



Child Exploitation BULLETIN

Issue 05—June 2020

Welcome to the fifth edition of the partnership Child Exploitation (CE) bulletin, aimed at ensuring professionals across Northamptonshire are up-to-date on all aspects of child criminal and sexual exploitation and the work taking place across Northamptonshire to tackle it.



Covid-19 and heightened risks for children

KNOW

During lockdown, some children and young people may be being abused and exploited at home. They can be made to believe that they should never tell anyone and that the abuse is their fault. Shut in with their abusers, they have little chance to escape or to tell anyone.

These children need your help! As a neighbour or key worker visiting homes for any reason, you may be the only person able to spot abuse and report it.

LOOK

- Guarded behaviour of a child around particular individuals
- Sudden changes in behaviour
- Children with bruises, burns, bite marks or fractures
- Children appearing withdrawn, anxious or frightened
- Hearing or seeing shouting and violence towards a child
- Children seen carrying or using drugs
- Children being late or arriving home late in different cars
- Unaccompanied children visiting a house where only adults live

ACT

- Stay curious and look beyond the obvious
- If something doesn't feel right, it might not be
- Even if you're unsure, it's better to report your concerns
- Do not attempt to intervene yourself
- If you have a safeguarding manager / lead within your organisation, notify them immediately
- Call the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency
- Call the NSPCC on 0800 800 5000

The Children's Society
NPCC
National Police Chiefs' Council

Lockdown has only partly eased and with many children off school until September, the heightened risks of abuse and exploitation continues.

Risk factors include:

-Children and young people spending less time at school and more time at home and online.

-Many parents with limited time to supervise their children's online lives and potentially not understanding the possible dangers.

-People who pose a danger to children are also likely to be spending more time online, viewing and sharing sexual images of under 18s or engaging children in sexual conversations and behaviour.

We all need to stay curious and see beyond the obvious.

The NPCC and The Children's Society have produced this poster as a reminder. ←

A copy of the poster is attached to this bulletin for you to print off and display across your organisation.

Gangs and County Lines: New course added to E-learning package

The NSCP has a new E-learning course focusing on gangs and county lines.

This is **free** for any practitioner working in Northamptonshire and takes a maximum of

two hours to complete. After the course, you will be able to identify the signs which may indicate a child or young person is at risk and also what forms gang-related issues can take. You will also know how to report and act to protect those at risk or who are already involved in gang-related issues.



Learning objectives

- Define the term gang and the impact gang-related issues can have
- Recognise how children can be groomed into gangs and the links to Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
- Understand gang language, terms and lifestyle influences
- Identify barriers to engaging with young people who may be associated with gangs
- Understand what is meant by county lines
- Explain CCE and identify those vulnerable and what actions to take

Level/Professionals aimed at

This course is relevant for all professionals working with children and young people. Specific professionals who will find this course relevant include:

- All school staff
- Social workers
- Police staff
- Healthcare workers

[Sign up for NSCP E-Learning here](#)

Serious Case Review— Jaden Moodie

The author of a serious case review into the murder of 14-year-old Jaden Moodie has called for the creation of a national system for responding to exploitation of children by county lines gangs.

Jaden was stabbed to death in London in January 2019 after being groomed by drug dealers.

The SCR also highlights the importance of maximising the potential of 'reachable moments' and the importance of inter-agency communication.

Click [here](#) to read the report



Safeguarding Children from Radicalisation

During Coronavirus restrictions, the risk of radicalisation is increasing as support agencies have less interaction with the public and home isolation may increase a person's vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism

You are the eyes and ears of Counter Terrorism policing
Please, always consider 'Prevent' when dealing with any incident

Concerning behaviours may include:

- Hate crimes motivated by ideology
- Conspiracy theories generating anger towards particular communities or groups
- Watching violent films, particularly those which advocate political or religious hatred
- Rising levels of unexplained anger or increasing willingness to use targeted violence

