

**Emerging  
Exploitation**

**Possible indicators**

- There are no imminent/urgent safeguarding concerns and there is evidence that the child or adult may have protective factors, but circumstances and/or behaviours place him/her at ongoing emerging risk of exploitation
- The individual is being encouraged to use substances
- The child or young adult is encouraged to truant from school/college
- Repeated missed health appointments
- The individual is being encouraged to commit low level crime or become involved in anti-social behaviour
- Being pressured and encouraged to become involved in gangs
- Being pressured and encouraged to carry weapons and drugs
- In a peer group that regularly goes missing
- Some missing episodes from home or school
- At risk of being recruited and groomed into exploitative behaviours.
- At risk of Online Bullying / being groomed for exploitation online
- Sudden changes in behaviour such as withdrawal, aggression, anxiety or depression
- Sudden changes in appearance, looking unkempt
- A child or adult where a safety plan is in place and is effective in reducing such risk.

**Experiencing  
Exploitation**

**Possible indicators**

- Evidence or disclosure suggests that the child or adult is at immediate and/or continuing risk of gang activity or youth violence.
- Sudden secretive internet use, receiving gifts or money from unknown sources online, or exhibiting knowledge of sexual behaviour inappropriate for their age.
- Having unexplained amounts of cash.
- Having peers/relationships where there is an imbalance of power.
- Being targeted for grooming by individuals seeking to exploit them, with behaviours such as gift-giving, flattery, or building trust over time.
- Limited access to communication devices or restricted communication with others.
- Being trafficked
- Being unable to come and go freely, working excessively long hours, living in poor conditions, or having a controlling or abusive employer.
- Forced labour, including long hours, low pay, dangerous working conditions, or debt bondage.
- Exploitation based on cultural or religious practices, such as forced marriage or ritual abuse.
- Forcible occupation of home by individuals engaged in criminal activities
- Unexplained sexually transmitted infections (STIs), multiple miscarriages or terminations, or signs of sexual abuse.
- In a gang or carrying weapons
- Increased substance abuse as a coping mechanism or as a result of exploitation.
- Victim of a serious gun/knife crime which may result in a threat to life or injury
- Committing criminal offences, or has been exploited for criminal purposes
- Initiating or experiencing intimate partner abuse or violence
- Regular incidents of going missing with no explanation or plausible account for their whereabouts, especially if linked to continued missing episodes from home and school.
- Being under constant surveillance or control, with limited freedom to make decisions or leave certain locations
- Exhibiting sexually harmful behaviour towards others or including evidence of online activity, grooming or messaging.
- Likely to suffer significant injury/harm which may be physical or sexual if services are not provided.