



**#SAY something if
you SEE something**
Solihull

SOLIHULL EXPLOITATION AWARENESS

Information for Young People & Adults
About Multi-Agency Adult/Child
Exploitation (MAACE) Meetings



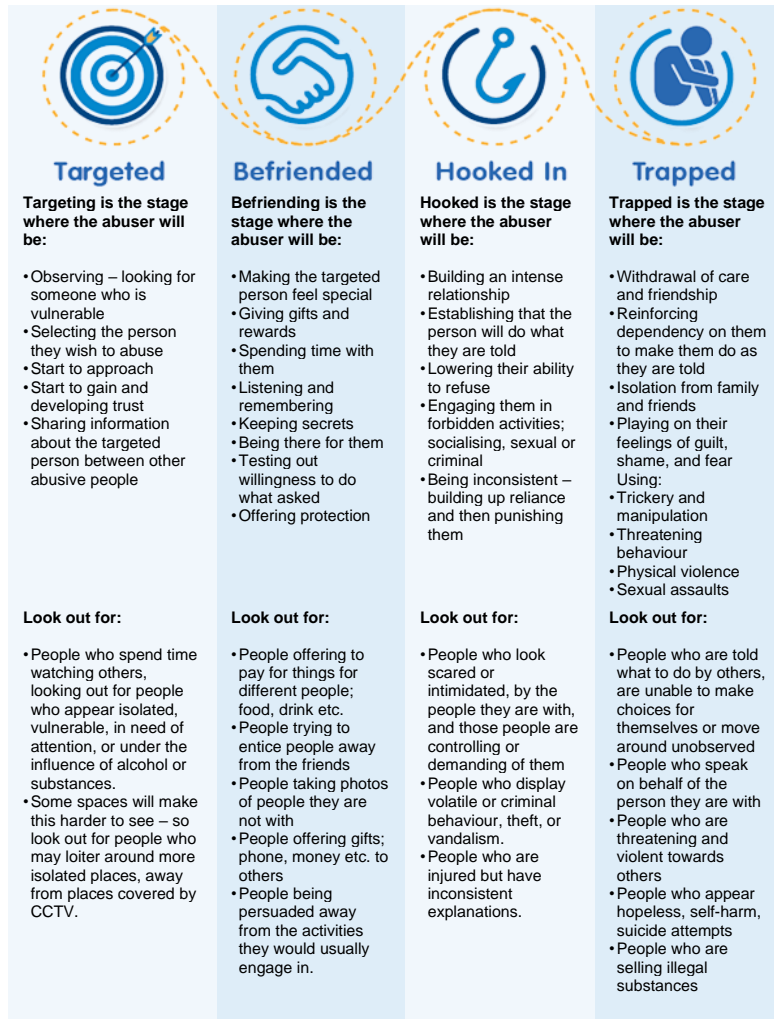
It can be extremely stressful if you suspect you, or someone you are caring for, are involved in Exploitation. There are things you can do to help yourself (or others) and there are organisations available to offer support advice and guidance.

Exploitation is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a young person or adult and exploits them:

- a) through violence or the threat of violence, and/or
- b) for financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or
- c) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants.

Solihull recognises that exploitation is a deliberate maltreatment and manipulation irrespective of a person's age, gender, ethnicity, background or ability and sexuality and comes in many forms, including:

- modern slavery
- human trafficking
- sexual exploitation
- criminal exploitation



What is Exploitation?

Exploitation is a form of abuse where you, or someone you care about, is groomed, then forced or made to do things for the benefit of others.

You or someone you care about, may have been exploited by an individual or group, and it is unlikely you will realise you have been groomed. The person/people will initially be very nice and understanding and may give you things you do not usually have or be involved in things that initially feel like fun.

