Welcome to the fifth edition of the partnership Child Exploitation (CE) bulletin, aimed at ensuring professionals across Northamptonshire are up-to-date on all aspects of child criminal and sexual exploitation and the work taking place across Northamptonshire to tackle it.

Covid-19 and heightened risks for children

Lockdown has only partly eased and with many children off school until September, the heightened risks of abuse and exploitation continues.

Risk factors include:

- Children and young people spending less time at school and more time at home and online.

- Many parents with limited time to supervise their children’s online lives and potentially not understanding the possible dangers.

- People who pose a danger to children are also likely to be spending more time online, viewing and sharing sexual images of under 18s or engaging children in sexual conversations and behaviour.

We all need to stay curious and see beyond the obvious.

The NPCC and The Children’s Society have produced this poster as a reminder. 

A copy of the poster is attached to this bulletin for you to print off and display across your organisation.
The NSCP has a new E-learning course focusing on gangs and county lines. This is free for any practitioner working in Northamptonshire and takes a maximum of two hours to complete. After the course, you will be able to identify the signs which may indicate a child or young person is at risk and also what forms gang-related issues can take. You will also know how to report and act to protect those at risk or who are already involved in gang-related issues.

Learning objectives
· Define the term gang and the impact gang-related issues can have
· Recognise how children can be groomed into gangs and the links to Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
· Understand gang language, terms and lifestyle influences
· Identify barriers to engaging with young people who may be associated with gangs
· Understand what is meant by county lines
· Explain CCE and identify those vulnerable and what actions to take

Level/Professionals aimed at
This course is relevant for all professionals working with children and young people. Specific professionals who will find this course relevant include:
· All school staff
· Social workers
· Police staff
· Healthcare workers

Serious Case Review— Jaden Moodie

The author of a serious case review into the murder of 14-year-old Jaden Moodie has called for the creation of a national system for responding to exploitation of children by county lines gangs.

Jaden was stabbed to death in London in January 2019 after being groomed by drug dealers.

The SCR also highlights the importance of maximising the potential of ‘reachable moments' and the importance of inter-agency communication.

Click here to read the report
During Coronavirus restrictions, the risk of radicalisation is increasing as support agencies have less interaction with the public and home isolation may increase a person’s vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism.

**You are the eyes and ears of Counter Terrorism policing**

Please, always consider ‘Prevent’ when dealing with any incident.

Concerning behaviours **may** include:

- Hate crimes motivated by ideology
- Conspiracy theories generating anger towards particular communities or groups
- Watching violent films, particularly those which advocate political or religious hatred
- Rising levels of unexplained anger or increasing willingness to use targeted violence

Share concerns with your Prevent SPOC or Prevent Team

During Coronavirus restrictions, the risk of radicalisation is increasing. If you have concerns a child or young person may be vulnerable to violent extremism or radicalisation, seek advice from the safeguarding lead in your organisation. Follow your own agency procedures in relation to notification of safeguarding issues. If you feel there is an immediate danger to the life of the individual or others then call 999.

Advice and guidance can be sought from the Prevent Engagement Officers at Northamptonshire Police (email prevent@northants.pnn.police.uk or phone 101, extension 341166), however they will only take referrals from MASH so you must ensure that following discussions a multi-agency referral form is submitted.

You can also report suspected online terrorist content by following 'Report online terrorist material' and refer any content of concern directly to social media platforms. Details of how to do this can be found at UK Safer Internet Centre website.
Youth Provision—what services are available?

Please be aware of the wide range of youth provision currently on offer in Northampton. Some of these services are available countywide.

If anybody is aware of anything which is available which is not listed below, please contact vrockall@northampton.gov.uk and it will be added to the next Youth Service newsletter.
The TARGET project

TARGET is a National Lottery Community Funded project aiming to support more than 900 young people across Northamptonshire and Leicestershire in order to reduce online grooming and child exploitation.

The project has recently been given another three-year extension to its contract with £400k worth of funding, meaning it can continue its vital work. The team is delighted to have the opportunity to expand its support in not only Online Child Sexual Exploitation but also Child Criminal Exploitation.

The project is delivered to five-18 year olds and increases protective behaviours and improves well-being. The support the TARGET team provides for surrounding schools and young people involves one-to-one intervention, student group work, specialised assemblies and workshops.

