

CHILD EXPLOITATION PARENTS WORKSHOP

Introduction for Parents

Hi everyone.

I am Evolve worker and I work at the (Child exploitation and Missing team) . This session is about understanding child exploitation, recognising the warning signs, and most importantly, learning how we can work together to keep children safe.

I understand that some of the topics we will cover may feel difficult or worrying. However, the aim of this workshop is not to alarm anyone but to increase awareness and provide practical information that can help protect children and young people.

We will look at different forms of exploitation, including grooming, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, financial exploitation, county lines, and online risks. We'll also discuss the signs parents may notice, how to respond if you have concerns, and where you can access support and advice.

One of the key messages throughout today's session is that **children who are exploited are victims and are never to blame for what is happening to them. Exploitation can affect any child, regardless of their background, age, or circumstances.**

Please feel free to take anything useful from today's discussion back to your family and community. Together, by staying informed and keeping communication open with our children, we can play an important role in helping them stay safe.

Let's begin by looking at what child exploitation means.





EVOLVE

CHILD EXPLOITATION

- Child exploitation is when a child is tricked, pressured, or harmed by someone for their own benefit. It is never the child's fault. Encourage children to speak to a trusted adult, such as a parent, teacher, or family support worker, if they feel worried, uncomfortable, or unsafe. Every child deserves to feel safe, valued, and supported.

- **Children who are exploited are victims, not to blame. Exploitation can happen to any child.**



Sexual Exploitation

Children may sometimes be touched in a way that is not appropriate or be asked to do things that make them feel uncomfortable, worried, or unsafe. This is never the child's fault. Encourage children to speak openly and tell a trusted adult if something doesn't feel right.

Financial Exploitation

- This is when a child is used unfairly for money or personal gain. Children should be cared for, supported, and protected, not pressured or exploited. Encourage children to talk openly and let a trusted adult know if something feels wrong.

- **Video**

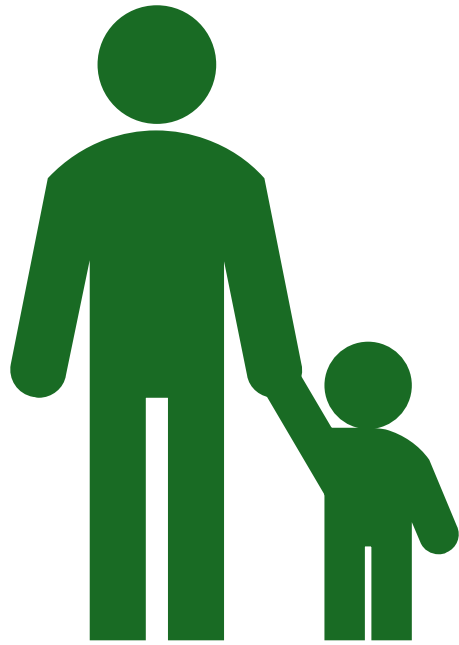


- [What are some of the signs a child is experiencing criminal exploitation? | NSPCC Learning](#)

Criminal Exploitation

- This is when a child is pressured, tricked, or forced into doing illegal activities. It is never the child's fault. Children should feel safe to talk to a trusted adult, such as a parent, teacher, or family support worker, if something does not feel right.





Grooming

- Grooming is when someone gains a child's trust by being friendly, giving gifts, or offering attention, with the intention of causing harm. Children should know they can talk to a trusted adult if anything makes them feel uncomfortable, worried, or unsafe.
- Video 
- [3 Warning Signs of Grooming Every Parent Should Know](#)
- [Online Grooming](#)





