

APPENDIX 4: FURTHER INFORMATION ON CURRENT HIGH-PROFILE SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

Further information on Mental Health

All staff should also be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem. Staff however, are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.

Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is key that staff are aware of how these children's experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour and education. If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken, following our child protection policy and speaking to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy.

See published advice and guidance on Preventing and Tackling Bullying, and Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools.

Further information on Trafficking

Child trafficking is a form of child abuse where children are recruited and moved to be exploited, forced to work or sold. They are often subject to multiple forms of exploitation including: child sexual exploitation, benefit fraud, forced marriage, domestic servitude including cleaning, childcare and cooking, forced labour in agriculture or factories, criminal activity such as pickpocketing, begging, transporting drugs, working on cannabis farms, selling pirated DVDs, bag theft.

Traffickers trick, force or persuade children to leave their homes and then move them to another location. Trafficked children are often controlled with violence and threats and may be kept captive, resulting in long lasting and devastating effects on their mental and physical health. It is not easy to identify trafficked children, but you may notice unusual behaviour or events that just don't add up. Both boys and girls are victims of trafficking. Trafficked children may be from the UK or have been moved from another country. Poverty, war or discrimination can put children more at risk of trafficking. Traffickers may promise children education or respectable work, or persuade parents that their child can have a better future in another place. It can be very difficult to identify a child who has been trafficked, as they are deliberately hidden and isolated. They may be scared, or they may not realise that they are a victim or are being abused. While there may not be any obvious signs of distress or harm, a trafficked child is at risk and may experience physical abuse, emotional abuse and/or neglect.

Many children are trafficked in to the UK from abroad, but children can also be trafficked from one part of the UK to another. Even a child being moved from one side of the street to a different address for a short period of time with the intent of exploitation would be identifiable as a trafficking crime. Any suspicion of trafficking must be reported to the LADO and the Police without delay.

Further information on Child Criminal Exploitation

Child criminal exploitation is increasingly used to describe this type of exploitation where children are involved, and is defined as: Child Criminal Exploitation is common in county lines and occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. Criminal exploitation of children is broader than just county lines, and includes for instance children forced to work on cannabis farms or to commit theft.

Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, county lines exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;
- can affect any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years;
- can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;

- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation.

Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources. One of the key factors found in most cases of county lines exploitation is the presence of some form of exchange (e.g. carrying drugs in return for something). Where it is the victim who is offered, promised or given something they need or want, the exchange can include both tangible (such as money, drugs or clothes) and intangible rewards (such as status, protection or perceived friendship or affection). It is important to remember the unequal power dynamic within which this exchange occurs and to remember that the receipt of something by a young person or vulnerable adult does not make them any less of a victim. It is also important to note that the prevention of something negative can also fulfil the requirement for exchange, for example a young person who engages in county lines activity to stop someone carrying out a threat to harm his/her family.

The national picture on county lines continues to develop but there are recorded cases of:

- children as young as 12 years old being exploited or moved by gangs to courier drugs out of their local area; 15-16 years is the most common age range
- both males and females being exploited
- White British children being targeted because gangs perceive they are more likely to evade police detection but a person of any ethnicity or nationality may be exploited
- the use of social media to make initial contact with children and young people
- class A drug users being targeted so that gangs can takeover their homes (known as ‘cuckooing’). We do know that county lines exploitation is widespread, with gangs from big cities including London, Manchester and Liverpool operating throughout England, Wales and Scotland. Gangs are known to target vulnerable children and adults; some of the factors that heighten a person’s vulnerability include:
 - having prior experience of neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse
 - lack of a safe/stable home environment, now or in the past (domestic violence or parental substance misuse, mental health issues or criminality, for example)
 - social isolation or social difficulties
 - economic vulnerability
 - homelessness or insecure accommodation status
 - connections with other people involved in gangs
 - having a physical or learning disability
 - having mental health or substance misuse issues;
 - being in care (particularly those in residential care and those with interrupted care histories)
 - being excluded from mainstream education, in particular attending a Pupil Referral Unit.

Further information on Radicalisation (in line with the PREVENT DUTY)

From 1st July 2015 specified authorities, including all schools are subject to the duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 in the exercise of their functions to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.” This duty is known as the Prevent duty.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. To reduce the risk from terrorism we need not only to stop terrorist attacks but also to prevent people becoming terrorists. This is one objective of Prevent, part of CONTEST, the Government’s strategy for countering international terrorism. All the terrorist groups who pose a threat to us seek to radicalise and recruit people to their cause. The aim of Prevent is to stop people becoming or supporting terrorists, by challenging the spread of terrorist ideology, supporting vulnerable individuals, and working in key sectors and institutions. Work to safeguard children and adults, providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity, is at the heart of the Prevent strategy. Supporting vulnerable individuals requires clear frameworks – including guidance on how to identify vulnerability and assess risk, where to seek support and measures to ensure that we do not ever confuse prevention and early intervention with law enforcement. Channel is a key element of the Prevent strategy. It is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners (such as the education and health sectors, social services, children’s and youth services and offender management services), the police and the local community to identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism; assess the nature and extent of that risk; and develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned. Channel is about safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-

related activity. It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before illegality occurs.

A young person's involvement in county lines activity often leaves signs. A person might exhibit some of these signs, either as a member or as an associate of a gang dealing drugs. Any sudden changes in a person's lifestyle should be discussed with them. Some potential indicators of county lines involvement and exploitation are listed below, with those at the top of particular concern:

- persistently going missing from school or home and / or being found out-of-area;
- unexplained acquisition of money, clothes, or mobile phones
- excessive receipt of texts / phone calls and/or having multiple handsets
- relationships with controlling / older individuals or groups
- leaving home / care without explanation
- suspicion of physical assault / unexplained injuries
- parental concerns
- carrying weapons
- significant decline in school results / performance
- gang association or isolation from peers or social networks
- self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being.

What to do if you are concerned

Any practitioner working with a vulnerable person who they think may be at risk of county lines exploitation should follow their local safeguarding guidance and share this information with local authority social services. If you believe a person is in immediate risk of harm, you should contact the police. Use your local safeguarding process, the first step of which is usually to contact your designated safeguarding lead within your organisation. If you don't know who this is, refer to your manager. Your designated safeguarding lead has the responsibility for linking in with your local authority's social services. If you are not satisfied with the local authority's response, you should follow up your concerns by discussing these with your safeguarding lead.

Indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation:

1. **Radicalisation** refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

2. **Extremism** is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy as: Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

3. **Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as: The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:**

- **Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;**
- **Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;**
- **Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts; or**
- **Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.**

4. There is no such thing as a "typical extremist": those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.

5. Pupils may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors - it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that school staff is able to recognise those vulnerabilities.

6. Indicators of vulnerability include:

- **Identity Crisis** – the student / pupil is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society;
- **Personal Crisis** – the student / pupil may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
- **Personal Circumstances** – migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the student / pupil's country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;

- Unmet Aspirations – the student / pupil may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
- Experiences of Criminality – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration?
- Special Educational Need – students / pupils may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

7. However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.

8. More critical risk factors could include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters;
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations; and
- Significant changes to appearance and / or behaviour;
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and or personal crisis.

Staff should be alert to any warning signs of radicalisation and hold an attitude of 'it could happen here