

Wigan Children's Safeguarding Partnership – Criminal Exploitation – 7 Minute Briefing

Definitions

Criminal exploitation defines individual who are used by other individuals who are able to influence them to engage in criminal activity by means of coercion.

Coercions may take the form of debt bondage, physical or sexual violence, grooming, and other forms of intimidation.

Individuals may not know they are being exploited but the presence of power imbalance and disadvantage weighted against the individual highlights the risk.

Themes from Wigan Review Processes which co-occur with Criminal Exploitation

- Poor Mental Health
- neglect
- Lack of professional curiosity
- Sexual/physical abuse
- Lack of consideration for lived experiences
- Missing from home
- Missing from education

What does good look like?

The nature of criminal exploitation means it can be difficult to identify. Individuals may be to be scared to speak about their experiences through fear of repercussions. Practitioners should speak open and honestly about the risks of exploitation. Listen actively to what service users are telling you about their experiences. They are more likely to be open if they feel listened to. Understand and stay up to date with what exploitation looks like in your area, understanding context and language may allow for early identification.

Why is this important to Wigan?

The Deal for Children and Young People promotes the investment of time to prevent service users needing to repeat their stories. Allowing greater opportunity to understand individual experiences and to apply effective support. Interventions should be evidenced based and innovative to meet individual needs. the deal promotes professional curiosity and positive working relationships to achieve efficient and effective outcomes.

What can we consider?

- Are you able to have conversations with other professionals which enhance assessments?
- Do you regularly practice active listening, are you aware of your own strengths and weaknesses in this skill?
- Do you know about exploitation in your area and common words and phrases used by young people?
- Do you share information with other professionals working with families in a timely manner?
- Are you aware of programme challenger and how the programme across GM can support your practice and help to keep young people safe?

More information can be found on our [website](#)

Contact us at wscb@wigan.gov.uk

What can you do right now?

Do's

- Know the signs
- Keep up to date with the latest training and guidance
- Use appropriate assessment tools
- Speak with your manager for further support
- Listen actively

Don't

- Expect someone to tell you everything
- Avoid talking about the risks of exploitation
- Assume that the young person is not a victim
- Promise to keep disclosures to yourself

Want to learn more?

- [The Deal for Children and Young People](#)
- [Visit our guidance and policies page for information on dealing with disclosures and missing from home.](#)