

# DID YOU KNOW?

*Child exploitation  
can happen in  
venues like yours?*

**Your awareness can  
make the difference**

Child exploitation can happen in everyday places outside the home. Hotels, fast food outlets and leisure venues are safe and positive spaces, but they are also environments where young people may spend time, pass through, or stay briefly.

Settings like yours can involve:

- Short-term or repeat visits
- Young people arriving with different individuals
- Limited supervision or familiarity with staff

This means staff may notice situations, behaviours or patterns that others don't.

By being aware and knowing how to report concerns, venues can help deter exploitation, identify concerns early and protect young people as part of Essex's Risk in the Community approach.

**Your awareness can help  
deter exploitation and protect  
a young person.**

## *Spot the signs*

You might notice:

- A young person who appears frightened, anxious, withdrawn or controlled
- Someone speaking for them, closely monitoring them or not allowing them to speak
- Pressure to go places, do things or keep secrets
- Repeated visits, short stays or hanging around for long periods without clear reason
- Being moved between locations or waiting to be collected by others
- Being asked to look after items or belongings they seem uncomfortable with
- Behaviour or situations that just don't feel right

**Exploitation often starts small and may look  
'normal' at first.**

*See it. Report it. Protect a child.*



## What to do if you're worried

Through visits across Essex, partners have identified both positive safeguarding practice and areas where arrangements can be strengthened.

1. **Notice:** trust your instincts
2. **Do not intervene:** keep yourself and others safe
3. **Report:** share concerns as soon as possible

You are not expected to investigate. Reporting information early can help prevent harm.

## How to report

- 999 – if a child is in immediate danger
- 101 – non emergency police concerns
- Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111 report anonymously

**You won't get it wrong. You don't need certainty, just concern.**

## Working together

This work is part of Essex's Risk in the Community approach, focusing on preventing harm by making everyday places safer for children and young people.

*See It. Report it. Protect a child.*

Scan the QR code to access further information and resources via the ESCB webpage

[www.escb.co.uk/safeguarding-topics/exploitation-risk-in-the-community](http://www.escb.co.uk/safeguarding-topics/exploitation-risk-in-the-community)



SCAN ME



**#CEAwarenessWeek26**