

Criminal exploitation

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER & DISCUSS

- Am I confident that I would know what to do if I suspected that someone was a victim of criminal exploitation?
- Do I know where to get further help and advice?

Report concerns at mcsreply@manchester.gov.uk or GMP for intelligence sharing.

Further information & advice on criminal exploitation activities can found on our website at www.manchestersafeguardingboards.co.uk/resource/criminalexploitation/

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION

The term refers to children, young people or adults who are used, through whatever means, to engage in criminal activity by other young people or adults who are able to coerce them to do so.

The coercion is achieved through grooming, intimidation, acts of violence or debt bondage. The individuals involved may not identify themselves as being 'exploited' but it is clearly to their detriment that they are involved in this type of activity.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Criminal exploitation is a hidden but increasing crime
- Criminal exploitation is typically carried out by organised crime groups and criminal networks.
- Victims will often be used to prepare, store, operate phone lines (County Line) in connection with, and deliver controlled drugs.
- Victims often live in the same local area as the exploiters & will be coerced into engaging in criminal activity within & outside Manchester.
- 'Cuckooing' refers to the exploiters acquiring the use of a local property occupied by an (often vulnerable) adult which they use as a base for their criminal activities.

WHAT TO DO WE NEED TO KNOW

- GMP & partners continue to develop intelligence on those involved in criminal exploitation.
- Ensure details of vulnerable individuals involved are reported as soon as possible.
- Information & intelligence sharing will allow GMP to look at ways to mitigate the risk & protect vulnerable Members of our communities.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

- GMP has seen examples of extreme violence being perpetrated by and upon those involved.
- This has included reprisal beatings, violent assault, threatening behaviour with firearms and spiralling inter gang rivalry.
- Young and vulnerable people who have been targeted are subjected to criminality which may include sexual exploitation, modern slavery and money laundering.
- These activities will have a negative impact on public confidence if not stopped.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR GANGS

- The impact of local gangs setting up these 'County Lines' networks is a major threat.
- Greater Manchester & Merseyside are two of the four main 'County Lines' exporters nationally.
- The NCA estimate that the 'County Lines' model used by gangs, can generate between £2000 - £3000 per line per day.
- As the upstream gang members are less 'hands on' in relation to possession of drugs, the potential for enforcement on a personal level is reduced.

WHO IS EXPLOITED

Gangs 'recruit' and exploit children & teens or vulnerable adults to deal drugs on their behalf or hide weapons in areas where there is little intelligence on them and they would not draw attention to police.

Children are seen as an easily controlled, 'cheap' resource. Often, they fall into some form of debt bondage which leads to violence and assaults.