Share concerns with your Prevent SPOC or Prevent Team



Notice, Check, Share

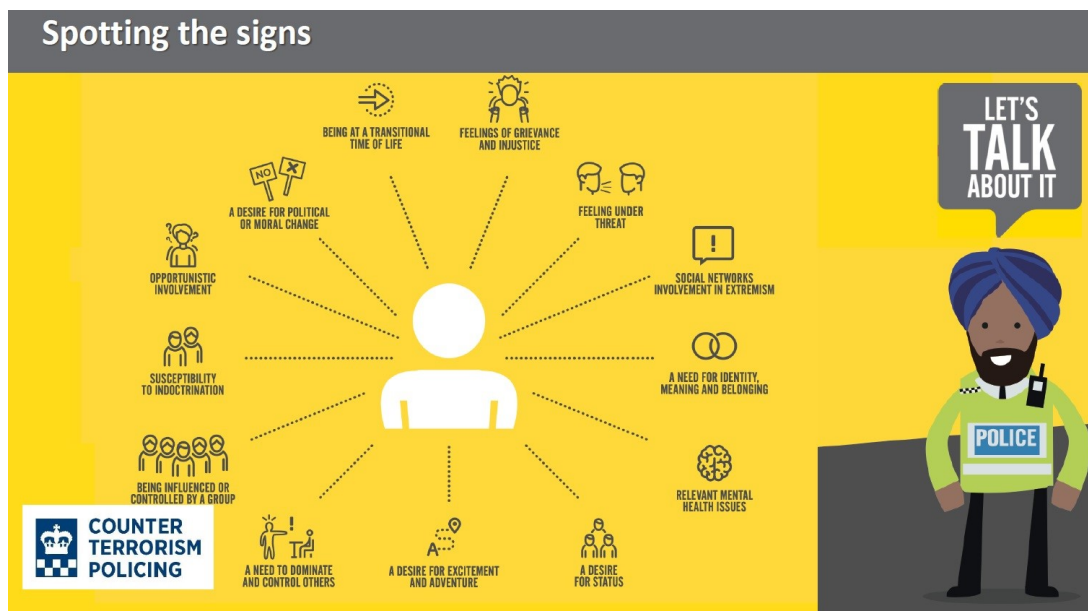
LET'S
TALK
ABOUT IT



During Coronavirus restrictions, the risk of radicalisation is increasing. If you have concerns a child or young person may be vulnerable to violent extremism or radicalisation, seek advice from the safeguarding lead in your organisation. Follow your own agency procedures in relation to notification of safeguarding issues. If you feel there is an immediate danger to the life of the individual or others then call 999.

Advice and guidance can be sought from the Prevent Engagement Officers at Northamptonshire Police (email prevent@northants.pnn.police.uk or phone 101, extension 341166), however they will only take referrals from MASH so you must ensure that following discussions a multi-agency referral form is submitted.

You can also report suspected online terrorist content by following '[Report online terrorist material](#)' and refer any content of concern directly to social media platforms. Details of how to do this can be found at [UK Safer Internet Centre website](#)



Youth Provision—what services are available?

Please be aware of the wide range of youth provision currently on offer in Northampton. Some of these services are available county-wide.

If anybody is aware of anything which is available which is not listed below, please contact vrockall@northampton.gov.uk and it will be added to the next Youth Service newsletter.

YOUTH PROVISION NEWSLETTER

Services available in the community for young people



Community Court Yard

Our youth and community work uses a practical, hands on approach. Reconnecting young people into their communities and utilising collective solutions which unlock potential and create social change for the individual and the wider community.

Monday - Games Night
Tuesday - Story Time and Story Telling
Wednesday - Writers Hour and Just Living
Thursday - Tea and Toast and Wellbeing
Friday - Youth Quiz and Fitness
Saturday - Virtual Youth Hub
Sunday - Family Quiz
 Email: Shout@communitycourtyard.org
 Tel: 07925730772
 Social Media: [CommCourtYard](https://www.facebook.com/CommCourtYard)



Free2talk

Free 2 Talk CIC offers Youth & Community Development for young people aged 8-18 years; parents and adults. We specialise in working with disadvantaged communities and enable people to develop themselves personally and socially, to take social action on issues important to them

