

## Appendix 1: Other types of abuse

**Child abduction and community safety incidents:** child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a minor from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. Child abduction can be committed by parents or other family members; by people known but not related to the victim (such as neighbours, friends and acquaintances); and by strangers. The most common form of abduction is by a parent or family member and often occurs in the wake of an acrimonious separation or divorce where there is a dispute over custody arrangements. Abduction by strangers is much rarer. There are a variety of reasons why strangers abduct children, including:

- Sexual interest in the child by the offender
- Offender's desire to control, dominate, and cause harm to the child and /or a child's family
- Emotional/mental health issues
- Financial motives where the abductor intends to profit from the abduction by demanding a ransom or by trafficking the child (see sections on child sex exploitation, child criminal exploitation and modern slavery below)

Other community safety incidents in the vicinity of a school or homestay can raise concerns amongst children and parents, for example, people loitering nearby or unknown adults engaging children in conversation.

**Children missing from education and/or homestay:** all children of compulsory school age, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full-time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special needs they may have. A child going missing from education or from their homestay can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities. These include abuse and neglect, which may include sexual abuse or exploitation and can also be a sign of child criminal exploitation including involvement in county lines. It may indicate mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, risk of female genital mutilation (FGM), 'honour'-based abuse or risk of forced marriage. In cases where a pupil has a prolonged period of authorised absence for a reason such as long-term illness, the Guardianship will work with the relevant school and will be proactive in terms of providing support to both the school and the pupil.

**Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):** Both CCE and CSE are forms of abuse that occur when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. This may be done (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants (for example, food, drugs, alcohol money or affection) and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or threat of violence. An imbalance of power is commonly associated with age difference, but it can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, learning difficulties, communication ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic and other resources.

Perpetrators may subject children and young people to multiple forms of abuse, such as criminal exploitation (including county lines) and sexual exploitation. Children can be exploited by adult males or females, as individuals or in groups. They may also be exploited by other children, who themselves may be experiencing exploitation. More detailed definitions of CCE and CSE are given below:

- **CSE** occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity. CSE can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or the threat of violence. The victim (male or female) may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. CSE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. It can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity and may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (*eg through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on social media*)
- **CCE** is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. CCE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. CCE can include being forced to work in cannabis factories, being coerced into moving drugs or money across the country (county lines), forced to shoplift or pickpocket, or being forced or manipulated into threatening/committing serious violence to others.
- **County lines:** "County lines" is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line". This activity can happen locally as well as across the UK - no specified distance of travel is required. Children and vulnerable adults are exploited to move, store and sell drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims. Children can be targeted and recruited into county lines in several locations including schools (mainstream and special), further and higher educational institutions, pupil referral units, children's homes and care homes. Children are also increasingly being targeted and recruited online using social media. Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs can manufacture drug debts which need to be worked off or threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network. If a child is suspected to be at risk or involved in county lines, a safeguarding referral should be considered (via the National Referral Mechanism) alongside consideration of availability of local services/third sector providers who offer support to victims of county lines exploitation
- **Cybercrime.** Cybercrime is criminal activity committed using computers and/or the internet. It is broadly categorised as either 'cyber-enabled' (crimes that can happen off-line but are enabled at scale and at speed on-line) or 'cyber dependent' (crimes that can be committed only by using a computer). Cyber-dependent crimes include:
  - unauthorised access to computers (illegal 'hacking')
  - Denial of Service (DoS) or Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks or 'booting'. These are attempts to make a computer, network or website unavailable by overwhelming it with internet traffic from multiple sources
  - making, supplying or obtaining malware (malicious software) such as viruses, spyware, ransomware, botnets and Remote Access Trojans with the intent to commit further offence.
  - Children with skill and an interest in computing and technology may inadvertently or deliberately stray into cyber-dependent crime. If there are concerns about a child in this area, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a Deputy), should consider referring them to the Cyber Choices programme in conjunction with working closely with their school (not as a lone project). This is a nationwide police programme supported by the Home Office and led by the National Crime Agency, working with

regional and local policing. It aims to intervene where young people are at risk of committing, or being drawn into, low-level cyber-dependent offences and divert them to a more positive use of their skills and interests

- **Domestic abuse:** Domestic abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may be a single incident or a pattern of incidents involving: physical or sexual abuse; violent or threatening behaviour; controlling or coercive behaviour, economic abuse; psychological, emotional or other abuse. For the definition to apply, both parties must be aged 16 or over and personally connected. Types of domestic abuse include intimate partner violence, abuse by family members, teenage relationship abuse and child to parent violence and abuse. Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status sexuality or background. Domestic violence can take place inside or outside the home.

