

You can't turn
back yesterday.
Today is a new day,
tomorrow is my future.

Prevention
programme
South West

**The
Children's
Society**

Who are we?

National charity delivering in England & Wales:

- Local direct support to children and young people
- National policy, research, campaigning and youth engagement

**140
years
old**

Our expertise lies particularly in:

- Child Exploitation (CSE/ CCE and MSHT)
- Children in care
- Substance and alcohol misuse
- Refugee and migrant children
- Mental health and well-being

**71
frontline
services**

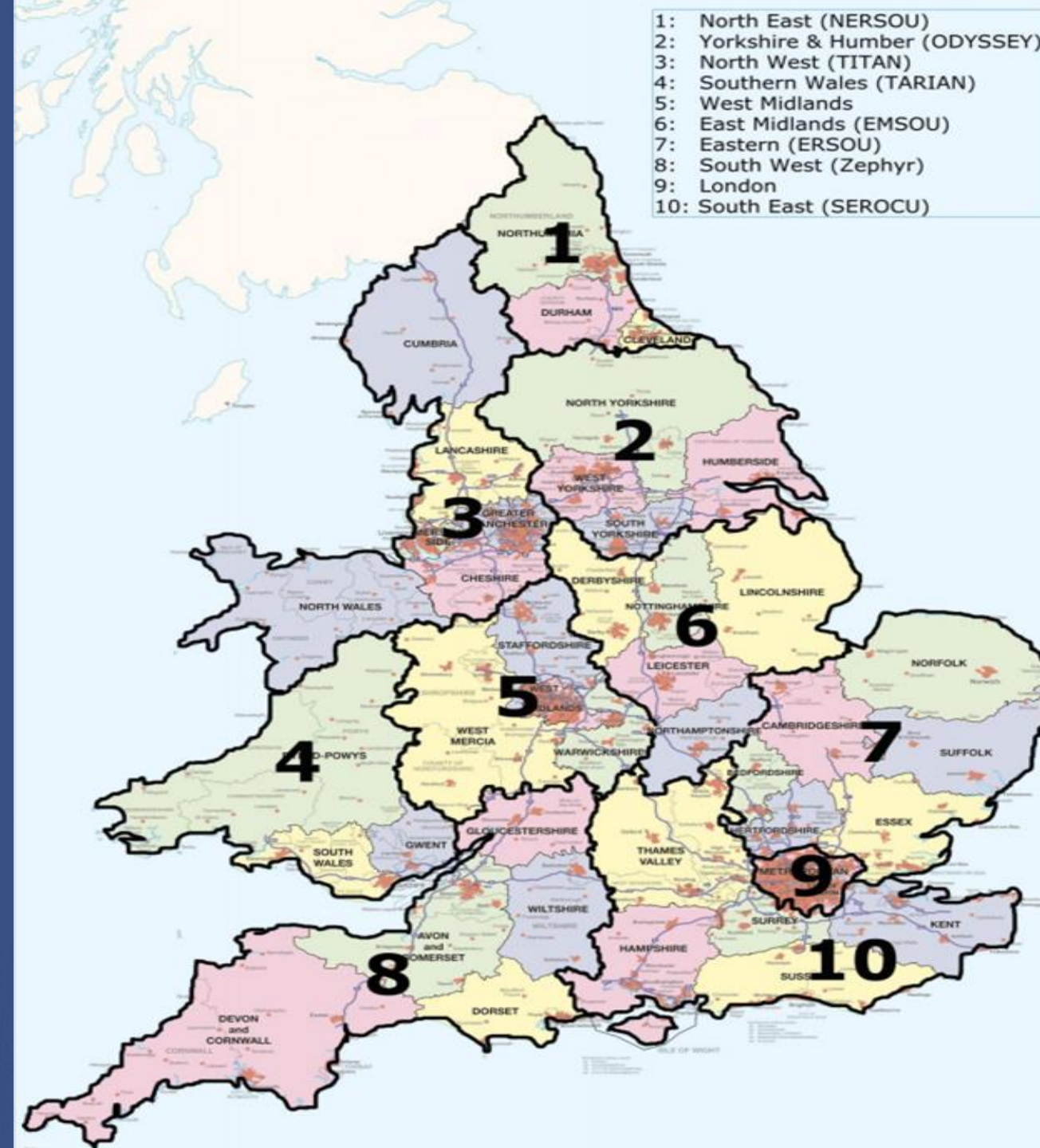
**780
staff**

The Children's Society

Exploitation Prevention Programme, England and Wales

The Children's Society is delivering a service aimed at preventing and lowering incidences of child exploitation including (sexual, criminal and modern day slavery) on a regional basis across England and Wales.