For Groups:
 Prize competitions sent by text, activities for families and to spark discussion
 Weekly activity packs for 8-11 Year olds sent by post
 Online youth groups Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings
 Netflix parties - Mondays at 4pm

Individual Support:
 Get Real Youth Music - accredited online music production and broadcasting course with 121 mentoring. <https://www.getrealyouthmusic.co.uk/>
 Remote mentoring for 12-18 year olds
 Free 2 Work course to be work ready with free access to online learning and qualifications for 18+

Parenting support by phone or text 9-11am Monday to Friday
 Free desktops and data to young people 8-18 years old that are struggling to keep up with school work or stay in contact with friends

Email: enquiries@free2talkcic.org
 Call / Text: 07786227365
 Social Media: [Free2talkcic](https://www.facebook.com/free2talkcic)

Lisa Lashes School of Music

The Lisa Lashes School of Music strive to develop learners with the core skills required to enter into the creative industry and transferable skills to open up many jobs and opportunities in the future which we can create further learning through the LLSOM apprenticeships.

Our bespoke under 19's program is directed at young people who are at risk of or have been permanently excluded from school, home schooled or are at home due to Covid-19 school closures.

We are offering interactive, live lessons through Zoom which cover music production, lyric writing, wellbeing and much much more!

LLSOM isn't just a school - it's a creative hub of bite sized sessions to introduce and make our young creative minds open up to consider different life choices. By offering thought provoking and exciting lessons which engage and motivate them, we hope to build their confidence, self esteem and of course build on their passion for listening to, writing and creating music in a positive way.

To find out how to get involved, visit our website at www.lisalasheschoolofmusic.com or email info@lisalasheschoolofmusic.com



The Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (OPFCC)

Youth Service team are providing a number of Covid-19 Detached sessions a week in Upton.

Starting the week of the 18th of May (the number of sessions will vary from week to week)

The aim is to have conversations with young people about the most up to date government guidance and to check young people's welfare.

Email: malcolm.co@northantspfcc.pnn.gov.uk
 Tel: 07973902815



Spirals Family Centre

Spring Boroughs Youth Hub continues to work with young people online during this time on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. Conversations are had and games are played. (More details from Jacob jacob.spiralsfamily@outlook.com).

Also we are helping young people with cvs and applying for jobs online and providing a weekly list of jobs available in Northampton (More details and/or a weekly list from Dawn springsfc@yahoo.co.uk)

Learn2Live

The L2L, Learn2Live, youth group is run by Northampton Town of Sanctuary for UASC-Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Youth and care leavers. Our youth come from the hot spots in the world-Afghanistan, Eritrea, Sudan Ethiopia, Iraq. They are mostly boys, aged 15-21 years.

We meet on **Fridays 6:30-9:30** at Castle Hill Church Community Rooms. We have a football project that runs on Saturday mornings and an English conversation class on Saturday afternoons. We work closely with the County UASC service, with the Red Cross, and the Refugee Council.

We are supported by volunteers from NTOs and from the University STAR group. We are affiliated to NYAC.

Contact Jamal Alwahabi : 07866604235
l2lyouthgroup@gmail.com



Saints Foundation

Engage Primary and Secondary
 Age: 9-16

Attached information www.northamptonssaintsfoundation.org/programmes/engage
 Available on confirmation of funding.

HITZ:
 Age: 16-19

Course: BTEC L1 Sport with Maths and English (no entry requirements needed)
www.northamptonssaintsfoundation.org

Starts September 2020



Lowdown

Our lockdown programme, run by our Conversation Starters is for young people, families and members of the local community take place every evening.

COUNSELLING: Self referrals for counselling are open now for remote support only on **Monday-Friday between 11:00am and 5:00pm**. This service is being delivered by our qualified counsellors and is available via video chat, telephone call or web chat.

EMOTIONAL WELLBEING SUPPORT: We've opened up a wellbeing support helpline on 01604 622223, which will be monitored between 1:00pm and 3:30pm Tuesday to Friday and Mondays 1:00pm to 7:30pm. We have also just launched an online emotional support chat bot at www.tidio.com/talk/wellbeing-support, which will be monitored at the same time as the helpline. Wellbeing resources and videos are also available on our dedicated web page thelowdown.info/counselling/remote-wellbeing-support.

