

#LookCloser

**Juliette Baldwin
Prevention Programme**

The Children's Society

National charity delivering in England & Wales:

- local support to children and young people
- policy, research, campaigning and youth engagement

Our expertise lies particularly in:

- Child sexual and criminal exploitation (CSE and CCE)
- Children in care
- Substance and alcohol misuse
- Refugee and migrant children
- Mental health and well-being

140 Years

71 Frontline
Services

780 Staff

Disrupting Exploitation programme

Works in Birmingham, Greater Manchester and London providing long-term one-to-one support for children who are vulnerable to or victims of child criminal exploitation and on changing systems and contexts that put children at risk of exploitation.

Tackling Child Exploitation Programme

A consortium, led by Research in Practice, together with The Children's Society and University of Bedfordshire to tackle child exploitation through work with local area partnerships.

Prevention Programme

A network of 11 specialist Prevention Officers, each covering a designated policing region across England and Wales. The Prevention Officers work in partnership with multi-agency professionals to prevent child exploitation.

Support Rethought

Works in Devon, Nottingham and Newcastle, providing direct work to CSA victims alongside systems change work to address wider concerns. The programme co-ordinates Communities of Practice both internally and externally to share learning around CSA

Exploited children and young people don't always look vulnerable and may not act like victims.

Look closer

If something doesn't feel right, it may not be.

Public spaces like bus and train stations, fast food outlets, shopping centres, hotels and roadside services can be where young victims of child exploitation are most visible.

Help us protect children and young people from exploitation and abuse. **Don't wait. Report it:**

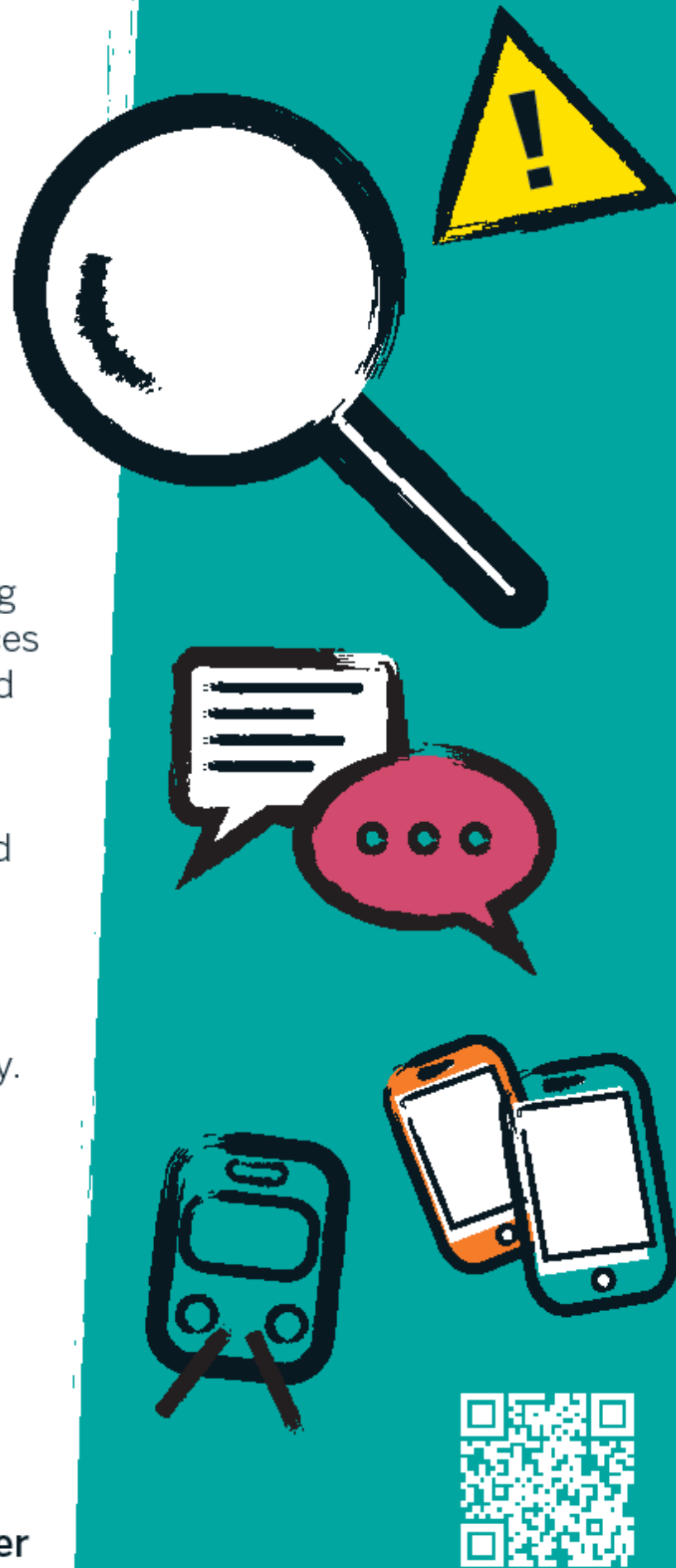
If you are concerned about a child and think it's an emergency, dial **999** or **101** if it's not an emergency.

