

# Do you work in the banking sector?



## You can help disrupt exploiters and make a child safe.

Exploitation takes place when adults take advantage of the power imbalance between them and children under the age of 18, and force, trick or coerce them into criminal activity on their behalf. We know that exploitation affects children from all walks of life, including girls, boys, LGBTQ+ children, disabled children, children from ethnic minority backgrounds and, increasingly, younger children. It is a form of abuse that has a serious impact on children, their families and our communities.

Adults who exploit children also come from all walks of life and backgrounds. Exploiters can perpetrate this type of abuse alone, with others, online, offline and through complex organised crime networks.

Children are never responsible for the exploitation which they experience and in all matters they should be treated as children, as victims of abuse and be given help and protection to keep them safe and help them recover from their experiences.

Children who are exploited may be told, tricked or forced to carry and handle cash from thefts, drug deals or other illicit means, and they may visit bank branches to pay it into their abuser's account or made to launder money or transfer it through their own bank account.

### **Have you noticed any of the following behaviours in a child or young person visiting your branch?**

- Anxious, frightened, angry, showing signs of neglect or displaying other behaviours that make you worried about them
- Behaving aggressively with you or other bank staff
- Visiting a branch far from the account holder's address
- Paying in a large quantity of cash
- Being instructed or controlled by another person or being observed by someone from a distance
- Receiving frequent messages or calls which make them anxious
- Concerning activity related to a child's account
- Small amounts being paid in frequently
- More activity than you would expect to see on a child's account
- Cash deposits or transfers from unknown sources
- A lot of transport or accommodation transactions on the account

# If something doesn't feel right, don't wait, report it.

**Call the police on 999 in an emergency** if the crime is happening right now, the suspect is still at the scene, or anyone is seriously injured or in immediate danger.

**Call the police on 101 in a non-emergency** to share information, suspicions or details that can wait a day or two. Instead of phoning 101, you can report to the police on their webpages by using an online form. This can be found here: [Report a crime | Thames Valley Police](#)

**Call Crimestoppers** if you would prefer to make an anonymous report and it is a non-emergency. They can be contacted on 0800 555 111 or you can report on their webpages by using an online form. This can be found here: [Giving information anonymously | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](#)

**Call the NSPCC** if you would like to speak to a trained professional who can provide expert advice and support if you are concerned about a child. They can be contacted on 0808 800 5000 or you can e-mail them at [help@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk)

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Free online training for anyone is available on the Children's Society webpages under Programme of Learning: [#LookCloser To Spot Exploitation | The Children's Society \(childrenssociety.org.uk\)](#)