

What is Exploitation?

- Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation are considered to be types of abuse (KCSIE).
- Both boys and girls are exploited for both criminal and sexual exploitation. Some experience both criminal and sexual exploitation.
- Children are exploited to undertake a wide range of criminal activity such as carrying and selling drugs, serious violent crimes, vehicle crimes.
- Children are trafficked into sex rings and/or sold to individuals to perform sexual activity.
- Exploitation can be a one-off incident or a series of activities.
- Some children, once recruited, are forced to recruit their friends for the gangs. In such cases, the child recruiter should be seen and dealt with as a victim.

County Lines

- County lines is a form of exploitation where children are used to move drugs across county boundaries. In reality they are often moving more than drugs: weapons and money are moved too.

Who is At Risk?

Any child is at risk of exploitation. Gangs work in any city, town or village – anywhere that there is a market for drugs or other profitable criminal activity. They are seeking children who will go unnoticed in the particular community.

There are a range of factors that could make a child more vulnerable to exploitation. These include:

- Age and imbalance of power.
- Sexual identity.
- Cognitive ability.
- Learning difficulties.
- Communication ability.
- Physical strength.
- Status and access to economic or other resources.
- Contextual and family circumstances (ACES).
- Siblings or friends who have been involved in gang activity.

Discussion Point:

How does this show up in School Life?

Some common patterns include:

- Children missing education.
- Changes in a child's behaviour including anger, depression, being distracted or frightened.
- Children who are involved in low level criminal activity.
- Children who are being sexually harassed, including those where the school becomes aware of indecent images of the student.
- Changes in academic performance.
- New friends outside of school and new possessions such as phones.
- Having older 'friends'.
- Displaying sexual behaviours beyond that which would normally be expected and/or becoming pregnant / or having STIs.
- Misuse of alcohol or drugs.

Key Points on how Gangs Recruit Children

Men and woman exploit children. It can be done by gangs (often serious organised crime gangs) or individuals.

Think about the fact that the child is being sent with drugs into communities: the gangs will look for children that will easily blend in.

Debt Bondage Offering possessions (eg mobile phones or trainers) that the child wants, or by offering understanding or status for the child.

Blackmail Often called “sextortion” where sexually explicit images of a child are used to blackmail them into taking part in criminal or sexual activity.

Intimidation Gangs will often simply threaten a child with serious violence towards them or their family if they don’t become involved. Individuals and gangs collect information on children they meet - often online - including through gaming and chat rooms.

What Actions Should We Take?

- Early help can be used for children considered to be at risk of exploitation.
- Ensure children understand how to stay safe online and the dangers associated with sending nude or sexual images.
- Let children know that nothing is free. If someone offers them something for free - no matter how small - encourage them to say no and speak to a trusted adult.
- Provide parents with information to help keep their children safe.
- Ensure children have a trusted adult they can speak to if they are concerned. Once trapped it can be really difficult for a child to tell anyone.
- Know the signs and talk to the DSL as early as possible.
- Foster a positive culture where the voice of the child can be heard.

Does it help to recognise the language of gangs? Some examples:

1. **Gang:** A group of individuals involved in criminal activities, often associated with a specific area or neighbourhood.
2. **Crew:** A term used to refer to a group of gang members.
3. **Set:** A smaller faction or subgroup within a gang.
4. **O.G. (Original Gangster):** A term used to describe a respected and influential older member of a gang.
5. **Roadman:** A term used to refer to a gang member involved in street-level crime.
6. **Mandem:** A term used to refer to a gang's collective or group of friends.
7. **Beef:** A conflict or dispute between rival gangs or individuals.
8. **Ops:** Short for "oppositions" or rivals; typically used to refer to members of rival gangs.
9. **Trap:** A term used to describe a drug-dealing location or a place where criminal activities take place. Cuckooing is also a term for taking over a house for the purpose of criminal activity.
10. **Straps:** Slang for firearms or weapons.
11. **Drill:** A style of aggressive rap music associated with gang culture and street violence.
12. **County Lines:** The practice of urban gangs expanding their drug-selling operations to smaller towns and rural areas.
13. **Yute:** Slang for a young person, often used to describe younger members or associates of a gang.
14. **Jakes:** Slang for the police.
15. **On road:** Being actively involved in criminal activities or on the streets.
16. **Plug:** A person or source that supplies drugs or other illicit goods.
17. **Skeng:** Slang for a knife or blade.
18. **Peng:** Slang for attractive or appealing.
19. **Line:** A phone line used for drug dealing or communication within a gang.
20. **Grafting:** Engaging in criminal activities or hustling.

For more information see: [Children's Society Slang Dictionary](#)

Real World Example – Jaydan Moodie

Jaden Moodie: The child groomed and killed in London's drug war



IMAGE SOURCE, FAMILY HANDOUT

Jaden Moodie moved from Nottingham to London with his mum for a "new start"

The mother of a 14-year-old boy hunted down and knifed to death in gang violence said she will never forget the image of her youngest child lying face down in a pool of his blood.

Jaden Moodie was dealing drugs on 8 January in Leyton, north-east London, when he was deliberately hit by a car. As he lay in the road, he was repeatedly stabbed by a rival gang.

Jaden's mother explains how her son became embroiled in a drug turf war.

For a fuller version: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-50665961>