

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) Policy – September 2026

Policy Title:	Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
Effective Date:	March 2025
Review Date:	September 2027 (reviewed annually)
Version:	3
Policy Lead:	Edward Thatcher
Authorised by:	Jane Haywood
Role:	Safeguarding Lead, Board of Trustees
Authorised:	September 2026

Ed Thatcher

CEO



September 2026

Dave Poulsom

Chair of Trustees



September 2026

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) Policy – September 2026

1 Policy Statement

Endeavour is committed to safeguarding young people from all forms of exploitation, including Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). We recognise that CCE can have devastating and long-lasting effects on the lives of children and young people. We are dedicated to identifying, preventing, and responding to instances of CCE to ensure that young people in our care are safe, supported, and empowered to achieve their full potential.

CCE is a form of abuse where children and young people are manipulated, coerced, or threatened into committing criminal activities. This exploitation often involves control, violence, and intimidation, with perpetrators targeting vulnerable young people to carry out illegal acts on their behalf.

Endeavour will work proactively with young people, families, and multi-agency partners to prevent exploitation and provide appropriate support where concerns are identified.

2 Scope

This policy applies to:

- All staff, volunteers, and trustees, students on placement, and contractors.
 - All children and young people engaged in Endeavour activities, both on and off site, including during residentials and outdoor activities.
-

3 Legal Framework

This policy is informed by:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026
- Working Together to Safeguard Children DfE 2023
- The Children's Act 1989 and 2004
- Serious Violence Strategy 2018
- Criminal Exploitation of Children and Vulnerable Adults: County Lines Guidance (Home Office)
- Prevent Duty Guidance 2023
- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Contextual Safeguarding Framework

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education* and *Working Together to Safeguard Children*.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) Policy – September 2026

4 Definitions

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

CCE is a form of abuse that occurs when an individual or group takes advantage of a young person under 18 and coerces, manipulates, or threatens them into criminal activity. This is often done for financial gain or to strengthen criminal networks.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE is a form of child sexual abuse where children are coerced or manipulated into performing or watching sexual acts with or without contact, by an individual or an organised group. Children who are criminally exploited may be at risk of CSE.

County Lines

County Lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs from one area to another, using children and vulnerable people to carry and sell drugs. The 'line' refers to the mobile phone line used to facilitate drug orders.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Children and young people exploited through CCE may also be victims of trafficking under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 if they have been moved for the purpose of exploitation.

5 Prevention

Awareness and Education

As part of our delivery, we include awareness of and the risks of CCE, including County Lines, gang involvement, and exploitation. Staff are trained to recognise and report any indicators of radicalisation as part of Endeavour's Prevent Duty responsibilities, which may overlap with exploitation and gang recruitment risks.

Promoting Resilience

We equip young people with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to resist manipulation, encouraging healthy relationships and positive decision-making.

Contextual Safeguarding

Staff are trained to adopt a contextual safeguarding approach, recognising the influence of peer groups, community settings, and online environments in exposing young people to harm.

6 Recognising the Signs of CCE

All Endeavour staff are trained to recognise the signs of CCE, which can include but are not limited to:

- Frequent missing episodes from home, school, or care; this is also covered in the **child missing / absconding policy**.
- Unexplained gifts or money
- Association with older individuals or groups
- Changes in behaviour, including anxiety, aggression, or withdrawal

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) Policy – September 2026

- Carrying weapons or substances
- Involvement in committing or threatening serious violence
- Being found in unfamiliar areas, potentially out of the local region
- Signs of physical injury or self-harm
- Having multiple mobile phones or SIM cards
- Unexplained decline in educational performance
- Involvement in vehicle crime

Young people may not recognise that they are being exploited and may be reluctant to disclose information due to fear, loyalty, or intimidation.

CCE may occur online, including through social media, gaming platforms, or encrypted messaging apps, used by perpetrators to groom, recruit, and coerce young people into criminal activity.

CCE may increase the risk of Child Sexual Exploitation.

7 Reporting and Recording Concerns of CCE

When CCE concerns are identified, staff should:

- Record observations factually, avoiding assumptions or interpretations, and ensure accurate documentation.
- Record disclosures using young person's own words – often the terminology or slang they use will be important.
- Report immediately to the DSL or DDSL using the Safeguarding – Raising a Concern Form (Appendix 3).

Where there is immediate risk to a young person, staff should contact **999** without delay.

Responses will be trauma-informed, non-judgemental, and seek to reduce stigma, recognising that young people may not disclose exploitation directly.

8 Support for Young People Affected by CCE

Endeavour is committed to providing tailored support for young people affected by CCE, ensuring they feel heard, valued, and supported. Our approach includes:

- **Trauma-Informed Practice:** Recognising the impact of exploitation and responding with sensitivity and care.
- **Advocacy and Empowerment:** Ensuring young people's voices are central to their safeguarding plan.
- **Mental Health and Emotional Support:** Providing access to counselling and specialist services.

We work closely with parents/carers to offer guidance and support, recognising their role in protecting and supporting young people.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) Policy – September 2026

Endeavour is committed to ensuring the voice of the young person is central in all decision-making processes, including safety planning and referrals, and that they are treated as victims and not criminals.

9 Training and Awareness

- All staff receive annual safeguarding training, which includes identifying and responding to CCE.
 - DSLs and DDSLs undertake additional training on CCE, County Lines, and contextual safeguarding to ensure effective oversight.
 - We provide information and resources to parents/carers, empowering them to recognise and respond to signs of exploitation.
-

10 Allegations Against Staff or Volunteers

Any allegation that a member of staff or volunteer has been involved in or facilitated CCE must be reported to the DSL immediately. The DSL will inform the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) as per statutory guidance.

This is covered in more detail in the [safeguarding and whistleblowing policies](#).

11 Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective, compliant with statutory guidance, and reflective of best safeguarding practice.

12 Key Contacts

- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Edward Thatcher
- Deputy Safeguarding Lead (DDSL): Hannah Shaw
- Deputy Safeguarding Lead (DDSL): Will Hopkins
- Safeguarding Trustee: Jane Haywood