

ESCB Safeguarding Vulnerable Children on Transport Networks

Your role in helping tackle and prevent
Exploitation & Trafficking



Why are we here today?

- Public transport networks across Essex are often used by young people who may be vulnerable to child exploitation and other types of abuse
- Train stations are busy, anonymous places that also often provide some form of shelter, access to food/drink and free wifi
- Buses, trains and taxis can also be used by perpetrators to traffic young people for the purpose of exploitation
- Buses, trains and taxis can be used by a young person during a missing episode

All staff working within and around the station, regardless of their role plays an important part in safeguarding vulnerable young people.

Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation

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 or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

HM Government, February 2017

Definition of Child Criminal Exploitation

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) occurs where an individual or group coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into **criminal activity** (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

Criminal activity can include but not limited to:

- Moving drugs from one place to another
- Selling drugs to people for someone else or for a group/gang
- Carrying or holding weapons for another
- Holding money or asked to cash in money
- Handling stolen goods

“Accounts from practitioners indicated that the use of young people in drug transportation was an organised activity, directed by local gangs....Train tickets would be bought in advance by “*the elders*”, and the fact that young people had valid train tickets for these journeys, which they would not normally be able to afford, provided evidence that their trips were organised.”

Local perspectives in Ending Gang and Youth Violence Areas Perceptions of the nature of urban street gangs:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/491802/horr88.pdf

Definition of Trafficking

Article 3 of the UN Palermo Protocol defines trafficking as:

“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 the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation

Over 1,200 children were identified as potential victims of trafficking last year.

NCA, 2017

The international definition of Human Trafficking has 3 elements

1. **The Act**, what is done, Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, receipt of a person.
2. **The Means**, how you get someone to consent to the act. i.e force
3. **The Purpose**, why it is done i.e exploitation.

As a child cannot consent to being exploited the only elements of the definition that need to be present to identify that an act of Human Trafficking has been committed are the **Act** and the **Purpose**.

What age is a child?

The age of consent to sexual activity is 16 yrs, but sometimes a child's circumstances mean that they are not capable of consent or making safe decisions

If a child is being groomed, threatened or coerced they may not be able to make safe decisions

When we talk about Child Sexual Exploitation a child is anyone under the age of 18 yrs and therefore 16 and 17 year olds can be exploited too.

True consent = freedom and capacity to make choice

Power and Control

This is an essential element in the grooming process and ongoing exploitation of young people.

The child is encouraged to break away from some or all of their support groups including peers, family and school.

The perpetrator/s take control of the victim by replacing the support structures with him/herself

In some cases a dependency is created through drugs or alcohol though it does not have to be material it could be emotional and can include threats and violence against the family and young person, blackmail and exposure to the authorities.

Exchange

Receipt of something for performing sexual acts on others or others performing sexual acts on them.

Or receipt of something for undertaking something of a criminal nature.

Again, this may be material or emotional and may involve creating a dependency on drugs or alcohol



Limited choice

- The victim may feel they have limited choice due to vulnerability, social and economic dependencies
- The victim may feel that the situation they are in is better than the alternative
- Often the young person does not see themselves as a victim
- The perceived consequence of saying no or speaking out may feel worse than the abuse - especially if the victim is a male

Who can be exploited?

I DIDN'T KNOW

Being exploited for sex can happen
to **ANY CHILD** from **ANY COMMUNITY.**

KNOW THE SIGNS.

What is grooming?

Making someone feel cared for, giving someone affection, building an emotional connection and trust with someone for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

The grooming process can be over a long period of time or can happen quickly.

Grooming techniques can also be used on those associated with a victim in order to support access to that victim.

Many victims do not recognise manipulative techniques used by the perpetrator.

The grooming line



Targeting stage

- Observing the child/ young person
- Selection of child/ young person
- Befriending – being nice, giving gifts, caring, taking an interest, giving compliments, etc
- Gaining and developing trust
- Sharing information about young people between other abusive adults



Friendship forming stage

- Making young people feel special
- Giving gifts and rewards
- Spending time together
- Listening and remembering
- Keeping secrets
- Being there for them
- 'No-one understands you like I do'; being their best friend
- Testing out physical contact – accidental touching
- Offering protection



Loving relationship stage

- Being their boyfriend/girlfriend
- Establishing a sexual relationship
- Lowering their inhibitions – eg showing them pornography
- Engaging them in forbidden activities – eg going to clubs, drinking, taking drugs
- Being inconsistent – building up hope and then punishing them



Abusive relationship stage

- Becomes an 'unloving' sexual relationship
- Withdrawal of love and friendship
- Reinforcing dependency on them – stating young person is 'damaged goods'
- Isolation from family and friends
- Trickery and manipulation – 'you owe me'
- Threatening behaviour
- Physical violence
- Sexual assaults
- Making them have sex with other people
- Giving them drugs
- Playing on the young person's feeling of guilt, shame and fear



ACTIVITY

Know the signs ...what might you see in your role?

Children and young people who are victims of exploitation often do not recognise they are being exploited. However, there are a number of signs that could indicate a child is being exploited.

