

Child Exploitation Protocol: main principles

Types of Child Exploitation

Indicators and referral pathways

Training Unit
Modern Slavery and Child Exploitation
Central Specialist Crime

DC Eloise Owen

CSC Mailbox - MSCE Training Unit



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Launched
18th
March
2021

Police led document

DCI Mark Rogers

Agreed by all Local
Authorities and key
stakeholders

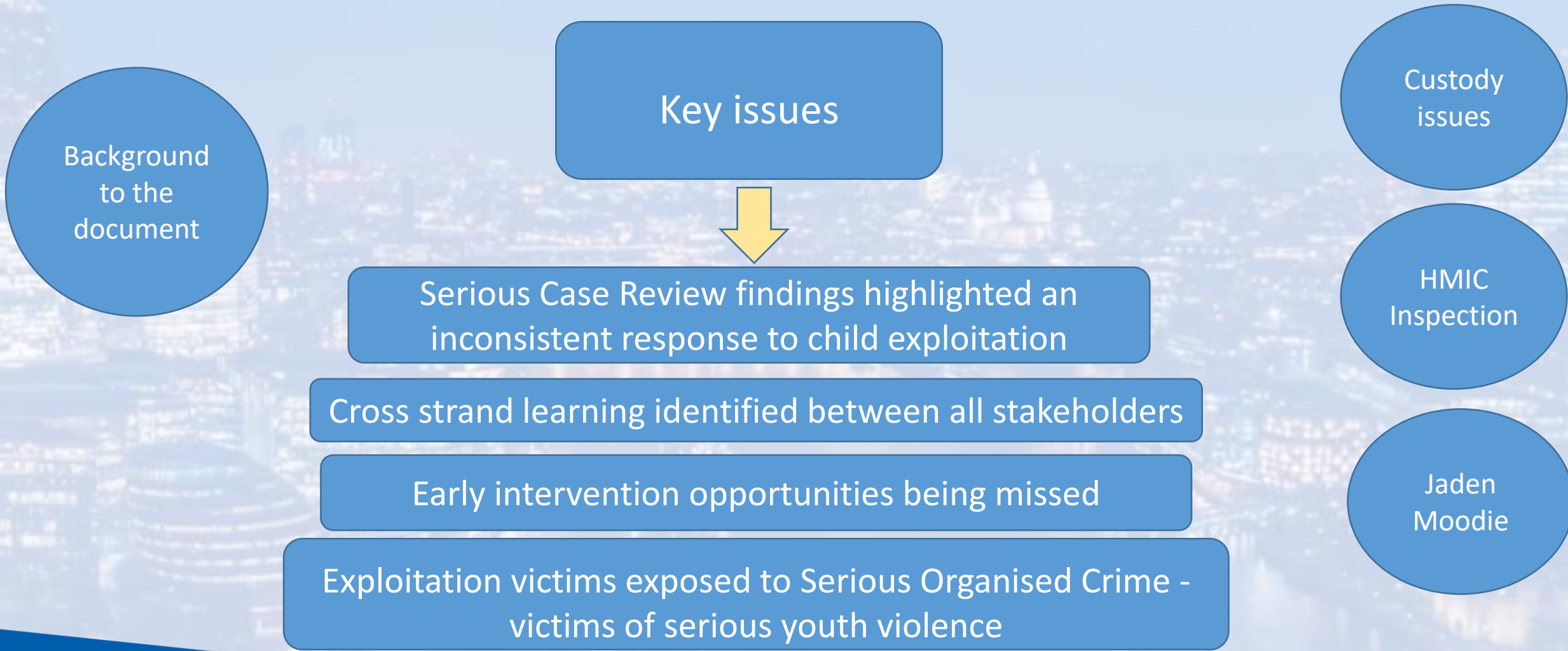
The London Child Exploitation Operating Protocol 2021



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Introduction – Pan London Operating Protocol



Protocol Aims



Provide front line responders with the correct disruption tools

Ensure a consistent contextual safeguarding response so children achieve best outcomes.

Identify children at risk of Exploitation and keep them safe

Ensure the safeguarding and wellbeing of children who are, or may be, at risk from exploitation with a collaborative approach.

