

Drugs, County Lines and exploitation

Tuesday 15th December 2020

Guidance



Keeping children safe in education

Statutory guidance for schools and colleges

September 2020



WHEN TO CALL THE POLICE

Guidance for schools & colleges



Searching, screening and confiscation

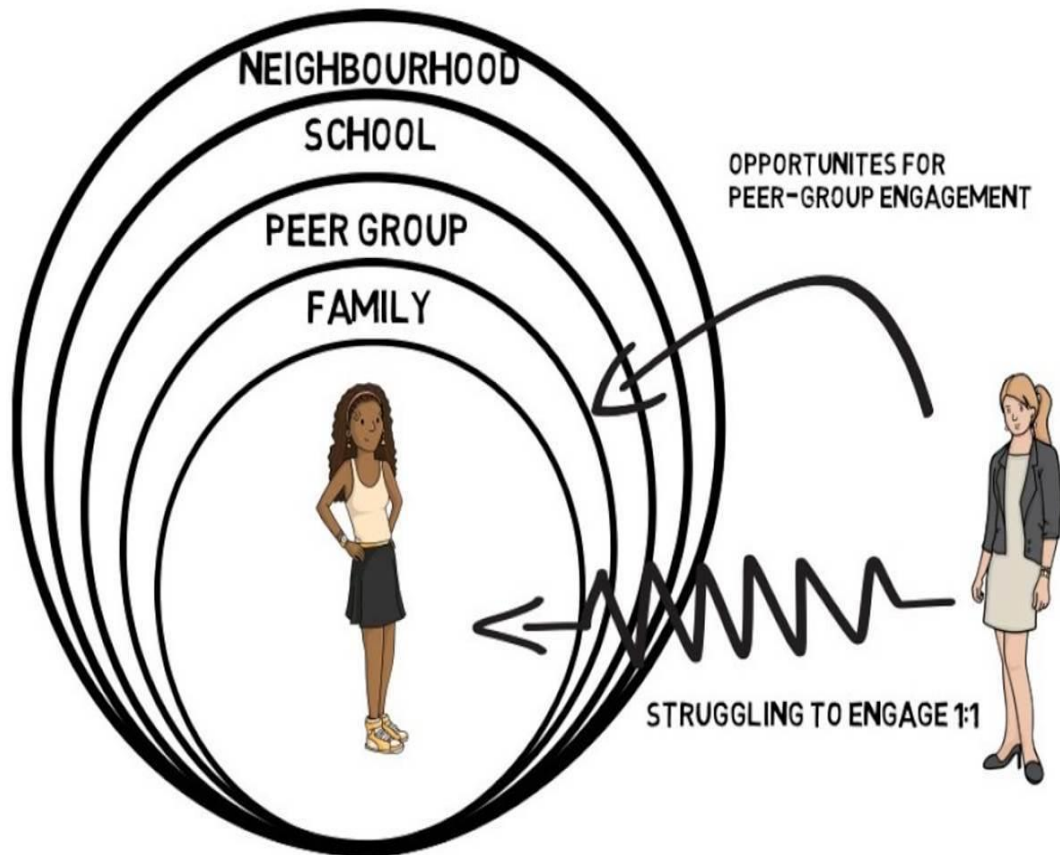
Advice for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies

January 2018

This session will provide guidance on when to report to the police and interpreting the wider guidance.



Contextual Safeguarding



All staff should be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school or college and/or can occur between children outside of these environments. All staff, but especially the designated safeguarding lead (and deputies) should consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious youth violence.

Definition of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) & Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Both CSE and CCE are forms of abuse and both occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child (defined as aged under 18) into sexual or criminal activity.

Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

In some cases, the abuse will be in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or will be to the financial benefit or other advantage (such as increased status) of the perpetrator or facilitator.

It can be a one-off occurrence or be a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse

It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and can involve violence or threats of violence.