On a train text British Transport Police on **61016**.

Otherwise contact Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**.

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childrenssociety.org.uk/lookcloser



Young people who have been exploited or abused:

Don't always look vulnerable or act like we may expect a victim should.

May behave aggressively as this is a common response to trauma.

May have committed offences as part of their exploitation.

Can be scared about what might happen to them next.

Will often distrust the police and other adults in authority.

Need to feel safe and heard, in order to talk.

May not understand or recognise they are being exploited.

Need you to look beyond the obvious to protect them from harm.

Our work with licensing teams

- In partnership with Home Office and the Department for Transport, we have been capturing insight from professionals on links between taxis and private hire vehicles and child exploitation and abuse
- Work with Police and Local Authority teams to include Licensing Teams as part of effective partnership working to address exploitation
- In the South West region, we launched a holiday rentals campaign in partnership with the South West ROCU and Crimestoppers.
- As part of this work, created a national working group alongside the national police lead for hospitality and the National Business Crime Centre in engaging the hospitality sector around issues of exploitation



Hotel Specific Work

- A virtual learning session (1hr)
- Created an checklist for management that was shared with all hotel staff.
- Shared a flowsheet for receptions.
- Creating a method for hotels to advertise that they have had awareness raising training.
- Police and tourist information influential in sharing information about training.
- Working with AirBNB, Caravan Parks, holiday rental companies to share same messages.

Child Exploitation and Hotels

Child Exploitation is a form of child abuse. It happens where a person or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual or criminal 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 exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Under the Licensing Act 2003, there are legal implications if you do not have safeguarding protocols, or do not act if exploitation of children happens, or is believed to have happened, on your premises. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires some commercial organisations to publish a Modern Slavery Statement, check if this is something you are required to do - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/publish-an-annual-modern-slavery-statement>.

Indicators of Child Exploitation:

- **Timings of bookings:** walk-in and last minute bookings late at night, only using the room for a brief period.
- **Not providing personal details:** no ID, credit cards, having different details to who booked the room.
- **Room Requests:** Guests requesting a room that is isolated, near the exits, asking for a specific room number but not knowing who booked it, using the "do not disturb" sign or not wanting the room cleaned for long periods.
- **Young People:** Being accompanied by older individuals or groups, looking scared, unsure of who they are with, meeting others in public areas and car parks, being under the influence of substances.
- **Guests:** With local addresses booking a room in a rush, being seen frequently with different young people, visitors who don't have a booking, checking in with little or no luggage.

If something doesn't feel right, don't wait, report it:

Report to the Police.

- If it is safe to do so...ask them if they are okay or if they need help.
- Note down key information to report to the Police: registration plates, times of arrivals and departures, identifying features.

Report to the Police by calling **999** (or **101** if it isn't an emergency)

Report anonymously to Crimestoppers on **0800 555111**

Find out more about Child Exploitation on <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-we-do/blogs/looking-closer-public-spaces-spot-child-exploitation>

Hotel Specific Indicators

Exploited children and young people don't always look vulnerable and may not act like victims.

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- Timings: Last minute/walk-in bookings, late at night, using a room for a few hours, with no notification of leaving.
- Guests refusing to provide information: identification, credit card details, paying in cash.
- Guests: local address booking a room, rushing to check in, arriving with different details to those booking, visitors who don't have a room, no luggage, being secretive.
- Frequent guests: with different young people or different adults.
- Young people: arriving with groups of adults, appearing to have used substances, appearing with anxious or negative behaviour.

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- Bar: Young people who are trying to buy alcohol without ID or with forged ID, young people in the company of older individuals.
- Rooms: high footfall to a room, noise complaints, repeat room service requests, a 'party' in the room, signs of sexual or criminal activity taken place in a room where young people have visited.
- Requests: isolated room, near to exits, not wanting the room cleaned, do not disturb for long periods, paying for an unusual amount of pornography.
- Guests arriving and asking for a specific room number, but they don't know the name in which the room is booked.

Contact Details

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