Treat children as a child first

Raise awareness, implement early intervention opportunities to prevent children becoming victims of exploitation

Identify and take action against perpetrators

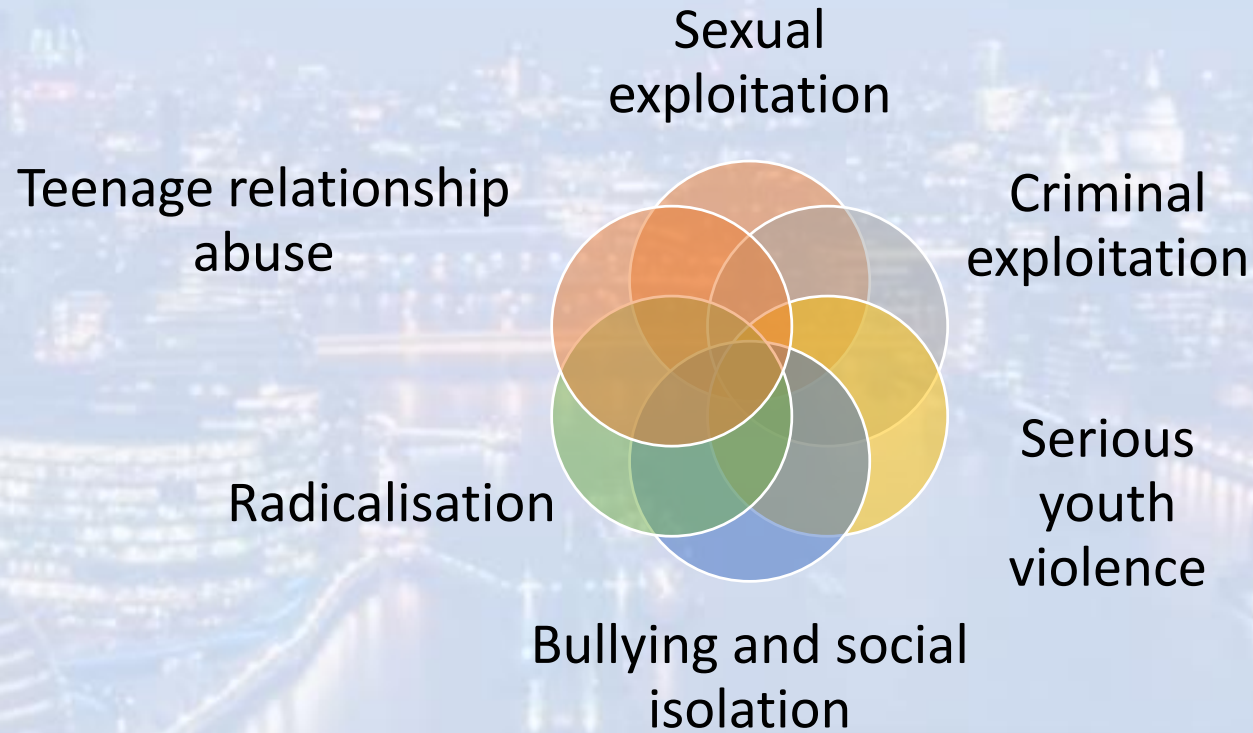


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Underlying principles

Interconnected nature of all forms of exploitation



Bedfordshire University



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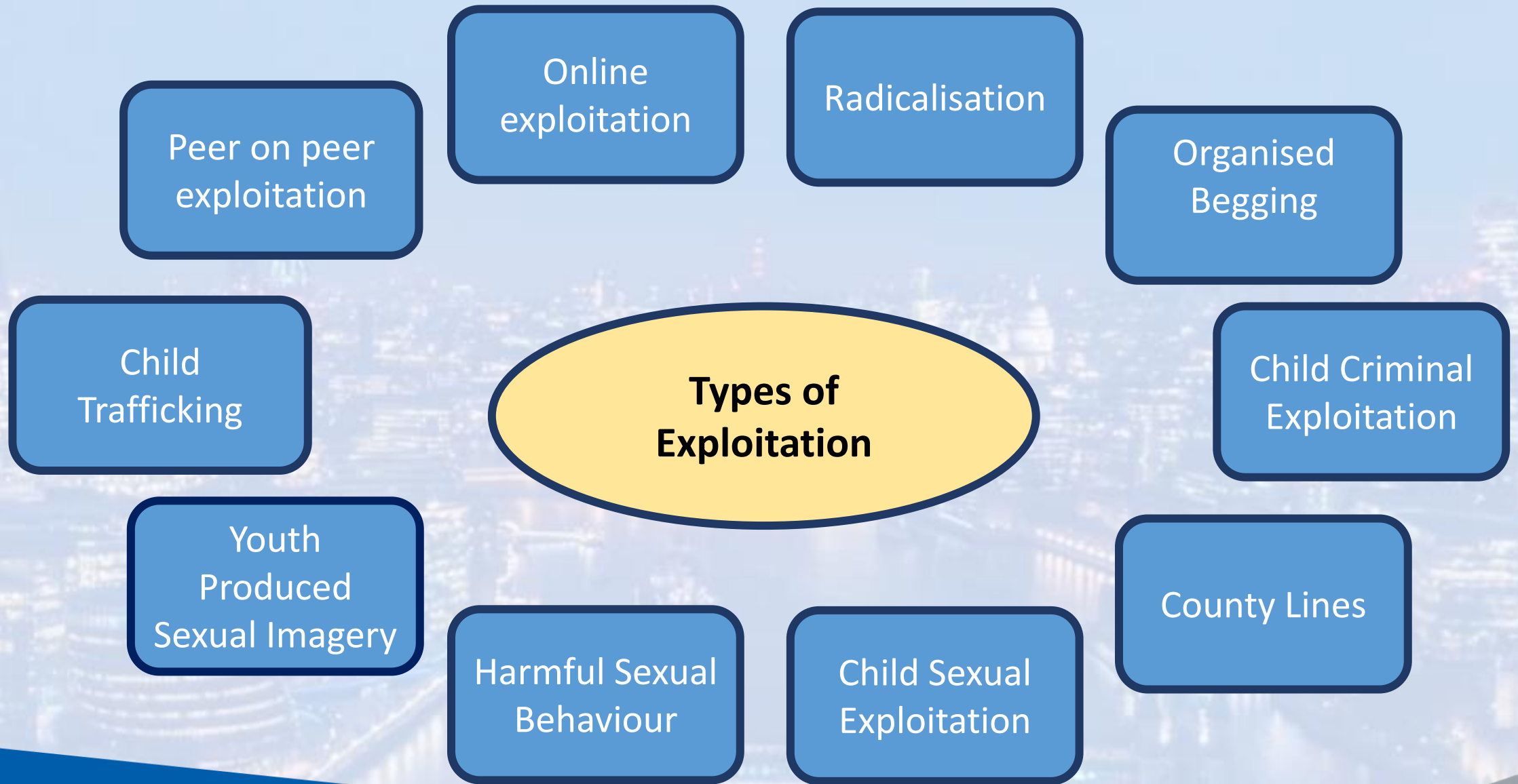
Major and minor changes from the 2017 CSE Protocol

- Removal of CSE levels and creation of non crime 588 CE report (police)
- **Prevention and early intervention - Jules**
- **Intelligence submissions - Louise**
- Safeguarding children in custody
- Keeping children safe when moving placements
