**Leicester City Council Children’s Social Care and Early Help**

**Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and County Lines**

**Practice Guidance**

# Introduction

This guidance has been written in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) which provides statutory guidance regarding the legislative requirements on agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This practice guidance is for practitioners to work in a multi-agency context, and to enable practitioners to increase their awareness and understanding of the risks for children who may be at risk of or experiencing Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE).

It has been designed to give agencies clear local guidance in relation to children who may be at risk of CCE, or who may currently be being exploited. It is important that there is a coordinated approach across all agencies when considering the risk to a child, and that the risk of CCE is assessed in all cases. And that if found to be existing at any level, it must be reported and worked with, alongside any other associated risk factors and actions within a child or young person’s assessment and plan around that child. The guidance also promotes information sharing across all agencies and a joined-up approach to risk reduction, as well as appropriate management oversight of those children vulnerable to criminal exploitation.

# Scope

The government guidance requires agencies to work together to:

* Develop local prevention strategies;
* Identify those at risk of exploitation;
* Take action to safeguard and promote the welfare of particular children and young people who may be criminally exploited;
* Take action against those who are intent on abusing and exploiting children and young people in this way.

**Legislation and Standards**

* Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation: Supplementary Guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children (DCSF 2009)
* Modern Slavery Act (2015)
* Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
* Safeguarding Children who may have been Trafficked (DFE 2009)
* Office of the Children Commissioner Report Gangs and Groups CDE
* Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: County Lines guidance (Home Office 2018)
* County Lines Violence, Exploitation & Drug Supply, National Briefing Report (Home Office, 2017)
* Children and Young Person’s Missing from home, Education or Care (2014)
* Child Exploitation Disruption Toolkit ( Home Office 2019)

**Policy Statement**

The guidance will provide an overview of:

* Risk indicators to establish if a child is at risk of being criminally exploited;
* The referral process when it is identified a child is at risk of being criminally exploited;
* Contact points for practitioners to receive advice and support;
* [Disruption strategies: The impact to children of being criminally exploited](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/794554/6.5120_Child_exploitation_disruption_toolkit.pdf).

The practice guidance is aimed at all practitioners who may encounter children and young people who may be at risk of being or may currently be being criminally exploited. The guidance is written in line with the Home Office Guidance published in September 18 around Criminal Exploitation and County Lines (Home Office, 2018).

# Key Principles

The key principles should be:

* A child-centred approach which is focused on the child's needs, including consideration of children with particular needs or sensitivities, and the fact that children do not always acknowledge what may be an exploitative or abusive situation. Assessments, planning and direct work with children and families would be informed by culture, race religion and heritage. and approached in a culturally informed way
* A proactive approach which is focused on prevention, early identification and intervention as well as disrupting activity and prosecuting perpetrators;
* Parenting, family life, and services that take account of family circumstances in deciding how best to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people;
* The rights of children and young people to be safeguarded from child exploitation just as agencies have duties in respect of safeguarding and promoting welfare;
* An integrated approach as detailed within Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) Within this, child exploitation requires a three-pronged approach tackling prevention, protection and prosecution;
* A shared responsibility of effective joint working between different agencies and professionals underpinned by a strong commitment from managers who understand the child exploitation.

# Definitions

**Child Criminal Exploitation**

*Child criminal exploitation involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where children (under 18) receive or are promised ‘something’ tangible e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, gifts or money or ‘something’ intangible e.g. affection, respect, status or protection in return for committing a criminal act for the benefit of another individual or group of individuals or be threatened, coerced or intimidated into committing that criminal act.*

*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. The child may be being exploited, even if the activity appears consensual and does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. A defining feature of CCE is the lack of choice available to the child either as a result of the child’s social/economic/ emotional vulnerability and or the violence, coercion, intimidation exerted upon them.*

**County lines exploitation**

County lines is a major, cross-cutting issue involving drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and missing persons; and the response to tackle it involves the police, the National Crime Agency, a wide range of Government departments, local government agencies and VCS (voluntary and community sector) organisations.

The UK Government defines county lines as:

*County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.*

County lines activity and the associated violence, drug dealing and exploitation has a devastating impact on young people. It does not just affect large metropolitan areas, as young people are exploited in all communities up and down the country including rural communities. Exploitative adults will recruit and use children and young people in order to exploit them e.g. use them to move drugs and money for them. Children as young as 12 years old and up to 17 years old are recruited, often using social media. They can be exploited by being forced to carry drugs between locations, usually on trains, coaches or via taxis. They are also forced to sell drugs to local users.

