

Each month we will be focusing on a different safeguarding theme to raise awareness and signpost to resources.



Image by FreeP!k

For March, our theme is
All Age Exploitation



#Exploitationhappens@anyage

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Or via email:

safeguardingpartnership@swindon.gov.uk



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National Child Exploitation Awareness Day

#CEADay26

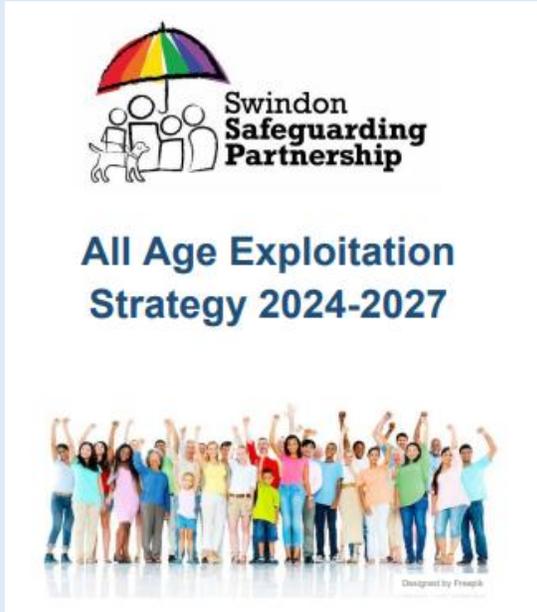
CHILD EXPLOITATION IS A FORM OF ABUSE THAT INVOLVES THE MANIPULATION AND/OR COERCION OF YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 18.

- Wednesday 18th March 2026 is the National Working Group (NWG) National Child Exploitation Awareness Day 2026.
- This year NWG want to highlight the issues surrounding CSE In Communities; they are encouraging everyone to **think, spot, and speak out** against abuse and adopt a zero tolerance to child exploitation.
- Find out more on the NWG website: [National Child Exploitation Awareness Day - STOP CE](#)



Strategy, Definitions and Forms of Exploitation

All Age Exploitation is a Strategic Priority for Swindon Safeguarding Partnership



- Swindon Safeguarding Partnership are committed to protecting children and adults from all types of exploitation. We recognise there is a lot to do to ensure that we deliver a consistently robust and integrated response to children and adults at risk of exploitation in Swindon.
- The All Age Exploitation Strategy (PDF) outlines the partnership approach and is aimed at professionals who are working to reduce exploitation in Swindon.
- It is essential that all partners working with children, adults and the wider public understand what exploitation is, how it differs from other forms of abuse, and when and how to respond to concerns.
- Swindon Safeguarding Partnership's ambition is to work collaboratively across Swindon to prevent exploitation. We aim to achieve three overarching strategic outcomes:
 - Children and susceptible adults across the partnership are:
 - prevented from becoming victims of exploitation
 - protected from exploitation
 - not perpetrators and/or groomed to facilitate exploitation

Definitions

The Home Office 2018 defines exploitation as:

An individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child, young person or adult and exploits them:

- a) Through violence or the threat of violence, and/or
- b) For financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or
- c) In exchange for something the victim needs or wants
- d) Can also occur through use of technology

Types of Exploitation

- Criminal Exploitation
- Sexual Exploitation
- Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking



Further information can be found in the [Swindon Safeguarding Partnership All Age Exploitation Strategy 2024-2027](#)



What is Exploitation?

Exploitation is a form of abuse where someone is forced or coerced into doing things for the benefit of others.

- Exploitation is often a gradual process
- People are groomed and introduced to new ideas, behaviours and activities, making these appear normal and acceptable
- These behaviours and activities may seem exciting or give someone something they are looking for – including money, gifts or a sense of belonging
- People may not recognise that they are being exploited until their situation becomes very serious
- Exploitation can take many forms, can take place in a range of situations, and can involve many groups of people
- Exploitation is a hidden and complex crime which abuses the basic human rights and dignity of victims who are subject to it

What does Exploitation look like?

Exploitation may be taking place even if someone seems to be making their own choices or the activity, they are taking part in appears consensual.

Exploitation can....

- Affect any child, young person or adult, regardless of age, ethnicity, nationality, gender identity and sexuality.
- be carried out by individuals or groups.
- involve force, control, coercion and intimidation.
- involve people being forced to take part in the exploitation of others.
- involve people being forced to take part in criminal activity.
- involve control and coercion – this could be psychological or physical.

How does exploitation affect children and adults?

Exploitation can:

- affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;
- affect any adult over the age of 18 years;
- still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
- involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is can be accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, children or adults from any ethnic background or socio-economic group and:
 - Is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. Age may be the most obvious, this can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.
 - Victims of exploitation may lack the capacity to consent and can be threatened or coerced. Awareness and use of the Mental Capacity Act (2005) to protect and support children aged 16 + and adults is essential.
 - The impact of grooming, coercion and control on mental health and capacity can be a factor.

Child Sexual Exploitation is a type of Child Sexual Abuse

Baroness Casey's report on group-based child sexual exploitation by 'grooming gangs' noted the following:

Child Sexual Abuse is an umbrella term that includes different types of abuse, including Child Sexual Exploitation.

Child sexual exploitation is a subset of child sexual abuse involving a power imbalance and the coercion or manipulation of a child into sexual activity in exchange for something the child needs or wants.

Group-based child sexual exploitation is a subset of child sexual exploitation where two or more perpetrators are involved.

The report noted that these definitions are not always understood, adopted or applied in practice.

