



**CAMPAIGN INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

## Be Curious ... An introduction

The Safer Devon Partnership, Devon Safeguarding Children Board, Devon and Cornwall Police and local authorities from across Devon have come together to raise awareness of three issues affecting our communities.

- Violent extremism and radicalisation
- Child sexual exploitation
- Modern slavery

The aim of Be Curious is to encourage people across the county to look out for signs of exploitation in their communities.

Violent extremism and radicalisation, sexual exploitation and modern slavery are issues that affect every community throughout the United Kingdom.

Violent extremism and radicalisation have become more prevalent in recent years with the rise of international terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda and Islamic State. Violent extremist threats come from a range of individuals, including domestic terrorism and homegrown violent extremists.

Modern slavery is a global issue that still continues in every country in the world. Much of the difficulty of spotting modern slavery is that it is so well hidden in our societies.

Child sexual exploitation continues to be another issue that is prevalent in all communities. It is a type of sexual abuse in which children are exploited for money, power or status.

As employers, employees, colleagues, friends and neighbours, we each have a duty to look out for one another.

This campaign calls on you to **Be Curious**. If you see or hear something that makes you feel uneasy and makes you think that someone might be in danger, don't just look away. **Speak to someone you trust** and see how they feel about it. If they agree with your concerns, call a helpline, or even call the police.



## Be Curious... The situation

The Be Curious campaign is focused around three main issues; child sexual exploitation, modern slavery and violent extremism and radicalisation.



Violent extremism is the beliefs and actions of people who support or use violence to achieve ideological, religious or political goals. Radicalisation can be defined as 'the process by which people come to support terrorism and violent extremism and, in some cases, then join terrorist groups.'

Currently, the threat level for international terrorism in the UK is severe. This means that a terrorist attack is highly likely. The terrorist threats we face now are more diverse than before, dispersed across a wider geographical area, and often in countries without effective governance. We therefore face an unpredictable situation, with potentially more frequent, less sophisticated terrorist attacks.

As a result, the Government launched the Prevent strategy to respond to the ideological challenge we face from terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views.

The aim is to provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support. The strategy covers all forms of terrorism, including far right extremism and some aspects of non-violent extremism.

As part of the Prevent work in the county, the Safer Devon Partnership and local authorities in Devon have come together to launch this campaign to help raise awareness of the signs and situations where extremism and radicalisation may pose a risk.

Violent extremism and radicalisation often involves the exploitation of vulnerable people who are considered easy targets. The Safer Devon Partnership also recognise that modern slavery and child sexual exploitation share similarities, and that the same signs and evidence may be present with these issues.

The aim of the Safer Devon Partnership is to support local communities and institutions to challenge and reject extremism and the exploitation of individuals. The exploitation of people and recruitment into child sexual exploitation and modern slavery are closely linked with violent extremism.

The signs and trigger points of exploitation, whether through violent extremism, modern slavery or CSE are very similar. There is a need to raise awareness of all three; to make people aware of the fact that it is happening in Devon, and to provide information on what people can do to help prevent it.

There are no typical profiles for offenders of child sexual exploitation, modern slavery or terrorism. With this in mind **Be Curious** asks people to be aware of what is happening around them and question suspicious or abnormal behaviour.

If you see or hear something that makes you feel uneasy, **talk to someone you trust.**

It might be a friend, colleague, teacher, neighbour or police officer. If you feel like something is wrong, it's okay to be curious. If you feel if someone is at risk of harm, or harming themselves, seek help and advice.

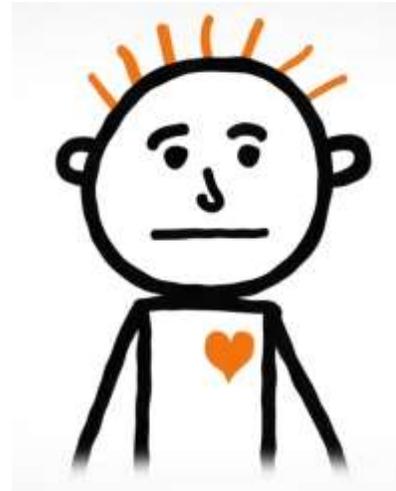


## Why these issues?

### Modern slavery

Modern slavery is now estimated to be the second largest illicit trade worldwide. From women forced into prostitution, children and adults forced to work in agriculture, domestic work, or factories and sweatshops producing goods for global supply chains, entire families forced to work for nothing to pay off generational debts; or girls forced to marry older men, the illegal practice is still in our communities.

