

# Identifying and Reporting Exploitation

We work best when we work together





# Introduction

This Exploitation session provides you with a brief overview of some of the common types of exploitation

A big thank you to Bexhill Academy students (Years 7 /8) for some of the artwork used in this presentation.

**Exploitation is not  
always clear!**



Exploitation is a hidden crime which often happens out of sight, leaving victims at serious risk of harm.

It is a major local and national issue.

Within East Sussex increasing numbers of vulnerable children and adults are being identified as victims of exploitation.



# What is exploitation?

With the person next to you discuss what you think exploitation means

# Exploitation

- Exploitation is a form of abuse.
- It can happen anywhere and online
- Exploitation often happens without the person being aware that they are being exploited and can involve them being encouraged or threatened to do something.
- The victim is slowly introduced to new ideas, behaviours and activities, making these appear normal and acceptable.

# Common forms of exploitation

- **Criminal exploitation** – being forced to engage in criminal activities.
- **Financial exploitation** – being deceived or coerced into handing over money or assets to others.
- **Labour exploitation** – being forced to work for little or no pay, often in poor conditions.
- **Sexual exploitation** – This is when someone is deceived, coerced or forced to take part in sexual activity.

# Vulnerabilities

## People at high risk of exploitation

Criminals often target victims from vulnerable groups, for example, people with:

- Substance misuse issues
- Debts, in their country of origin or as a result of their illegal migration
- Mental health problems
- Learning disabilities
- Unaccompanied, internally displaced children
- Older people living alone and isolated from family/friends
- Being in care
- Lack of safe, stable home environment
- Homelessness

## Exploitation methods

- Friendship
- Trust
- Threat
- Form of exchange
- Debt bondage



# Financial Exploitation



# An understanding of the issue

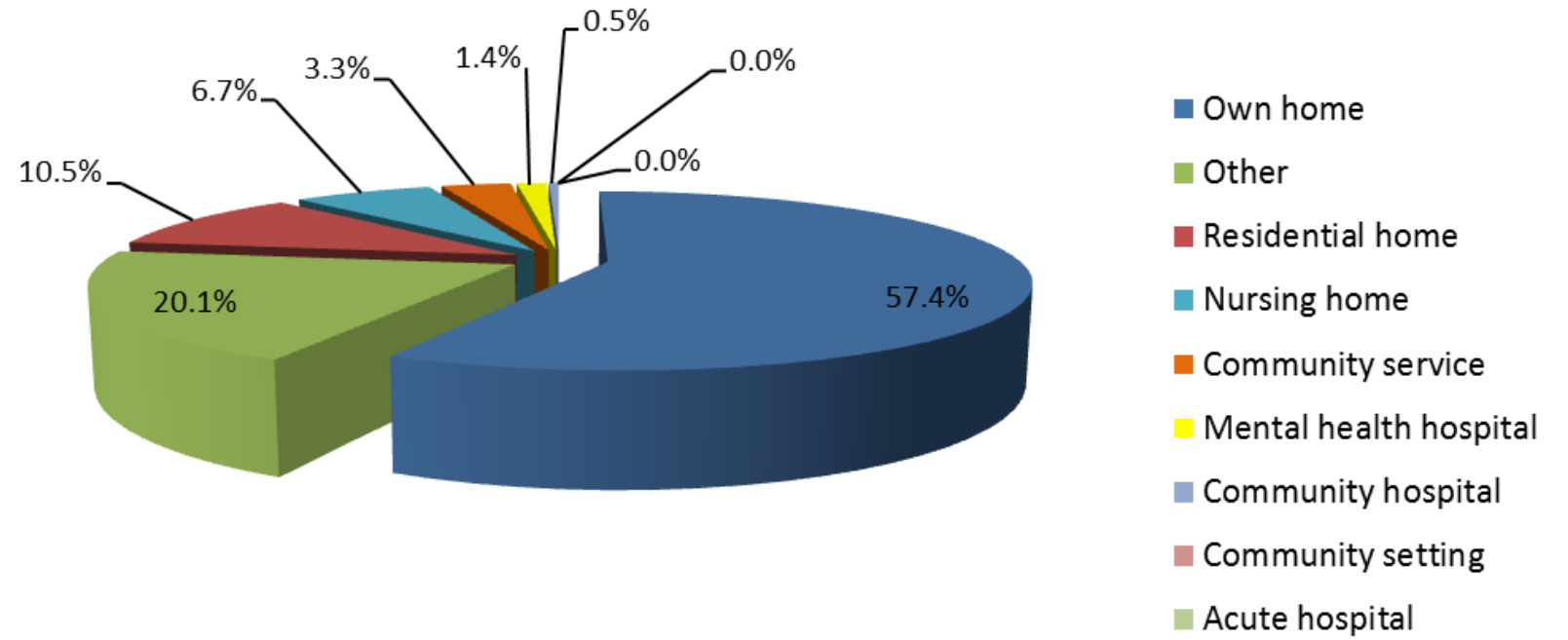
- Financial exploitation can affect anyone, but within the UK older people are disproportionately affected.
- The use of cyber tools to commit fraud allows offenders to target the UK from almost anywhere in the world, and to transfer the proceeds overseas.
- People who fall victim to financial exploitation often feel embarrassed or guilty, making them less likely to report the incident.
- Financial exploitation can happen online, via email, telephone, post, or in person.