Source: [Summary of the National audit on group-based child sexual exploitation and abuse | NSPCC Learning](#)



Image by Freepik

Cuckooing

- A practice where people take over a person's home and use the property to facilitate exploitation. It takes the name from cuckoos who take over the nests of other birds.
- There are different types of cuckooing:
 - Using the property to:
 - deal, store or take drugs
 - sex work
 - Taking over the property:
 - as a place for them to live
 - to financially abuse the tenant
- Most common form of cuckooing is where drug dealers take over a person's home and use it to store or distribute drugs.
- People who choose to exploit will often target the most vulnerable in society, establishing a relationship with the vulnerable person to access their home.
- Once they gain control over the victim - whether through drug dependency, debt or as part of their relationship – larger groups will sometimes move in. Threats are often used to control the victim.

Find out more on the following:

- [County Lines video](#)
- [Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board - Criminal Exploitation of vulnerable adults: County Lines & Cuckooing](#)

Further information and how to report cuckooing concerns in Swindon visit: [Cuckooing | Swindon Borough Council](#)

Grooming

When a person builds a relationship with a child, young person or an adult at risk so they can abuse them and manipulate them into doing things.

Abuse is usually sexual or financial, but it can also include other illegal acts.

This may take place online or in person and can happen over a short or long period of time - from days to years.

Online:

- via social media networks,
- text messages/messaging apps, email,
- text, voice and video chats in forums,
- games and apps

Groomers are good at lying about who they are, particularly online where they can create a false identity and pretend to be younger than they are.

In person: a groomer can be a stranger or someone the already known or trusted, for example through a friend or family, or at a club they go to.

To find out more click on the links below:

- ✓ [Grooming | Wiltshire Police](#)
- ✓ [Grooming: recognising the signs | NSPCC Learning](#)
- ✓ [CYP First - Grooming of Adults for Exploitation - Ann Craft Trust](#)
- ✓ [Common Feelings & Effects That Survivors Experience SurvivorsUK | Grooming](#)

Coercive and Controlling Behaviour

- Coercive control may start through grooming.
- Predators may target children, or adults, families, friends, professionals. They may initially provide support and assistance as part of the grooming process to win trust.
- Coercive and Controlling Behaviour describes a pattern of behaviour which seeks to take away the victim's sense of liberty or freedom.
- This is designed to make a person dependent by isolating them from support, exploiting them, depriving them of independence and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Further information can be found on the following:

- 7 minute/practice briefs: [Coercive control](#)
- [SSP practice brief - DASH risk identification checklist and MARAC](#)
- Monthly Safeguarding Theme Resource: [SSP Safeguarding theme December 2025](#)
- **Recorded webinar:** [Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment and the function of MARAC for high-risk cases and MATAAC](#)
- Webpages: [Domestic abuse - help and advice | Swindon Borough Council](#)

Video Clips

Below are some links to short video clips which may be of interest and to aid understanding.

- [Are You Listening? \(youtube.com\)](#) (2020) Duration 3 minutes. Leicestershire Police to raise awareness about young people being exploited by criminals.
- [Stages of Child Criminal Exploitation \(youtube.com\)](#) (duration 1 minute)
- [The voices of child sexual exploitation: 'They seemed really nice at first' \(youtube.com\)](#) (duration 1:20 minutes)
- [SWOP \(Sex Worker Outreach Project\) \(youtube.com\)](#) (duration 6 minutes)

Trigger Warning! The clips below depict grooming, coercive behaviour + violence and films would be rated 15 if shown in cinemas.

- [Breck's Last Game \(youtube.com\)](#) This film was made to raise awareness of online grooming. 14-year-old Breck Bednar who was murdered by a man he met on a gaming site.
- [Kayleighs Love Story](#) This film is about aspects of the last 13 days of the life of 15-year-old Kayleigh Haywood. Kayleigh was groomed online by a man she had never met, before being raped and murdered by his next-door neighbour.

Child Financial Exploitation is a form of Child Criminal Exploitation

Financial exploitation can happen to any child, from any background. It takes many forms, including exploitation within families and care placements as well as outside the home.

A growing concern across the country involves criminals approaching children and young people online through gaming and social media platforms, and in places like shops and cashpoints with offers of quick cash and fake job opportunities, only to use and control their bank accounts to commit fraud and launder money from organised crime.

Information from The Children's Society webpage – find out more by clicking on the links below:

- [What is Financial Exploitation?](#)
- [Children Forced Into Opening Criminal Bank Accounts](#)

SCAMS

Everyone of us is vulnerable to scams

Below are some resources to find out more:

- 7 minute brief [Scams - 7 minute briefing](#)
- Friends against scams website [Friends Against Scams](#)
- Free Online Learning: [Friends Against Scams - Online Awareness Training](#)
- [Safer Internet Day 2025 Top Tips - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Avoid and report internet scams and phishing: Report internet scams and phishing - GOV.UK](#)
- [Staying Safe from Fraud and Scams - Ann Craft Trust](#)