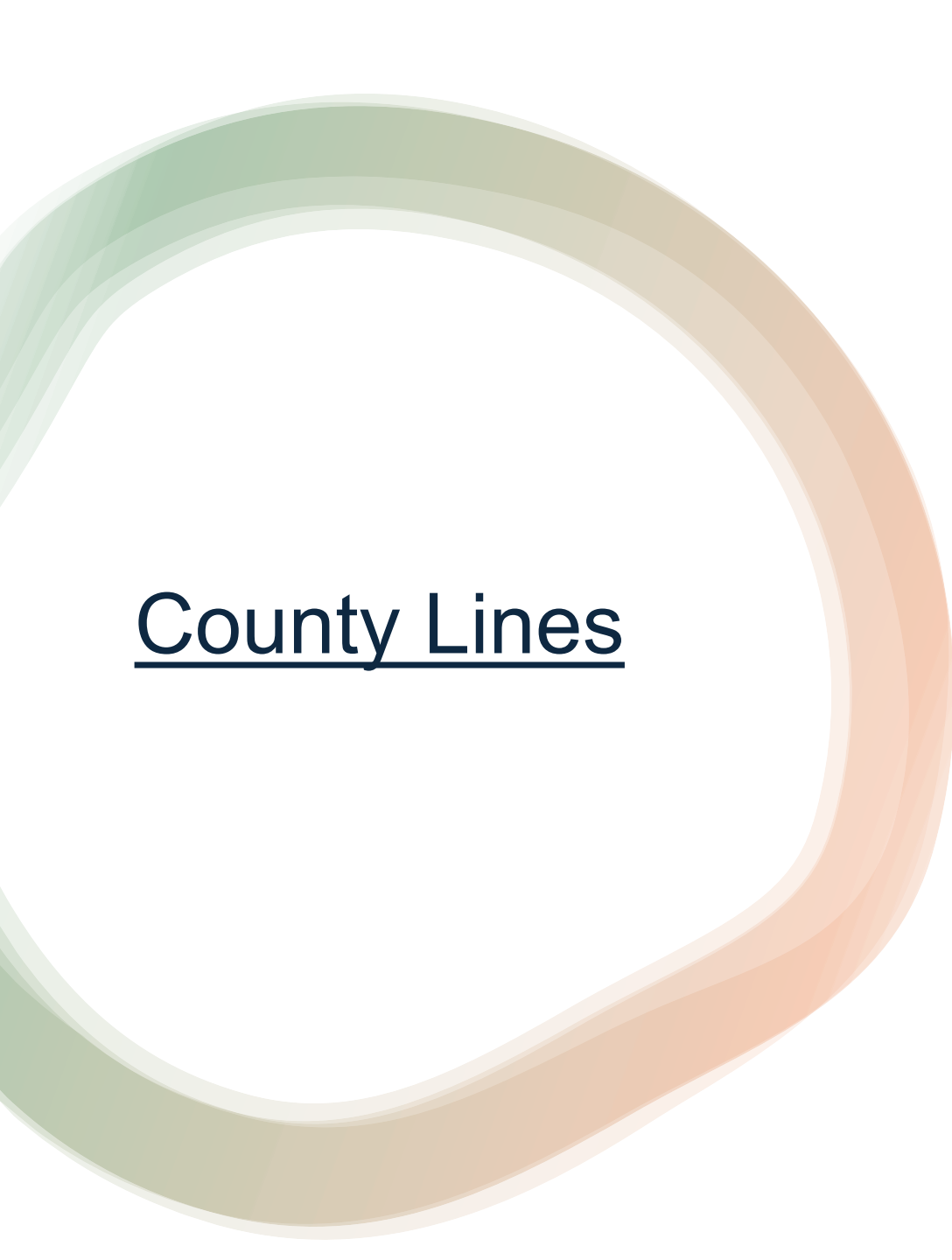
Private Parts

Body Safety:

Children should understand that their bodies belong to them and that private parts are private. No one should touch them in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Encourage children to talk to a trusted adult if they are worried and reassure them that they will be listened to and supported.

- Video 
- [Talk PANTS - Updated Webinar for Parents & Carers](#)





County Lines

County Lines gangs may exploit young people by offering gifts such as expensive clothes, trainers, phones, or cash in exchange for moving drugs. Parents should look out for sudden new items their child cannot afford and keep open, non-judgemental conversations to help keep them safe.

