

7 Minute Briefing: Exploitation

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Exploitation is a Key Priority in Walsall:

- [All Age Exploitation Reduction Strategy](#)
- Access the [Assessment Tool](#) and further information on Walsall Pathways, Procedures and Guidance
- Access the [WMP Partnership Form \(FIB\)](#)
- View the [WM Police Force Intelligence Bureau \(FIB\) Multi-Agency Information Sharing Video](#)
- View the [Exploitation Assessment Tool and Pathway Webinar](#)



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What is Exploitation?

Child exploitation is when a child or young person is tricked or forced into doing something sexual or criminal seemingly in return for things like love, affection, money, drugs or alcohol. Both grooming and sexual exploitation can happen in real life and online. In fact, online contact often plays a big part in sexual exploitation.

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Resources & Support

- [Exploitation Campaign Posters](#)
- [Home Office Disruption Toolkit](#)
- [Appropriate Language – Child Exploitation](#)
- [The Slang Dictionary](#)
- [WSP Exploitation information and resources](#)
- ❖ [Street Teams](#)
- ❖ [NWG Network](#)
- ❖ [CEOP](#)

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Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. *(Department for Education, 2017)*



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Contextual Safeguarding

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships. <https://contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/>

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Signs & Indicators of exploitation include:

- Acquisition of money, clothes, mobile phones without plausible explanation
- Gang-association and/or isolation from peers
- Exclusion or unexplained absences from school, college or work
- Persistently going missing or returning late
- Inappropriate sexualised behaviour for age
- Evidence of/suspicious of physical or sexual assault
- Relationships with controlling or significantly older individuals or groups
- Self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being

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Criminal Exploitation (CE)

Child criminal exploitation is common in county lines and occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. *(Home Office)*
Many of the characteristics of county lines will be present in other forms of child criminal exploitation. Likewise, victims of county lines may also experience other overlapping forms of exploitation.