Another amazing announcement to kick-start TARGET’s extended three-year contract is Nazir Afzal OBE, former Chief Crown Prosecutor for North West of England, has agreed to be Service Six’s first Patron. He will be an ambassador for their work and support them along the way.

The photographs are from TARGET’s third annual conference showcasing the work the team carries out to support young people who are growing up in a digital world. The day was moving and emotional for all staff, guests and speakers as it showed the access young people have to the online world in just the palm of their hands. Above: New Patron, Nazir Afzal. Below: Rushden Academy Drama Production.

Partner agencies and education settings can refer to the TARGET project, as can parents and children, who can self-refer.

If you know child who would benefit from their support, contact:

Claire Connelly on 07813 366240 or claire.connelly@servicesix.co.uk
“Covid-19 won’t stop us doing what we do best – fighting crime and protecting people” said Superintendent Dennis Murray (pictured), the man in charge of policing the of north of the county.

Much of the teams’ recent proactive work has involved drugs warrants, the seizure of significant quantities of drugs and cash, and a number of drugs-related arrests. Many of these have had links to gang activity which frequently involves child exploitation, especially in relation to drug trafficking and supply. Much of the police activity has involved child safeguarding to ensure the links between child safety, exploitation, drug supply and other criminality were not missed.

A recent example is a day of action in Wellingborough in which a number of warrants were carried out in Fulmar Lane, Sandpiper Lane, Kilnway, Knights Court and Kittiwake Close. Drugs worth £25,000 and a large amount of cash were recovered with 20-year-old Jani Smith, of Kiln Way, and 18-year-old Aaron Jay Patrick Smith, of Sandpiper Lane, charged with possession with intent to supply Class A drugs.

**Child Criminal Exploitation does not stop during the Covid-19 pandemic and is more likely to go hidden. What are the signs?**

- Returning home late, staying out all night or going missing.
- Being found in areas away from home.
- Increasing drug use, or being found to have large amounts of drugs on them.
- Being secretive about who they are talking to and where they are going.
- Unexplained absences from school, college, training or work.
- Unexplained money, phone(s), clothes or jewellery.
- Increasingly disruptive or aggressive behaviour.
- Using sexual, drug-related or violent language you wouldn’t expect them to know.
- Coming home with injuries or looking particularly dishevelled.
- Having hotel cards or keys to unknown places.

Concerned a child is being exploited into carrying drugs? Call the Child Safeguarding Team on 0300 126 1000 or police on 101.

If a child is in immediate danger, always call 999.
New RISE leaflet

The RISE (Reducing Incidents of Sexual Exploitation) multi-agency team has given its advice and support leaflet a makeover!

An electronic version is attached with this bulletin.

The grooming process

The young person is befriended and trust is built, making them feel special and understood.

As the relationship grows, the victim becomes dependent on their “friend” who then begins to isolate them from their family, their school or work and their friends.

The offender gains control of the young person, through manipulation, coercion, threats and intimidation.

A young person that is not aware they are being exploited, offenders use many different techniques to gain trust.

The grooming may be direct or indirect, face-to-face or via social media.

About R.I.S.E

(Reducing Incidents of Sexual Exploitation)

RISE is a multi-agency team that includes police officers, children’s social care workers and a specialist nurse. RISE works closely with professionals from other agencies. The aim of the RISE team is to reduce incidents of CSE, protect young people at risk and to disrupt and prosecute offenders.

If you have concerns that a child is at risk of sexual exploitation, guidance is available:

www.northants.police.uk/cse

If you require further information please Call us on: 01604 381845

Email us: rise@northants.police.uk

Or visit: www.northants.police.uk

In the next edition — ’A Day in the Life of’

In the next edition there will be a new, regular feature focusing on a day in the life of one of the wonderful people in our county doing amazing work to help protect children from exploitation or harm. The new feature is aimed at sharing best practice and knowledge. It will also be a great way to publicise the work of you and/or your team.

If you would like to shine a light on what you are doing and are willing for you or your team to be interviewed, call Claire Tompkins on 07557 778577.

The next bulletin will be out in the autumn.

Thank you for reading!