



Definitions: Child Exploitation

Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation



Is a form of child sexual abuse.

*It occurs where an **individual or group** takes advantage of an **imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive** a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity*

*(a) in **exchange** for something the victim needs or wants, and/or*

*(b) for the **financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator/facilitator.***

The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual.

CSE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology

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- **Power imbalance:** age / gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, access to economic or other resources.
- **Some form of exchange** - sexual activity in return for something (victim and/or perpetrator or facilitator)
- Tangible & Intangible
- can include contact /non-contact sexual activities,
- can occur online or in person, or combination of each.

Definition of Child Criminal Exploitation

Child Criminal Exploitation is common in county or local lines & occurs where an **individual or group** takes advantage of an **imbalance of power** to **coerce, control, manipulate or deceive** a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity in exchange for something the **victim needs or wants**, and/or (b) for **the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator** or facilitator and/or **through violence or the threat of violence**.

The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

(Working Together 2018 Definition)

Criminal Exploitation - Child's Definition

*'When someone you trusted
makes you commit crimes for their benefit'*

(The Children's Society)

County Lines

County lines is a term used to describe gangs, groups or drug networks that supply drugs from urban to suburban areas across the country, including market and coastal towns, using dedicated mobile phone lines or 'deal lines'. They exploit children and vulnerable adults to move the drugs and money to and from the urban area, and to store the drugs in local markets. They will often use intimidation, violence and weapons, including knives, corrosives and firearms.

County lines is a major, cross-cutting issue involving drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery and missing persons and the response to tackle it involves the police, the National Crime Agency, a wide range of Government departments, local government agencies and voluntary and community sector organisations. County lines activity and the associated violence, drug dealing and exploitation has a devastating impact on young people, vulnerable adults and local communities.

Local Lines

Local lines replicate the 'County Lines' model, but operate at a local level, within a community. This means it will be local adults or young people grooming and coercing other local children and young people, and vulnerable adults, into criminal activity. The operating model itself would be very similar in terms of chain of command, drug supply and associated criminal activity and behaviour.

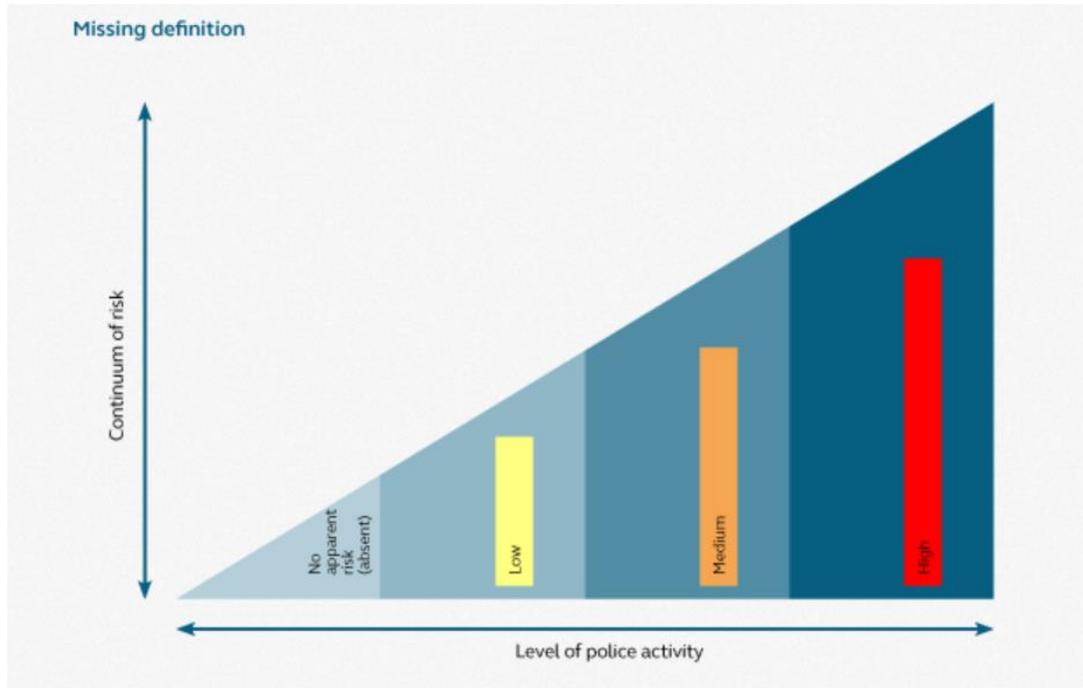
Other forms of exploitation include cyber exploitation, radicalisation and trafficking and modern slavery.

Trafficking Definition

"Trafficking in persons shall mean **the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons**, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or ...

Source: [CPS Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and Smuggling](#)

College of Policing Missing Definition



Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established will be considered as missing until located, and their well-being or otherwise confirmed.

All reports of missing people sit within a continuum of risk from 'no apparent risk (absent)' through to high-risk cases that require immediate, intensive action.

[Missing persons \(college.police.uk\)](https://college.police.uk/missing-persons)