

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Adequate training: For the purpose of this self-assessment tool, we consider ‘adequate training’ in disruption to consist of the following:

- The training considers the available legislation on disruption, and updates the training content to reflect any legislative changes or the introduction of new legislation or guidance.
- It's not a ‘one-off’ training but an ongoing programme of updated professional development.
- Quality of the training is monitored and evaluated to ensure that it remains relevant and effective.

Child Abduction Warning Notice (CAWN): Before enough evidence has been gathered to suggest an offence has been committed, police officers can consider issuing warning notices to potential offenders where they have concerns that they pose a risk to a child. They are commonly used to address child exploitation and abuse concerns and in situations where a child is reported missing and later found to be with adults of concern. A CAWN can be used for children under the age of 16 or under 18 if the child is in local authority care and states that the suspect has no permission to associate with the child. If they continue to do so they may be arrested for an abduction offence under the Child Abduction Act 1984 and Children Act 1989. A CAWN can be a useful tool in terms of immediately breaking contact between the child and the individual(s) grooming or exploiting them. They are also useful for ensuring that the suspected perpetrator(s) cannot claim ignorance of the age of the child.¹

Child Exploitation - Child exploitation (CE) takes a variety of forms but ultimately it is the grooming and exploitation of children into **activity that benefits the perpetrator**. Some of these forms include Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Financial Exploitation (CFE).

Child criminal exploitation: Currently, there is no statutory definition for Child Criminal Exploitation.

The Serious Violence Strategy (2018), defines child criminal exploitation as:

‘...where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence.

¹ [Child exploitation disruption toolkit \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

*The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.*²

At The Children's Society, we instead define Child Criminal Exploitation as 'when a child under the age of 18 is being encouraged or forced by an adult to take part in an activity that constitutes an offence under the British legislation'.

Criminal exploitation presents in myriad ways, and affects children from all backgrounds, including British children, non-British children living in this country and children trafficked into the country for this purpose. They may be forced to 'work' in cannabis factories, to carry out pickpocketing, to distribute drugs, commit theft or burglary, or to take part in money laundering and financial fraud.³

Child financial exploitation: Child financial exploitation is a form of abuse. It occurs when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to encourage or force a child under 18 to undertake a financial activity that benefits the perpetrator or facilitator. The perpetrator(s) might coerce, control, manipulate, or deceive the young person. This activity is often criminal and therefore is a form of child criminal exploitation. It includes but is not limited to money laundering and wider fraud.⁴

Child sexual exploitation:

The Children's Society define Child Sexual abuse as follows:

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to encourage or force a child or young person under 18 into sexual activity that benefits the perpetrator or facilitator. The perpetrator(s) might coerce, control, manipulate or deceive the young person. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact and can also take place online and through the use of technology.

Disruption considerations: For the purpose of this assessment, we use this term to mean how multi-agency partnerships consider evidence and information that could be used to take action against suspected perpetrators of exploitation.

² [Child exploitation disruption toolkit \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

³ The Children's Society. 2019. Counting lives - Responding to children who are criminally exploited. [counting-lives-report.pdf \(childrenssociety.org.uk\)](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/counting-lives-report.pdf)

⁴ The Children's Society, 2024. #LookCloser: Child financial exploitation. [OB92b LookCloser spring 2024 A4 CFE Info sheet v2.pdf \(notion.so\)](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/look-closer/spring-2024/A4-CFE-Info-sheet-v2.pdf)

Disruption orders: These are some of the tools that professionals can use to stop activity associated with the exploitation of a child, by targeting the perpetrator(s) or locations where exploitation occurs. For a full list of disruption orders and offences, please access the Home Office's Disruption Toolkit: [Child exploitation disruption toolkit \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612227/Child_exploitation_disruption_toolkit.pdf)

Disruption powers: A joint brief produced by The Children's Society and NWG describes disruption powers as the *'statutory powers which arise from both civil and criminal law, in addition to non-legislative actions intended to provide an opportunity to prevent, reduce or stop exploitation from occurring or re-occurring. These measures consist of targeting a suspected perpetrator and should therefore be considered at the earliest opportunity.'*⁵

Disruption tactics: Approaches taken by professionals once evidence has been considered and used to inform decision making on the disruption measures and powers to put into place to address exploitation concerns and target the perpetrator(s) or locations where exploitation occurs. Tactics may include the application of available disruption orders and actions that do not constitute a civil or criminal order but which discourage or deter the exploitation, as well as safeguard the child/children.

