

What to do if you're worried:

- **Inform one of the school's DSLs as soon as possible**— These are: Ann-Marie Kedzior, Carla Lawes, Krupa Nanda, Emma Colley, Sam Gregory, Holli Elverstone, Kirsty Johnson and Wayne Holder. Contact the police immediately if you believe the child is in danger.
- **Talk to them and listen**—If a child or young person is being groomed to join a gang, there are many factors to consider to protect them and keep them safe. However, it's crucial that they feel they're able to talk to you, or to another trusted adult outside of the gang. Speak to them honestly about the consequences of violent or illegal behaviour – they might not realise how they could be liable or could have been lied to. However, make sure that they still feel comfortable talking to you about what is worrying them.
- **Be aware**—If you're worried about a child, or know that they're involved with a gang or criminal group, try to be aware where they are when they're out, who they're with and what they're doing on social media. It's important they trust you, but they might also be at risk. Communicate openly with their parents or carers
- **Encourage a change**—You can encourage them to get involved in positive activities at school, such as sports and clubs. You can also talk to them about what they want to do in the future, and find apprenticeships and school programmes to help. It's important they feel like they have other options. Talk to them about how to cope with pressure and how to deal with conflicts without using violence.

For further information:




[NSPCC](#)

[Government guidance](#)



SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding or welfare of a child or family in school, please speak in confidence to one of the following people.

 Ann-Marie Kedzior Designated Safeguarding Lead	 Carla Lawes Designated Safeguarding Lead	
 Samuel Gregory Deputy DSL	 Emma Colley Deputy DSL	 Krupa Nanda Deputy DSL
 Wayne Holder Deputy DSL	 Holli Elverstone Deputy DSL	<p>Our DSLs can be identified by their red lanyards.</p>



CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION (CCE)

Alderman Richard Hallam Primary School



Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

CCE is child abuse where children and young people are manipulated and coerced into committing crimes. CCE 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.

Organised criminal gangs groom children and young people because they're less suspicious and are given lighter sentences than adults.

What is a gang?

The word 'gang' means different things in different contexts:

- **Peer group**—A relatively small and transient social grouping which may or may not describe themselves as a gang depending on the context.
- **Street gang**—“Groups of young people who see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group for whom crime and violence is integral to the group's identity.”
- **Organised criminal gangs**—“A group of individuals for whom involvement in crime is for personal gain (financial or otherwise). For most crime is their 'occupation.’”

It's not illegal for a young person to be in a gang – there are different types of 'gang' and not every 'gang' is criminal or dangerous. However, gang membership can be linked to illegal activity, particularly organised criminal gangs involved in trafficking, drug dealing and violent crime.

How are young people recruited?

A child or young person might be recruited into a gang because of where they live or because of who their family is. They might join because they don't see another option or because they feel like they need protection. Children and young people may become involved in gangs for many reasons, including:

- peer pressure and wanting to fit in with their friends
- they feel respected and important
- they want to feel protected from other gangs, or bullies
- they want to make money, and are promised rewards
- they want to gain status, and feel powerful
- they've been excluded from school and don't feel they have a future

County Lines

County lines is a common form of Child Criminal Exploitation. They recruit vulnerable adults and children to act as couriers to move drugs and cash to suburban or rural areas using dedicated mobile phone lines or “deal lines”. . They often set up a base in a rural area, taking over the home of a vulnerable person and use adults and children to act as runners for drugs.

Children as young as 12 years old have been exploited into carrying drugs for gangs. This can involve children being trafficked away from their home area, staying in accommodation and selling and manufacturing drugs. This can include:

- Airbnb and short term private rental properties
- budget hotels
- the home of a drug user, or other vulnerable person, that is taken over by a criminal gang- this may be referred to as cuckooing.

If a child has been trafficked for the purpose of criminal exploitation, then they are a victim of abuse. Find out more about child trafficking [here](#).

Signs of criminal exploitation

There are some signs to look out for if you're worried a child or young person has joined a gang, or is being criminally exploited:

- Frequently absent from and doing badly in school.
- Going missing from home, staying out late and travelling for unexplained reasons.
- In a relationship or hanging out with someone older than them.
- Being angry, aggressive or violent.
- Being isolated or withdrawn.
- Having unexplained money and buying new things.
- Wearing clothes or accessories in gang colours or getting tattoos.
- Using new slang words.
- Spending more time on social media and being secretive about time online.
- Making more calls or sending more texts, possibly on a new phone or phones.
- Self-harming and feeling emotionally unwell.
- Taking drugs and abusing alcohol.
- Committing petty crimes like shop lifting or vandalism.
- Unexplained injuries and refusing to seek medical help.
- Carrying weapons or having a dangerous breed of dog.