

Spotting the signs of child trafficking



Children are being trafficked into Avon and Somerset by county lines gangs. They are being used to hold, hide and deliver drugs, money or weapons.

This is criminal exploitation. They might also be exploited in other ways, including sexually.

Victims may not always realise what is happening to them or they may be too afraid to seek help.

It can be difficult to tell if someone is being trafficked or living in modern slavery. However, Barnardo's charity have a helpful list of signs to look out for: [Child trafficking | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](http://www.barnardos.org.uk).

These include:

- ▲ Physical signs of injury or abuse
- ▲ Behavioural signs such as being accompanied by a controlling or abusive adult and
- ▲ Other signs, such as being in contact with known criminals or traffickers.

If you have any suspicions, please report them.

If the child is in immediate danger call police on 999 and let the operator know there is potential that they are being trafficked.

Alternatively you can report anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or call police on 101 with information. You can also report online at: <http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/>