Exploitation does not always involve physical contact, it can also occur through the use of technology, e.g., during conversations in chat rooms, or through social media. The individual or group will hide their true intentions and may spend a long time gaining a person's trust. They may manipulate you or someone you care about to think that they are your friend, or even your boyfriend or girlfriend. They may also try to gain the trust of their whole family so they can be alone with the person

However, they will then put you in dangerous situations, forcing you to do things you don't want to do. The individual or group may physically or verbally threaten you or be violent towards you or someone you care about. They will at some point coerce,

manipulate, and control you to do what they require, and you may not feel you can refuse because of threats and intimidation to you or your family members. They may try to isolate you from your friends and family. As a result, you may feel extremely scared or have done things you are possibly ashamed about. You may not realise you are being exploited and think that any concerns you have don't apply to you or maybe are an overreaction.

An individual or group may :

- Pretend to be someone they are not, for example saying they are the same age as you online
- Offer you advice or understanding
- Buy you gifts
- Give you attention
- Use their professional position or reputation
- Take you on trips, outings or holidays.

Once they have established trust, the individual or group will exploit the relationship by isolating you from friends or family and making you feel dependent on them. They will use any means of power or control to make you believe you have no choice but to do what they want. The individual or group may introduce 'secrets' as a way to control or frighten the person. Sometimes they will blackmail you or make you feel ashamed or guilty, to stop you telling anyone about the abuse.

Things to Consider

- Don't blame yourself, individuals who are targets for exploitation come from all kinds of backgrounds.
- Professionals will be on your side and want to hear your story / situation to support you.
- You are not on your own, you might feel like you are the only one going through this but there are many organisations that can help.
- With consistency and professional support, it is likely that positive change can be made to your situation but it will take time and patience to see results.
- It won't last forever – with the right support most individuals break free from exploitation and get their lives back on track.

Who Needs to be Involved?

It is important for a wide range of professional agencies to be involved and to help this to happen you will be invited to a Multi-Agency Adult/ Child Exploitation (MAACE) meeting.

The MAACE meeting provides you, or someone you care about, with the opportunity to seek the help and support that you need from services and those around you, so that you can all work together to keep you safe.

The MAACE Meeting

The focus of the meeting is to ensure you, or someone you care about, is safe. This will be helped by:

- Identifying your strengths, views, wishes & feelings and the positive things you enjoy.
- Identifying any worries or concerns there are for you and the things you would like to change.
- Establishing the nature of the concerns that professionals have, by sharing and clarifying information.

Information During the Meeting

It is very important that you attend the MAACE meetings, you have a right to know what is being said about you. The meeting is your opportunity to share your views, ask any questions and identify what help you may need. You can have support from an advocate if you wish, and they can help to share your

views on your behalf. The advocacy service in Solihull is provided by the Solihull Action Through Advocacy.

You may wish to have help with an interpreter if you speak a different language, or you may have special requirements. Please tell the social worker if you do, so that arrangements can be made to help you. If you have a learning difficulty or disability you can have an advocate to help you prepare and take part in the meeting.

There may be parts of the meeting that you will not be able to hear; these may take place before or after the meeting you attend, or you may be asked to step out of the meeting for a while. This will only happen if there is a need to discuss information or intelligence that is related to other people, and therefore cannot be shared with you because of the General Data Protection Regulations. The manager chairing the meeting will explain this to you.

The information shared at this meeting will help professionals to complete the following documents:

- The contextual safeguarding framework document.
- The individual exploitation assessment
- To develop an outline of an exploitation support & disruption plan.

At the end of the meeting, there will be a discussion to determine whether risks remain and if so at what level, or whether all risks have been managed and support can be provided through another process. An overall risk will be agreed.

All MAACE meetings must be documented, and a copy of these minutes will be shared with you.

Following the MAACE Meeting

- A safeguarding plan must be developed and actioned – this is to ensure your safety and will document ways to reduce the risks, prevent any further risks and will detail proposed actions, timescales and who will undertake these actions, as agreed in the meeting.
- The Support & Disruption Plan – this will need to be developed further to identify the roles of people involved, who will be responsible for each action, what is required and when it should happen by. This plan is to enable positive outcomes to be achieved for you and to have a network of support around you. This plan should be reviewed at least every 12 weeks.