A child may become involved in criminal exploitation as a result of desperation or coercion and it can be difficult to identify this form of exploitation. Often the signs of criminal exploitation can be mistaken for ‘normal adolescent behaviours. Children can wrongly be labelled as actively choosing to take part in criminal behaviour, which can mask the coercion and exploitation. This may lead to professionals falsely perceiving the child as complicit in their abuse. Therefore, identification of CCE requires knowledge, skills and professional curiosity in assessing the risk factors and personal circumstances of the individual child, to ensure that the indicators are correctly identified, and appropriate support is put in place to protect the child.

The law states that consent is only valid where a child makes an informed choice and has the freedom and capacity to make that choice. If a child feels that they have no meaningful choice, are under the influence of harmful substances or fearful of what might happen if they don’t comply, they cannot legally consent whatever their age. It is also important to identify that perpetrators of CCE may also themselves be children who are criminal exploited, and that victims of CCE may also be a risk of becoming perpetrators.

The risk to a young person, and their family and friends, as a result of experiencing criminal exploitation can include:

* Physical injuries: risk of serious violence and death
* Emotional and psychological trauma
* Sexual violence: sexual assault, rape, indecent images being taken and shared as part of initiation/revenge/punishment, internally inserting drugs
* Debt bondage – young person and families being ‘in debt’ to the exploiters which is used to control the young person
* Neglect and basic needs not being met
* Living in unclean, dangerous and/or unhygienic environments
* Tiredness and sleep deprivation: child is expected to carry out criminal activities over long periods and through the night
* Poor attendance and/or attainment at school/college

Leicester Safeguarding Children’s Board and Children’s Social Care and Early Help promote a multi-agency approach which emphasises the need to work together to:

* **Prevent** by raising awareness of CCE amongst young people, parents, carers and communities, and to work together to provide children and young people with strategies to recognise, avoid, report and exit criminal exploitation at any stage and to remove opportunities for potential perpetrators across the County;
* **Prepare** by providing strong leadership, effective systems, gathering of intelligence and partnership working to tackle CCE, by recognising the problem of the criminal exploitation of children and young people;
* **Protect** by safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, supporting professionals, parents, carers, families and communities who may be at risk of CCE, identifying potential victims, risks, patterns and perpetrators at the earliest opportunity;
* **Pursue** by investigating, disrupting, arresting and prosecuting those who seek to coerce, criminally exploit and abuse children and young people, whilst supporting victims and their families effectively through the criminal justice system.

# How common is child criminal exploitation and county lines.

County lines activity typically involves gangs or organised crime groups (OCGs) from a large urban area travelling to small locations (often rural towns/village/coastal areas) to sell class A drugs. The groups tend to communicate with drugs users via mobile phones which are referred to as the ‘line’. The most common drugs involved are usually heroin and cocaine (crack and powder), but also MDMA, cannabis, amphetamines and spice.

It is difficult to establish the current number of ‘lines’ operating in the UK. However, the most recent estimate from the National Crime Agency is that there are at least 720 county lines across England and Wales although the actual figure may well be higher (National Crime Agency, 2017). They believe that majority of those ‘lines’ involve the exploitation of multiple young or otherwise vulnerable people.

Traditionally this line is kept away from the area where the drugs are being sold, and a relay system is used to contact those acting as dealers in the rural location. Those who are exploiting young people will often travel between the urban and county locations on a regular basis to deliver drugs and collect money. They tend to use a local property, often belonging to a vulnerable person, as a base for their activities (referred to as ‘cuckooing’). They often use violence, force or coercion. The National Crime Agency has also identified examples where perpetrators have also used apartments, holiday lets, budget hotels and caravan parks (NCA, 2017). Perpetrators may use violence to threaten children and young people when recruiting them, and may also violently assault children and young people working for them if they find their drugs or money are missing. Weapons such as firearms, knives, bats and acid are sometimes used to make violent threats. They may also include sexual violence and sexual exploitation.

Gangs will typically exploit children to deliver drugs from urban to country locations using intimidation, violence, debt bondage and/or grooming. County line networks may often bring their own operatives into the rural marketplace in pairs, they will then stay for a month or so before returning home and being replaced by others. This is done to avoid police detection and familiarity with these operatives.