All children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long-lasting impact on children's health, well-being, development, and ability to learn. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

When young people experience domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships, this is sometimes referred to as 'teenage relationship abuse'.

Depending on the age of the young people, this may not be recognised in law under the statutory definition of 'domestic abuse' (if one or both parties are under 16).

However, as with any child under 18, where there are concerns about safety or welfare, child safeguarding procedures should be followed and both young victims and young perpetrators offered support.

- **Serious violence:** All staff should be aware of indicators, which may signal that children are at risk from, or are involved with serious violent crime. These may include increased absence from school, a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups, a significant decline in performance, signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs and may be at risk of criminal exploitation.
- **Honour-based abuse (HBA).** So-called 'honour-based' abuse (HBA) encompasses crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving 'honour' often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. All forms of HBA are abuse, are illegal in the UK (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such.
- **FGM:** FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences. Victims of FGM are likely to come from a community that is known to practise FGM. Staff should note that girls at risk of FGM may not yet be aware of the practice or that it may be conducted on them, so sensitivity should always be shown when approaching the subject.
- All staff and homestays must be aware of the law requiring adults to report cases to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl aged under 18. The duty to report resides with the adult who becomes aware of the case not the DSL,

although the DSL should be informed unless the adult has a good reason for not doing so. The report should be made orally by calling 101 within 24 hours of the issue coming to light. Failure to report a case of FGM can result in disciplinary sanctions

- **Forced marriage:** Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage is one entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into a marriage. Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological. A lack of full and free consent is where a person does not consent or where they cannot consent (if they have learning disabilities, for example). Nevertheless, some communities use religion and culture as ways to coerce a person into marriage.
- **Modern slavery:** Modern slavery encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour. Exploitation can take many forms, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, forced criminality and the removal of organs. The modern slavery statutory guidance provides more information on how to identify and support victims
- **Radicalisation and extremism:** “Radicalisation” refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. “Terrorism” is defined as an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property, or seriously interferes with or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause. “Extremism” is defined 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. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces. Extremist views may result in terrorist activity. The use or threat of terrorist activity must be designed to influence the government or intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

There are various reasons why a young person might become interested in extremism:

- a search for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging
- a desire for ‘adventure’ and excitement
- a desire to enhance self-esteem of the individual and promote ‘street cred’
- the discovery of, and identification with a charismatic individual, and through them, attraction to a group which can offer a sense of identity, a social network and support
- a sense of grievance that can be triggered by personal experiences of racism or discrimination

The Guardianship has a legal duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and this is an aspect of safeguarding. Being drawn into terrorism includes not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit. Schools should be safe spaces in which children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge these ideas.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in behaviour which could indicate that they may need help or protection. Young people at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views. Homestays and staff should use their professional judgement in identifying young people who might be at risk of radicalisation and discuss their concerns with the DSL. Based on this information the DSL may conclude that a referral to the Channel Programme is appropriate and he/she would action this through working closely with the child's school and the DSL there

- **Sharing nudes and semi-nudes.** The term 'sharing nudes and semi-nudes' refers to the sending or posting of nude or semi-nude images, videos or live streams by young people under the age of 18 online. It is also known by the names 'youth-produced sexual imagery' or 'sexting'. While sharing photos and videos online and via smartphones is part of daily life for many people, enabling them to share their experiences, connect with friends and record their lives, there are risks associated with the production and distribution of sexual and explicit images both in terms of the law (Protection of Children Act 1978, as amended by the Sexual Offences Act 2003) and in relation to the possible impact on a child's well-being if images are shared more widely than they originally intended. Creating and sharing sexual photos and videos of under-18s is illegal. Also, consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude or semi-nude images and/or videos can be an indicator that children are at risk. Consequently, a member of the DSL team should be notified as soon as possible if an incident comes to light in which a pupil under the age of 18:
  - has created and shared sexual imagery of themselves with a peer under the age of 18
  - has shared sexual imagery created by another person under the age of 18 with another person
  - is in possession of sexual imagery created by another person under the age of 18

