

# Community Harm and Exploitation

## Covid-19 Pandemic Update

**Most services are available whilst respecting social distancing guidance, support and advice is available by phone, email and via web-chat in the case of emergencies please call 999.**

All types of violence and exploitation have a negative effect on all those who live, work and visit Southwark. The Council and partners are committed to supporting all sections of the community to address these issues. As lockdown relaxes we want to provide this information sheet which aims to give brief guidance so that people can get the help they need to make Southwark a safer and better place for all.

Some young and vulnerable people can be get caught up in developing forms of criminal and financial exploitation. Examples of this include “County Lines” which is when drug gangs expand their operations to other areas, often using violence to drive out local dealers and exploiting children and vulnerable people to deliver and sell drugs.

“Square” or “Deets and Squares” is a form of money laundering where the proceeds of criminal activity are channelled through an often a young or vulnerable person’s bank account, often the payment that they receive is subsequently described as a loan and used as a lever to make them transport drugs once involved.

Parents and carers can speak to the Youth Offending Service (YOS) 020 7525 0900, if they are concerned that their child is “at risk of offending”. A member of the YOS team will be able to discuss the level of support that can be offered on a voluntary basis or suggest referral to other support services. There also charities such as Childline and the NSPCC who can support young people and their parents confidentially if support is needed.

If there is a crime being committed or someone is in immediate danger people should call 999 or if they have some information about a crime we would ask that they call the Police on 101. Further information is available <https://www.met.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>.

If people feel unable to report crimes to the police directly they can make an anonymous report to Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111.

Parents and carers can make a difference by talking through the issues with their children. See <https://www.knifefree.co.uk/worried-young-person/> for guidance about how to approach this issue.

If as a parent you need further confidential support to deal with these issues you can call Family Lives 0808 800 2222 (formerly Parent Line).

We know that incidents can lead to feelings and stress that are difficult to cope with; you can contact your GP or NHS on 111. See <https://www.england.nhs.uk/london/our-work/help-and-support/> for more guidance. You may also contact Victim Support at <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/>

If you have concerns for the welfare or safety of a child at risk from violence or exploitation you can make a referral to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 020 7525 1921 [mash@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:mash@southwark.gov.uk) The MASH comprises of the council and partners who will assess the risk and workout the best way to keep the child safe. Other services are listed overleaf.

<b>Information about knife crime and community harm and exploitation</b>	
<b>Metropolitan Police Service</b> <a href="https://www.met.police.uk/StopKnifeCrime">https://www.met.police.uk/StopKnifeCrime</a> Emergencies Phone 999	The MPS website gives information about the risks relating to knife carrying and reports on the activity that it is undertaking to tackle knife crime.
<b>fearless.org</b> <a href="https://www.fearless.org">fearless.org</a>	The fearless.org website is aimed at young people, giving information about crime and getting support and how to report anonymously.
<b>Advice</b>	
<b>#knifefree</b> <a href="https://www.knifefree.co.uk/">https://www.knifefree.co.uk/</a>	This website provides guidance and advice about knife crime and knife carrying for young people and parents.
<b>Childline</b> <a href="http://www.childline.org.uk">www.childline.org.uk</a> 0800 1111	The website and helpline provide guidance and support in relation to knife crime and knife carrying and related issues such as gangs and bullying.
<b>Family Lives</b> (formerly Parentline) <a href="http://www.familylives.org.uk/">www.familylives.org.uk/</a> 0808 8002222	This website and helpline provides non-judgemental support about all areas of parenting.
<b>Services</b>	
<b>Youth Offending Service (YOS)</b> <a href="http://localoffer.southwark.gov.uk/informationadvice-and-support/youth-offending-service/">http://localoffer.southwark.gov.uk/informationadvice-and-support/youth-offending-service/</a>	See front page.
<b>Community Harm and Exploitation – Operational Group</b> (formerly known as SAVU/SERVE) <a href="http://www.southwark.gov.uk/communitysafety/tackling-serious-violence">http://www.southwark.gov.uk/communitysafety/tackling-serious-violence</a>	Support for individuals aged 16 to 25 at risk from gang related activity or serious violence. Referrals come through agencies including YOS.
<b>Safer London</b> <a href="https://saferlondon.org.uk/young-londoners-andtheir-families/">https://saferlondon.org.uk/young-londoners-andtheir-families/</a> 020 3745 8374	Safer London deliver one on one support to young men and women (16 to 24), and their families, who are impacted by violence in the community.
<b>Reporting Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour</b>	
<b>Southwark's ASB Unit (SASBU)</b> <a href="http://www.southwark.gov.uk/noise-and-antisocialbehaviour">http://www.southwark.gov.uk/noise-and-antisocialbehaviour</a> 020 7525 5777	Report any type of anti-social behaviour. This can be anything from graffiti, vandalism, noise, drugs, youth nuisance to criminal activity
<b>Reporting Crime Anonymously</b>	
<b>Crime Stoppers</b> <a href="http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org">http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org</a> 0800 555 111	Report crime or incidents anonymously on-line or by phone.
<b>fearless.org</b>	Report crime anonymously on-line for young people.
<b>Resources</b>	
<b>Southwark home library of things to do</b> <a href="https://www.southwark.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/coronavirus/your-stay-at-home-library-of-things-to-do">https://www.southwark.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/coronavirus/your-stay-at-home-library-of-things-to-do</a>	Here is a selection of activities whilst people are staying at home during the covid-19 pandemic crisis.