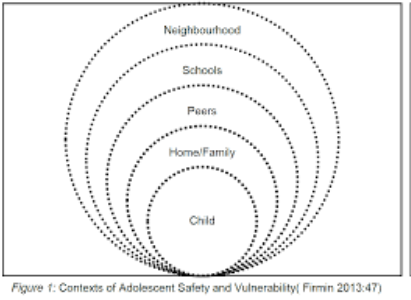
Although the National Crime Agency believe that class A drugs continue to be the main driver for this form of criminality, sexual exploitation has also been highlighted as a significant risk factor associated with county lines. It can be used as a means of control/exploitation for the gratification of perpetrators, or even as a commodity to be sold. Grooming is also often found in local communal areas such as parks etc. where potential victims can be given alcohol and drugs to establish their ‘relationship’. Groups can then exploit them sexually and coerce them to take and deal drugs.

The amount of money that can be obtained from a county line varies significantly depending on the size of the market and the level of competition. However, the National Crime Agency reports that a typical line can make in the region of £3,000 per day with some more prominent lines possibly making in excess of £5,000 per day.

# How children and young people become involved in Child Criminal Exploitation

Children and young people can be vulnerable to Criminal Exploitation due to their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources as outlined in the definition provided above, as well as in some cases simply just being in the wrong place at the wrong time. However, there are certain vulnerabilities and indictors that may make children and young people more vulnerable to being targeted for exploitation. This is often linked to the environments within which they live. This is often referred to as contextual safeguarding and links not only to a child or young person’s home environment, but also to their peer network, their school/educational environment and/or the neighbourhood within which they live. Figure 1 below taken from Firmin (2013:47) outlines how each of these environments fit within the world the child or young person operates within.

**Figure 1 – Contexts of Adolescent Safety and Vulnerability**

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There are a number of vulnerability factors that could make a child or young person vulnerable at any level (adapted from: <https://www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/sites/default/files/Exploitation%20Toolkit.pdf>)

**Child** – All children can be vulnerable to exploitation however this vulnerability may increase if a child is looked after, has a learning disability, is exposed to substance misuse or has mental health problems.

**Home/Family Environment** – A child may be vulnerable to being targeted if they are subject to neglect/abuse within their family home and/or if they are exposed to domestic abuse, parental substance misuse, parents/guardians experiencing poor mental health, poverty, homelessness/lack of stable accommodation and/or lack of a positive relationship with a protective and nurturing adult

**Peers** – A child or young person may be more vulnerable to being targeted for exploitation if they are exposed to other young people who are known to be exploited or others experiencing peer on peer abuse.

**Schools** – A child may be vulnerable if they have been excluded from school and/or are not in formal education, training or employment

**Neighbourhood** – A child or young person may be vulnerable to exploitation if the neighbourhood in which they live or socialise in exposes them to violence and/or deprivation.

The exploitation of children rarely occurs in isolation and there can be a number of issues occurring with a child or young person’s life that may make them susceptible to criminal exploitation. As such this practice guidance should be read in conjunction with the practice guidance for Harmful Sexual Behaviour and Child Sexual Exploitation.

Children rarely self-report child criminal exploitation so it is important that practitioners are aware of potential indicators of risk, including:

* Acquisition of money, clothes, mobile phones etc without plausible explanation;
* Gang-association and/or isolation from peers/social networks;
* Exclusion or unexplained absences from school, college or work;
* Leaving home/care without explanation and persistently going missing or returning late, and/or being found in areas away from home;
* Suspicion of physical assault/unexplained injuries;
* Excessive receipt of texts/phone calls or having multiple handsets;
* Returning home under the influence of drugs/alcohol, increasing drug use or being found to have large amounts of drugs on them;
* Using sexual, drug-related or violent language you wouldn’t expect them to know
* Evidence of/suspicions of physical or sexual assault;
* Relationships with controlling or significantly older individuals or groups/arrested with older individuals;
* Multiple callers (unknown adults or peers);
* Concerning use of internet or other social media;
* Increasing secretiveness around behaviours; and
* Self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being;
* Carrying weapons;
* Significant decline in school results/performance;
* Gang association or isolation from peers or social networks;
* Criminal behaviour.
* Looked After Children and Care Leavers maybe additionally vulnerable to being exploited and vulnerable to exploiters ‘taking over their homes/tenancy’s’

Professionals should be particularly aware of two characteristic offending typologies which are often associated with criminal exploitation:

**Distributor or courier role** - Usually this arises where vulnerable young people from urban areas are exploited by gangs to deliver drugs in an outlying or rural area. These young people will most commonly be arrested in possession of significant amounts of drugs and/or cash, and often armed with large knives or other offensive weapons. Although less commonly seen, it is also possible that a child from Leicester City may be exploited in this way, either as a local operative or for transporting drugs to other areas. The possession of substantial drugs and/or cash, usually with weapons, is a key sign of involvement in organised criminal distribution. The presence of a suspected controlling adult near the place of arrest is also highly significant.

