

Children at a Risk of Exploitation



Child exploitation is a form of child abuse. It occurs where anyone under the age of 18 is persuaded, coerced or forced into sexual or criminal activity by other people.

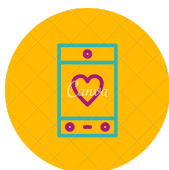
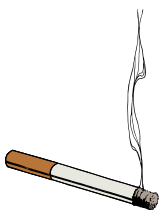


Is my child in danger?



A child might be criminally exploited if they:

- Regularly come home late or go missing.
- Have unexplained money, gifts or mobile phone.
- Are contacted by people you don't know (can be online)
- Are experimenting with alcohol or drugs
- Are secretive



TOP SECRET

- Are experiencing sexual bullying including sexting and sharing indecent images
- Have changed physical appearance or are displaying signs of eating disorders

If you have any doubts about the safety of your child, don't hesitate and ask for help.

How does Exploitation Happen?



An adult makes a contact with a child.

This can happen at school, in the park, on the street, at a club or through a friend.



The child is befriended by the offender.

The child is offered cigarettes, alcohol and possibly drugs.



The offender will gain love and trust of the child.

The child will then come back to the offender.

The offender will manipulate the child and will tell him/her to keep it a secret.

The child won't tell anybody about it in order to stay in the relationship with the offender.

After the child is manipulated, the offender will start to exploit the child.

He/she will persuade the child that in order to keep the relationship they must have sex, or do a criminal activity.

The offender might sell the child for sex, blackmail the child, emotionally manipulate him/her, threaten him/her, and supply him/her with drugs and alcohol. This child is then ashamed and scared to tell anyone about this and doesn't know how to escape the situation.



Child exploitation does not always involve physical contact and may occur as online abuse.



This is never a child's fault. It is a fault of the offender.

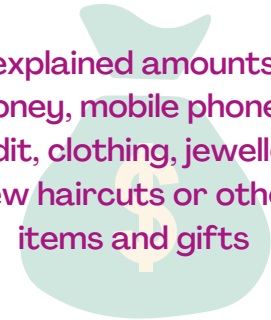
Child criminal exploitation is the manipulation, coercion and control of children and young people to commit crimes usually for the benefit of other abusive adults or peers. Here are some signs to look out for that can suggest that someone you know might be being criminally exploited.

Found with large quantities of drugs or weapons



Found with drugs inside rectum or vagina

Unexplained amounts of money, mobile phones, credit, clothing, jewellery, new haircuts or other items and gifts



Increasing use of drugs or alcohol

Frequent missing episodes and being found in a different area to where you live

Change in behaviour, ie more secretive, withdrawn, or isolated from peers, or not mixing with usual friends

Returned from missing episodes with injuries, or dishevelled appearance



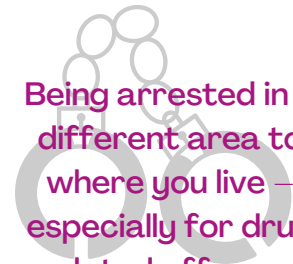
Disclosure of a sexual or physical assault, followed by withdrawal of the allegation

Entering or leaving vehicles/cars with unknown adults



How does Exploitation Happen?

Being arrested in a different area to where you live – especially for drug related offences



Self harm or significant changes in emotional well-being

Unexplained absences from, or not engaged in school, college, training, or work

Reports of being taken to parties, people's houses, unknown areas, hotels, nightclubs, takeaways or out of area by unknown adults

Increasingly disruptive, hostile or physically aggressive at home or school, including the use of sexualised language and language in relation to drug dealing and/or violence

Increased interest in making money

Fear of reprisal from gang members or violence from young people or adults

Expressions around invincibility or not caring about what happens to them

Abduction or forced imprisonment

Having multiple mobile phones, sim cards or use of a phone that causes concern eg multiple callers or more texts/pings than usual

New peer groups and/or relationships/Relationships with controlling or older individuals or groups



Keeping Teens Safe from Online Sexual Exploitation

Questions to ask



» Who do you video chat with online?



» Who are your friends on social media and how do you know them?

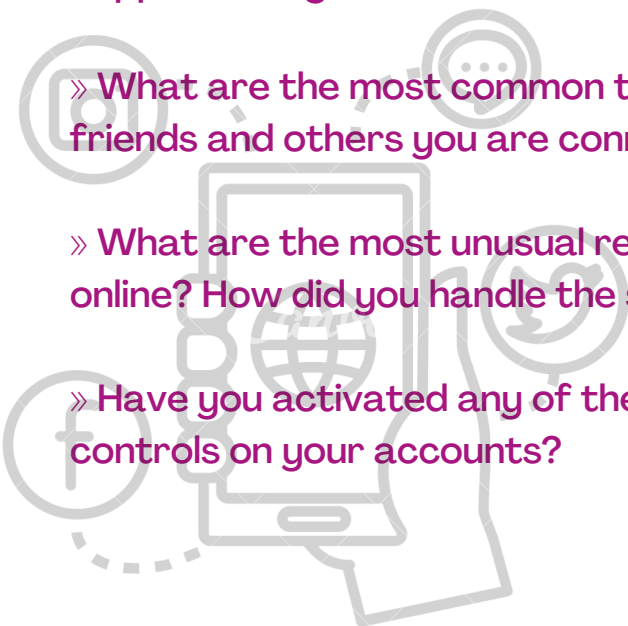
» Have you ever been asked for information/content that made you feel uncomfortable? If yes, have your child describe the event.

» Have any of your friends talked about a difficult situation s/he faced on the Internet? What are your views around what happened to your friend?

» What are the most common things you share with your friends and others you are connected to?

» What are the most unusual requests you have received online? How did you handle the situation(s)?

» Have you activated any of the privacy settings or other controls on your accounts?



Common Tactics Used by Adult Offenders with Teenagers:

Flattery:	used particularly on girls in an effort to take advantage of the societal importance placed on female beauty
Pity:	used to encourage a sympathetic response from a teen and coerce her/him into feeling as if s/he is in a friendship or sexual relationship
Sharing Sexually Explicit Material:	used to normalize sexual activity and desensitize a teen to believe sexual activity with adults is okay
Persistence:	used to wear down a teen's personal boundaries, often under the guise that the adult will stop after the teen gives her/him what s/he wants (which is never the case)
Uttering Threats:	used to terrify a teen to comply with a request for sexual content