- Multi-Agency meeting structures (MACE)
- Professional curiosity



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The reward might be presents, alcohol, money or simply emotional attention

A child is anyone under 18

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse

It can happen through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.

It might seem like a normal friendship or relationship to begin with. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common aggravating factors.



Child sexual exploitation doesn't have to involve intercourse. It could be touching, kissing but it also includes sexual intercourse



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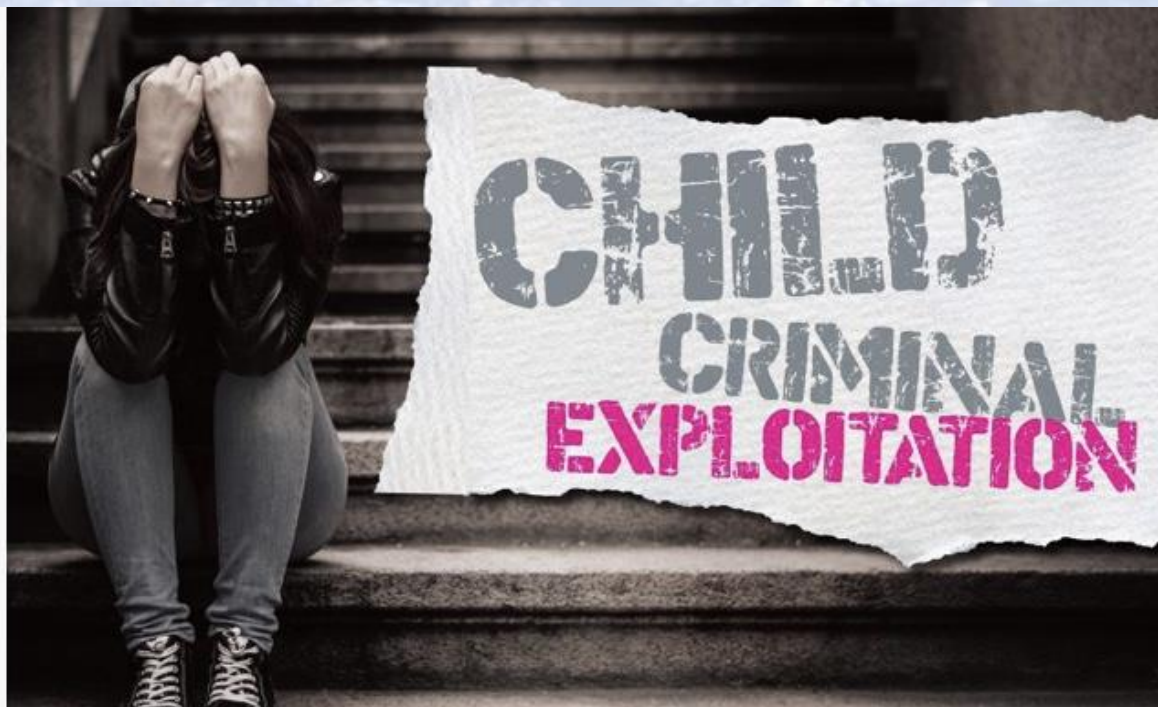
County Lines