Modern Slavery Act 2015⁶: The Modern Slavery Act was designed to combat modern slavery in the UK and consolidates previous offences relating to trafficking and slavery. The Act addresses various forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation, child trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. This legislation defines these offences and imposes significant penalties on perpetrators. It also introduced measures to support victims alongside the appointment of an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

Modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT): MSHT is an umbrella term for slavery, servitude, forced/compulsory labour and human trafficking for the purposes of exploitation and is classed as a serious and organised crime by the National Crime Agency (NCA).⁷

Multi-agency partnership/partners: We use this term to describe local or regional professionals who come together to discuss and address matters of safeguarding and child protection. In the context of this tool, the ideal multi-agency partnership should consist of strategic and operational staff with key roles in safeguarding potential victims of child exploitation or those at risk of becoming victims, as well as the disruption of perpetrators. This way there is a mix of operational knowledge and strategic decision making and oversight with key insight into measures that need to be taken to safeguard the child/children while also

⁵ [NWG-Disruption-Toolkit-v3-1.pdf \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://safeguardingchildren.co.uk/nwg-disruption-toolkit-v3-1.pdf)

⁶ [Modern Slavery Act 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/31/contents/enacted)

⁷ [Modern slavery and human trafficking authorised professional practice: Consultation \(college.police.uk\)](https://college.police.uk/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking/authorised-professional-practice/consultation)

disrupting their exploitation. Such a partnership includes key stakeholders from law enforcement, social care, education, the voluntary sector, and health.

Relevant agencies: This term is used to acknowledge the differing levels of involvement and responsibility that agencies who make up a multi-agency partnership are expected to hold, with regards to disruption practice, with recognition that this needs to be proportionate. While we encourage all agencies in the partnership to contribute to disruption practice, statutory services and in particular the police and social care are expected to have a greater level of involvement than for example, voluntary sector and community organisations.

Slavery and Trafficking National Policing Standards (Approved Police Practice – APP): The Modern slavery and human trafficking APP guidance supports policing responders, investigators, supervisors and senior leaders to:

- identify and safeguard victims of modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT)
- identify suspects of MSHT offences
- investigate MSHT incidents effectively
- understand the risks associated with MSHT incidents
- develop appropriate governance, training and partnerships to effectively support the force response to incidents of MSHT
- disrupt those posing a threat of harm
- Actively pursue perpetrators of MSHT without the need for a disclosure from a victim/victims.

Evidence-led investigations/prosecutions: A criminal investigation and resulting prosecution which does not rely upon victim disclosure or testimony but instead utilises non-disclosure evidence, such as evidence obtained from mobile phone records and/or captured at the scene of a crime (including for example a premises used to exploit children) to prove or disprove an offence has taken place. For more information visit: [Modern Slavery and human trafficking: offences and defences, including the section 45 defence | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](https://www.cps.gov.uk/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking-offences-and-defences-including-the-section-45-defence)

Exploitation: Child exploitation (CE) takes a variety of forms but ultimately it is the grooming and exploitation of children into activity **that benefits the perpetrator**.

Perpetrator: Perpetrators can be individuals, including family members, wider relatives or friends, individuals unknown to the child before the exploitation takes place and criminal groups of all sizes including Organised Crime Groups (OCGs).

Monitoring of disruption measures: In order for disruption tactics (including but not limited to the use of criminal and civil orders) to be effective in disrupting child exploitation, they need to

be effectively monitored and enforced following a breach. All relevant multi-agency partners in the area (including at a minimum the police and the local council, including children's social care) need to have access to the information recorded when an order or notice is issued, and there needs to be clarity on who is responsible for monitoring adherence to civil and criminal orders and notices. Information on orders should be immediately accessible to relevant professionals where the information is pertinent to their role (for example a school safeguarding lead being made aware of a CAWN being in place that prevents certain adults from having access to a child that attends their school) , and operational staff should be notified or be able to access information regarding a breach of an order through a single designated source. For more information on monitoring of disruption measures, please visit: [Police disruption of child sexual abuse: Findings from a national survey of frontline personnel and strategic leads for safeguarding \(csacentre.org.uk\)](#).

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^[1] [Child exploitation disruption toolkit \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

^[2] [Home Office – Serious Violence Strategy, April 2018 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

^[3] The Children's Society. 2019. Counting lives - Responding to children who are criminally exploited. [counting-lives-report.pdf \(childrenssociety.org.uk\)](#)

^[4] [NWG-Disruption-Toolkit-v3-1.pdf \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](#)

^[5] [Modern Slavery Act 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

^[6] [Modern slavery and human trafficking authorised professional practice: Consultation \(college.police.uk\)](#)

⁸ [Child exploitation disruption toolkit \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)