Contact Information

Local Services:

Solihull exploitation telephone number to report concerns - 0121 7048021

If you have concerns about an individual or group of people that need support, then you can contact Solihull Services - 0121 704 8021

Adult 18 & Over Solihull MBC Adult Social Care

(Monday- Friday 9.00-17.00)

solihull.gov.uk/adultabuse

Telephone Number - 0121 704 8007

Out of Hours for Adults and Children

Emergency Duty Team

Telephone Number - 0121 605 6060

Police

Telephone Number - 101

Solihull Action Through Advocacy (SATA)

Email - office@solihulladvocacy.org.uk

Telephone Number - 0121 706 46

Good Safeguarding Tips

We need people to recognise that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have a concern about a child, a family, or another adult:

- **Share information – don't sit on it**
- **Never follow someone**
- **Keep yourself safe – don't intervene**
- **In an emergency DIAL 999**

crimestoppers-uk.org

thinkuknow.co.uk

stopitnow.org.uk

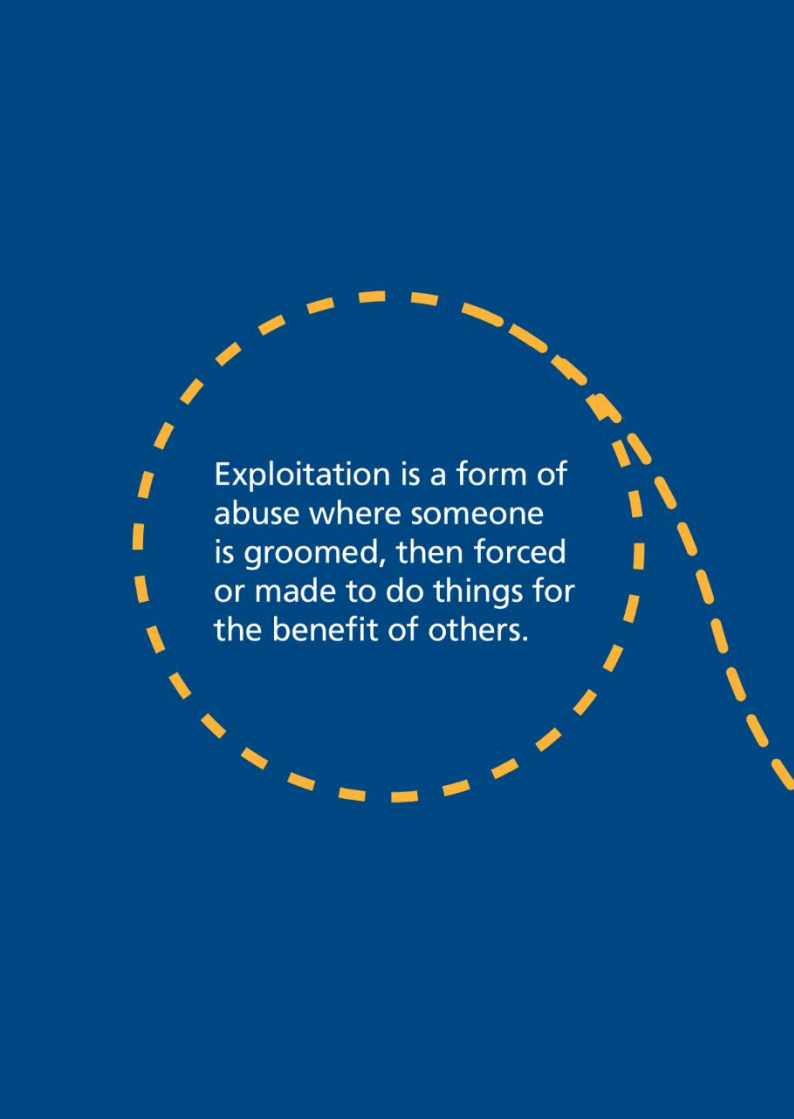
missingpeople.org.uk

paceuk.info

stqilestrust.org.uk

nwgnetwork.org

westmidlandsantislavery.org



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