

Child Criminal Exploitation

Child Criminal Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into criminal activity in exchange for something of value the victim needs or wants.

This can be material items (e.g. cash, drugs, alcohol or gifts) or it might be human needs (e.g. protection, status or feeling of belonging)

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.

Risk factors include:

- Going missing from home or school
- Suddenly having lots of money or new possessions that they cannot account for
- Receiving more calls/texts than usual
- Being very protective of their mobile phone or having multiple phones or SIM cards
- Using new language, words or hand signs you wouldn't expect them to know
- Changing their appearance, e.g. particular style, colours
- Refusing to enter certain streets or parts of the city
- Self-harming and substance misuse issues
- Carrying drugs, large amounts of money or weapons
- Changes in behaviour e.g. being scared, aggressive, distant or angry
- Talking about an individual or group who have a lot of influence over them
- Hanging around with older individuals or groups and breaking ties with old friends
- Dropping out of positive activities and hobbies
- Unexplained physical injuries and/or refusal to seek or accept medical treatment
- Travelling alone to places far from home or being found by services out of area
- Unexplained bus or train tickets

If you think a child is in immediate danger always call the emergency services on 999.

To discuss a non-emergency matter with the Police call 101. Visit the West Midlands Police Website to report a crime and access advice and support.

If you are concerned that a child or young person is being harmed or is at risk of harm, but there is no immediate danger, or you need advice or information, please call Coventry Children's Services at the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 024 7678 8555 or the out of office hours please call the Emergency Duty Team on 024 7683 2222.

[Click the link for more information.](#)

What to do if you think a child is being exploited

Professionals can complete the Child Exploitation screening tool and use the Force Intelligence Bureau form to report information to the police.

[Click here to access the Child Exploitation Indicator Tool.](#)

[Click here to access the FIB Form and Guidance.](#)

A range of help and services are available via Early Help and the Family Hubs.

[Visit their website for more information and find your nearest family hub.](#)

