

March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please be aware, this letter contains sensitive information surrounding Child Exploitation and Youth Violence.

Friday March 18th 2022 marks National Child Exploitation Awareness Day. There are many ways a young person could be exploited so we wanted to give you further information to raise awareness of this.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Criminal exploitation is child abuse where children and young people are manipulated and coerced into committing crimes. Children and young people involved with criminal exploitation need help and support. They might be victims of violence or pressured into doing things like stealing or carrying drugs or weapons. They might be abused, exploited and put into dangerous situations.

County Lines

County lines is the name given to drug dealing where organised criminal groups (OCGs) use phone lines to organise movement and supply of drugs, usually from cities into smaller towns and rural areas. They exploit vulnerable people, including children and those with mental health or addiction issues, by recruiting them to distribute the drugs, often referred to as ‘drug running’.

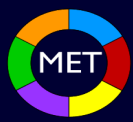
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child sexual exploitation is a type of sexual abuse. When a child or young person is exploited they're given things, like gifts, drugs, money, status and affection, in exchange for performing sexual activities. Children and young people are often tricked into believing they're in a loving and consensual relationship. This is called grooming. They may trust their abuser and not understand that they're being abused.

What are some common signs of exploitation?

 Persistently going missing from school or home, or being found out-of-area	 Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes or mobile phones	 excessive receipt of texts or phone calls	 Relationships with controlling, older individuals or gang association	 Leaving home or care without explanation
 Suspicion of self-harm, physical assault or unexplained injuries	 Parental concerns	 Significant decline in school performance	 Significant changes in emotional well-being	





Exploitation normally follows three stages:

- Recruitment - This can take various forms but can be described as a grooming process
- Control-This is an essential element in the process as it establishes the dominance of the perpetrator over the victim
- Exploitation

Where can I find out more?

You can find more information on both criminal exploitation and sexual exploitation on the PACE website – Parents Against Child Exploitation <https://paceuk.info/>

What can I do if I am worried about somebody being exploited?

If you are concerned that a young person could be being exploited you can report this directly to police on 101 (Call 999 if a child is in immediate danger) or via their website.

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/child-sexual-exploitation-cse/>

Speak with your Child's House Team or Safeguarding Team - Who are happy to give further support or advice.

Yours Sincerely,

Lacie Hooper
E-Safety Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead