

# CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION

## HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?



### ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Criminal gangs operate within Essex and are always looking for new 'recruits' to deal drugs/weapons. It is therefore important for parents to be aware of the signs of this activity, and how they recruit and groom for the purposes of criminal exploitation.

**EVERY** child is a risk of being exploited.



Changes in behaviour (withdrawn, secretive, isolated).



Unexplained increase in money. Possessing mobile phones, gadgets, gifts, designer clothing and jewellery.



Use of drugs and/or alcohol.



Relationships with unknown associates/new peer group.



Missing episodes (not disclosing where they have been, with who, or how they got there).



Unexplained injuries.



Showing aggressive and violent behaviours.



Carrying weapons.

# WHO DO THEY RECRUIT?

**EVERY** child is at risk of being exploited. Often those who are targeted and groomed are children and young people with vulnerabilities.

However, more children and young people that are not known to Police, Social Care, or Local Authorities are being recruited into gangs. These victims have had less attention from these agencies and therefore become more attractive to exploiters. This is an increasing 'model' used by gangs who continue to evolve and adapt how they target and groom victims for the sole purpose of exploitation.

In addition, gangs target children and young people on line through social media platforms and gaming apps. This enables gangs to remain 'faceless' to their victims. **Learn more about online safety at eSafetyTraining 'The 2 Johns' at the link below.**



# WHAT ATTRACTS YOUNG PEOPLE?

- Financial gain/reward.
- Respect/status.
- Little or no access to social activities/opportunities.
- Protection/safety (from other gangs, groups, or peers).
- Sense of belonging/family.
- Pressure to join by fears and threats.
- Acceptance.
- Identity
- Boredom.

# SUPPORT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

## **PACE - Parents Against Child Exploitation**

[www.paceuk.info](http://www.paceuk.info)  
0113 240 3040

## **The Childrens Society (not Southend or Thurrock)**

[www.childrenssociety.co.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.co.uk)

## **Fearless**

[crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/parents-guardians](http://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless/parents-guardians)

## **The Safety Box**

[www.thesafetybox.org/parent-support](http://www.thesafetybox.org/parent-support)

## **Local Police**

To find details of your local Policing team, enter your postcode at [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

## **Local Authority/Council**

Find out about about any parent groups and activities for young people in your area at <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

## **eSafety Training 'The 2 Johns'**

<https://esafetytraining.org/resources/parents-carers-area/>

## **Missing People**

<https://www.missingpeople.org.uk/get-help/help-services/exploitation-and-county-lines/what-is-county-lines>

## **Essex Police**

Please visit [essex.police.uk/cce](http://essex.police.uk/cce) or scan this QR code.