**Purchaser or debtor role -** These will usually be local young people, who are offending to meet obligations to a County Lines gang and facing severe reprisal if they fail to pay. Typical offending might include systematic high-value shop thefts, burglary offences or theft of high value bicycles. Young people carrying out these types of offences may be alone, or in small groups of two or three. The immediate proximity of a controlling adult is less common, but professional curiosity should explore how the stolen goods are being ‘fenced’ into cash. One local ‘fence’ may facilitate a network of acquisitive crime involving many children.

# Barriers to Engagement

There may be many factors that could influence how a child or young person engages with interventions and professionals who may become aware of the risk of criminal exploitation. A few barriers to consider include:

* Child criminal exploitation is not being recognised and responded to as a safeguarding concern
* Professionals may view criminal exploitation as a lifestyle choice, which can make a child or young person feel blamed for their exploitation, or reinforce a feeling of an untrue identity, e.g. of autonomous drug dealer
* Services are not being consistent or persistent in their approach
* Children or young people are fearful of repercussions towards themselves, friends or family if they are seen to be engaging with professionals
* The child or young person may still be being controlled by exploiters and have no ability or power to exit
* Even if the police are involved, the child or young person still may not feel safe or protected from repercussions
* The child or young person may have distrust in services such as police and social care
* The child or young person may be fearful of getting into trouble with the police, or be in breach of a court order
* Children or young people who have experienced previous abuse, fractured attachments and trauma can often hold a deep mistrust of adults and services
* The child or young person may be made to feel that they are ‘in debt’ to perpetrators and/or reliant on the ‘exchange’ i.e. money/substances/ this is often referred to as ‘debt bondage’
* The child or young person can become withdrawn from their support network due to the grooming process and unable to access services
* The child or young person may have experienced multiple professionals talking about concerns with them, which again could lead a young person feeling frustrated or unable to engage
* The child or young person may feel embarrassed or ashamed of their experiences.

It is also important to remember that a child or young person might not relate to their experience as being abusive or exploitative:

* They may feel a sense of loyalty and brotherhood to the exploiters and they may feel emotionally fulfilled in a way they haven’t before experienced from parents, carers or professionals
* The child or young person may feel that they have gained ‘friends’ or ‘family’ and that these people care for him or her.
* The child or young person may be receiving money or rewards that they have not had access to previously, or the money may be supporting their family to cover basic needs
* The child or young person may feel a sense of status and power that they haven’t had before. They may see themselves as an autonomous drug dealer, rather than a victim of exploitation at the bottom of a large organised crime structure.
* Engagement of the child, young person and family are critical to improving outcomes for children and young people and helping them build safety and safe networks.
* Using creative ways that help build trust with young people with consideration of the contextual environment that they live within.

# Child Criminal Exploitation Examples

There are many different ways in which children who may be at risk may come the notice of professionals. The examples below are some scenarios that may raise professionals concerns that a child could be a risk of CCE here is Leicester City :

**Example 1**

Child A is 12 years old and living in a Local Authority residential placement. He has special educational needs and is not currently attending education regularly and is on a part-time timetable. He is reported as missing to the police regularly by the children’s home and he has recently began returning home between 11pm and 2am for the past two weeks. Staff in the residential placement have reported concerns that he has returned home with money, which they have not provided him with, new clothes and that he was smelling strongly of cannabis. Other children in the home have reported that they have seen him meeting up with two adults in the local community near to the home. The police have shared with the home concerns that the adults identified by the other children are known to them as drug users.

**Example 2**

Child B is 16 years old and has been living with her grandmother since she was 8 years old. Child B previously had a strong, longstanding, friendship group and her grandmother knew her friends well and their parents. Child B has recently started college and has made a new friendship group. She has begun spending time in a different area of the city and staying out overnight with her new friends. Child B will always stay in contact with her grandmother and lets her know where she is staying and when she will return. The previous week, her grandmother was tidying her bedroom and noticed that her granddaughter had a large amount of cash hidden in her bedroom, four credit cards in different people’s names and also two mobile phones which she had not seen before.