Dangers of CCE

Money laundering

Cuckooing

Child criminal exploitation also includes forms of economic exploitation.



Dealers will frequently target children & adults, often those with mental health or addiction problems



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Spending more time online, being secretive

NSPCC, CEOP, PACE

Sexting

Better awareness needed for parents & professionals

All children are vulnerable to this type of exploitation



Chat rooms, online gaming, social media

Breck Bednar, 14

Increase in reports during lockdown

High increase in youth produced sexual imagery

Peer pressure

Often occurs in cases involving CSE

Prosecute?

Images frequently shared on social media sites & within schools



Focus more on awareness/education to prevent cases



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Child trafficking
is a form of
Modern Slavery



Distance is
irrelevant

Can be
effectively
sold

Commonly
used in
county lines

Both
in/out of
UK

Often
subject to
sexual
abuse



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What is HSB?

Under reporting in boys

Sexual assault/rape

Sexual name calling

Who is affected?

Technology assisted HSB (online)

Inappropriate sexual behaviour displayed by children

Viewing pornography



Harmful Sexual Behaviour



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Peer on peer is common in all forms of exploitation



Children can be exploited by children of a similar age as well as adults

Girls often used to 'recruit' other girls, for CSE/CE & gangs

Power imbalance will drive the relationship

The exploited becomes the exploiter



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Child begging is forced labour

May be used as props to gain sympathy

Exploited by traffickers or parents



Exploitation or poverty?

Prevalent in busy retail or tourist areas

Prevent a child from getting an education



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No obvious profile of person involved in extremism

Process of radicalization can take place over an extended period or short time frame