Victims can be exploited even when activity appears to be consensual. It can happen online as well as in person

SIGNS OF CSE/CCE

RECURRENT SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

SKIPPING SCHOOL

STAYING OUT LATE OR OVERNIGHT

UNEXPLAINED GIFTS / NEW POSSESSIONS

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL MISUSE

SECRETIVE BEHAVIOUR

YOUTH OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR

INAPPROPRIATE OR SEXUALISED BEHAVIOUR

FRIENDSHIP OR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OLDER ADULTS

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN MOOD OR BEHAVIOUR

CHANGES IN APPEARANCE (CLOTHES, HYGIENE ETC.)

BECOMING WITHDRAWN OR ISOLATED

POOR MENTAL HEALTH/SELF-HARM ETC.

EXCESSIVE TIME SPENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA TALKING TO
'FRIENDS' THEY HAVEN'T MET



Child Sexual Exploitation

CSE occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. CSE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. CSE can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex.

It can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity and may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (e.g. through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on social media).

Child Criminal Exploitation

CCE is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child 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.

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

CCE can include children being forced to work in cannabis factories, being coerced into moving drugs or money across the country (county lines, see page 85 for more information), forced to shoplift or pickpocket, or to threaten other young people.

Safeguarding Partnership will be running specific training on CE shortly.

County Lines

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs (primarily crack cocaine and heroin) into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”.

Exploitation is an integral part of the county lines offending model with children and vulnerable adults exploited to move [and store] drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims.

TVP - Intel form

*** Guidance for
gathering
intelligence**

Drugs guidance

Possession: It is an offence for any person to unlawfully have a controlled drug in their possession.

Supply: It is an offence to either supply, be concerned in the supply, offer to supply or be concerned in making an offer to supply a controlled drug.

If drugs are found

- Is it on school or college premises?
- Seize the substance — it is legal to possess an illegal substance in order to prevent an offence being committed and then destroy it, or hand it to the police
 - If the substance needs to be kept pending police collection, then it should be securely stored in the school safe.
- Schools and colleges are allowed to dispose of substances. If this action is taken, a witness must be present and the action recorded.

Possession of drugs

**A pupil appears to be in possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia
Involving the police**

Are there any aggravating factors?

- What age are the students involved?
- Is there a large amount or the substance prepared for dealing?
- Are there signs and symptoms of problematic drug use e.g. change of appearance/behaviour?
- Is there any indication of links to gangs or county lines?

Ask the student to turn out their pockets and bags. Given the circumstance, the designated member of staff is permitted to use reasonable force when conducting a search. However, if a pupil is not compliant or a more personal search is required, consider calling the police to conduct the search.

Possession of drugs

- The student should be supervised at all times to ensure they have no opportunity to dispose of any substance.
- Ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout and that any action taken is recorded.
- If a substance is found – seize substance – it is legal to possess an illegal substance in order to prevent an offence being committed and then destroy it or hand it to the police. If the substance needs to be kept pending police collection, it should be stored in the school or college safe. Seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present.
- Schools and colleges are allowed to dispose of substances. If this action is taken, a witness must be present and the action recorded.
- If a small quantity is found, a school or college can manage the incident in line with their drug policy – consider a referral

Young People under the influence of drugs

If a student is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on its premises, the school or college must prioritise the safety of the young person and those around them. If necessary it should be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering first aid and summoning appropriate support.

- If the student is seen to be at risk the school or college's safeguarding policy will come into effect and social services may need to be contacted.
- If the student is taken to hospital in an ambulance or receives medical attention at a hospital, parents and carers and the police must be informed. As the student has been placed at significant risk or harm, the police will need to investigate potential offences in relation to the misuse or illegal taking of substances.

Other factors for consideration.....

Drug Dogs and Drug Testing

The National Police Chief's Council does not recommend that drug dogs and drug testing should be used for searches where there is no evidence of the presence of drugs on premises.

Prevention

Schools and colleges should ensure that students have access to and knowledge of up-to-date information on sources of help. In supplementary PSHE guidance for subject survey visits, students awareness of the dangers of substance misuse.

Behaviour Management

In deciding what action to take, schools and colleges should follow their own disciplinary procedures. Exclusion should not be the automatic response to a drug incident and permanent exclusion should only be used in serious cases.

