

# DID YOU KNOW?

*You may see signs of child exploitation while someone is travelling without realising it.*

**Your awareness can protect a child**



## *Why this matters?*

Public transport networks are everyday community spaces used by children and young people to travel to school, activities, work and social opportunities. Many young people travel independently or spend time waiting at stations, stops or transport hubs. This means transport staff, drivers and businesses may notice concerns that others do not.

In Essex, safeguarding on transport networks is part of the Risk in the Community approach. This recognises that exploitation can happen in public places where young people may be travelling independently or spending time while waiting or moving between locations.

Transport staff, drivers and businesses may notice concerns others do not. Your awareness can help protect a young person.

## *Spot the Signs*

You don't need proof, noticing concerns and patterns matters. Signs are often about behaviour, control and patterns, not one single incident.

**Look out for:**

### *Young people who:*

- Appear frightened, anxious, withdrawn or distressed
- Looking unsure of where they are going or who they are with
- Appearing tired, unwell or overwhelmed
- Avoiding eye contact or not speaking freely

### *Interactions with others*

- Someone closely monitoring, directing or controlling them
- Another person speaking for them or giving instructions
- Pressure to hurry, avoid staff, or keep secrets

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



## *Journeys and situations*

- Repeated late night or long distance journeys involving a young person
- Pick ups or drop offs at unusual or unfamiliar locations
- Changing destinations mid journey or instructions given by phone
- Young people waiting for long periods at stations or stops

Concerns are often about **patterns**, not one off incidents

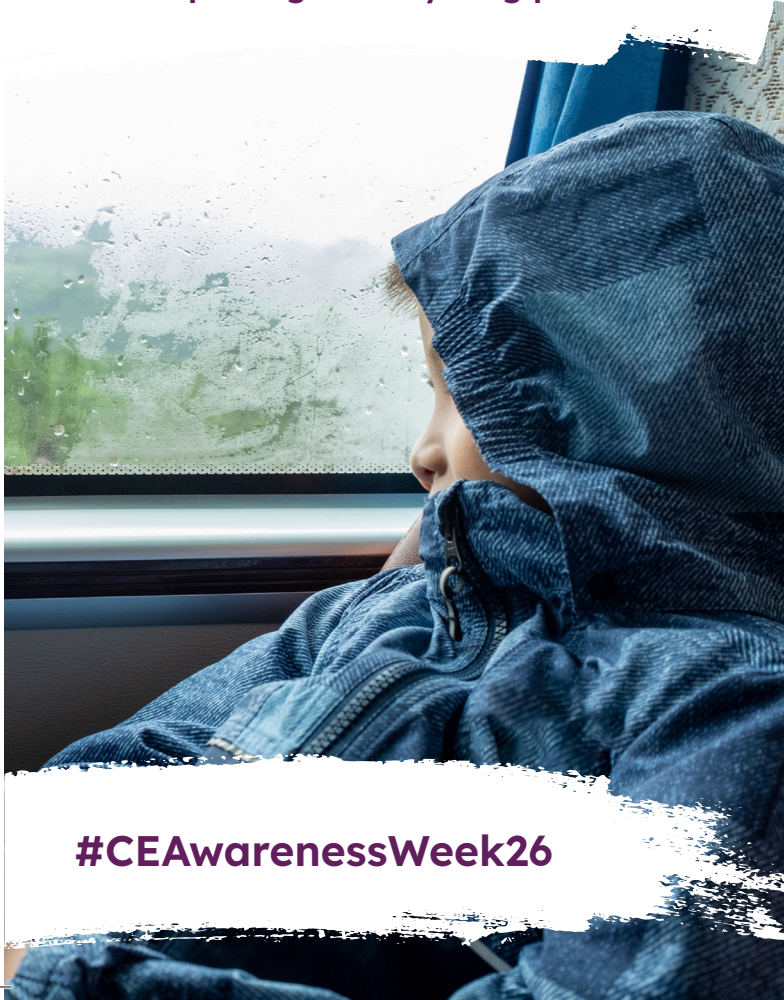


**You don't need certainty, concern is enough**

## *What should you do?*

1. **Trust your instincts:** If something doesn't feel right, take it seriously
2. **Do not intervene:** Do not challenge anyone directly or put yourself at risk
3. **Report your concern:** You are not expected to investigate or prove harm

**Sharing information early can help safeguard a young person**



**#CEAwarenessWeek26**

## *How to report*

- 999 if a child or young person is in immediate danger
- British Transport Police text 61016 for concerns on the rail network
- 101 to report non emergency concerns
- Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 report anonymously

## *Working together*

Safeguarding in Essex is guided by the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Safeguarding Children Partnerships (SET SCP) Procedures Manual and government statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children

This means anyone who comes into contact with children, including transport staff, drivers and businesses, has a role to play by noticing concerns and sharing information so safeguarding partners can respond.

## *Further support*

- Scan the QR code to access further information and resources via the ESCB webpage or #CEAwarenessWeek26.



**SCAN ME**

- [www.escb.co.uk/safeguarding-topics/exploitation-risk-in-the-community/safeguarding-on-public-transport-operation-henderson/](http://www.escb.co.uk/safeguarding-topics/exploitation-risk-in-the-community/safeguarding-on-public-transport-operation-henderson/)
- The Children's Society #LookCloser campaign; [www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/lookcloser](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/lookcloser)