



Nottinghamshire  
Safeguarding  
Children Partnership

# Contextual Safeguarding

*A Nottinghamshire Response*



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A quick guide to each of  
the key areas of **Contextual  
Safeguarding** risk

**Contextual Safeguarding** is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. The relationships young people form outside of their families (whether online or community) can sometimes expose them to violence and/or abuse.

These threats can take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple threats, including exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups such as county lines, trafficking, online abuse, sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation.

Contextual safeguarding concerns are now part of Nottinghamshire's Pathway to Provision.

This helps professionals to identify the risks a child may face from people unconnected to their families.

Nottinghamshire has several pathways under the umbrella of Contextual Safeguarding Concerns:

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Child Criminal Exploitation including county lines exploitation
- Serious youth violence
- Radicalisation
- Human trafficking and modern slavery

Sometimes, different forms of Contextual Safeguarding overlap. For example, a child at risk of criminal exploitation may also be at risk of sexual exploitation or radicalisation. Because of this, the young person may be discussed in a number of forums and the lead professional will aim to reduce duplication and make sure that professionals follow the most appropriate pathway for the child.

This guide provides information about each of the areas of Contextual Safeguarding risk. It is based on a guide prepared for social workers but includes action points that apply across the partnership.





## Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)



Young People who are sexually exploited receive something in return for sexual activities.



Sexual exploitation can happen online.



Children who are sexually exploited will often have a change in behaviour.

### What is it?

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 is in place when a young person receives 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) in exchange for sexual activities.

Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can occur through the use of technology, for example being persuaded to post sexual images online. Often, victims are not aware they are being exploited.

In all cases, there is an imbalance of power between the young person and the perpetrator, and this can be due to their age, gender, intellect, physical strength or financial situation.

Violence, coercion and intimidation are commonly involved in exploitative relationships and can be characterised by the victim's limited choice, which can be because of their social, financial or emotional vulnerability.

### What are the high-risk Indicators:

- Multiple missing episodes and school truancy
- Unexplained income/new possessions
- Unexplained relationships with adults
- Change in behaviour/ appearance
- Sexualised risk taking.

## What steps to take if you suspect CSE:

Use the multi-agency child sexual exploitation pathway to help guide your actions. If you believe a child may be or has been sexually exploited, you should make a referral to the MASH. If you know that a case is already open to Children's Social Care, you should refer your concerns to the allocated social worker.

It is helpful to complete the CSE Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Tool (or your own organisation's CSE Risk Assessment Tools where applicable) as far as possible when referring CSE concerns.

In cases of immediate harm, referrals to Children's Social Care should not be delayed pending completion of risk assessments.

Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation (MASE) meetings are held monthly to have an oversight of those children where there is a high risk or a concern that existing plans may not be reducing the level of risk.

Children's Social Care and the Police are responsible for identifying children who should be considered by the MASE and you may be asked to attend and contribute to the meeting.

If you have intelligence that relates to people, places, activities, or vehicles which may be involved with or connected to CSE send it to the Concerns Network (Operation Striver ). Operation Striver was introduced by Nottinghamshire Police and provides the means to share information, develop disruption strategies and inform current investigations (this does not replace the need to make a referral when there are CSE concerns about known children).

General support for schools in developing their response to concerns is available from the Tackling Emerging Threats to Children team. Email [kirstin.lamb@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:kirstin.lamb@nottscc.gov.uk)

### Who to ask for further information:

Contact the Strategic Safeguarding Team **0115 977 3921**

### Useful Links:

#### **Nottinghamshire Multi Agency Referral Pathway**

[https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/local\\_resources.html#flow\\_path](https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/local_resources.html#flow_path)

#### **Child Sexual Exploitation interagency procedures**

[https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p\\_ch\\_sexual\\_exploit.html](https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p_ch_sexual_exploit.html)

#### **CSE Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Tool**

[https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/local\\_resources.html#tools](https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/local_resources.html#tools)

#### **Missing Children interagency procedures**

[https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/local\\_resources.html#local\\_practice\\_guidance](https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/local_resources.html#local_practice_guidance)



## Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)



Forcing, threatening, tricking or bribing another child to go along with the activity is not consent.

The Brook Sexual Health Traffic Light Tool helps professionals to know how to distinguish between healthy and harmful sexual behaviour in children and young people.

### What is it?

Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) involves one or more children engaging in sexual discussions or acts that are inappropriate for their age or stage of development. These can range from using sexually explicit words and phrases to full penetrative sex with other children or adults (Rich, 2011).

Harmful sexual behaviour is developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour which is displayed by children

and young people and which may be harmful or abusive (derived from Hackett, 2014). It may also be referred to as sexually harmful behaviour or sexualised behaviour. It can be displayed towards younger children, peers, older children or adults, and is harmful to the children and young people who display it, as well as the people it is directed towards.

### What are the high-risk Indicators:

- Disclosure from victim
- Exposing genitals or masturbating in public
- Sexually explicit talk with younger children
- Sexual harassment
- Power imbalance or lack of consent in sexual relationships between under 18's.



