

A black and white photograph of a hand with the word 'HELP' written on the palm in bold, black, capital letters. The hand is positioned with the palm facing the viewer, and the fingers are slightly spread. The background is dark and out of focus.

MISSING, SLAVERY, EXPLOITED, TRAFFICKED KNOW THE SIGNS



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE**
Proud to Protect



North Tyneside
Clinical Commissioning Group



North Tyneside Council

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE AT RISK OF BECOMING VICTIMS OF HIDDEN CRIMES IN OUR COMMUNITIES THAT CAN AFFECT EVERY PART OF THEIR LIVES; THIS IS KNOWN AS EXPLOITATION. THEY MAY ALSO BE A VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING OR MODERN SLAVERY. THERE ARE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN DIFFERENT FORMS OF EXPLOITATION; CHILD CRIMINAL AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION MAY OVERLAP. THE CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON WHO IS BEING EXPLOITED MAY ALSO BE A VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING OR MODERN SLAVERY.

AS THE EYES AND EARS OF OUR COMMUNITIES, TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS AND REPORT YOUR SUSPICIONS IF SOMETHING DOESN'T LOOK OR FEEL 'RIGHT'.

IF YOU THINK THAT A YOUNG PERSON IS BEING EXPLOITED AND FEEL THEY ARE AT IMMEDIATE RISK, REPORT THIS DIRECTLY TO THE POLICE BY PHONING 101. IF YOU ARE WORRIED THAT YOU MAY BE EXPLOITED AND WANT TO TALK TO SOMEONE CONTACT NSPCC OR NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL.

KNOW THE SIGNS, BE AWARE

Children and young people suffering from exploitation can be male or female. They may not realise they are being exploited or are at risk of exploitation. There are signs that you can look out for as a parent, carer, friend, professional or member of the community. The child or young person will likely be displaying a number of these signs at one time:

- Going missing from home or care regularly or for long periods of time;
- Travelling for unexplained reasons;
- Regularly missing school or not taking part in education;
- Suffering unexplained injuries;
- Hanging around with older people, other vulnerable people or in antisocial groups;
- Involved in criminal activities like selling drugs or shoplifting;
- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends;
- Suffering from sexually transmitted infections;
- Mood swings or changes in emotional behaviour, becoming withdrawn or isolated;
- Drug and/or alcohol misuse;
- Displaying unhealthy or inappropriate sexualised behaviour or using sexualised language;
- Being involved in offending;
- Friendships with older people, including adults;
- Appearing with money or 'gifts' that cannot be accounted for;
- Sudden changes in appearance or presenting as unkempt;
- Excessive time spent on social media, talking to 'friends' they've not met;
- Appear to be under the control of someone else and reluctant to interact with others;
- Being secretive.

If you know that a young person is being exploited and feel they are at immediate risk, report this directly to the police via 999. If you are worried that you may be exploited and want to talk to someone contact NSPCC or North Tyneside Council.

CONTACT

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE 101

MULTI AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB

0345 2000 109 (OFFICE HOURS) OR

0330 333 7475 (EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS)

NSPCC 0808 800 5000 OR 0800 1111