

## 1. Transgender Identity

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Transgender describes people who feel that the sex they were assigned at birth doesn't match how they feel inside. For example, someone who was born as a girl but has always felt like a boy.

### WHAT 'TRANSGENDER' MEANS

When we're born, people decide our gender for us. This means they decide whether we're a boy or a girl. This is usually done by seeing if we have male or female sex organs.

Some people feel unhappy with the gender they're brought up as. This can include:

- feeling that you're a boy when you've been brought up as a girl, or the other way round
- wishing you could change your body to look more like the way you feel inside.

This is often known as being transgender. Or 'trans' for short. Lots of people feel like this. And it's not always a simple thing. So don't worry if you don't feel sure.

### Trans people have the right to:

- not be discriminated against because of their gender identity
- use the toilet they feel comfortable using
- wear the clothes they choose (including school uniform)
- be called by the name they choose
- be described by the words that they prefer (such as 'he' or 'she')
- be allowed to marry as their true gender.

### AM I TRANSGENDER?

Some trans people realise they're unhappy with the gender they're being raised as when they're children. Others become aware of their feelings later on, often during puberty.

### Being unsure

For many young people, feeling unsure about gender for a while is part of growing up. For trans people, the feelings continue. This is known as gender dysphoria. To be diagnosed with gender dysphoria, you must feel strongly that you're not the gender you've been raised as.

### Transgender identity can mean lots of things

Not everyone who is trans wants to go from living as a girl to living as a boy (or the other way round). You might feel like you're not a boy or a girl but somewhere in between. Or both. Or neither. This is sometimes called being gender fluid, non-binary or genderqueer.

### How you look

Some trans people decide to change their appearance to look like the gender they feel inside. This could start with changing a hairstyle, dressing differently or wearing make-up. But not everyone does this. It's important to do what feels right for you.

Link: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/sexual-identity/transgender-identity/>

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## 2. Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults : County Lines guidance

County lines is the police term for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and market and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phone lines or “deal lines”. It involves child criminal exploitation (CCE) as gangs use children and vulnerable people to move drugs and money. Gangs establish a base in the market location, typically by taking over the homes of local vulnerable adults by force or coercion in a practice referred to as ‘cuckooing’. County lines is a major, cross-cutting issue involving drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and missing persons; and the response to tackle it involves the police, the National Crime Agency, a wide range of Government departments, local government agencies and VCS (voluntary and community sector) organisations. County lines activity and the associated violence, drug dealing and exploitation has a devastating impact on young people, vulnerable adults and local communities.

### Signs to look out for

A young person’s involvement in county lines activity often leaves signs. A young person might exhibit some of these signs, either as a member or as an associate of a gang dealing drugs. Any sudden changes in a young person’s lifestyle should be discussed with them. Some indicators of county lines involvement and exploitation are listed below, with those at the top of particular concern:

- Persistently going missing from school or home and / or being found out-of-area;
- Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes, or mobile phones
- Excessive receipt of texts / phone calls
- Relationships with controlling / older individuals or groups
- Leaving home / care without explanation
- Suspicion of physical assault / unexplained injuries
- Parental concerns
- Carrying weapons
- Significant decline in school results / performance
- Gang association or isolation from peers or social networks
- Self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being

### What to do if you are concerned

Any practitioner working with a vulnerable person who they think may be at risk of county lines exploitation should follow their local safeguarding guidance and share this information with local authority social care services. If you believe a person is in immediate risk of harm, you should contact the police.

### Your role

The flowchart overleaf shows what should happen after you raise a concern. Note: white arrows represent additional options to the prescribed process.

Link: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/626770/6\\_3505\\_HO\\_Child\\_exploitation\\_FINAL\\_web\\_\\_2\\_.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/626770/6_3505_HO_Child_exploitation_FINAL_web__2_.pdf)

# Safeguarding Update

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