Our service is based on a network of 10 specialist Prevention Officers, each covering a designated policing region. The programme focusses on utilising contextual safeguarding approaches.



What do we do?

The Prevention Officers work in partnership with multi-agency professionals including Regional Organised Crime Units, Health, Education, Social Care, Sport and other Voluntary, Community and Faith sector organisations

Deliver targeted activities using contextual safeguarding approaches

Identify hot spot locations, priority areas and specific threats in each region.

Collect intelligence and bring insight on the current nature of the threat through partnership engagement

Co-ordinate the involvement of relevant local organisations to avoid duplication

Provide tactical advice to safeguarding and disrupting abuse, exploitation, modern day slavery and human trafficking

Emerging trends of exploitation

- Knife crime, carrying a weapon
- Gaming applications- online exploitation
- Peer to peer abuse
- Explicit images
- Car crime and theft

Knife Crime- why do young people carry weapons?

- Protection and sense of security
- Social status
- Peer pressure
- Fear/intimidation
- Fear of reprisals
- Earn respect

Gaming applications and online exploitation

- Online gaming also gives predators a logical topic to start a conversation with their intended victims
- Children tend to be trusting online and often befriend strangers of any age or sex.
- They often befriend children, giving them game tips, or providing game currency.
- Some games include team play, or allow players to communicate through headsets, web cameras, and chat rooms.

Peer to peer abuse

- Bullying or Peer Abuse occurs when children are singled out for ridicule and tormented by peers who are relatively more powerful than they are.
- The children who do the tormenting are often older, physically larger, more aggressive or more socially powerful than their victims.
- A form of control, testing of power.
- Insecurity.
- A home life with challenges.
- Safeguarding responses need to engage with the peer groups, schools and neighbourhoods.
- Online abuse and exploitation

Explicit images and 'Sextortion'.

- An increase during 2020 of the sharing of indecent images.
- Asked for more images and not payment
- Fear of reprisals and escalation
- Linked to gaming applications and other social media accounts
- Male and female perpetrators
- Remote mothering

Car crime and exploitation

- Increase in children committing car crime
- Car thefts, for the purposes of trafficking
- Less detectable during Lockdown
- Other modes of transport
- Cars online

CCE Stage of recruitment:



Targeting stage

This is when a person targets a young person who is vulnerable, as this as this reduces their chances of getting caught. **Signs of this stage include a person:**

- * Observing you, finding out your vulnerabilities, needs and wants
- * Glamourising their lifestyle to you
- * Gaining and developing your trust
- * Sharing information about you with other members of their gang
- * Recruiting you to their gang or friendship group

Experience stage

This stage is where this person might try to get you used to their lifestyle, or train you up in what they're doing. **At this stage a person might:**

- * Make you feel wanted
- * Give you gifts and rewards
- * Test out your loyalty
- * Offer you protection
- * Relate to you and offer you advice
- * Give you a sense of belonging
- * Give you a weapon
- * Introduce you to more established members of their gang

Hooked stage

This is the stage where the person will make you feel like you're a member of their gang, even though actually they're just exploiting you for their own gain. **Signs of this stage include a person:**

- * You getting more responsibilities within the group eg more money
- * You might be asked to commit low level crimes
- * You might feel more powerful (although this may not be the reality)
- * Exposure of possible consequences to your actions
- * Engaging in activities such as drugs, alcohol and sexual behaviour

Trapped stage

Now you feel dependant on the group, the relationship with the person exploiting you may start to become unpleasant, as they reveal their true intents or character. **At this stage you may experience:**

- * Threatening behaviour and physical violence
- * People playing on your guilt, shame and fear
- * Attempts to isolate you from your family, friends and society
- * People forcing you to abuse others, assault or even shoot people
- * Involvement in Class A drugs (cooking or running)

Priorities 2021/2022



1. Preventing
exploitation and
abuse is everyone's
responsibility



2. Reframing
narratives around
victimhood



3. Increasing
collaboration across
sectors and
geographies

Gather, collate and share insight to inform the programme and the Home Office

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