Scammers - Advice and Support

- ✓ **Report Fraud (was Fraud Action):** Advice and reporting: [UK's Home for Reporting Cyber Crime & Fraud](#)
- ✓ **Citizens advice:**
- ✓ [Check if something might be a scam](#)
- ✓ [Get help with scams](#)
- ✓ **Age UK:** [Scams advice – How to spot and avoid scams](#)
- ✓ [What to do if you're a victim of scams or fraud](#)
- ✓ **National Cyber Security Centre:** [Phishing: Spot and report scam emails, texts, websites and... - NCSC.GOV.UK](#)
- ✓ **Ofcom:** [Top tips to stay safe from the scammers](#)
- ✓ **Money Saving Expert:** [30 ways to stop scams](#)
- ✓ **Victim Support:** [Fraud](#)
- ✓ **Neighbourhood Watch YouTube recordings:**
- ✓ [Understanding the psychology behind scams \(youtube.com\)](#)
- ✓ **Website:** [ScamSmart - Avoid investment and pension scams | FCA](#)
- ✓ **Website:** [Friends Against Scams - National Trading Standards \(NTS\) Scams Team initiative protecting and preventing people from becoming victims of scams](#)
- ✓ **National Trading Standards:**
- ✓ [National Trading Standards Scams Team - National Trading Standards](#)
- ✓ [National Trading Standards eCrime Team - National Trading Standards](#)
- ✓ **Website:** [Free Website Scam Checker - Check a website by Get Safe Online](#)

Spot the signs of Radicalisation

- ✓ Radicalisation can happen both in person or online.
- ✓ Everyone is different, and there is no checklist that can tell us if someone is being radicalised or becoming involved in terrorism. But these signs may mean someone is being radicalised:
- ✓ accessing extremist content online or downloading propaganda material
- ✓ justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues
- ✓ altering their style of dress or appearance to accord with an extremist group
- ✓ being unwilling to engage with people who they see as different
- ✓ using certain symbols associated with terrorist organisations

Source: [Get help for radicalisation concerns - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

For advice:

- ✓ talking to friends and family [ACT Early website](#)
- ✓ Working in schools [Educate Against Hate website](#)

How might I identify vulnerability to/signs of Radicalisation?

Key Points:

- There isn't a single profile of radicalisation.
- It is unlikely to be just one factor but a combination, understanding context is part of the Channel process in assessing level of risk.
- Radicalisation can occur regardless of age, gender, lifestyle, beliefs or religion.

Possession of extreme materials or symbols e.g. swastikas	'Them' and 'Us' thinking
Change in language to include racist, offensive words	Isolation from family / friendship group
Talking about / planning violent action	Watching, sharing, or creating films online linked to religious, political, or racial hate
Feelings of grievance or injustice	Being at a transitional time of life or personal crisis
Need for identity, status or a sense of belonging	Family or friends holding or being involved with extremist ideas
Desire for political, social or moral change	Being influenced or controlled by a group

Radicalisation – Additional Resources

- ✓ [Radicalisation on the internet | ACT Early](#)
- ✓ [Educate Against Hate - Prevent Radicalisation & Extremism](#)
- ✓ [Act early - PREVENT radicalisation | Neighbourhood Watch Network \(ourwatch.org.uk\)](#)
- ✓ [Protecting children from radicalisation | NSPCC](#)
- ✓ [Understanding and identifying radicalisation risk in your education setting - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- ✓ [Keeping safe: how to spot and prevent online grooming and radicalisation | British Council](#)

Learning From Reviews

Exploitation has been a theme in reviews for both children and adults.

You can access the review reports and learning leaflets via the links below:

Children: [Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Case Learning leaflets](#)

Adults: [Safeguarding Adult Reviews \(SAR's\)](#)

Learning from Rapid Reviews

- Exploitation was a factor in 3 Rapid Reviews in 2023 & 2024
- Positive and consistent relationships with professionals was important to young people
- Recognising the impact of exploitation on a young person's mental health & how this might fluctuate
- More curiosity around injury presentation
- Multi-agency information sharing/meetings should be more robust/frequent when risk of harm is escalating
- Use of language/adultification/personal bias
- More timely referrals to the National Referral Mechanism

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Report – 2025- 2024 – Extrafamilial Harm

- Learning has stressed the need for practitioners to identify and support additional needs of children that may put them at greater risk of extrafamilial harm, such as disabilities and neurodiversity, as well as the frequent crossover between harm occurring inside and outside the home.
- Education continues to play a pivotal role in protecting children, while online activity has become an increasingly important factor facilitating extrafamilial harm.

Key Learning Points for direct practice:

- Identifying early indicators of risk of extrafamilial harm, particularly missing episodes, is essential for preventing harms escalating into exploitation or entrenched gang involvement. Missing episodes should be carefully analysed to understand patterns and inform risk management and potential disruption work.
- As far as possible, children experiencing extrafamilial harm should have contact with a single lead practitioner who has oversight of their lived experience and support needs. This person can act as an advocate for the voice of the child.

Continued on next slide.

Continued

Key Learning Points for direct practice:

- Significant 'reachable' moments in children's lives can provide opportunities for improving engagement. These moments may be positive or negative in impact but can be a means of establishing a 'hook' for engagement where children may be more receptive to change. These can include transitions and incidents that increase contact with services, such as escalations and referrals, arrests and hospital admissions.
- Exploring innovative approaches to engaging children experiencing extrafamilial harm might help improve service engagement and understanding around children's lived experiences and the risks they are facing.
- Maximising all potential support for children to continue in education when they are facing risks outside the home is critical in helping prevent further exposure to extrafamilial harm.
- Practitioners need to be able to work well with families, and especially parents and carers, to improve outcomes for children experiencing extrafamilial harm. This includes developing positive relationships, understanding and responding to any risk of harm factors associated with the home environment, and assessing the ability of parents or carers to help keep children safe.



Full report can be found at [Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: annual report 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK](#)



Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel in 2020 published 'It was hard to escape' focusing on safeguarding children at risk from criminal exploitation.