We're also going to be offering Instagram live weekly wellbeing sessions at 6:30pm every Wednesday starting on the 22nd of April. Follow [@thelowdownn1](https://www.instagram.com/thelowdownn1) to make sure you don't miss out.

SEXUAL HEALTH: At this current time, we are unable to have our sexual health clinic open, but sexual health queries are being diverted to the hospital clinic and you can contact them on 01604 609786. STI testing kits can be ordered online at www.nhft.nhs.uk/sexual-health.

LGBTQ: Remote support is available for group members Monday-Friday 10:00am-12:00pm, 2:00pm-3:00pm and 4:00pm-5:00pm on the usual Out There phone number and email address. Support will also continue during normal group times, this includes Friday night Out There remote group 6:30pm-8:30pm and Out There Plus two Wednesday nights per month 6:00pm-8:00pm. There's also a dedicated Instagram page where our young people's creativity is being shared [@out_there_creations](https://www.instagram.com/out_there_creations) - see the images below. Our Out There Parents and Carers support group has also just launched - you can find them by searching for the group on Facebook. The LGBTQ services are subject to changes so please check social media or the website www.thelowdown.info for the most up to date information.

CRISIS CAFÉ: The crisis café for the most part will continue as normal every Monday 4:00pm-8:00pm at Café Track on the Market Square. We will provide this service virtually via our helpline 01604 622223 as well as face-to-face, if appropriate. Please call the above number before attending.

The TARGET project

TARGET is a National Lottery Community Funded project aiming to support more than 900 young people across Northamptonshire and Leicestershire in order to reduce online grooming and child exploitation.

The project has recently been given another three-year extension to its contract with £400k worth of funding, meaning it can continue its vital work. The team is delighted to have the opportunity to expand its support in not only Online Child Sexual Exploitation but also Child Criminal Exploitation.

The project is delivered to five-18 year olds and increases protective behaviours and improves well-being. The

support the TARGET team provides for surrounding schools and young people involves one-to-one intervention, student group work, specialised assemblies and workshops.

Another amazing announcement to kick-start TARGET's extended three-year contract is Nazir Afzal OBE, former Chief Crown Prosecutor for North West of England, has agreed to be Service Six's first Patron. He will be an ambassador for their work and support them along the way.

The photographs are from TARGET's third annual conference showcasing the work the team carries out to support young people who are growing up in a digital world. The day was moving and emotional for all staff, guests and speakers as it showed the access young people have to the online world in just the palm of their hands. Above: New Patron, Nazir Afzal. Below: Rushden Academy Drama Production.



Partner agencies and education settings can refer to the TARGET project, as can parents and children, who can self-refer.

If you know child who would benefit from their support, contact:

**Claire Connelly on
07813 366240 or
claire.connelly@servicesix.co.uk**



Business as usual for Northamptonshire Police

"Covid-19 won't stop us doing what we do best – fighting crime and protecting people" said Superintendent Dennis Murray (pictured), the man in charge of policing the north of the county.



Much of the teams' recent proactive work has involved drugs warrants, the seizure of significant quantities of drugs and cash, and a number of drugs-related arrests. Many of these have had links to gang activity which frequently involves child exploitation,

especially in relation to drug trafficking and supply. Much of the police activity has involved child safeguarding to ensure the links between child safety, exploitation, drug supply and other criminality were not missed.

A recent example is a day of action in Wellingborough in which a number of warrants were carried out in Fulmar Lane, Sandpiper Lane, Kilnway, Knights Court and Kittiwake Close. Drugs worth £25,000 and a large amount of cash were recovered with 20-year-old Jani Smith, of Kiln Way, and 18-year-old Aaron Jay Patrick Smith, of Sandpiper Lane, charged with possession with intent to supply Class A drugs.

Child Criminal Exploitation does not stop during the Covid-19 pandemic and is more likely to go hidden. What are the signs?