## What steps to take if you suspect HSB:

To help determine whether a behaviour might be a normal part of a child's development refer to the Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool, [www.brook.org.uk/our-work/the-sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool](http://www.brook.org.uk/our-work/the-sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool)

If you have concerns that a child's behaviour may be abusive, you should make a referral to Children's Social Care, following your own agency's child protection policy.

A child protection coordinator will decide whether a specialised HSB assessment is needed.

The Nottinghamshire HSB Panel provides an advisory service and receives referrals from specified agencies (predominantly Children's Social Care or the Youth Offending Team). The panel provides a gateway to further services and you may be invited by the panel to contribute to the assessment of the level and type of risk and any controls or interventions to reduce the risk of further sexually abusive behaviour.

General support for schools in developing their response to concerns is available from the Tackling Emerging Threats to Children team. Email [kirstin.lamb@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:kirstin.lamb@nottsc.gov.uk)

### Who to ask for further information:

Contact the social work practice consultant HSB lead, Sarah Flint [sarah.flint@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.flint@nottsc.gov.uk)

### Useful Links:

#### **Harmful Sexual Behaviour interagency procedures**

[https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p\\_sexually\\_harm\\_behav.html](https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p_sexually_harm_behav.html)

#### **Brook Traffic Light Tool**

<https://www.brook.org.uk/our-work/the-sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool>



# Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)



Children caught dealing drugs may have been coerced into doing so.



County lines gangs use children to courier drugs and money across the country. A high proportion of these children travel on trains.



Relationships with controlling, older individuals or gang association

## What is it?

Criminal Exploitation involves a young person receiving 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) in return for them completing a task on behalf of another individual or group of individuals; a task which is often of a criminal nature.

Child criminal exploitation occurs often without the child's immediate recognition, with the child believing that they are in control of the situation. In all cases, there is an imbalance of power between the young person and the perpetrator, and this can be due to their age, gender, intellect, physical strength or financial situation.

Violence, coercion and intimidation are commonly involved in exploitative relationships and can be characterised by the victim's limited choice, which can be because of their social, financial or emotional vulnerability.

'County lines' is one example of CCE. It is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other forms of 'deal line'. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

## What are the high-risk Indicators:

- Frequent missing episodes especially if found in a different area
- Unexplained income/new possessions
- Unexplained relationships with adults
- Criminal behaviour (eg possession of drugs/ weapons).



## What steps to take if you suspect CCE:

You should complete the multi-agency Youth Violence and Criminal Exploitation Risk Assessment Tool and discuss the outcome with your organisation's safeguarding lead.

Where there are concerns that a child is being criminally exploited and the child may be at risk of significant harm, or pose a risk of serious harm to others, a referral should be made to Children's Social Care.

High risk cases will be referred by Social Care or Youth Justice into the Youth Violence and Criminal Exploitation Panel, this is a multi-agency forum in which senior managers scrutinise the plans for vulnerable young people and agree actions that will be taken to further reduce risk.

If you have intelligence about suspected County lines exploitation you can email the police on:  
**Countylines@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk.**

If the young person is being moved over county boundaries then a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referral for child trafficking should be made.

Where the young person is not already known to Youth Justice Service, a referral for crime prevention should be considered – detail of referral criteria can be found in Pathway to Provision.

General support for schools in developing their response to concerns is available from the Tackling Emerging Threats to Children team. Email **ben.osifo@nottsc.gov.uk**

## Who to ask for further information:

Your local Youth Justice Team will be able to support you on **0115 804 2888** or the Strategic Safeguarding Team **0115 977 3921**.

## Useful Links:

### **Gang Activity, Youth Violence and Criminal Exploitation Affecting Children interagency procedures**

[https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p\\_ch\\_affected\\_gang\\_act.html](https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p_ch_affected_gang_act.html)

### **Missing Children interagency procedures**

[https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/local\\_resources.html#local\\_practice\\_guidance](https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/local_resources.html#local_practice_guidance)

### **Criminal Exploitation and County Lines Toolkit**

[www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/exploitation-toolkit.pdf](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/exploitation-toolkit.pdf)

# Serious Youth Violence



Those who carry a knife are more likely to be injured with a knife.

Young people who witness violence or are in some way connected to those involved in the violence may also be negatively affected. Think about their needs in your assessments.

## What is it?

Young people involved in crime, whether exploitatively or not, may be at risk of being seriously harmed or of causing serious physical injury to another. This could be a weapon-enabled violence (stabbing, shooting or hit and run type incidents) or through aggravated assault. The risk of serious youth violence may increase when the young person is gang-affiliated.

The government accepted definition of a gang is a relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who:

1. see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group
2. engage in criminal activity and violence
3. lay claim over territory (not necessarily geographical)
4. have some form of identifying structural feature
5. are in conflict with other, similar gangs.

## What are the high-risk Indicators:

- Suspected of carrying a weapon
- Involvement in drug trafficking/dealing
- Previous victim or perpetrator of violence crime
- Associates who are involved in violence.