- Videos 
- [What Is County Lines? | Understanding Exploitation and Drug Networks](#)
- [Nicole's story: the child victims of UK drug gangs - BBC News](#)





Important Reminder Children who are exploited are victims, not to blame. Exploitation can happen to any child.

- **What Parents Should Do**

- ✓ Stay calm and don't blame the child
- ✓ Listen and reassure them they are safe
- ✓ Keep communication open and supportive
- ✓ Report concerns to school, social worker, or police
- ✓ Seek professional help early

- **When to Take Action**

- ☐ Signs are ongoing or escalating
- ☐ Your child appears scared, controlled, or threatened
- ☐ You suspect they are being manipulated or exploited
- ☐ They go missing or won't say where they've been

- **Who should I contact, local UK safeguarding contacts (NSPCC, police, etc.)**



Parent Checklist: Spotting Signs of Child Exploitation

1. General Warning Signs (Across All Types)

- ☐ Sudden changes in behaviour (angry, withdrawn, secretive)
- ☐ Unexplained money, gifts, clothes, or phones
- ☐ Spending more time away from home or going missing
- ☐ New older friends or unknown contacts
- ☐ Increased secrecy about where they go or who they see
- ☐ Drop in school attendance or performance

2. Grooming (Early Warning Signs)

- ☐ Someone giving your child lots of attention or gifts
- ☐ Encouraging secrecy ("don't tell your parents")
- ☐ Gradual isolation from family and friends
- ☐ Excessive online communication with unknown people
- ☐ Emotional dependence on one person
- ☐ Change in language, behaviour, or appearance



Parent Checklist: Spotting Signs of Child Exploitation

-  **3. Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**
- ☐ Unexplained gifts, money, or hotel stays
- ☐ Older partners or relationships that seem controlling
- ☐ Staying out late or going missing overnight
- ☐ Sexualised behaviour or language not age-appropriate
- ☐ Fear of certain individuals
- ☐ Sexually transmitted infections or pregnancy

-  **4. Criminal Exploitation (CCE)**
- ☐ Carrying weapons or suspicious items
- ☐ Being secretive about activities or possessions
- ☐ Association with gangs or known offenders
- ☐ Sudden access to money without explanation
- ☐ Increased aggression or risky behaviour
- ☐ Being found in areas far from home



Parent Checklist: Spotting Signs of Child Exploitation

-  **5. Financial Exploitation**
- ☐ Child has large amounts of money or expensive items
- ☐ Being asked to transfer money or use bank accounts
- ☐ Unfamiliar transactions in their name
- ☐ Explaining money in unclear or inconsistent ways
- ☐ Pressure from others to help out financially

-  **6. County Lines Exploitation**
- ☐ Going missing for long periods or travelling to other towns
- ☐ Carrying drugs, money, or multiple phones
- ☐ Returning home tired, anxious, or injured
- ☐ Staying in unknown places (e.g. “cuckooing” addresses)
- ☐ Being picked up/dropped off by unknown adults
- ☐ Fear of leaving a situation or saying “I owe them”
-  **7. Online Exploitation**
- ☐ Sudden increase in secretive device use
- ☐ Talking to unknown people online
- ☐ Receiving gifts, money, or requests for images
- ☐ Distress after being online
- ☐ Use of multiple or hidden social media accounts



Who should I contact if I am worried about a child or my own child?



- Police (999) (101)
- NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000
-  MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub): 01709 336080
rotherham.gov.uk, rscp.org.uk
- Web: Hopian.org.uk
- Email: Enquiries@Hopian.org.uk
- Tel: 0330 2020 571

Need support?

- Ring our Advice Line: 0330 2020571 (Mon-Fri: 9am - 5pm)
- Email: Help@Hopian.org.uk
- Online Advice and Support Form: Hopian.org.uk/help
- Check out our WebBot on Hopian.org.uk