The British Government estimates that there are around **13,000 people** in modern slavery in the UK today and more than **45.8 million** across the world. Over **3,000** people, including nearly **1,000** children, were referred to British authorities as potential victims of slavery in 2015, a 40% increase on the previous year. (antislavery.org)



### Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse that affects people across the UK. It involves young people being groomed and sexually exploited. It puts a young person at huge risk of damage to their physical, emotional and psychological health and contrary to what many people believe, it is happening in Devon.

Over **2,400 children** were victims of sexual exploitation in gangs and groups from August 2010 to October 2011 in the UK and **over 230 children** were trafficked for sexual exploitation in 2013. During 2014 - 2015, Barnardo's worked with **3,200** exploited or at-risk children in the UK.

In reality, the true number of victims is likely to be much higher, as the pain of their ordeal and fear that they will not be believed means they are too often scared to come forward or they may not even recognise themselves as a victim.

### Violent Extremism and Radicalisation

Violent extremism and radicalisation are ever-increasing issues within our society, already more than **850 people** from the UK having travelled to take part in the Syrian conflict (October 2016).

In Devon, there have been cases of violent extremism that have posed a threat to the public, although the majority of people who live and work here would consider it a relatively safe place.

In recent months, there have been several investigations into slavery, exploitation and violent extremism in the county. These are hidden crimes, but if you suspect someone is at risk of harm, there are people you can talk for advice on how to deal with your concerns.

Whilst Government strategies and policies are implemented to tackle these crimes and protect the victims, we have a responsibility as part of a society to look out for one another and seek help if we feel that something is wrong.

### **About Violent Extremism and Radicalisation**

The UK faces a range of terrorist threats including international terrorism, Northern Ireland-related terrorism, extreme right-wing terrorism and other forms such as that motivated by the conflict in Israel-Palestine.

Violent extremism is the beliefs and actions of people who support or use violence to achieve ideological, religious or political goals. Radicalisation can be defined as:

*‘the process by which people come to support terrorism and violent extremism and, in some cases, then join terrorist groups.’*

In 2011, the Government set out a new ‘Prevent’ strategy to tackle violent extremism of all kinds. Prevent is part of the Government’s counter-terrorism strategy, to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent is designed to address all forms of terrorism but continues to prioritise according to the threat they pose to our national security.

The strategy involves thousands of people - police and intelligence officers, the emergency services, local authorities, businesses, voluntary and community organisations, governments and other partners all working together across the UK and the world to protect the public.

The Prevent strategy will specifically:

- respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
- prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
- work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address

### **How do I spot the signs?**

Studies have shown that there is no ‘typical’ profile of a person who is at risk of being drawn into violent extremism, but it has been recognised that certain vulnerable people might be more susceptible to considering radical ideology.



The following list of vulnerabilities that a person might present is not exhaustive and it is important to remember that all or none of these may be present in individual cases.

- Those experiencing a personal identity crisis

- Individuals looking for identity, meaning and belonging, it may be that the person has encountered a peer, social, family or faith group rejection
- A person with feelings of grievance, injustice or thoughts of unmet aspirations
- Those in a transitional period of life such as moving to a new area or country, ending or starting a new relationship
- A person who is being influenced or controlled by a group
- Those who have a pre-existing conviction that their culture and religion is under threat or that they as an individual are under threat
- A need to dominate and control others
- People with relevant mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Individuals with a desire for status and greater power within their communities
- A person with a desire for excitement and adventure
- Those who have a history of criminal behaviour

The NSPCC has recently launched a new service following recent terrorist attacks which have highlighted the growing problem of individuals being influenced by extremism.

The organisation recognises that radicalisation can be really difficult to spot but lists the signs that may indicate a child is being radicalised as:

- isolating themselves from family and friends
- talking as if from a scripted speech
- increased levels of anger
- becoming disrespectful and asking inappropriate questions

However, these signs don't necessarily mean a child is being radicalised – it may be normal teenage behaviour or a sign that something else is wrong.

### **What can I do?**

It is possible to intervene during the radicalisation process and stop someone becoming drawn towards terrorism or supporting violent extremist activity. This is achieved by Prevent using the Channel Process.

Channel is a process developed to support people at risk of being drawn towards terrorism or violent extremism. A multiagency panel, chaired by the local authority, is convened and partners

work collaboratively to establish a bespoke support package for vulnerable individuals. The earlier the referral is made, the earlier Channel intervention can take place and therefore the more likely it is to be effective.

If you believe that someone is at risk of radicalisation you can help them obtain support and prevent them becoming involved in terrorism by raising your concerns and making a referral. You may also have concerns about a potentially vulnerable institution that is being exploited for the purpose of promoting an extremist ideology. In either case a dedicated team is ready to receive and progress the referral.