Drug use can be a symptom of other problems and schools and colleges should be ready to involve or refer students to other services when needed

Searching

- School staff can search a pupil for any item if the pupil agrees with agreement from the Head teacher.
- Head teachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item.
- The searcher should be the same sex as the pupil and that a witness is present will continue to apply in nearly all searches.

Screening

- School staff can screen pupils under Health and Safety at Work

Searching, screening and confiscation

Searching with consent

Schools' common law powers to search:

- School staff can search pupils with their consent for any item.
- The ability to give consent may be influenced by the child's age or other factors

Extent of the search – clothes, possessions, desks and lockers

Searching without consent:

What can be searched for?

- Knives or weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs and stolen items; and
- Tobacco and cigarette papers, fireworks and pornographic images; and
- Any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence, or to cause personal injury, or damage to property; and
- Any item banned by the school rules which has been identified in the rules as an item which may be searched for.

Searching, screening and confiscation

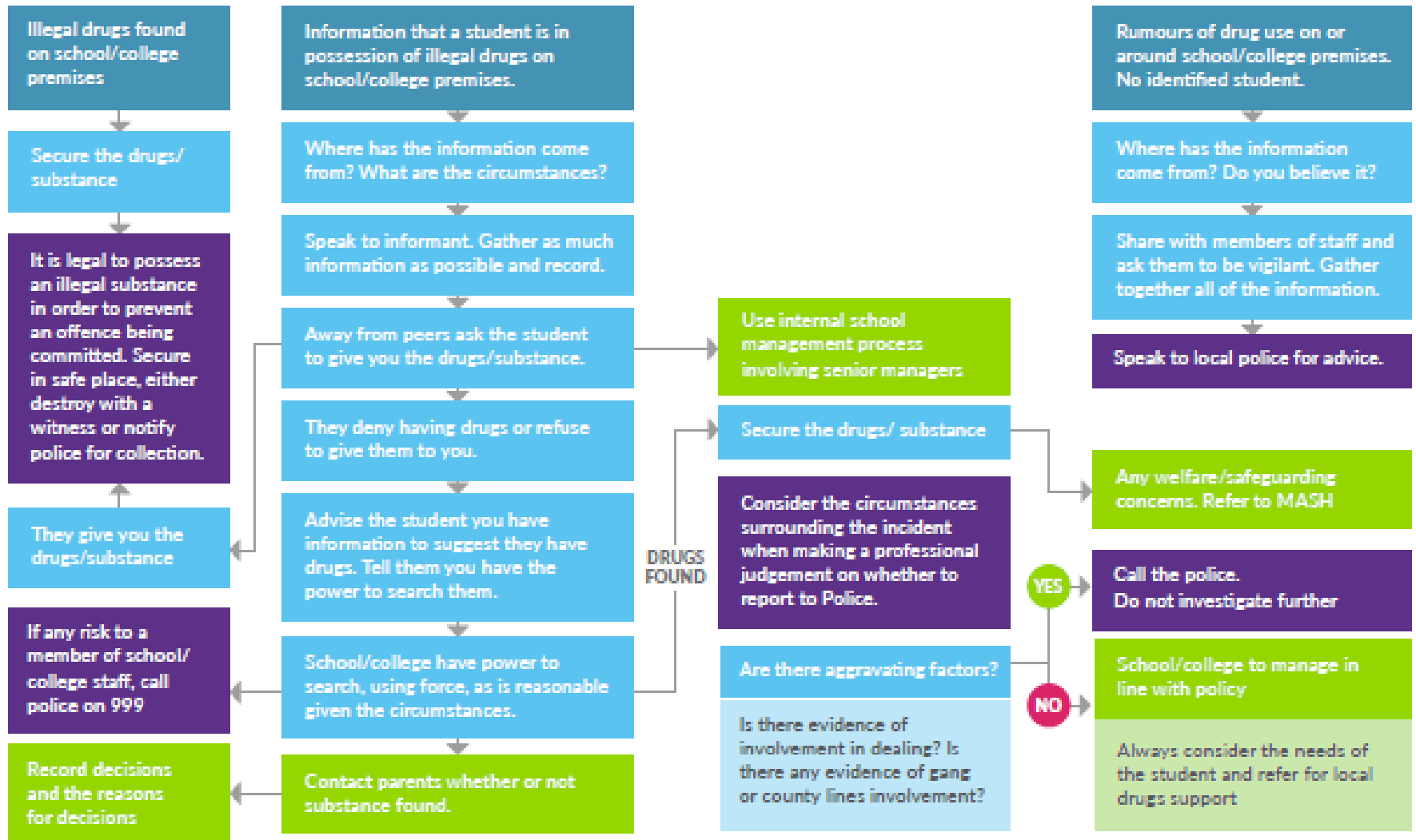
The power to seize and confiscate items:

