

INDICATORS TO CHECK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE POTENTIALLY BEING EXPLOITED BY COUNTY LINES

Parental Concerns or Uncharacteristic Behaviours

- Withdrawal to bedroom all day / secrecy / obsession about door being closed.
- Withdrawal from normal activities and interests.
- Sudden interest in rap or drill music.
- Sudden interest in weights.
- Increasingly lying / manipulative / argumentative / aggressive / angry.
- Leaving home suddenly without explanation.
- Obsession with designer labels.
- Physically aggressive especially if met with obstacles or plans disrupted.
- Rapid / extreme change in appearance – from smart to 'street'.
- Rapid / extreme change in language – from well-spoken and respectful to coarse and offensive language.
- Using coached responses such as 'right to remain silent' or 'no comment'.
- Total denial of situation as it appears – despite evidence to contrary.
- Significant decline in school results / performance / behaviour.
- Obsession with postcodes & 'boundaries'.
- Knowledge of areas with no legitimate links.

Presence of Unexplained Items

- Packets of (secreted) white substance.
- Traces of white substance (kitchen surface / rolling pin).
- Scrunched up cling film & foil.
- Paracetamol sheets missing / running out quickly without explanation
- Lighters / cigarettes / debit cards in unknown identities, explained as 'just found on road'.
- Knife / mobile chargers / dongles / cash / mobile data cards (Lycamobile).
- Notes with crime-orientated rap lyrics & street slang ('8 ways in, only 1 way out').
- Notes with sexualised female identities (social media?).
- After-shaves / perfumes / trainers / stationery items (gifted / stolen).
- Condoms & Vaseline (plugging).
- Train tickets
- Balaclava (personal use or holding for others).

Items Missing From Home

- Money
- Old family mobiles and chargers.
- Handbag shoulder chains.
- Kitchen knives.

Escalation Indicators

- Absence from school or disappearing during school.
- Isolation from peers at school.
- Total withdrawal and detachment from family.
- Suddenly disinterest in seeing family/cousins – ‘nothing in common’.
- Sudden interest in parents’ salary and mortgage payments.
- Obsessively and repeatedly demanding (re: mobile, ‘need’ to go out etc.).
- Maintains ‘story’ despite lacking total credibility.
- Not divulging where going, who with or how travelling.
- Excessive receipt of unexplained texts / phone calls at all hours.
- Unexplained use of Tor app on mobile.
- Unexplained use of Uber app on mobile.
- Suspected use of taxis.
- Complete change / negative attitude towards Police / school / authority. From lack of eye-contact to bravado / squaring up / rudeness & aggression.
- Total lack of empathy towards those lied to or stolen from.
- Persistently going missing or being found out-of-area
- Being hugely anti-Police (‘Feds’).
- Very defensive/argumentative about Muslims.
- Viewing family as enemy & associates as family.
- Obliterating identifying information from train (season) ticket.
- Deliberately avoiding having train ID card on person.
- Using trains without paying fares / not using own Oyster.
- Oyster card used by others.
- Debit card missing – used by associates for money laundering.
- Cutting off name labels from uniform items.
- Cutting off age labels. • Suspected misuse of drugs/alcohol, and smoking.
- Involvement in crime. • Direct involvement with gang members.
- Use of false identities, dates of birth, and addresses.
- Inappropriate sexualised behaviour.
- Involvement with older individuals / dropping friends from school.
- Unexplained injuries & suspicion of physical assaults.
- In cars in unexplained areas with unknown people (‘hitch-hiking after party’).
- Obsession with winter hats and gloves, even in warmer months (identification and fingerprint evasion).
- Wearing two layers of clothing from home – top layer shed to avoid police detection