



7 minute briefing on Child Exploitation

Background:

Child exploitation (CE) occurs when a child or young person is groomed or coerced into an exploitative situation through the use of exploitative relationships. These relationships are characterised by an imbalance of power and the use of controlling behaviours to keep the child or young person in a dependent position.

2. What is CE:

There are 2 main forms of CE; child sexual exploitation (CSE) and child criminal exploitation (CCE). Children and young people may not identify themselves as being 'exploited' but it is clearly to their detriment that they are involved in these activities.

7. Questions to consider / actions:

Do you know what to do when you suspect that a child or young person is a victim of exploitation?

- Complete the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Screening Tool (with the child or young person unless it is unsafe to do so):

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/safeguarding/lsc/p/8?documentId=258&categoryId=20076>

6. Local Issues:

Complete a Partnership Information Report (known locally as Operation Insignia) if you have low-level information that you wish to share with Lincolnshire Police. It helps to support vulnerable children and adults as information provided can help form a picture of the situation and allow police to take further action in investigating an issue:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/xfp/form/382>



5. The warning signs:

- Sexual health and behaviour
- Absent from school/running away
- Familial abuse/problems at home
- Emotional and physical condition
- Gangs and involvement in crime
- Use of technology and sexual bullying
- Alcohol and drug misuse
- Receipt of unexplained gifts or money
- Distrust of authority figures

3. How are C&YP exploited: CSE:

Children and young people (C&YP) are given things, such as gifts, drugs, money, status and affection in exchange for performing sexual activities. They are often tricked into believing that they are in a loving and consensual relationship. This is called grooming – they may trust their abuser and not understand that they are being abused. Children and young people who are exploited may also be used to 'find' and coerce others to join groups.

4. How are C&YP exploited: CCE:

Gangs 'recruit' and exploit children and young people to deal drugs or hide weapons on their behalf. Children are seen as an easily controlled, 'cheap' resource that often fall into some form of debt bondage resulting in violence and assaults. Victims are often used to operate phone lines (**County Lines**) in connection with, and delivery of, controlled drugs.