

1

### Adult exploitation

Exploitation is a form of abuse where someone is forced or coerced into doing things for the benefit of others.

Exploitation is often a gradual process. People are groomed and introduced to new ideas, behaviours and activities, making these appear normal and acceptable. Exploitation is a hidden and complex crime which abuses the basic human rights and dignity of victims who are subject to it. People may not recognise that they are being exploited until their situation becomes very serious.

2

### What does Exploitation Look like?

Exploitation may be taking place even if someone seems to be making their own choices or the activity, they are taking part in appears consensual.

Exploitation can:

- involve force, intimidation, control and coercion –this could be psychological or physical.
- involve people being forced to take part in the exploitation of others
- be carried out by individuals or groups

3

### Ways in which adults can be exploited.

**Sexual exploitation** - including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically.

**Labour exploitation** – Servitude and forced/compulsory labour are forms of ‘modern slavery’.

Forced or sham marriages- where both or one does not consent and or false marriages for immigration purposes

**Human trafficking** – Action or practice of illegally transporting people from one country or area to another, for the purposes of forced labour or the purposes of sexual exploitation.

4

### Common Features in exploitative situations

**Controlling** - through violence, humiliation, intimidation.

**Depriving** - ability to escape or resist.

**Removing** - independence, freedom of choice and access to others

**Gaining** - exploiter gains personally, financially or materially.

**Grooming/Befriending** - establishing emotional connection with victim to lower their inhibitions

7

### Additional information

For more information check on Adult Exploitation please check Luton Tri.X Local Resources and the Pan Bedfordshire Safeguarding space - <https://panbedfordshiresabs.trixonline.co.uk/>



6

### Victims

Victims may be subject to one or more of these at the same time –for example being sexually exploited into prostitution alongside organised criminal exploitation.

Trading people as commodities and exploiting them for profit or personal gain has long lasting psychological and physical impact on victims. Victims are often hidden –raising awareness and identification are key to safeguarding.

5

### Where Can Exploitation Occur

Exploitation can occur in any location, but key potential **settings** have been identified:

- Own Home
- Houses of multiple occupation
- Sexual establishment venues
- Online
- Street Homelessness
- Business Locations
- On the streets