For referrals in Devon and Cornwall please email - [prevent@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:prevent@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk). Please include as much detail as you can about the nature of your concerns and about the individual/institution involved.

For safeguarding concerns that are not terrorism related please email details to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) - [mashsecure@devon.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:mashsecure@devon.gcsx.gov.uk) or call 0345 155 1071.

If you see or hear anything that could be terrorist-related trust your instincts and call the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321.

If you think you have seen person acting suspiciously, or if you see a vehicle, unattended package or bag which might be an immediate threat, move away and call 999.

### **About Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse in which children are sexually exploited by an adult who has power over them. The abuser often encourages a close relationship with the child and manipulates them by providing them with affection, attention, alcohol, drugs, gifts or simply through treating them like an adult. It is then that the expectation of sexual favours is pressed upon the child, this could be with the abuser or the abuser's friends.



In 2015, the Home Office released a strategy to tackle child sexual exploitation. The strategy states that child sexual exploitation affects all our communities and is not exclusive to any single community, race or religion.

The Government report defines CSE as: sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.

Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example, being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones

without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.

Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/278849/Safeguarding\\_Children\\_and\\_Young\\_People\\_from\\_Sexual\\_Exploitation.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/278849/Safeguarding_Children_and_Young_People_from_Sexual_Exploitation.pdf)

### **How do I spot the signs?**

CSE is one of the biggest dangers facing children and teenagers today. Anyone under the age of 18 can be a victim. But there are signs that you can look out for that might indicate the child is being sexually exploited.

These include:

- Regularly going missing from home or school
- Being picked up by unknown adults
- An adult boyfriend, girlfriend or friends
- Unexplained influx of money, possessions, mobile phone credit or a new mobile phone
- Going out late at night and not returning until the morning
- Increased use of mobile phone and/or internet activity
- Involvement in criminal activity
- Changes in behaviour, such as becoming very secretive or aggressive
- Regularly going out and drinking alcohol and/or taking drugs
- Trying to hide marks or scars on their bodies
- Looking tired/unwell and sleeping at unusual hours
- Playing truant from school or regularly going missing from home
- Self-harming
- Sexually-transmitted infections
- A change in appearance and attitude



It is important to remember that although numerous indicators may be present, this doesn't mean that a child is definitely being sexually exploited.

**Some young people can be more vulnerable because of their circumstances, such as:**

- Living within a difficult or challenging household
- Having a lack of friends in the same age group
- Confusion about their sexuality
- A history of domestic abuse or neglect
- Having learning disabilities
- Coming into contact with other exploited youngsters, e.g. at school
- Suffering a recent bereavement or loss
- Being homeless or living in residential care, a hostel or bed and breakfast
- Having low self-esteem or confidence
- Being a young carer
- Living in a gang neighbourhood

Remember, many victims of CSE do not know that they are a victim until it's too late.

**What can I do?**

If you know a young person displaying warning signs and vulnerabilities from the above list, you should take action and seek help.

If you are concerned about a child or young person and want to speak to someone contact the police on 101. In an emergency always dial 999.

If you would prefer not to speak to the police you can contact Children's Services in your area:

- [Devon](#) Tel: 0345 155 1071 or email [MASH](#) and give as much information as you can. Out of hours: 0845 6000388.
- [Cornwall](#) Tel: 0300 123 1116 or email [MARU](#). Out of hours: 01208 251 300.
- [Torbay](#) Tel: 01803 208100 or email [Torbay Safeguarding Hub](#).
- [Plymouth](#) Tel: 01752 308600. Out of hours: 01752 346784.

Or contact the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000 or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

## About Modern Slavery

More than 200 years ago, the British House of Commons passed historic legislation to make the slave trade illegal. Sadly, the reality today is that slavery still exists in towns, cities and rural areas across the UK and the world.

In November 2014, the Government set out its new strategy for dealing with modern slavery, and in 2015 introduced the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to make provision for slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking, including the protection of victims and to make provision for an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

There has been year on year increases in the number of victims of modern slavery in the UK. Many are foreign nationals who are brought to the UK specifically so they can be abused, however, a high number of victims are UK nationals, including children.

Research carried out by the Home Office estimates that in 2013, the number of potential victims in the UK was between 10,000 –13,000. The National Crime Agency estimates that in 2013, the UK was the third most common country of origin of identified victims.