What does it  
look like in  
East Sussex?

In 2018 there were 147 scam victims recorded by East Sussex Trading Standards, who between them lost more than £1,360,000 to scammers.

**Number of completed Financial abuse enquiries by location**

*(01/04/17 to 28/02/2018)*



## Spot some of the signs

- Mention of a new 'friend' – this friendship may have been established on the telephone or online
- Mention of helping a friend, relative or acquaintance through giving them money
- Experiencing a sudden deterioration in health, wellbeing, independence, standard of living or ability to manage finances
- Appearing more withdrawn, stressed or anxious
- Receipt of an unusual amount of mail, emails or telephone calls
- Sudden changes to, or the creation of, a will or other financial document
- Unpaid bills or rent, despite having the financial means to do so.

# Vishing

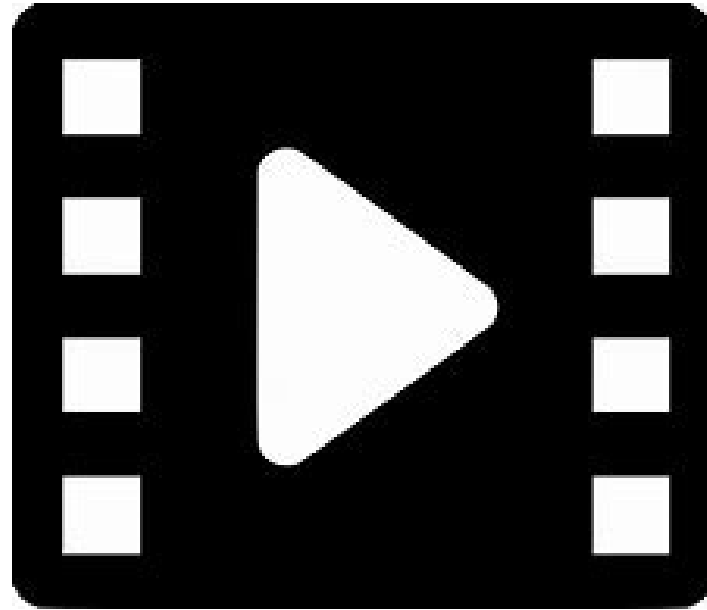


## What is Vishing?

You receive an unsolicited telephone call where the caller generally advises they are from the bank, usually the fraud or security team. The fraudster may also claim to be from a known and trusted company

Spot the signs  
of financial  
abuse film

Kent Police  
(7 minutes)





## Further information

Operation Signature is the Sussex Police campaign to identify and support vulnerable victims of fraud. If you, or someone you know might be vulnerable to fraud, please contact them on 101

<https://www.sussex.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wsi/watch-schemes-initiatives/sus/operation-signature/>

National Trading Standards Scams Team helps tackle mass marketing scams and disrupts the operations of perpetrators behind mail scams.

<https://www.nationaltradingstandards.uk/work-areas/scams-team/>

Action fraud - Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cyber crime where you should report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber crime. You can report and get advice about fraud or cyber crime by calling 0300 123 2040