**Example 3**

Child C is 14 years old and lives at home with his mother. There are concerns that his behaviour has dramatically changed over the past six months and he has been arrested for a number of criminal offences including assaults, anti-social behaviour, shoplifting, criminal damage, possession of a knife and burglary offences. There are concerns that he is spending much of his time in the local community with a number of other youths. Over the past month, his mother is becoming increasingly concerned about his behaviour. He has begun staying out overnight and not returning home for up to three days at a time. He has stopped attending education and rushes out of the home when his phone rings. His mother has been looking for him when missing and found him at an address she is very concerned about and is known locally to be linked to sex working and drug dealing. One week ago, he was found at this address by police and arrested for possession with intent to supply class A drugs. He has reported to his mum concerns that he now has a drug debt and has not returned home since he was arrested. An ambulance was called due to him being stabbed in the local community and he has now been taken to hospital.

# Leicester City CCE assessment toolkit—Process

If you are worried about a child or young person under the age of 18 years old that maybe exposed to Criminal Exploitation then please access the Criminal exploitation tool via…………………………(Appendix 1).

If you hold immediate safeguarding concerns that the child and young people are deemed at risk that day then call:

Leicestershire Police

Telephone 101

This then must be followed up by a referral to Leicester City Children’s front door for Duty and Advice Service and Early Help by calling 0116 4541004, this is a 24-hour line.

Email: [das.team@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:das.team@leicester.gov.uk)

Submitting a MARF (Multi Agency Referral Form)

DAS and Early Help Response do not accept the MARF without the referrer speaking with a Social Worker or Early Help Practitioner first therefore, telephone contact must be made in first instance on the above number.

The [MARF form](https://my.leicester.gov.uk/AchieveForms/?mode=fill&consentMessage=yes&form_uri=sandbox-publish://AF-Process-b3fcc6a3-5330-4a67-a460-eea1837a83ef/AF-Stage-e08f28ff-336f-4911-ab41-8cc5c21651ec/definition.json&process=1&process_uri=sandbox-processes://AF-Process-b3fcc6a3-5330-4a67-a460-eea1837a83ef&process_id=AF-Process-b3fcc6a3-5330-4a67-a460-eea1837a83ef) can be found on the Leicester’s City Council website.

Please review the Leicester City Children Social care CCE Referral Flowchart Please see (Appendix 2)

# National Referral Mechanism

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking or modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.

The NRM is also the mechanism through which the Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Unit (MSHTU) collect data about victims. This information contributes to building a clearer picture about the scope of human trafficking and modern slavery in the UK.

The NRM was introduced in 2009 to meet the UK’s obligations under the Council of European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. At the core of every country’s NRM is the process of locating and identifying “potential victims of trafficking”.

From 31 July 2015 the NRM was extended to all victims of modern slavery in England and Wales following the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Modern Slavery encompasses:

1. Human trafficking

2. Slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour

From 31 July 2015, in all UK referrals, the Competent Authority (trained decision makers) must consider whether the person is a victim of human trafficking. In England and Wales, if someone is found not to be a victim of trafficking, the Competent Authority must go on to consider whether they are the victim of another form of modern slavery, which includes slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.

The NRM grants a minimum 45-day reflection and recovery period for victims of human trafficking or modern slavery. Trained decision makers decide whether individuals referred to them should be considered to be victims of trafficking according to the definition in the Council of Europe Convention. In England and Wales, further consideration is made to those who do not meet the definition of trafficking. Their cases are then considered against the definitions of slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. All agencies and organisations that have concern for a person they believe may be a victim of human trafficking have a responsibility to identify the person as a possible victim and put them in touch with the responsible authorities and support providers. A formal referral should be made to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) by first responder organisations including:

* Local Authorities Children Services (including YOS)
* Specified persons within Safeguarding Children Boards
* Police Forces
* NSPCC
* Salvation Army
* Families Service in conjunction with partners.
* Barnardo’s
* Border Force
* Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)
* CTAC (NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice Centre)
* Home Office UK Immigration & Visas Directorate (formerly UKBA)

For more details about the NRM visit: <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/about-us/what-we-do/specialist-capabilities/uk-human-trafficking-centre/national-referral-mechanism>

Refer potential victims of modern slavery/human trafficking to the NRM here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms>

When a referral is submitted to the NRM, Leicestershire Police should be copied in to the email using the following address [nationalreferralmechanism@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:nationalreferralmechanism@homeoffice.gov.uk) .to ensure an appropriate crime. Only secure mail should be used to share personal and sensitive information via email.