Staff can use their discretion to confiscate, retain and/or destroy any item found as a result of a 'with consent' search so long as it is reasonable in the circumstances. **Where any controlled drugs is reasonably suspected must be passed to the police.**

Alcohol, other substances, cigarettes **can be confiscated** where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline.

ILLEGAL DRUGS

Definition: Misuse of Drugs Act 1971: It is an offence for any person to unlawfully have a controlled drug in their possession. It is an offence to supply, or be concerned in the supply of a controlled drug. It is an offence to offer to supply, or be concerned in making an offer to supply a controlled drug.



Case Study

The school have reason to believe Jack has some cannabis on him, they ask him and he doesn't say anything, they tell him they have the power to search him and he then produces a small amount of cannabis that he states he stole from home.

The school check the rest of his belongings with consent and find no more drug or paraphernalia, they record the incident as the school guidelines state and also call in his parents to discuss the issue. The Police are called (immediately) who attend and seize the drugs for the purpose of destroying them. They believe the school have dealt with the situation proportionately and take no further action.

Jack's details are recorded on the Police data base for intelligence purposes. MARF referral made.

Case Study

- Joshua is 15 years of age. In the early spring, he was stopped by the police as a passenger in a stolen vehicle seen to be driven erratically in Slough
- A couple of months later, Joshua was stopped and searched in a local park and found with 5 bags of cannabis in his underwear, he was with an adult male. His Mum reported she often does not know where he is in the evenings
- Joshua has been seen in school with a roll-up cigarette containing cannabis, on being asked, he has shown the teacher a cannabis grinder which was in his pocket
- Joshua has come to school today having hidden a second mobile phone in his shoe and asked a younger student to keep a gum container containing small bags of cannabis in her backpack. Teachers describe Joshua to have a lot of influence in school and say his peers are afraid of him

Intel reporting

We want to encourage you not to keep these bits of information to yourself, especially if it is concerning and potentially could affect someone's safety; it might be nothing and it probably won't mean instant action, but by building up a picture, we can better protect those who rely on us and our partners.

For a while now, there has been a safe and confidential way of sharing these small bits of information – the Thames Valley Police partnership intelligence form. It comes with an explanatory note as to what should and shouldn't be included, how identities are protected and what happens to the information you share

The intel training dates and times are available:

- 9 December 2020, 11am-12pm
- 17 December 2020, 11am-12pm
- 14 January 2021, 11am-12pm

Colleagues can book onto the training by emailing Corletta.rolle@slough.gov.uk

See it, hear
it, share it!

Thames Valley Police

Partnership Agency Intelligence Sharing Submission Form

Please complete all 3 sections of this form and return to the relevant county e-mail address listed at the bottom of the form.

Reporting Person Details	
Reporting Person Name	
Reporting Person Job Title & Organisation	
Reporting Person E-mail Address	
Reporting Person Telephone	

Source Details	
Does the information originate from the person above?	
If no please provide the source details below. This will be held securely and not released.	
Source Name and Date of Birth	
Source Address	
Source Telephone	
Source E-mail	
Do you believe the source is willing to be contacted by police?	