**Management of an incident.** Any direct disclosure by a pupil should be taken seriously. Pupils who make such disclosures are likely to be embarrassed and worried about the consequences. Typically, they will have tried to handle the problem themselves and they will consider notifying a member of staff as a last resort. Given the potential seriousness of the situation, the DSL must be informed as soon as possible. The DSL will conduct an initial review, which will include meeting relevant staff and the pupil(s), to consider:

- whether there is an immediate risk to any child or young person
- whether the pupil(s) school(s) should be informed
- if a referral should be made to the police and/or local authority children's social care
- if it is necessary to view the image(s) in order to safeguard the pupil – **in most cases, images or videos should not be viewed**
- what further information is required to decide on the best response
- whether the image(s) has been shared widely and via what services and/or platforms
- whether immediate action should be taken to delete or remove images or videos from devices or online services or to confiscate the device used (if possible)
- any relevant facts about the pupil involved which would influence the DSL's risk assessment
- whether to inform the parents or whether involving them would put young person at risk of harm

**Viewing the Imagery:** Staff **must not** ask to see the imagery but should confiscate the device on which it is held and pass it on to the DSL. If a device is confiscated, it should be turned off and locked away securely until it is passed on to the DSL or an external agency such as the police. Staff must not intentionally view any nudes and semi-nudes unless there is good and clear reason to do so. The decision to view any imagery should be based on the professional judgement of the DSL. Imagery should never be viewed if the act of viewing will cause significant distress or harm to those involved. The DSL must further be satisfied that it is the only way to make a decision about whether to involve other agencies, i.e. that it is necessary (i) to contact a reporting agency (such as the [IWF](#)) to have it taken down; or (ii) to support the pupil or parent in making a report. The Guardianship will follow the advice given in *Sharing nudes and semi nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people (December 2020)*

**Referral:** Once the DSL has sufficient information, a decision will be taken over whether the matter should be dealt with internally, the DSL at the relevant school informed or referred to local authority children's social care and/or the police. The DSL will be informed by the need to ensure the welfare and protection of the pupil. Records will be kept of the information available and the rationale for any decisions taken. A referral will always be made to local authority children's social care and/or the police immediately if the incident involves:

- the incident involves an adult
- there is reason to believe that a young person has been coerced, blackmailed or groomed, or there are concerns about their capacity to consent
- what you know about the images or videos suggests the content depicts sexual acts which are unusual for the young person's developmental stage, or are violent
- you have reason to believe a child or young person is at immediate risk of harm owing to the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes, for example, they are presenting as suicidal or self-harming

**Support:** It is vital that continuing support be given to the pupil so that they know they are not alone. Pupils must be advised on how to report sexual images or videos, how to get them taken down and how to delete it from their accounts. Pupils must also be made aware of the importance of not sharing the image further. Most online service providers offer a reporting function for account holders, and some offer a public reporting function to enable a third party to make a report on behalf of the child or young person. Pupils can use the IWF and Childline's Report Remove tool to report images and videos they are worried have been, or might be, shared publicly.

**Deletion of imagery:** If the Guardianship decides that other agencies do not need to be involved, then consideration should be given to deleting nudes and semi-nudes from devices and online services to limit any further sharing. In most cases, pupils should be asked to delete the imagery and to confirm that they have deleted them. *Any decision to search a pupil's device and delete imagery should be based on the professional judgement of the DSL.*

**Recording incidents:** All incidents relating to nudes and semi-nudes being shared need to be recorded. This includes incidents that have been referred to the police or local authority children's social care and those that have not been reported. Copies of imagery should not be taken.