include a friend asking for money and refusing to give it back or emotional or physical abuse by a person who was thought to be a friend.

Certain factors may make a person more susceptible to mate crime:

- having limited close family or friends
- a physical or learning disability
- mental health issues
- misusing drugs and/or alcohol
- isolation from the community
- having low self esteem

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

If you suspect sexual exploitation please talk to the **designated safeguarding team**. If it is an emergency always contact **999**.

MODERN SLAVERY

If you suspect modern slavery or human trafficking please report it to the designated safeguarding. If there is immediate danger always call 999.

RADICALISATION

If you are worried that someone is being radicalised please contact the police on 999.

If you are concerned that someone is being radicalised in your workplace, and there is no immediate danger, please talk to the prevent lead.

COUNTY LINES

You can speak to your local police by dialling 101, or in an emergency 999.

If you suspect someone is being exploited please talk to the **designated safeguarding team**

SCAMMING

If you think that you've been scammed, you should report the crime or incident to **Action Fraud**, not your local police service (unless it is an emergency). Action Fraud will initiate any necessary police investigation into your loss.

BLACKMAIL

If you suspect blackmail please talk to the **designated safeguarding team**. If it is an emergency always contact **999**.

FRAUD

If you think that you've already experienced fraud, you should report the crime or incident to **Action Fraud**, not your local police service (unless it is an emergency). Action Fraud will initiate any necessary police investigation into your loss.

MATE CRIME

If you think that someone is taking advantage of you or someone you know: speak to the designated safeguarding team or someone you trust, **do not** tell the person who is pretending to be your friend.

OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Contact Steadfast Training's Safeguarding team on 0845 223 2401 or email safe-guarding@steadfasttraining.co.uk

Our Safeguarding Officers

Robert Wright - 07985338185
Alison Law - 07720092609
Chloe Robinson - 07985338116

[Report a Safeguarding Issue](#)



9 PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage & Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy & Maternity
- Race
- Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

PREVENT DUTY

The Prevent Duty is part of the government strategy to reduce the risk of Extremism, Terrorism and Radicalisation.

[View our Prevent Leaflet](#)

Report possible terrorist activity online If you are concerned about someone or see anything suspicious call the local police or the police anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321.

BRITISH VALUES

British Values are defined as;

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.