

## THE TRAPPED STAGE

Now you feel dependant on the group, the relationship with the person exploiting you may start to become unpleasant, as they reveal their true intent or character.

### At this stage you may experience:

- \* Threats
- \* People humiliating you
- \* People manipulating you emotionally or bribing you
- \* Involvement in Class A drugs
- \* Violence
- \* Running a trap house
- \* Sexual assaults
- \* Drug addiction.
- \* Being forced to abuse others



If you think you or someone you know might be being exploited, don't keep quiet.

**There are people you can talk to who will be able to help:**

Our services help children and young people who are being exploited. For more information visit:

**[childrenssociety.org.uk/disrupt](https://childrenssociety.org.uk/disrupt)**

Call ChildLine on **0800 11 11**

Call the NSPCC on **0808 800 5000**



If you would like to make a referral into the programme please contact:

London: **[LondonDE@childrenssociety.org.uk](mailto:LondonDE@childrenssociety.org.uk)**

Birmingham: **[MidlandsDE@childrenssociety.org.uk](mailto:MidlandsDE@childrenssociety.org.uk)**

Greater Manchester: **[ManchesterDE@childrenssociety.org.uk](mailto:ManchesterDE@childrenssociety.org.uk)**



Charity Registration No. 221124

Photos: Laura McCluskey, Chris O'Donovan CYP030/0219

The  
Children's  
Society

**DISRUPTING EXPLOITATION**

The  
Children's  
Society



Exploitation can sometimes be difficult to spot. Look for things that don't seem right and listen to yourself – if things don't feel right they're probably not.

This booklet shows the methods people use when they're trying to exploit you. Knowing these signs can help you keep safe from exploitation. Remember if you are experiencing exploitation, you are not to blame for what has been happening and there are people here to help you.

## THE TARGETING STAGE

This is when someone targets a young person who is vulnerable, as this reduces their chances of getting caught. They pick their targets based on things like your age, strength or situation.



### Signs of this stage include a person:

- \* Observing you
- \* Finding out your vulnerabilities
- \* Selecting you as a target
- \* Glamourising their lifestyle
- \* Gaining your trust
- \* Telling other members of their gang about you
- \* Recruiting you to their gang or friendship group
- \* Marking you out as someone to watch.

## THE EXPERIENCE STAGE

This stage is where the person might try to get you used to their lifestyle, or train you up in what they're doing.



### At this stage a person might:

- \* Make you feel wanted
- \* Give you gifts and rewards
- \* Include you in lots of things
- \* Test your loyalty
- \* Offer you protection
- \* Relate to you and offer you advice
- \* Praise you or themselves
- \* Give you a weapon
- \* Introduce you to more established members of their gang
- \* Ask to see the skills they've taught you, and test you.

## THE HOOKED STAGE

This is the stage where the person will make you feel like you're a member of their gang, even though actually they're just exploiting you for their own gain.



### Signs that you're in the hooked stage of being exploited can include you:

- \* Having an identity in the group
- \* Being given a bigger role
- \* Being asked to do crimes
- \* Feeling more powerful
- \* Being threatened
- \* Engaging in activities such as drugs, alcohol and sex
- \* Being asked for favours
- \* Keeping secrets
- \* Being asked to recruit others
- \* Going to trap houses.