



## Safeguarding Newsletter

May 2019

### Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Criminal exploitation of children is geographically widespread. The majority of child trafficking involves movement across borders; however, it can also take place within the UK.

- Exploitation may include:
- Sexual exploitation
- Domestic servitude or labour
- Involvement in criminal activity (for example, pick-pocketing)

While some children are coerced many are tricked through promises of education or respectable work. Children are considered trafficking victims regardless of whether they have been forced, deceived, or have submitted willingly. This is because anyone under the age of 18 cannot provide informed consent.

### Did you know?

EastEnders have just run a storyline involving CCE and children being used to take drugs from one part of the country to another.

### What to look for

A student is unlikely to directly disclose their situation for fear of repercussions or a lack of understanding. However, there are a number of signs that may indicate a student is a victim of trafficking.

#### They may:

- Show little evidence of a relationship with their carer, or be overly dependent
- Allude to living in unsatisfactory accommodation, or with a number of unrelated children
- Show signs of other types of abuse (for example, physical and sexual)
- Go missing for periods or have a suspicious or incomplete history
- Indicate that they are required to perform excessive chores
- Communicate concerns about money
- Have low self-esteem, and feelings of isolation, stress or fear
- Lack trust in adults and appear fearful of authorities
- Have poor concentration
- Become anti-social
- Display symptoms of substance dependence

#### Risk factors

Children are trafficked for a range of reasons but there are a number of risk factors, such as:

- Poverty
- Cultural attitudes
- Lack of education
- Children in private fostering arrangements
- Dysfunctional families



## What to do

- Speak to your designated safeguarding lead (DSL) if you are concerned that a pupil has been trafficked, or is at risk of being trafficked. Record and communicate anything that causes concern
- Where a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer from harm, the DSL should make a [referral to your local authority children's social care team](#) (and if appropriate the police) immediately.
- **Do not investigate concerns, or allow other school staff to do so. Doing so may put the student at risk of harm or abduction**

## Context and prevalence

It is difficult to establish the true scale of child trafficking but reports indicate that around [300 child trafficking victims](#) are identified in the UK each year.

## Fact

Children as young as 12 are being put in danger by criminals who are taking advantage of how vulnerable these young people are. This is sometimes known as county lines..

## Sources

The information in this factsheet is based on the following sources:  
Keeping children safe in education, GOV.UK – DfE

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

Safeguarding children who may have been traf-ficked, GOV.UK – DfE and Home Office (Adobe pdf file)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/177033/DFE-00084-2011.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/177033/DFE-00084-2011.pdf)

## Where to go next

Child trafficking advice centre, NSPCC

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-trafficking/>

Education resources, Stop The Traffik

<https://www.stopthetraffik.org/awareness-courses/resources-for-schools/>