- ⇒ **Returning home late, staying out all night or going missing.**
- ⇒ **Being found in areas away from home.**
- ⇒ **Increasing drug use, or being found to have large amounts of drugs on them.**
- ⇒ **Being secretive about who they are talking to and where they are going.**
- ⇒ **Unexplained absences from school, college, training or work.**
- ⇒ **Unexplained money, phone(s), clothes or jewellery.**
- ⇒ **Increasingly disruptive or aggressive behaviour.**
- ⇒ **Using sexual, drug-related or violent language you wouldn't expect them to know.**
- ⇒ **Coming home with injuries or looking particularly dishevelled.**
- ⇒ **Having hotel cards or keys to unknown places.**



Concerned a child is being exploited into carrying drugs? Call the Child Safeguarding Team on 0300 126 1000 or police on 101.

If a child is in immediate danger, always call 999.

New RISE leaflet

The RISE (Reducing Incidents of Sexual Exploitation) multi-agency team has given its advice and support leaflet a makeover!

An electronic version is attached with this bulletin.



The grooming process

The young person is befriended and trust is built, making them feel special and understood.

As the relationship grows, the victim becomes dependent on this 'friend' who then begins to isolate them from their family, their school or work and their friends.

The offender gains control of the young person, through manipulation, coercion, threats and intimidation.

A young person may not even realise they are being exploited. Offenders use many different techniques to gain trust. The grooming may be direct or indirect, face-to-face or via social media.

About R.I.S.E
(Reducing Incidents of Sexual Exploitation)

RISE is a multi-agency team that includes police officers, children's social care workers and a specialist nurse. RISE works closely with professionals from other agencies. The aim of the RISE team is to reduce incidents of CSE, protect young people at risk and to disrupt and prosecute offenders.

If you have concerns that a child is at risk of sexual exploitation, guidance is available:

www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/cse

If you require further information please

Call us on: 01604 888345

Email us: rise@northants.pnn.police.uk

Or visit www.northants.police.uk

Speak out about: CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Push and pull factors

PUSH FACTORS These are vulnerabilities or issues that 'push' the young person towards the perpetrator.

- Previous experience of abuse
- Domestic violence and abuse
- Parental vulnerability (e.g. drug and/or alcohol abuse, mental illness, learning disability, their own history of an abusive childhood)
- Family breakdown / disrupted family life
- Insecure immigration status
- Children who have physical or learning impairments
- Children who are exploring their sexuality or gender without the appropriate support

PULL FACTORS The grooming techniques used by the perpetrator to gain the young person's trust. Examples may be:

- Being liked by someone or being made to feel special
- Receiving alcohol, drugs, money or gifts
- Getting a buzz from the excitement in risk taking or forbidden behaviour
- Being offered somewhere to stay where there are no rules or boundaries
- Being given lifts, taken to new places, and having adventures with a casual acquaintance

Possible indicators

CSE is often a hidden crime and it is important to be aware of indicators that a young person is at risk or being exploited.

- Episodes of running away/going missing
- Self-harming behaviours
- Exclusion from school or poor school attendance
- Physical symptoms e.g. sexually transmitted infections or bruising
- Unexplained clothes, money or other gifts
- Substance, drug and/or alcohol abuse
- Difficult relationships with family and peers
- Low self-esteem
- Association with risky peers or gangs
- Being contacted by unknown adults, or associating with older men/women
- Having more than one mobile phone, or using different SIM cards

It is often the case that children and young people do not see themselves as victims, as they may claim that they have acted voluntarily.

The reality is their behaviour is not voluntary or consenting - it is a product of grooming and manipulation.

In the next edition — 'A Day in the Life of'

In the next edition there will be a new, regular feature focusing on a day in the life of one of the wonderful people in our county doing amazing work to help protect children from exploitation or harm. The new feature is aimed at sharing best practice and knowledge. It will also be a great way to publicise the work of you and/or your team.

If you would like to shine a light on what you are doing and are willing for you or your team to be interviewed, call Claire Tompkins on 07557 778577.

The next bulletin will be out in the autumn.

Thank you for reading!