### What forms of slavery exist today?

- *Forced labour* - Victims are forced to work against their will, often working very long hours for little or no pay in dire conditions under verbal or physical threats of violence. This could include slavery in the building sector, or in seasonal agriculture
- *Bonded labour* – A person becomes a bonded labourer when labour is demanded as a means of repayment for a loan. The person is then tricked or trapped into working for very little or no pay
- *Human trafficking* - Human trafficking involves men, women and children being brought into a situation of exploitation through the use of violence, deception or coercion and forced to work against their will. People can be trafficked for many different forms of exploitation such as forced prostitution, forced labour, forced begging, forced criminality, domestic servitude, forced marriage, forced organ removal
- *Descent-based slavery* - Descent-based slavery describes a situation where people are born into a 'slave class', caste or a group viewed as being in slavery by other members of their society. If one's mother is in slavery, one is born into slavery
- *Slavery in supply chains* - Many of the products we buy and use every day are made using forced labour. There is evidence of slavery in different stages of the supply chains from the production of raw materials, for example cocoa, cotton, or fishing, to manufacturing every-day goods such as mobile phones or garments and even at the final stage, when the product reaches the market
- *Forced and early marriage* - Marriage involving children under 18-years-old remains a widely culturally accepted practice in many corners of the globe. UNICEF estimates that 11% of women worldwide were married before reaching the age of 15. Although boys

can be affected by the practice, it is mostly girls who suffer slavery as a consequence of child marriage

Many forms of slavery involve more than one element or form listed above. For example, trafficking often involves an advance payment for the trip and organising a promised job abroad which is borrowed from the traffickers. Once at the destination, the debt incurred serves as an element of controlling the victims as they are told they cannot leave the job until the debt is paid off.

In Devon and the wider south west, the Anti-Slavery Partnership has been set up, joining all Police forces, local authorities and the voluntary sector in order to tackle modern slavery and exploitation.

### How do I spot the signs?

Modern slavery is a serious crime that is often carefully concealed, making it hard to recognise the victims that could be around us. However, there are some common indicators which you should be aware of.



These include:

- **Physical appearance** – Victims may show signs of physical and/or psychological abuse, look malnourished or unkempt
- **Isolated and controlled** – Victims may rarely be on their own, seem under the control of others and/or rarely interact or seem unfamiliar with their environment
- **Few or no personal items** – Victims may have no identification documents, have very few personal possessions and may wear the same clothes day in and out. They also may wear unsuitable clothing
- **Unusual travel times** – Victims may be dropped off and collected for work on a regular basis very early or very late at night
- **Poor living conditions** – Victims may be living in unclean, cramped and/or overcrowded accommodation. They also may be living and working from the same address
- **Restricted freedom** – Victims may have few opportunities to move freely
- **Reluctant to seek help** – Victims may avoid eye contact, appear scared or hesitant to talk to strangers and fear law enforcement

### What can I do?

If you suspect that someone is a victim of modern slavery you can call the national modern slavery helpline on 0800 0121 700 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## Useful Phone Numbers

In an emergency, call the Police on 999 – if it's not an emergency call 101

Anti-Terrorist Hotline: 0800 789 321

Modern slavery Helpline: 0800 0121 700

Child Sexual Exploitation Helpline: 01332 585371

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

**If you're not sure who to speak to, contact your local authority.**

For more information about any of these issues visit:

Devon and Cornwall Police: [www.devon-cornwall.police.uk](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)

Devon Safeguarding Children Board: [www.devonsafeguardingchildren.org](http://www.devonsafeguardingchildren.org)

Devon Safeguarding Adults Board: [www.new.devon.gov.uk/devonsafeguardingadultsboard/](http://www.new.devon.gov.uk/devonsafeguardingadultsboard/)

### Modern slavery:

Modern Slavery: [www.modernslavery.co.uk](http://www.modernslavery.co.uk)

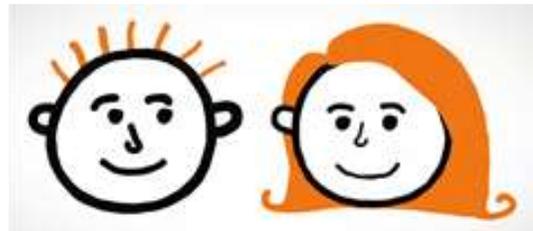
Anti-Slavery: [www.antislavery.org](http://www.antislavery.org)

### Child Sexual Exploitation:

NSPCC: [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

Barnardos: [www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk)

Stop CSE: [www.stop-cse.org](http://www.stop-cse.org)



### Violent Extremism and radicalisation:

Devon and Cornwall Police: [www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/prevention-and-advice](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/prevention-and-advice)

Prevent Tragedies: <http://www.preventtragedies.co.uk/>

Let's Talk About It: <http://www.ltai.info/>

Report Online Terrorism (Gov.uk): <https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism>

Reporting suspected terrorism: <https://www.gov.uk/terrorism-national-emergency/reporting-suspected-terrorism>

Families Matter: <http://familiesmatter.org.uk/>

Foreign Travel Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>