

Vulnerability and Exploitation update

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Introduction

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What we are going to cover

- Changes to national /local picture
- Implications to you, concerning Crime and Policing Bill 2025
- Emerging issues!!



What we know nationally

There are now more than 1800 active county lines running in England and Wales.

Large increase over the last few months that can be partially attributed to police activity

There is still an overlap between missing young people, criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation.

What we know locally

Currently we have approx. 15 active lines operating in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Increase in violent crime especially those involving knives or other weapons

Peterborough and Cambridgeshire are ranked in the top 5 impacted areas nationally.

Growth area due to transport links.

Peterborough highlighted as known area of multi deprivation
Incredibly diverse areas making it easy to hide in plain sight!

Contextual Safeguarding and Risk outside of the home! Embedded processes in both authority areas now



Contextual Risk Screening Tool



CONTEXTUAL RISK (including Exploitation) SCREENING TOOL

Child or young person's name			Youth Justice Involvement (Yes / No / Previous)		
Gender			Known to Police (Yes / No)		
DOB & AGE			CAMH (Yes / No / Previous)		
Ethnicity			Education Placement (Name of provision)		
Accommodation Type			Current Attendance (%)		
CSC Legal Status (i.e., S17, S47 CP Plan, S31, targeted services)			SEND (Yes/No)		
Home Address (Address / Postcode)			Alcohol/ Substance Misuse (Yes / No / suspected)		
Context/s of concern:	Home <input type="checkbox"/>	Family <input type="checkbox"/>	School <input type="checkbox"/>	Peers <input type="checkbox"/>	Spaces/neighbourhoods <input type="checkbox"/> Online <input type="checkbox"/>
Please describe the concerns within the contexts selected above:					
RISK CATEGORIES (add X to relevant box)					
1. Running Away/ Going Missing	EMERGING	Regularly coming home late/ Absent without permission/ Returning late to care home/ Absent from school/ Whereabouts often unknown			
	MODERATE	Frequently staying out overnight without permission/ Episodes of running away, MFH, missing from placement/ Looking well cared for despite having no known base/ Regular breakdowns of placement due to behavioural problems			
	SIGNIFICANT	Persistently running away, going Missing from home or placement/ Pattern of street homelessness/ Whereabouts often unknown/ talks about and/or known to travel to different areas or cities			
2. Coercion / Control	EMERGING	Recent change in peer group/ Reduced contact with family/friends/ Late night phone/internet contact			
	MODERATE	Secretive about having a mobile phone or more than one/ Extensive use of mobile phone/internet/ Late night phone/internet contact / Limited contact with family/friends/ concerns about secretive relationships and peers' groups/ behaviour change causing concern to family and peer group			
	SIGNIFICANT	Secretive about mobile phone or more than one / Disclosure/intelligence of physical/sexual assault followed by withdrawn allegation/reluctance			

Contextual Risk Screening Tool

Process may vary
depending on
authority area in
the future

Task and Finish
Group currently
looking at the form

No changes
without multi
agency agreement



Crime and Policing Bill 2025



Crime and Policing Bill 2025

Some important changes
coming our way!

Child Criminal Exploitation

Cuckooing

Coerced Internal
Concealment

Defining Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) involves the use of children to commit crimes. This exploitation often involves an imbalance of power where adults manipulate or coerce children into illegal activities.

New Criminal Offence

The Crime and Policing Bill 2025 introduces a new standalone offence to prosecute adults committing child criminal exploitation. This offence targets adults aged 18 and over who use children under 18 to commit crimes. The maximum penalty for this offence is 10 years' imprisonment, a fine, or both.

Civil Preventative Orders

The bill introduces new child criminal exploitation civil preventative orders. These orders can be issued at the end of criminal proceedings or upon application to prevent exploitative conduct. Breach of an order is a criminal offence with a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment.

What is cuckooing?

Cuckooing is the unauthorised takeover of a person's home, typically someone vulnerable, for the purpose of criminal activity, such as drug trafficking



Why Legislation is Needed

Current laws address cuckooing under broader offences like harassment or modern slavery. A bespoke criminal offence is needed to better protect vulnerable individuals and ensure perpetrators face appropriate consequences.

Key Provisions of the New Law

- Creation of a bespoke criminal offence for cuckooing



- Definition: Unauthorised takeover of a person's home for criminal activity



- Maximum sentence of five years in prison

Coerced Internal Concealment



New offence coming!

A new criminal offence of 'coerced internal concealment', to be introduced as an amendment to the landmark [Crime and Policing Bill](#), will crack down on anyone, including gang leaders who force people to hide items inside their bodies to avoid detection.

This practice, also known by the street names 'plugging', 'stuffing' and 'banking', is typically used by organised gangs to transport items like drugs, money and SIM cards from one location to another.

It relies on forcing or deceiving children and vulnerable adults into ingesting or hiding items inside their bodily cavities and is often linked to county lines drug running.

Disposable vapes now illegal since 1st June 2025



Nicotine Pouches are the new vape!!



Questions?

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