

SAFEGUARDING BRIEFING IN RESPECT OF CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION



In recent weeks it has been highlighted within the LSCFT Pennine Safeguarding Team that there is potentially a developing theme in relation to young people who are experiencing exploitation, presenting with specific injuries. It has been identified that at least 3 young people for whom we have concerns about Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) in the Pennine area, have attended Emergency Departments/Urgent Care Centres with lacerations to the palm of the hand.

This type of injury is known to be a theme in other areas of the UK, where perpetrators injure their victims, leaving a mark as a reminder to them not to disclose information to anyone about the exploitation they are experiencing. However, following discussions with an expert working with gangs and exploitation cases in the midlands, injuries are not limited to the palms of hands and are known to have been found to other parts of the body including superficial cuts to the genitals and legs.

Please could health professionals consider the above information when assessing injuries on children, or adults, particularly if there are other presenting concerns such as:

- Injuries which don't necessarily fit with the explanation given by the patient
- Presenting late at night
- Patient attending a health care setting out of the area of which they reside
- Young person presenting with an adult not related to them/ accompanying person not wanting to leave the patient alone
- Evidence of self-harm
- Children known to Children's Social Care
- Previous attendances at a health care setting due to assaults
- Patient presents as aggressive or violent
- Patients presents with signs of substance misuse

The above is not an exhaustive list of indicators of Criminal Exploitation, if you have concerns that a person, Child or Adult may be being exploited, please contact your Safeguarding Team or Local Authority Children's/Adults Social Care.