

Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership



BUSINESS UNIT NEWSLETTER – 18TH JUNE 2020

EXPLOITATION – PART 2

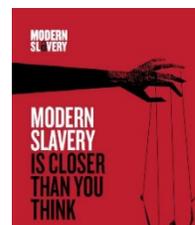
Following on from our Newsletter: Exploitation – Part 1 circulated last week, this week we look in more detail at some types of exploitation.

Modern Slavery

The COVID-19 pandemic means new dangers are facing those kept in slavery and servitude and could have serious impacts on modern slavery in the UK. [The Clewer Initiative](#) have published information on the expected impacts of COVID –19 on modern slavery and exploitation, along with advice on how we can respond during this time; and other useful links and resources.

On 24th March 2020, the Government published an updated version of Modern Slavery Act 2015: Statutory Guidance for England and Wales. The guidance is for staff:

- within public authorities who may encounter potential victims of modern slavery;
- and/or who are involved in supporting victims;
- and/or who make decisions on whether or not an individual is a potential victim of modern slavery for the purpose of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).



These individuals and organisations **must have regard** to this guidance.

Since the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic began; there has been further temporary changes made to the Government guidance relating to the "Move-On" support period. The Government Covid-19 Guidance Modern slavery: how to identify and support victims can be viewed [here](#).

During the pandemic, criminal gangs may exploit people's vulnerabilities, such as sudden unemployment or loss of earnings, by drawing them in to Modern Slavery. Victims who are living in secure accommodation may be feeling particularly anxious and lonely, as a result of social distancing. Some of them may feel so desperate that they decide that life will be better if they return to the people who were exploiting them. The NHS have produced a [COVID-19 Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking rapid read](#).

Sexual Exploitation/Abuse

The National Police Chiefs' Council and The Children's Society have developed a poster outlining signs to be mindful of and how to report any Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation concerns. The poster is aimed at or neighbours and key workers visiting premises during COVID-19 and can be accessed [here](#)



Rape Crisis have provided a [video on how to access sexual violence support services](#) during the coronavirus pandemic



Send me a pic? is a brand new Thinkuknow education resource on the consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude images among young people.

In Shropshire, [The Glade](#) provide specialist forensic intervention and aftercare services to men and women living in West Mercia who have experienced rape or sexual assault, recent or non-recent. They also have a useful links page outlining the sexual violence support services available in the area.

Mountain Health Care now deliver the Children and Young People's Sexual Assault Referral Service for the West Midlands region. The Service can be contacted on 0808 196 2340 and further information for professionals is available on the [West Midlands CPYS website](#)

Criminal Exploitation

You may be interested to listen to a podcast on BBC Sounds: [Jacob Hawley: On Drugs: County Lines- Victims or Criminals?](#) It particularly explores the grooming process involved in the criminal exploitation, particularly of children and young people. The Shropshire perspective is provided during this podcast by Sonya Jones Shropshire Service Manager from WeAreWithYou Young Person's Service.



If you work with children, please make sure that you have a look at the [TREES newsletter](#) and make sure you are familiar with the [Child Exploitation Tools and Pathways for Shropshire](#)

Adults can also be victims of criminal exploitation. You can refresh your knowledge of this (in particular the issue of cuckooing) by looking at our [Professionals Learning Briefing: Criminal Exploitation and County Lines](#)

Financial Exploitation

It's Scams Awareness Fortnight from 15 to 28 June 2020 and this year's campaign is focusing on the scams that opportunists have set up during the coronavirus pandemic. Visit the [Citizens Advice Check if Something Might Be a Scam](#) pages for further information on Scams.

People are often financially exploited by organised criminal groups through Scamming. Organised criminal groups are exploiting the fear, isolation and loneliness that the coronavirus pandemic has created or exacerbated for many people. There are many ways they can do this. This exploitation can take the form of face to face attempts to exploit (for example through offering to carry out services for people or more recently through digital communication (telephone, text scams, emails, phishing). [Scam – the secret crime](#) video produced by Thames Valley Police may also be useful.



Test and Trace Scam - To find out how you can verify you are actually being contacted by the government's Test and Trace service [click here](#)

[Action Fraud](#) and [National Crime Agency](#) websites, along with their Facebook and Twitter feeds, provide information on the different types of financial exploitation currently taking place nationally.

For a local perspective visit the [Shropshire Council Trading Standards Coronavirus Advice webpages](#) which includes advice on scams or follow Shropshire Council Public Protection pages on Facebook.

Read Bournemouth University's publication: [The language of scams for professionals](#) to help identify and prevent scams in society.

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[Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire](#)

[Crime and Community Safety](#)

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