The themes highlighted are equally applicable to all forms of exploitation of children and adults. Some key themes included:

- Building trusted relationships to bring open and honest conversations
- Critical moments - capacity and responsiveness to respond at critical moments.
- Helping parents/carers and extended families to manage risk
- Acknowledging & managing risk
- Disrupting perpetrators
- National Referral Mechanism – misunderstood and not consistently used

**It was hard
to escape**

Safeguarding children at risk
from criminal exploitation

Safeguarding Adult Reviews

- **Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Sally** For many years, Sally was known to be at risk of exploitation, including cuckooing, by several agencies.
- [SAR Sally Full Report](#)
- [SAR Sally Executive Summary](#)
- [SAR Sally 7 Minute Briefing](#)
- [Learning from SAR Sally 240924](#)

Supporting children at risk of, or experiencing, harm outside the home

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 section 194 states...

Some children experience abuse and exploitation outside the home. This is often referred to as “extra-familial harm”. Harm can occur in a range of extra-familial contexts, including school and other educational settings, peer groups, or within community/public spaces, and/or online. Children may experience this type of harm from other children and/or from adults. Forms of extra-familial harm include exploitation by criminal and organised crime groups and individuals (such as county lines and financial exploitation), serious violence, modern slavery and trafficking, online harm, sexual exploitation, teenage relationship abuse, and the influences of extremism which could lead to radicalisation.

Children of all ages can experience extra-familial harm.



Safeguarding Adults

Section 42 Care Act 2014 - Enquiry by local authority

(1) This section applies where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there)—

(a) has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),

(b) is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and

(c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

If you have concerns – Child/Young Person

Children and Families Contact Swindon is the way to contact Swindon Borough Council's children's social care team which provides a single point of contact to request help and support for families or report safeguarding concerns for a child.

Further information can be found on this webpage:

[Request for help and support guidelines and contact information](#)

Please also refer to the [The Right Help at the Right Time](#)

[SWCPP - Welcome to the Swindon Safeguarding Partnership Procedures \(trixonline.co.uk\)](#)



If you have concerns - Adult

If you are concerned an adult may be at risk or is experiencing abuse and neglect, you can make a referral in the following ways.

Police out-of-hours contact: To report a crime or raise a concern about abuse with Wiltshire Police, you can phone the non-emergency number on 101. If someone is in immediate danger you should always dial 999.

Adult Safeguarding Team

- ✓ You can **report a safeguarding concern about an adult at risk of, or experiencing harm.**
- ✓ Tel: 01793 463555
E-mail: **adultsafeguarding@swindon.gov.uk** during office hours - Monday to Friday.
- ✓ **Out-of-hours emergency duty service:** is only for reporting safeguarding concerns that require urgent action out of normal working hours. Any other concerns should be forwarded to the Adult Safeguarding Team at **adultsafeguarding@swindon.gov.uk**, which will be processed the next working day.
- ✓ Tel: 01793 436699

Further information can be found on the SSP webpage : [Report a concern](#)



Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF)



 Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF) 2024

The CERAF is a tool to be used to help assess the risk of exploitation and can also be used to support a referral into the Integrated Adolescence Service (IAS)

Basic Information

Name of practitioner completing assessment		Date CERAF completed	
Young person's name		Age	
Sex		Date of birth	
Legal status (e.g. CP, CIN, CLA, etc.)		Ethnicity	
Education, employment, or training provision		Refugee/asylum seeking status	
Preferred language		Other involved agencies or services	

Information Sharing & Disclosure

Is the young person aware this tool has been completed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Are the parents/carers aware this tool has been completed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is there evidence of this young person being exploited?	Current: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Historic: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If 'Yes', you must refer to CSC immediately If 'Yes', you must refer to CSC to determine risk	
Is the person who may be exploiting the young person...	...known to the young person? ...a family relation to the young person?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
If known, state the name(s) of the person(s) exploiting the young person.			
If known, state the names of any other young people who may also be affected by this exploitation (e.g., siblings or friends)			
Please list any additional practitioners who have contributed to the completion of this tool			

Risk Assessment Questions

Has the young person ever...	Yes	No
Experienced neglect from parents, carers, or other family members?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Experienced physical abuse from parents, carers or other family members?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suffered historical sexual abuse (this does not include current sexual offences, but rather historic experiences that may impact on vulnerability to exploitation, including any concerns relating to STIs or pregnancy)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Experienced a breakdown in family relationships (Consider significant conflict at home, bereavement, and	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Child exploitation risk assessment framework - tool and associated guidance for professionals when working with children about whom they have concerns and to support decision making when making a referral.
- See also Harm outside the Home Multi-Agency Practice Guidance

Adult Exploitation Screening Tool & Guidance



Swindon Safeguarding Partnership Adult Exploitation Screening Tool

Definition of Exploitation

The Home Office 2018 defines exploitation as:

An individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child, young person or adult and exploits them:

- a) *Through violence or the threat of violence, and/or*
- b) *For financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or*
- c) *In exchange for something the victim needs or wants*
- d) *Can also occur through use of technology*

Swindon Safeguarding Partnership recognises that exploitation is deliberate maltreatment and manipulation irrespective of their age, gender, ethnicity, background or ability and sexuality and comes in many forms including:

Modern Slavery
Human Trafficking
Sexual Exploitation
Criminal Exploitation

Purpose of the tool

This screening tool is designed to support staff to determine whether an adult is potentially being exploited or groomed for exploitation. It should be completed when you have concerns that there is a risk of exploitation, or you have spotted some signs of exploitation. Where possible, the screening tool should be completed in partnership with the individual it concerns & where appropriate their carer's.