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

# Sexual Exploitation

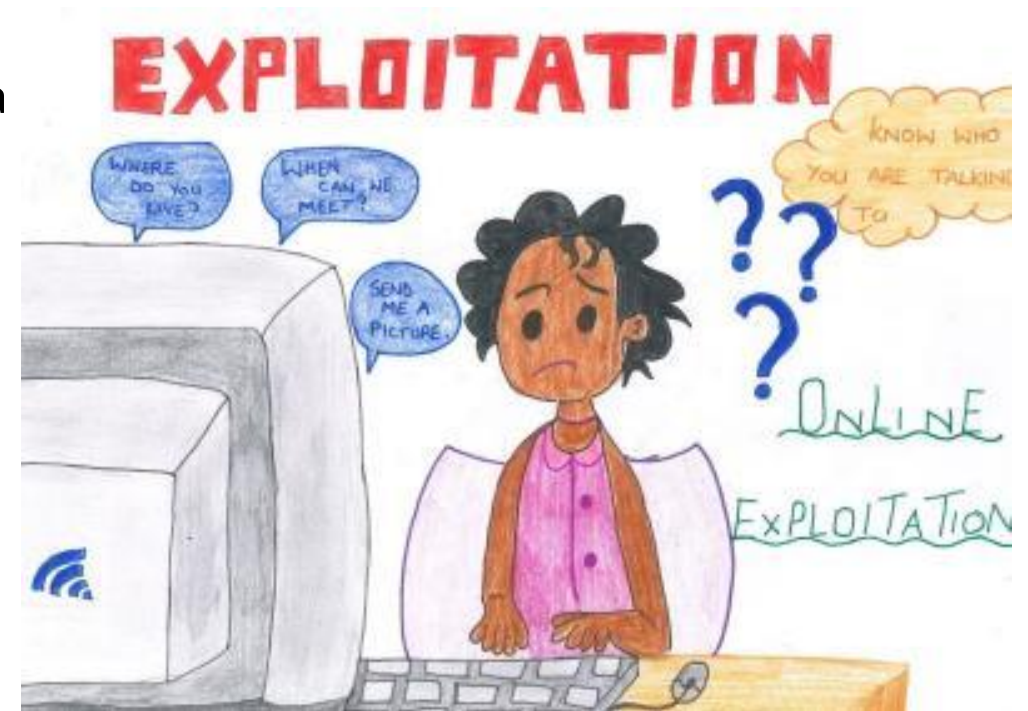




# What is sexual exploitation?

Is when someone is deceived, coerced or forced to take part in sexual activity. Places where someone could be sexually exploited:

- Prostitution
- Brothels – massage/sauna
- Escort agencies
- Pole/lap dancing
- Forced marriage
- Internet chat rooms
- Pornography
- Mail order brides



# An understanding of the issue

- People of all ages may be vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Victims of sexual exploitation can be children, young people or adults, male or female.
- Victims may be brought to the UK on the promise of legitimate employment, or moved around the UK to be sexually exploited.
- Technology can facilitate sexual exploitation . Offenders use social media (e.g. Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp and Snapchat), to identify people whom they can groom.

## Facts and information

In the UK, people are legally allowed to pay for sex if the person is over 18 and hasn't been forced into prostitution

**It is illegal to:**

- Advertise in phone boxes
- Rent or allow a property to be used as a brothel
- Exploit someone selling sex, for example by using force, threats, deception or other forms of coercion
- Traffic people to the UK or around the UK for sex

It isn't an offence to work as a prostitute in a brothel, but it is an offence to keep, manage or act or assist in the management of a brothel.

A building/place become a brothel when more than one woman uses the premises for the purposes of prostitution.

Sense it.  
Spot it.

Count the signs.

Using this interactive activity from Stop the Traffik

If you see one or more of these signs at a property consider making a referral to the appropriate organisation.

Click on the picture below to start



# Indicators and signs – what to look out for

## **Significant signs at a location:**

- Do the letterbox or any doors of the property appear to have been sealed from inside?
- Do the people potentially selling sex also sleep on the premises? Brothels are not normally used as accommodation for sex workers
- Are the people potentially selling sex being moved between suspected brothels?

## **Significant signs for individuals potentially selling sex:**

- Is the person closely guarded?
- Is there any evidence that the person has been forced, intimidated or coerced into providing sexual services?
- Are there any signs the person is experiencing emotional trauma as a result of the work they are doing?

# Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines



# An understanding of the issue

- County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”.
- They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

## What does it look like in East Sussex?

- Sussex police continue to see children being exploited by criminal gangs to supply drugs in Sussex. They have experienced children travelling from London to our county to deal drugs on behalf of gangs, as well Sussex children being exploited and targeted by London gangs to deal drugs locally.
- The areas effected by the drug trade from London are the larger coastal towns, with established drugs markets that can be exploited locally, namely Hastings and Eastbourne.
- The number of active 'County Lines' changes on an often daily basis, as police disrupt them or they cease to be active for other reasons. Hastings has seen a number of stabbings and serious violence associated with the supply of drugs.



Children being  
exploited by  
drugs gangs  
film

ITV News  
(5 minutes)



**DAN, 16, HAS BEEN  
STABBED AND  
FORCED TO SELL  
DRUGS MILES AWAY  
FROM HOME.**

**FIND OUT  
MORE ABOUT  
#COUNTYLINES**

 **NCA**  
National Crime Agency

[NATIONALCRIMEAGENCY.GOV.UK/COUNTYLINES](https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/countylines)

# Cuckooing

- Criminal gangs are targeting the homes of vulnerable people to be used for drug dealing – a process known as “**cuckooing**” (after the bird that invades other bird’s nests) and victims are often left with little choice but to cooperate.
- These criminals are selective about who they target, a lot of the time victims are lonely, isolated, frequently drug users themselves and are already known to the police.



