



# DO YOU SEE THE SIGNS OF CHILD EXPLOITATION?



## WHAT IS CHILD EXPLOITATION?

Child exploitation is when individuals use tactics of abuse or violence to **manipulate children and young people** into committing crimes or taking part in other criminal activities. **Exploitation can be criminal or sexual and may involve drugs** being transported between individuals or places.

## HOW DO I SPOT EXPLOITATION?

Exploited children and young people don't always look vulnerable or act like victims, but there are some **signs you can watch out for if you're worried:**

- Are they missing a lot?
- Spending time with new or older friends?
- Do they have unexplained gifts?
- Drinking or taking drugs a lot?
- On their phone more than usual? Using it secretively?
- Personality or mood changed?
- Dressing differently?
- Unexplained bruises or injuries?
- Spending time with much older people?
- Self-harming?
- Travelling alone or late at night?
- More than one phone?

## WHO'S AT RISK OF EXPLOITATION?

Any child or young person could be at risk of exploitation, but some groups of people are more vulnerable than others. **This could include:**

- Having learning difficulties
- Those who've been excluded from school
- Questioning their sexuality
- Low self-esteem issues
- Being bereaved or a young carer
- Living away from the family home

## GETTING HELP AND SUPPORT

You should contact the Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU) if you're worried:

- Telephone the team on **0300 123 1116** to report any concerns. For urgent out-of-hours queries, please call **01208 251300**
- If you're located on the Isles of Scilly, call **01720 424562**. For urgent out-of-hours queries, please call **01720 422699**

**If the situation is an emergency, please dial 999 and speak to the Police. Please don't wait to report it.**

[www.ciossafeguarding.org.uk/cethesigns](http://www.ciossafeguarding.org.uk/cethesigns)  
[www.devon-cornwall.police.uk](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)  
[www.NSPCC.org.uk](http://www.NSPCC.org.uk)

[www.childrensociety.org.uk](http://www.childrensociety.org.uk)  
[www.pace.info](http://www.pace.info)