This screening tool provides some examples of indicators you may see if someone is being exploited. You may not see all of them or any of them, but should still record your professional judgement if you suspect grooming and or exploitation. There is further guidance that should be read before completing this tool.

- The guidance gives a clear description of risk and indicators.
- It gives advice on Dos and Don'ts.
- Examples of what to look out for and note.
- The tool helps to identify and give a common language and screening to identify adults' exploitation
- Link to access: [Adult exploitation screening tool and guidance](#)

Disruption Toolkits

- Identifying and disrupting perpetrators is a central part of multi-agency work to protect children and adults from exploitation. The documents below sets out some of the deterrent and enforcement tools available.
- [Child exploitation disruption toolkit - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-exploitation-disruption-toolkit) (2022)
- Guidance for Parents/Carers [Police disruption tools - Ivison Trust](#) (formerly Pace)
- [National Working Group Criminal, Civil and Partnership Disruption Options for Perpetrators of Child and Adult Victims of Exploitation.](#) *Will open in downloads folder.*



Use of Language

Use of Language

- The way we use language influences our thinking. Reviews in other areas have highlighted this as a significant issue which contributed to systemic failure to protect.
- Any language implying that a child/adult are complicit in or responsible for the harm they experience, negatively influences the lens by which we assess their needs and offer support.
- Victim blaming language may reinforce messages from perpetrators around shame and guilt. This in turn may prevent the person from disclosing their abuse as they may feel fear of being blamed by professionals.
- If we use inappropriate language what the adult and other professionals may hear is that they are in some way responsible for what is happening to them and therefore less deserving of our support.



Victim blaming is any language or action that implies, intentionally or unintentionally, that a person is partially or wholly responsible for abuse they experience.

The CSE Taskforce commissioned the Children's Society and National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC) to produce a guide and support materials.

Click on this link to view [Appropriate Language Guide](#)
Duration 1:26.

Adultification Bias

Happens when preconceptions held about children, lead to them being treated and perceived as being more ‘adult-like’ (Goff et al, 2014, Davis, J. and Marsh, N., 2020).

- Adultification is a type of bias which skews the perception of certain children leading to professionals viewing them as more grown up than their peers which can lead to lapses in safeguarding and unfair treatment.
- There are various contexts in which adultification occurs, all of which relate to a child’s personal characteristics, socio-economic influences and/or lived experiences, for example –
 - transphobia,
 - homelessness,
 - young carers,
 - domestic abuse,
 - poverty,
 - being a Cared For or Care Experienced child.

Further information about adultification bias can be found in the following:

- [Child Q - safeguarding practice review](#)
- [Adultification - September 2024](#)
- Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel report (March 2025) [“It’s Silent”: Race, Racism and safeguarding children](#)

Use of Language – Resources to find out more

- ✓ Waltham Forest have produced a short video clip about the impact of language and is developed and presented by children/young people - [Victim blaming language – YouTube \(duration 1:46 minutes\)](#)
- ✓ [Child Exploitation Language Guide | The Children's Society](#)
- ✓ [Challenging victim blaming language and behaviours when dealing with the online experiences of children and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- ✓ [The Power of Language in Safeguarding Practice - Ann Craft Trust](#)
- ✓ Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board Adult Exploitation Language Guidance (2025): [Adult-Exploitation-Language-Guidance-2025](#)
- ✓ [SSP Practice Brief - Practice brief: exploitation and language - words matter \(2022\)](#)

National Referral Mechanism (NRM)



National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

- Is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.
- **Children:** If the potential victim is under 18, or may be under 18, an NRM referral must be made. Child victims do not have to consent to be referred into the NRM and must first be safeguarded and then referred into the NRM process.
- **Swindon Pilot:** Wiltshire and Swindon are part of a Home Office-funded pilot that devolves National Referral Mechanism (NRM) decision-making for child victims of modern slavery to local authorities
- [Annex: Devolving child decision-making pilot programme statistics, October 2024 to September 2025 - GOV.UK](#)
- **Adults:** Consent is required for an adult to be referred to the NRM. This is informed consent and you must explain: what the NRM is, what support is available through it, what the possible outcomes are for an individual being referred

Below are some resources to find out more:

- [National referral mechanism guidance: adult \(England and Wales\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [SSP practice brief - Modern slavery human trafficking national referral mechanism \(NRM\) - October 2022](#)
- **See the next slide for a short video clip about the NRM process.**

Children...



ALL

This short clip (duration 6 minutes) explains the process, when to apply and how decisions are made. **Please note – as detailed in the previous slide the NRM process for children in Swindon is being piloted with devolved decision making.**

Click on this link to view:

[NCLCC - National Referral Mechanism - Awareness Video \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Local and National Resources

This is not an exhaustive list but include some of the following:
SSP learning events, Policies and Procedures, webpages and resources and eLearning.

[UMAY Mobile Street Safety App](#)

[Local Support Services](#)

[NSPCC](#)

[The Children's Society](#)

[CrimeStoppers](#) and [Fearless](#)

[Other resources](#)

[Wiltshire Police](#)





Welcome to the Learning Hub

The Learning Hub brings together partnership learning that strengthens safeguarding practice across Swindon.

Access training, 7-minute briefs and recorded sessions to turn learning into practical action and improve outcomes for children, young people and adults.