## Indicators and signs – what to look out for

### **Look for signs of a property that is being used for drug dealing**

- Lots of different people visiting the property
- People coming and going at odd times of the day or night
- Increase in cars pulling up close to the property often for short periods of time
- Increase in ant-social behaviour near the property

## How should it be reported?

- Intelligence from you is key to the police taking out the gangs responsible for this exportation of crime and exploitation of the vulnerable.
- We would encourage anyone who has concerns about vulnerable people being targeted in this way to come forward and speak to police 101 or in an emergency 999 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111





Reporting  
information to  
police

( 2 ½ mins)



# Labour exploitation



# An understanding of the issue

Victims may be forced to work long hours for little or no pay in poor conditions under verbal or physical threats of violence to them or their families.

Here are a number of means through which a person can be coerced into forced labour, including:

- Use of violence or intimidation
- Accumulated debt
- Retention of identity papers
- Threat of exposure to immigration authorities

Trafficked victims into the UK Victims in 2017 came from 116 countries, the top three being Albania, the UK, and Vietnam. Most identified victims are subjected to labour trafficking.



# Labour exploitation is diverse

The most common forms of labour exploitation included being forced to work within tarmacking/paving, agriculture, restaurants, construction, factory work, food processing and leaflet delivery.

- Manufacturing
- Factory work
- Hospitality
- Construction
- Agriculture
- Fishing
- Car washes
- Nail bars





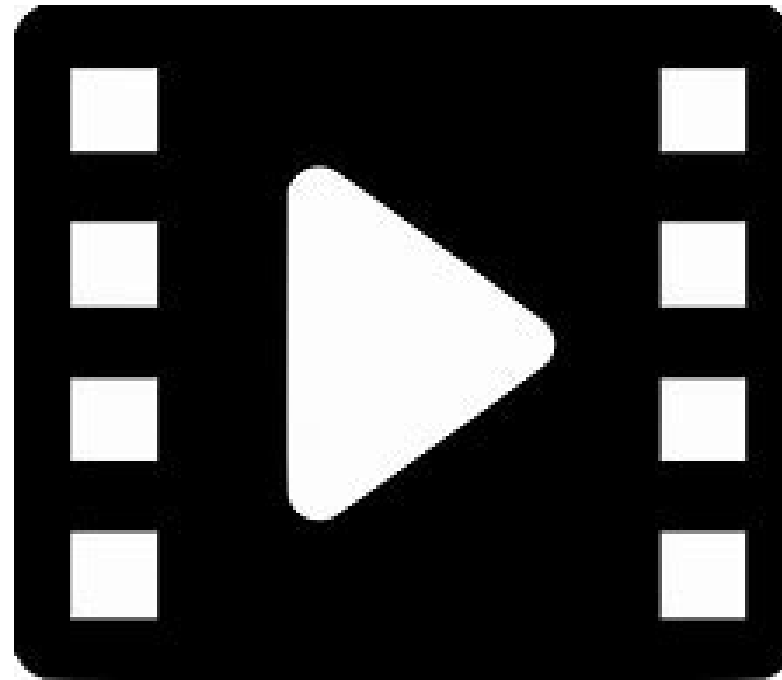
# Spot the signs

- Do workers show signs of psychological or physical abuse? Do they appear frightened, withdrawn or confused?
- Do workers have restricted movement on leaving or entering the premises? Are they always accompanied?
- Are workers forced to stay in accommodation provided by the employer? Is the accommodation overcrowded?
- Are workers forced to give incorrect information or claim to not know personal details?
- Is the employer or somebody other than the worker holding the employee's passport and legal documents?
- Do workers lack the necessary protective equipment or suitable clothing? Have they received basic training?

Spotting the  
signs

Gangmasters  
and Labour  
Abuse Authority

(11 mins)



# Support if you, or someone else, is being exploited

If you have concerns pass them on- you might be the only person who has noticed something

**If you think that you, or someone you know, is being exploited please do one of the following:**

- Contact 999 if you, or someone else, is in immediate danger.
- Otherwise:
- if you are concerned about someone's safety or welfare please visit the local safeguarding children or adults websites
- if you would like to report information or suspicions about exploitation you can contact the police on 101
- contact Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111

Remember

Nothing is as it  
seems.....

It is unlikely that someone will tell you they are being exploited.

They may not even realise that they are involved in an exploitative situation until it has become very serious.

Grooming and exploitation are often gradual processes, with perpetrators slowly introducing the victim to new beliefs, behaviours and activities to make them seem normal and acceptable.

