



A quick reference for staff and professionals

Early Indicators of Exploitation

Purpose

This resource supports staff to recognise early indicators that may suggest vulnerability to exploitation and to apply professional curiosity.

Indicators may include

- changes in behaviour or presentation
- peer group shifts
- unexplained items or money
- increased secrecy
- attendance or engagement concerns
- online behaviour changes

Indicators should always be considered in context.

Professional response

- record concerns factually
- share low-level concerns early
- follow safeguarding procedures
- escalate to the DSL where patterns emerge

This resource supports awareness only and does not replace safeguarding processes.



Prevention and protection begin with adult awareness

Free resources support awareness. Training supports understanding and confidence.