LEARNING HUB

Training

Find and book multi-agency safeguarding partnership training to build your knowledge and skills.

[View training](#)



LEARNING HUB

7-minute briefs

Read quick, practical briefings you can apply straight away in your everyday practice.

[Read 7-minute briefs](#)



LEARNING HUB

Video archive

Watch recorded briefings and events to support learning, reflection and good practice.

[Watch videos](#)

Safeguarding Partnership training, 7 minute and practice briefs and recorded webinars are all accessible via our learning hub.

Click on this link to find out more [Learning Hub Information](#)

Escapeline – Preventing Child Exploitation

- This is an opportunity for practitioners to improve their knowledge of child criminal exploitation, focusing on county lines and the associated risks, such as financial exploitation, sexual assault, physical violence and emotional/psychological abuse.
- Whilst this focuses on child exploitation the content of the sessions would also be relevant for those working with adults with care and support needs.
- The session will cover:
 - all aspects of county lines, how they operate in rural areas, the tier system, how they recruit young people and signs to look out for
 - how county lines communicate on social media
 - what it is like for parents and carers and the support they require
 - shared personal stories from experienced expert
 - strategies, best engagement, trauma and behaviours, mapping and NRM
- Further information about the session, dates and to book a place click on this link: [Escapeline – Preventing Child Exploitation](#)

SSP Practitioner Forum – All Age Exploitation

15th April 2026 from 9.30am to 11.30am – online

This is an opportunity for practitioners to find out more about what is happening in Swindon when responding to All Age Exploitation.

We would also like practitioners to share good practice and provide the voice of children, families and adults with care and support needs in Swindon to the Safeguarding Partnership.

It is open to all practitioners and volunteers working with children, young people, families and adults with care and support needs in Swindon. No invitation is necessary.

No Need to book Join the Teams link on the day

All Age Exploitation



Responding to Exploitation in Swindon (Children and Families)

21st April 2026 1:00pm - 4:00pm

- The sessions are facilitated by the Integrated Adolescent Service, Childrens Services, Swindon Borough Council.
- It is relevant to all frontline professionals who work with children/ families.
- This will be opportunity to find out more about:
 - Exploitation and the Opal Team
 - Missing Procedures and Practice Guidance for Swindon
 - The Updated Child Exploitation Framework (CERAF)
 - The National Referral Mechanism.
 - Further information and to book a place: [Responding to Exploitation in Swindon \(Children and Families\)](#)

SSP Useful Webpages

Child/Young Person

- Child exploitation Harm outside the home
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Neglect

Adult Resources

- Adults: Exploitation of adults

Relevant to both: Professional curiosity

SSP Policy and Procedures

- The Right Help at Right Time Guidance
- Multi-Agency Process for the Resolution of Professional Disagreements Relating to Safeguarding Protection of Children
- Think Family Practice Guidance
- Swindon and Wiltshire Children Missing From Home and Care
- Harm outside the Home Multi-Agency Practice Guidance
- Harm outside the home pathway
- Cross border protocol
- Adult safeguarding policy and procedures
- Adults Escalation Policy
- DASH risk assessment checklist
- Multi agency meeting guidance working with adults
- Adult exploitation screening tool and guidance

SSP Useful Resources

- ✓ [SSP Practice Brief Adult Exploitation](#)
- ✓ [Domestic abuse within families - learning from reviews](#)
- ✓ [Financial and material abuse](#)
- ✓ [Trauma-informed practice learning from reviews - Practice brief](#)
- ✓ [SSP Parent Carer Resource Child Exploitation October 2022](#)
- ✓ [SSP Practice brief - Working with resistance or disguised compliance](#)
- ✓ [Financial abuse and exploitation - May 2023 - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- ✓ [Risk outside the home - Toolkit of resources for professionals - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- ✓ [Child sexual abuse - Intra-familial sexual abuse, harmful sexual behaviour, peer-on-peer abuse and consent - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- ✓ [Neurodiversity information and resources for practitioners](#)
- ✓ [Resource pack - professional curiosity](#)
- ✓ [Capturing the voice of the child in records](#)
- ✓ [Guide to safeguarding and supporting young people](#)
- ✓ [Mental Capacity Act learning events recordings](#)
- ✓ [Video archive](#) - Serious and Organised Crime video - Wiltshire Police

Useful information in monthly safeguarding theme resources:

- [SSP Safeguarding theme February - Staying safe online](#)
- [SSP Safeguarding theme September 2025 - Prevent](#)
- [SSP Safeguarding theme October 2025 - Child Sexual Abuse](#)
- [SSP Safeguarding theme December 2025 - Violence against women and girls](#)

Free eLearning

- [Child criminal exploitation and county lines - E-learning](#)
- [Child sexual exploitation - 'Keep them safe'](#)
- [Child victims of modern slavery](#)
- [Identifying and responding to intra-familial child sexual abuse](#)
- [Identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery](#)
- [Modern slavery first responder training](#)
- [Prevent duty training: Learn how to support people vulnerable to radicalisation](#)
- [Being professionally curious - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)

GET AROUND, GO OUT, TRAVEL SAFELY



REPORT

REPORT AND IDENTIFY POTENTIAL CONCERNS

Reports are anonymous and visible to other users for 30 minutes.

SAFE PLACE

FIND A SAFE PLACE IF YOU FEEL UNSAFE

YOUR ROUTE

SHARE YOUR ROUTE WITH FRIENDS AND CHAT WITH THEM DIRECTLY IN THE APP

Your contacts can keep an eye on you thanks to geolocation feature.

