

2-minute briefing

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

As set out in the Serious Violence Strategy, published by the Home Office, Child Criminal Exploitation is 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 into any criminal activity

- a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or
- b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or
- c) through violence or the threat of violence.

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.

North Lincolnshire utilises the definition of CCE which is set out in the serious violence strategy. CCE is that which:

Involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where a child (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them completing a task on behalf of another individual or group of individuals; this is often of a criminal nature.

Any young person can be groomed and exploited, but children with additional vulnerabilities maybe more at risk.

Indicators

Persistently going missing from school or home and/or being found out of area;

- Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes or mobile phones
- Excessive receipt of texts/phone calls and/or having multiple handsets
- Relationships with controlling/ older individuals or groups
- Leaving home/care without explanation
- Suspicion of physical assault/unexplained injuries
- Parental concerns
- Carrying weapons
- Significant decline in school results/performance
- Gang association or isolation from peers or social networks
- Self harm or significant changes in emotional wellbeing

Child criminal exploitation often occurs without the child's immediate recognition, with the child believing that they are in control of the situation. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economical and/or emotional vulnerability.

Responding to an incident

- Take the child seriously
- The pressures on the child to keep silent are enormous. Be patient, supportive and caring, plus stay calm.
- Inform the DSL immediately via the normal reporting and recording procedures
- Record verbatim what has been reported to you by the child

Further information

[Children's MARS Child Criminal Exploitation procedure \(northlincscmars.co.uk\)](http://northlincscmars.co.uk)

[CMARS | Children, young people and families \(northlincscmars.co.uk\)](http://northlincscmars.co.uk)

[CEOP](#)

[Children & YP trafficked for the purpose of CE in relation to county lines - toolkit for professionals](#)

[CE - Stages of recruitment document](#)

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