Teenagers can be at greater risk – pushing boundaries/ independent

Not specific to a faith or demographic location

Often targeted online/ social media

Extreme political / religious ideas



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SPOT THE SIGNS

Sexual identity, wellbeing and choice

Absence, truancy and missing

Family and home

Emotion and physical health

Gangs, groups, age gaps, crime

Use of technology and sexual bullying

Alcohol and substances

Receipt of unexplained gifts or money

Distrust of authority figures

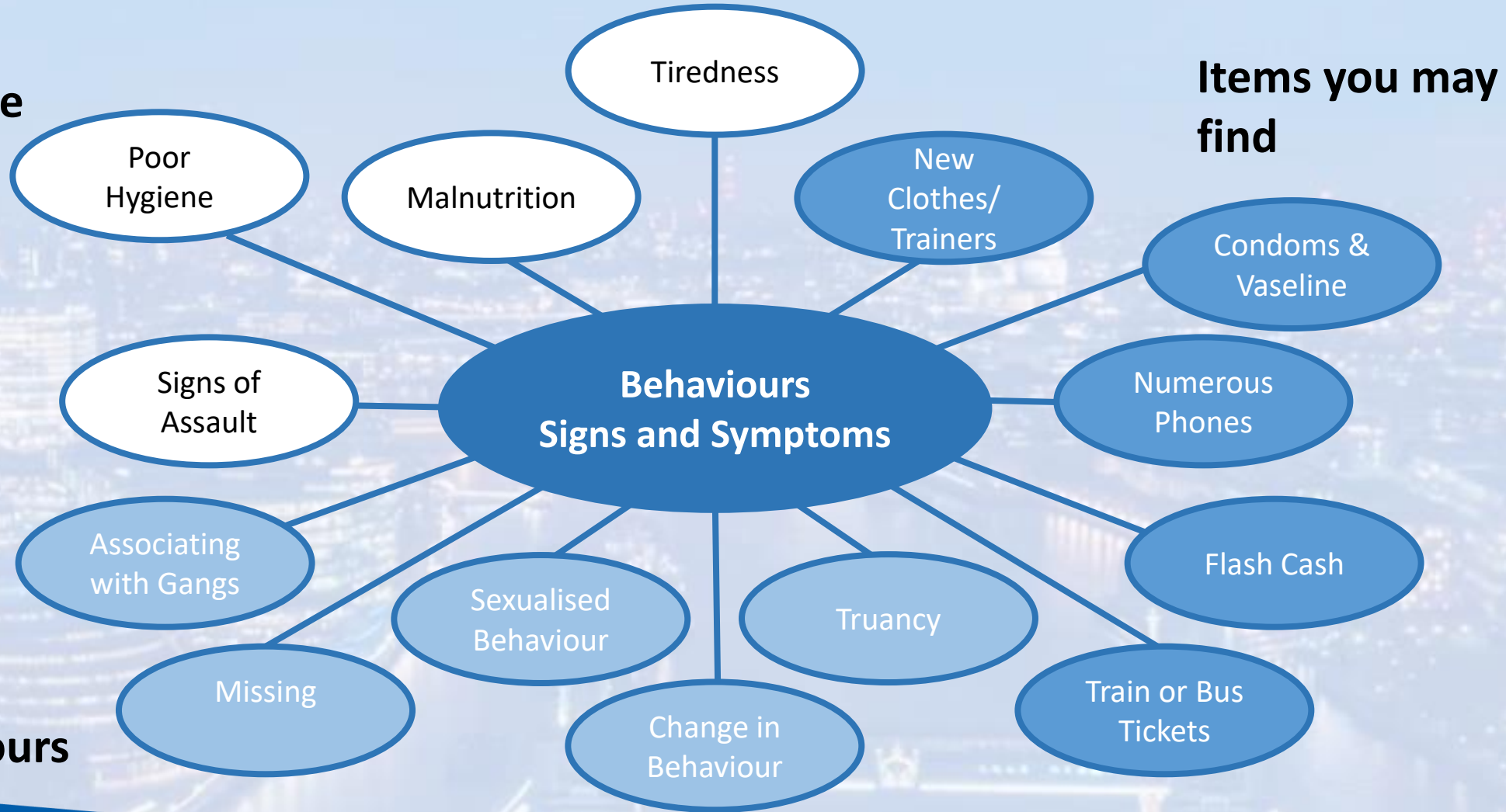


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Signs & Symptoms – consider these on EVERY contact

Appearance



Behaviours



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What challenges are there in engaging with the person?

Distrust of authority figures and bad previous experiences

Fear of not being believed

Fear of the person who is exploiting them for self and family

Threat of secure accommodation/change of placement

Fear of getting into trouble with police if they have committed any crime as part of the exploitation

Embarrassed about what has happened

Fear of telling their sexual orientation

Fear of being in trouble

They might not know they are being exploited

Fear of court procedure

Loss of love/attention from the 'boyfriend'

Trauma/PTSD/Mental Health

All of these things may lead to a lack of engagement



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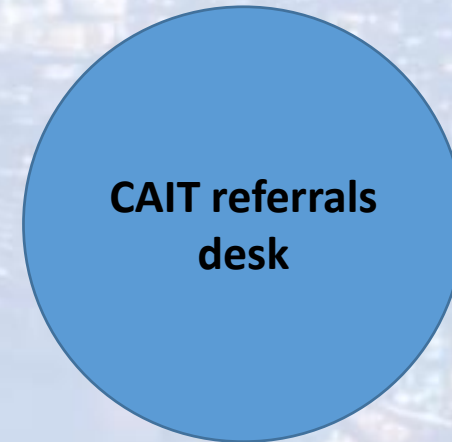
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Reporting Suspicions of child exploitation to police

There are two agreed reporting pathways for partners to access services within the MPS.



Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub



Child Abuse Investigation Team

Reporting Suspicions of child exploitation to police

Reporting pathway for social services

87a referral

- An 87a must be made if there are concerns a child is being TARGETED or GROOMED and the Child exploitation warning indicators are present.
- The CAIT referrals desk will create the correlating non crime 588 cris.
- Information gathered will be risk assessed and placed on the 588 cris, which will form part of the risk assessment.
- MASH will provide an initial assessment to enable police, social workers and professionals to progress the case assessment, plan to reduce risk, support the welfare of the child and pursue any offenders.



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