## What steps to take if you are worried about Serious Youth Violence:

Complete the Multi-agency Youth Violence and Criminal Exploitation Risk Assessment Tool and discuss the outcome with your organisation's safeguarding lead. Where there are concerns that a child is at risk of serious youth violence or that they pose a risk of serious harm to others a referral should be made to Children's Social Care.

Where the young person is not already known to the youth justice service, consider making a referral for crime prevention. You can find the details in the Pathway to Provision [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/pathway-to-provision](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/pathway-to-provision)

If you have intelligence that a young person is carrying a weapon, this should be reported to the police.

General support for schools in developing their response to concerns is available from the Tackling Emerging Threats to Children team. Email [ben.osifo@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:ben.osifo@nottsc.gov.uk)

### Who to ask for further information:

Your local Youth Justice Team will be able to support you on 0115 804 2888.

### Useful Links:

#### **Gang Activity, Youth Violence and Criminal Exploitation Affecting Children interagency procedures**

[https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p\\_ch\\_affected\\_gang\\_act.html](https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p_ch_affected_gang_act.html)





# Radicalisation



Associating with adults who hold extreme views poses a risk to children and young people



Increasingly, young people are becoming self-radicalised by adopting beliefs that they read about online.

## What is it?

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support an extreme ideology which advocates violence. This ideology may be religious or political in nature but can also include a fascination with a person (such as someone who has been involved in murders or torture) or a social movement, for example animal rights activism.

Extremists might target them (often online) and tell them they can be part of something special, later brainwashing them into cutting themselves off from their friends and family. Increasingly, young people are becoming self-radicalised by adopting beliefs that they read about online.

## What are the high-risk Indicators:

- Behavioural changes
- Possession of violent extremist literature
- The expression of extremist views
- Advocating violent actions and means
- Association with known extremists

## What steps to take if you suspect radicalisation:

Any practitioner identifying concerns about the child or young person should report them to the identified lead person within their organisation and/or their line manager, who will discuss these concerns with the police Prevent Team.

Complete a referral form and send to the Prevent Team  
[prevent@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:prevent@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)  
 The Prevent team will gather a range of information and complete a vulnerability assessment. Relevant cases will then be discussed at the Channel Panel.

Where there is evidence of racism but a lack of other extremist views or concerns about violence you might consider a referral to your local Youth Justice Team for hate crime intervention.

General support for schools in developing their response to concerns is available from the Tackling Emerging Threats to Children team. Email [sarah.lee@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.lee@nottscc.gov.uk)

## Who to ask for further information:

You can contact the Police Prevent Team for advice and guidance on [prevent@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:prevent@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

## Useful Links:

### **Police Prevent Team**

[www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/site-page/prevent-counter-terrorism-strategy](http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/site-page/prevent-counter-terrorism-strategy)

### **Radicalisation and Extremism interagency procedure**

[https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p\\_sg\\_rad\\_vio\\_ext.html](https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p_sg_rad_vio_ext.html)





# Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery



A nail bar or car wash are examples of inappropriate workplaces.

## What is it?

Child trafficking is the action or practice of illegally procuring and relocating children, typically for the purposes of sexual exploitation or forced labour (a form of modern slavery).

## What are the high-risk Indicators:

- Child seen in an inappropriate workplace
- Child living separately to their family with no apparent access to parent/carers
- Child not registered with school or GP
- Child unsure which town/city they are in



Completing the National Referral Mechanism helps to identify and track victims nationwide



## What steps to take if you suspect human trafficking or modern slavery:

Modern slavery and trafficking are child abuse and you should make a referral to Children's Social Care where you suspect a child is a potential victim of trafficking, slavery, servitude or forced/compulsory labour. You should also inform the police.

Make a referral to the Independent Child Trafficking Advocates service, via **24/7 Professionals Support Line 0800 0434303** or via their website:  
[www.barnardos.org.uk/cta](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/cta)

Complete a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) form. You should make NRM referrals for all potential victims of trafficking and modern slavery. This is for children of any nationality, including British nationals, who may be trafficked for child sexual exploitation or as drug carriers within the UK.

Completing the NRM helps to identify victims and ensure they receive the appropriate support.

### Who to ask for further information:

You can contact ICTA for advice and guidance, [countertrafficking@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:countertrafficking@barnardos.org.uk)

### Useful Links:

#### **Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery interagency procedures**

[https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p\\_ch\\_from\\_abroad.html](https://nottinghamshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p_ch_from_abroad.html)

#### **National Referral Mechanism Guidance**

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms)

#### **NSPCC Child Trafficking Site**

[www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/child-trafficking/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/child-trafficking/)

#### **Independent Child Trafficking Advocates**

[www.barnardos.org.uk/cta](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/cta)



**Nottinghamshire  
Safeguarding  
Children Partnership**

**W** [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscp) • **E** [info.nscp@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:info.nscp@nottscc.gov.uk)

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