BEHAVIOUR

- Volatile or aggressive, withdrawn or very quiet, trying to hide / secretive.
- Getting involved in petty crime such as shoplifting or stealing.
- Attending during school time/attending in school uniform
- Unusual behaviour, behaviour that seems out of place or sexualised behaviour such as being overfamiliar with strangers
- Under influence of drugs/alcohol

PRESENTATION

- Anxious or distressed, dishevelled, tired.
- Child or young person who appears to be alone.
- Physical signs – i.e bruising or injuries
- Evidence of self harm or low self esteem

ENVIRONMENT:

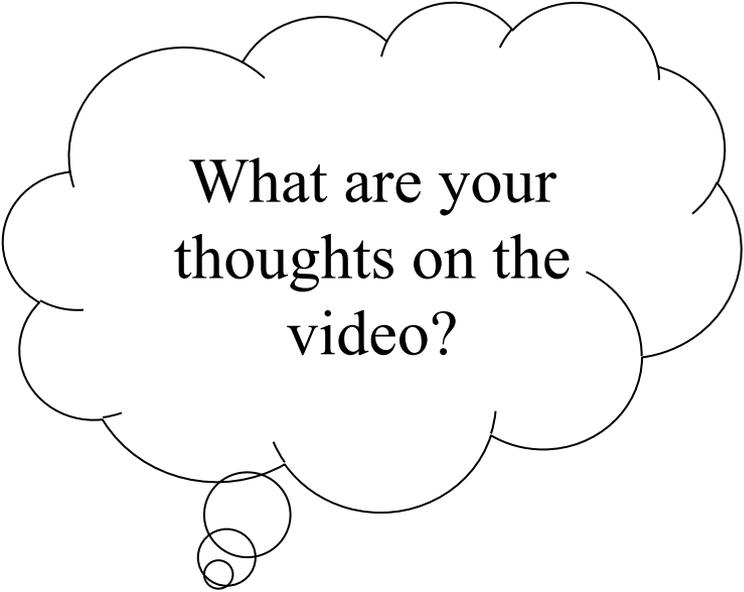
- Spending a long time in one area
- Late at night, or when should be at school
- Travelling long distances/ out of area
- Accessing places that are not age appropriate

OTHER PEOPLE:

- With an older person who doesn't seem to be parent or carer.
- With older people, or a group of older people
- Approached by someone the young person does not look like they know
- Being given gifts, including food, cigarettes, alcohol or being offered a place to stay.
- Adults frequently coming in with different young people
- Other people speaking on behalf of young person when directly spoken to
- Children or young people seen entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults outside of station

Night watch video- Barnardo's

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhX2gzxjhdM>



What are your thoughts on the video?

What to do if you are worried about a child or young person on a train, in or around a station:

- **In an emergency call 999**
- **Or speak to a British Transport Police Officer on:**

0800 405040

Or text 61016

Network Exploitation Advisors Pledge:

- 1) Attend an initial training course on exploitation and trafficking.
- 2) Cascade information and learning to all station staff and those that work on the railway network within your organisation.
- 3) Ensure Say Something if You See Something posters are located in staff areas clearly marked with the name of the local Exploitation Advisor and contact number.
- 4) Ensure that exploitation and trafficking is regularly on the agenda in staff meetings and development or training opportunities to continue to raise awareness and discussion.
- 5) Be a role model and advocate within your organisation for children's safety in respect of exploitation and trafficking.
- 6) Hold conversations with businesses within the station about spotting the signs and understanding how to report concerns or get help.
- 7) Encourage others to, Say Something if they See Something.

Project Resources:

- Say Something if you See Something
 - Staff posters
 - Leaflets for the general public and staff in and around railways
 - Children and young people pamphlets
- Power point package for staff meetings awareness raising / internal staff development
- Bi-annual newsletter update from the District Council
- Training as required to new 'Exploitation Advisors' by District Council.

More Information:



Essex Safeguarding Children Board Website:

Access to posters, leaflets, video clips for the I Didn't Know CSE Campaign, to raise awareness

Runaway Helpline:

For children who have run away, forced to leave home or are thinking about it.



Railway Children Charity:

Working closely with the transport industry and the DfT to ensure systems are in place to protect and support vulnerable people.

NWG CSE Response Unit:

Access specialist support and resources for workers tackling CSE from all organisations,



Local Services:



The Children's Society have local services that can provide a range of support for young people. Please contact 01245 493311 or visit website www.childrenssocietyeast.org.uk.

Sexual violence services to adults, children and young people across Southend, Essex and Thurrock. Individuals can refer by calling: 03000 03 77 77.



Barnardo's have local services that can provide a range of support for young people. Please visit website <http://www.barnardos.org.uk>

What's next:

Op Henderson:

Safeguarding Vulnerable Children on Transport Networks.

29 January – 9 February 2018 :

- Media campaign
- Outreach work delivered by The Children's Society working alongside British Transport Police.
- Outreach workers based at stations throughout Epping Forest / Basildon District / Braintree District
- Outreach workers and BTP engaging with small businesses and general public in and around the station.
- Essex Police supporting local activities.
- Exploitation Advisors cascading messages and materials, posters in staff localities.