# Frequently Asked Questions

**I need further advice and guidance, who do I contact?**

As a practitioner, if you are unsure and would like further advice or guidance, the first step is to approach your line manager or your designated safeguarding lead. Alternatively, you can contact either:

**Leicestershire Police**

Telephone 101

**Leicester City Children’s front door for Duty and Advice and Early Help**

If you wish to make a referral then please call the Duty and Advice Service (DAS) on **0116 4541004** this is a 24-hour line.

E mail: **das.team@leicester.gov.uk**

**Submitting a MARF**

DAS and Early Help Response do not accept the MARF without the referrer speaking with a Social Worker or Early Help Practitioner first therefore, telephone contact must be made in the first instance on the above number.

The [MARF form](https://my.leicester.gov.uk/AchieveForms/?mode=fill&consentMessage=yes&form_uri=sandbox-publish://AF-Process-b3fcc6a3-5330-4a67-a460-eea1837a83ef/AF-Stage-e08f28ff-336f-4911-ab41-8cc5c21651ec/definition.json&process=1&process_uri=sandbox-processes://AF-Process-b3fcc6a3-5330-4a67-a460-eea1837a83ef&process_id=AF-Process-b3fcc6a3-5330-4a67-a460-eea1837a83ef) can be found on the Leicester’s City Council website.

**Q: I have just heard something in passing and am not sure if it is relevant?**

***A:*** *Any information should be passed on to the Police. It may be that it does not relate to any particular individual but just a comment relating to a place, people in a car or shop that is providing alcohol or where individuals of concern appear to be congregating. It could prove valuable in identifying a location, a perpetrator or other potential victims and help the police take disruptive and pre-emptive action to remove any specific threat.*

**Q: I am concerned that if I identify someone at risk they will not be happy with my actions and it may jeopardise my relationship and trust with them?**

***A:*** *It is also your duty of care to share this information with the key agencies in order to protect the child or young person.*

**Q: I am concerned that if I flag someone as being at risk of CCE that this will remain on their file**:

**A***: A child or young person’s risk assessment should be reviewed at appropriate intervals to determine if they have the accurate risk category assigned to their case. The appropriate CEE risk will be flagged on the Children and Families Service case management system. As part of the step up / step down procedures and case closure process, the child or young person will be assessed and if they are no longer at risk of CCE, the CCE risk flag will be removed from the system/s*

# Glossary of Terms

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| **Term** | **Meaning** |
| **CIN** | Child in Need |
| **S47** | Section 47 of the ‘Children Act 1989’ (indicative of concerns about significant harm) |
| **CP** | Child Protection |
| **Disruption** | Tactics used to divert or stop perpetrators exploiting young people where there is little or no evidence to prosecute |
| **Gang** | Organised groups with an element of status, membership and criminality or 2 or more young people involved in delinquent peer groups. |
| **Hot Spot** | Specific areas, streets or houses used to target young people |
| **Information Sharing Form** | Template for sharing information about risks to Children and Young People which will inform multi-agency responses and intelligence gathering / Police Problem Profiling |
| **NRM** | National Referral Mechanism |
| **LSCB** | Leicester Safeguarding Childrens Board |
| **CSC** | Childrens Social Care |
| **YOS** | Youth Offending Service |
| **Early Help** | Prevention services to support children and young people either jointly with children’s social care or independently at an early help threshold. |
| **Perpetrator** | Any person who poses a risk or commits crimes against a young person |
| **Risk Indicator** | Common or known signs of child sexual exploitation and/or child criminal exploitation |
| **Cuckooing** | The term used to describe a tactic used by drug dealers where they use threats and violence to take over the homes of vulnerable people to store and sell drugs. Commonly, drug users are targeted and offered ‘free’ drugs in exchange. |
| **Going Country** | The act of selling drugs. Trapping can refer to the act of moving drugs from one town to another or the act of selling drugs in one. |
| **Trap House** | A building used as a base from where drugs are sold (or sometimes manufactured). These houses are usually occupied by someone (usually an adult, but sometimes young people are forced to stay in a trap house). |
| **Trapline** | This refers to when someone owns a mobile phone specifically for the purpose of running and selling drugs |
| **Taxing** | Is a newly reported term which describes the infliction of violence in order to obtain control i.e. the marking or injuring of a gang member who has done wrong, as a show of strength to others. |
| **Debt bondage** | Refers to the creation of a drugs debt which the victim has to pay off. |
| **TAF** | Team around the Family meeting/approach used within an Early Help Assessment |
| **Trafficking** | The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs |