Child Criminal Exploitation

Child criminal exploitation is where an individual or group takes advantage of a child. The child is coerced, controlled, manipulated or deceived into taking part in criminal activities for another's benefit.

Boys and girls are both at risk of being criminally exploited.

Criminal exploitation can take many forms including:

- being coerced to move drugs or money across the country (one form is known as 'County Lines')
- being forced to work in cannabis factories
- forced to shoplift or pickpocket
- forced to "steal to order"
- made to threaten other young people and adults

If you are concerned that a child may be being criminally exploited, try matching the current concerns against the potential indicators listed opposite.

⇒ After reviewing the concerns for the child, if you feel they are at risk of being criminally exploited, please complete a Teeswide Child Exploitation VEMT Screening Tool: https://www.teescpp.org.uk/practice-tools/tees-wide-child-exploitation-screening-tool/

⇒ A child may also benefit from support through the South Tees MACH. To discuss the concerns with a worker, please contact: 01642 130700.

SKIPPING SCHOOL / GETTING EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL	
STAYING OUT LATE OR OVERNIGHT	
PERSISTENTLY GOING MISSING OR BEING FOUND OUT-OF-AREA	
FRIENDSHIP OR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OLDER ADULTS	
EXCESSIVE TIME SPENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA TALKING TO 'FRIENDS'	
EXCESSIVE RECEIPT OF UNEXPLAINED TEXTS / PHONE CALLS	
BECOMING WITHDRAWN OR ISOLATED FROM FAMILY / FRIENDS	
POOR MENTAL HEALTH OR SIGNS OF SELF-HARM	
CHANGES IN APPEARANCE (CLOTHES, HYGIENE ETC.)	
SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN MOOD OR BEHAVIOUR	
SECRETIVE BEHAVIOUR	
OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR / INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME	
INAPPROPRIATE OR SEXUALISED BEHAVIOUR	
RECURRENT SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS	
SUSPECTED DRUG AND/OR ALCOHOL MISUSE, OR SMOKING	
UNEXPLAINED USE OF MOBILE APPS—TOR, UBER, ETC	
UNEXPLAINED GIFTS / NEW POSSESSIONS OR MONEY	
UNEXPLAINED INJURIES AND SUSPICION OF PHYSICAL ASSAULTS	
USE OF COACHED RESPONSES SUCH AS "NO COMMENT", ETC	
SCORE:	

Targeting—Experience—Hooked—Trapped

The 4 Stages of CCE Grooming (The Children's Society)