SOS

SEND AN EMERGENCY MESSAGE IF NEEDED

DOWNLOAD FOR FREE
UMAY



Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google play



@umay_app_uk

UMAY Mobile Street Safety App

This app was developed in response to feedback from residents who expressed uncertainty about where to go when feeling unsafe in the town.

Features on the app include journey planning tools, interactive maps highlighting safe spaces, and an anonymous reporting system to help identify 'hotspots'.

Webpage: [UMAY | Your Mobile Street Safety App](#)

Press release: [Swindon's launch of the Umay app features safety awareness](#)

Short video clip: https://youtu.be/2V_QRzNP2hY (duration 1:19 minutes)

Download in the App store or Google Play.

Local Support Services

Some of the resources available for professionals are detailed below. This is not an exhaustive list. Please view the websites for further information about the services provided.

- [The Bridge - Help after rape and sexual assault](#)
- First Light Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) [Swindon & Wiltshire - First Light](#)
- [Sexual assault referral centres animation \(youtube.com\)](#)
- Barnardo's Swindon & Wiltshire Phoenix Project [Swindon & Wiltshire Phoenix Project](#)
- FearFree: [Swindon and Wiltshire Sexual Violence Therapeutic Service](#)
- [The Nelson Trust](#) - Services are trauma-informed, gender responsive, and provide holistic support for women and their families.
- BeU Swindon - FREE, Early Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Support service for Children/ Young People in Swindon. Website: beuswindon.co.uk
- Letting the Future In NSPCC therapeutic service for children who have been sexually abused. <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/services-children-families/letting-the-future-in>. If you wish to make a referral please Contact NSPCC Swindon on [01793 683 100](tel:01793683100)

Support Services continued

- We Stand support for families impacted by child sexual abuse.
- Medaille Trust - <https://www.medaille-trust.org.uk/> provides support for victims of Modern Slavery
- [Swindon - Paragon Team](#) Integrated Domestic Abuse Service
- [Swindon Domestic Abuse Support | Society Without Abuse, SWA](#)
- [Microsoft Power BI](#) – Support services by Local Authority area.
- **Swindon survivor pathway:** a guide for anyone wanting to know more about specialist sexual violence support services in Swindon <https://www.survivorpathway.org.uk/swindon/>
- [SurvivorsUK | We challenge the silence to support sexually abused men](#)
- [Home - Victim Support](#)
- Mankind - [ManKind Initiative - Supporting Male Victims of Domestic Abuse](#)

NSPCC Resources

NSPCC Learning:

- [Protecting children from sexual exploitation](#)
- [Child sexual exploitation: learning from case reviews](#)
- [Why language matters: how using terms like 'recruited' and 'working' minimise children's experiences of criminal exploitation](#)
- [Why language matters: how referring to online 'friends' can mask safeguarding concerns](#)
- [Harmful sexual behaviour \(HSB\) or peer-on-peer sexual abuse](#)
- [Safeguarding children at risk from criminal exploitation: CASPAR Briefing](#)
- [Protecting children from county lines](#)
- [Summary of Race, racism and safeguarding children - "It's silent"](#)
- Childline: <https://www.childline.org.uk/> Call 0800 1111



Centre for Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse

- [Key messages from research on child sexual exploitation \(January 2026\)](#)
- [Data Insights Hub | CSA Centre](#)
- [Microsoft Power BI](#) – data on child sexual abuse in Local Authority area
- [Microsoft Power BI](#) – Support services by Local Authority
- [Trends in official data | CSA Centre](#)
- [Events | CSA Centre](#) – some of which are free to attend



The Children's Society

The
Children's
Society

- [Information for professionals](#)
- [Information & Advice For Young People](#)
- [#LookCloser To Spot Exploitation](#) is aimed to raise awareness about the exploitation of children/young people and the vital role that everyone can play in helping stop it.
- [Internet-Matters-Decrypting-Crypto-report-July-23.pdf \(internetmatters.org\)](#)
- [good practice guidance on supporting unaccompanied children who arrive in the UK and are at risk of going missing.](#)
- [CSE Toolkit For Professionals](#)

Exploitation

Resources from
Crimestoppers & Fearless

Crime**Stoppers.**

A young person with short, curly hair is sitting on a bus seat. They are wearing a grey t-shirt and blue jeans. Their hands are clasped in their lap, and they have a serious, thoughtful expression. The bus interior features blue patterned seats and yellow handrails. A red arrow points to the right, partially overlapping the text.

Help protect
your community

We are an independent charity that gives people the power to speak up and stop crime, 100% anonymously.

People with concerns and information about crime and illegal activity contact our team, we take information about the crime, strip it of any identifiable information about the person providing it, and pass it on to the relevant authorities to take appropriate action.

Our service is available on the phone (0800 555 111) and online ([crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)), 24/7, 365 days a year. We also share advice on how to protect the people you care about from crime.

We have a youth service called Fearless which provides an anonymous reporting option for young people, but also educates them on crime and the signs to look out for. We have free resources for professionals working with young people at www.fearless.org.

Resources covering various types of exploitation are available for partners to use, helping spread awareness of our anonymous reporting service.

In this pack, there are resources on:

- County Lines
- Human Trafficking/Modern Slavery
- Courier Fraud
- Romance Fraud
- Child Financial Exploitation
- Organised Crime Gangs

We want to inform a wide range of audiences about the harms these issues bring to communities, encouraging people to report any information they may have, knowing that they will stay 100% anonymous.