Intelligence Report	
Date of Report	
Additional Information	

Once completed e-mail to the below email addresses:
BerkshireEastCID72s@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
Mark.Franklin@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
Ross.Turner@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

TVP Partnership Intelligence Submission Briefing Note (Sept 2018)

1.0 Introduction – The following is to be read in conjunction with the TVP Partnership Intelligence Submission Form & is intended to provide a brief overview of the sorts of things that should/shouldn't be included, what TVP do with the information, the importance of including details of sources of information and how TVP protect their identity. There is an assumption that the principle of sharing information to try & prevent/detect crime is accepted and doesn't seek to 'make a case.'

2.0 What should/shouldn't I submit

The form should be used to:

- Provide information that might indicate someone's involvement in committing crime. (Not to report a specific crime or crime in progress)
- Provide information that might indicate they are a potential victim of crime or vulnerable. (Not where attendance of Police/Social Care/Child Services is required)
- Details of suspicious vehicles/events (where Police attendance not required)
- Suspicious property (i.e. address with numerous bikes or new electrical equipment etc)
- Third hand reports that suggest the above (i.e. where someone tells you about anything that might fit the above)

Shouldn't be used:

- For reporting of a crime by or on behalf of the victim (this should be dialled in)
- To replace existing referral procedures (particularly child & vulnerable person referrals)
- Where a response or attendance is time critical or time specific.

3.0 What happens to the report once I submit it

You should e-mail your report to the address shown on the form. This is a secure e-mail which is managed by the Intelligence 'Readers'. The Readers will assess the information for obvious immediate risk and (assuming no instant action required) undertake initial research to try and establish whether links to known addresses/subjects. They will input the report onto the crime & intelligence system – they will precis or 'sanitise' the information where necessary to ensure the identity of the source is not obvious from reading the report. (The content of the full report is still accessible but only to those with a high enough access level – i.e. the intelligence team)

Child Exploitation Screening tool



Pan Berkshire Child Exploitation Simple Screening Tool

Guidance on completing the tool

The screening tool uses the term 'child' deliberately to remind us that a child at risk through exploitation is a child in need of protection and not a young adult making poor choices. It is designed to be used by anyone who has concerns for a child. A child is defined as person who is under 18 years of age.

The screening tool is designed to help identify possible risks of exploitation. Your observations of behaviours and any significant changes will be important as children will often deny or be unaware that they are being exploited.

Significant changes in behaviours, a single high-risk episode or multiple risk factors may indicate that the child is a victim of abuse through exploitation rather than a teenager experimenting with risk taking.

These are the most prevalent forms of child exploitation:

Sexual Exploitation	any sexual activity with a child in exchange or to either enhance perpetrators reputation/status or for the financial gain of the perpetrator
Criminal Exploitation	Forcing/coercing a child to engage in criminal behaviour e.g.: drug dealing, county lines, holding weapons/drugs, ABH, GBH, shoplifting, burglary, mugging (robbery) etc....
Forced Labour	Employing a child to undertake some form of employment to pay off any 'debts' or pay them minimal amounts. Engage in work that is illegal for their age. This can also include domestic servitude.

Often, children do not recognise themselves as victims, or that they are being groomed, and as a result disclosures of such abuse can be unlikely. Therefore, this screening tool aids the identification of exploitation.

[CE Screening tool](#)

MULTI AGENCY CHILD EXPLOITATION PANEL (MACE)

- Aim is that all children / young people will be referred using a referral form provided and with a completed CE screening tool / or risk assessment to inform the discussion.
- A triage process takes place to screen referrals and ensure appropriate for MACE. It is aimed at high end children entrenched in CSE and CCE. All referrals must go through SCST Front door to ensure every child's needs are assessed and we do not miss anything.
- MACE incorporates previous panels including SEMRAC and SYV. The new MACE format started on 1 April 2020. The pathway is currently under review.

Resources

Drugs Diversionary Project Pilot – coming to Slough soon

Engage Project n Slough – Gill Hewlett
Gill.Hewlett@slough.gov.uk

FRANK <https://www.talktofrank.com/>

YOUNGMINDS <https://youngminds.org.uk/>

Front Door: 01753 875362

For out of hours service please call: 01344 786543

Thames Valley Police:

www.thamesvalley.police.uk Telephone: 101

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

Working Together to Keep Children Safe 2018
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-secure-childrens-welfare>



Questions?

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