**It started
with a DM.**

Just one package.
Just one drop-off.

Easy cash.

It could be courier fraud.
Spot the signs...

If someone has tried to recruit you, tell us what you know, 100% anonymously.

CrimeStoppers.

0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.



Modern slavery is on your doorstep.

Spot the signs so you
can speak up.

#SlaveryonYourDoorstep

CrimeStoppers.
0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.

Criminals use violence, exploitation, and intimidation to control people, and profit from the sale of drugs and other illegal activities.

Crimestoppers is encouraging people to speak up and not remain silent when criminals are known to them.

Individuals in the community can pass on what they know (however small or insignificant they may think the information is), it allows the authorities to build a fuller picture with the intelligence received.

Any piece of information could help prevent genuine harm and injury.



Some of the resources use our Fearless brand which is specifically for young people aged 11-17 years.

We also have a page on our Fearless website for professionals working with young people to find helpful information.

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/professionals>

A gang is using my brother to move drugs.

I am worried he might get hurt.

Need to tell someone

Don't want my name involved

Who can I tell?

**Tell us
WHAT
YOU KNOW**

**100% anonymously
at Fearless.org**



How you can support us.

Please explore what resources we have available and share with your network.

There is a range of posters, leaflets, resource booklets and social media assets for different types of exploitation.

[Click to view and download](#)

Please also follow us on [LinkedIn](#) – [Facebook](#) – [Twitter](#) – [Instagram](#) and our local [Swindon & Wiltshire Twitter](#)

If you'd like to work more closely with Crimestoppers and Fearless, please contact your Regional Manager:

Beth Simpson
beth.Simpson@crimestoppers-uk.org



Other Resources

Missing People: offer help and support for professionals, those thinking of going missing and families of missing.

- [For professionals](#)
- [Get help and support](#)
- [SafeCall - Missing People](#) – free, confidential and anonymous helpline & support service for young people/families affected by missing, county lines and criminal exploitation.
- Also, confidential support & advice for professionals working with an exploited young person or family.

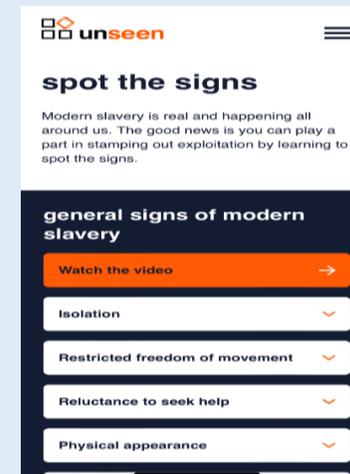
Ann Craft Trust

- [Protecting Children From Modern Slavery and Exploitation](#)
- [Migrant Help - Responding to Modern Slavery, Exploitation and Trauma - Ann Craft Trust](#)
- [CYP First - Grooming of Adults for Exploitation](#)

- [Ivison Trust](#) (formerly Pace) supports parents/carers
- [Welcome to the NWG Network](#)

Unseen

- [Home - Unseen](#)
- Front line workers [Frontline Workers - Unseen](#)
- [Spot The Signs - Unseen](#)
- Download the Unseen app (see below)
- [#LikestoLines: Protect your child from county lines online exploitation](#)



Other Resources

- ✓ **Contextual Safeguarding:** [Toolkits](#) and [Resources](#)
- ✓ SPACE- STOP & PREVENT ADOLESCENCE CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION: information for professionals, parents/carers regarding Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and County Lines
- ✓ Multi-agency Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm (researchinpractice.org.uk)
- ✓ **Barnardo's:**
 - ✓ [Child sexual abuse and exploitation](#)
 - ✓ [Criminal exploitation of children](#)
 - ✓ [Child Exploitation: A Hidden Crisis | Briefing Paper](#)
- ✓ County Lines - National Crime Agency
- ✓ Modern slavery in the UK - Anti-Slavery International (antislavery.org)
- ✓ County Lines exploitation: applying All Our Health - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Guidance: County Lines exploitation for front-line health/care professionals but some useful information for all professionals
- ✓ [Escapeline – Preventing Child Exploitation](#) – range of resources including parents helpline, resources for professionals, parents and young people.

Wiltshire Police

- [Child sexual exploitation | Wiltshire Police](#)
- [County lines | Wiltshire Police](#)
- [Child criminal exploitation | Child abuse | Wiltshire Police](#)
- [Advice for parents, guardians and professionals | Wiltshire Police](#)
- [Modern slavery | Wiltshire Police](#)
- [How to report a missing person | Wiltshire Police](#)
- **Community Partners Information Sharing Form:** [Community Partners information sharing form](#)

Email signature

If appropriate, please add the text below to your email signature

Swindon Safeguarding Partnership's Theme for March 2026 is

All Age Exploitation

**Exploitation
can happen
at any age**

Find out more by visiting the [SSP Events webpage](#)
or follow us on

X @SwindonSafegua1

#Exploitationhappens@anyage



And finally...

Please let us know if the information and resources have been helpful to you.

You can give us your feedback by clicking on the link below
[Feedback on SSP Monthly Safeguarding Theme 2026](#)
or scanning the QR code.



It will only take you two minutes!

Are you on our circulation list?

Do you want to be kept updated about SSP related matters such as training, learning resources and our newsletter?

You can sign up to our circulation list circulation list by clicking on this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/f7CRNF6Wax>

Or using the QR code.



You can ask to be removed at any time by emailing safeguardingpartnership@swindon.gov.uk

