

Freedom of Information – Response – 26972

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This request relates to data held by the local authority concerning children known to children's services who have been identified as victims of, or at risk of, criminal exploitation and/or sexual exploitation, including where exploitation is linked to organised criminal groups, county lines, or gangs, where recorded. For the purposes of this request, please interpret "child" as anyone under the age of 18.

Requested Information

1) Children identified as at risk of or victims of exploitation

For each of the following categories, please provide the number of individual children recorded in each financial year:

- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)*
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)*
- Both CCE and CSE*

Please provide this data for each of the following financial years:

- 2019/20*
- 2020/21*
- 2021/22*
- 2022/23*
- 2023/24*
- 2024/25*
- 2025/26*

If your authority uses a different reporting period (calendar year, quarterly etc.), please provide the closest equivalent.

Please see [Table Three](#) at the end of the response.

2) Exploitation flags, categories, or indicators used

Please confirm whether your children's services case management system contains any of the following structured fields/flags (tick yes/no and provide field names if possible):

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) flag/marker*
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) flag/marker*
- Modern slavery / trafficking flag*
- County Lines flag*
- Gang association flag*
- Organised crime group (OCG) involvement flag*
- Missing episodes linked to exploitation marker*
- "Contextual safeguarding" indicator*
- Exploitation risk assessment score/level (e.g. low/medium/high)*

If yes, please provide the names of the relevant fields/categories as they appear in your system.

Please see [Table One](#)

Table One

Metric	Y/N	Field Name
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) flag/marker	Y	Case Status - At risk of CSE and Case Status - Subject to CSE
Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) flag/marker	Y	Case Status - At risk of CCE and Case Status - Subject to CCE
Modern slavery / trafficking flag	Y	Case Status - Victim of Modern Slavery
County Lines flag	N	
Gang association flag	N	
Organised crime group (OCG) involvement flag	N	
Missing episodes linked to exploitation marker	N	
“Contextual safeguarding” indicator	Y	Contextual Safeguarding tab
Exploitation risk assessment score/level	N	

3) Gang / organised crime involvement

Where recorded, for each year listed above, please provide the number of children identified as:

- Exploited by or associated with a gang
- Exploited by or associated with an organised criminal group (OCG)
- Exploited through county lines activity

If you do not record this information in a structured way, please state this.

Please see Table Two

Table Two	
Year	Gangs
2017/2018	104
2018/2019	117
2019/2020	195
2020/2021	142
2021/2022	137
2022/2023	182
2023/2024	63
2024/2025	72

The figures above are based on Social Work Assessment Factors.

Whilst Suffolk County Council does hold this information elsewhere, it is not held in a structured format and therefore is not available in a reportable format.

4) Location / context of exploitation

If your records contain structured data on the setting/context of exploitation, please provide the number of children (per year) where exploitation was recorded as occurring in any of the following contexts:

- Online exploitation
- Exploitation in public places (parks, streets, shopping areas etc.)
- Exploitation in private addresses (including “trap houses”)
- Hotel / temporary accommodation exploitation
- School-related exploitation / PRU
- Care placement-related exploitation (including residential care)

If your authority uses different categories, please provide your closest equivalents.

Whilst Suffolk County Council does hold this information it is not held in a structured format and therefore is not available in a reportable format.

5) Gender breakdown (if available)

For each year above, please provide a breakdown (for CCE, CSE, and both) by:

- *Sex or gender (as recorded)*

6) Age breakdown (if available)

- *Age group (e.g. under 10 / 10–12 / 13–15 / 16–17, or your nearest available)*

Please see Table Three on next page

Table Three

	2019/20			2020/21			2021/22			2022/23			2023/24			2024/25			2025/26		
	CCE	CSE	Both	CCE	CSE	Both	CCE	CSE	Both	CCE	CSE	Both	CCE	CSE	Both	CCE	CSE	Both	CCE	CSE	Both
9 Yrs & Under	N/A	41	N/A	N/A	36	N/A	18	19	x	34	15	x	10	x	x	10	x	x	11	12	x
10-12 Yrs	N/A	36	N/A	N/A	35	N/A	21	21	x	31	13	x	7	x	x	13	12	x	12	13	x
13-15 Yrs	N/A	96	N/A	N/A	110	N/A	43	74	18	57	46	23	42	36	19	52	31	19	41	44	10
16-17 Yrs	N/A	112	N/A	N/A	78	N/A	71	54	17	74	46	21	34	25	18	34	16	9	60	32	9
Male	N/A	71	N/A	N/A	62	N/A	124	41	16	120	48	26	52	30	20	89	9	11	95	24	x
Female	N/A	214	N/A	N/A	197	N/A	31	127	24	76	72	26	41	41	18	20	52	27	29	77	17

Please note:

The figures above are based on Social Work Assessment Factors.

The counts are Unique Children – therefore if a child has more than one assessment in the year they are only counted once.

If a child has more than one assessment in the year, one with CCE and one with CSE, they are counted in the “Both” figures.

CCE data is not available until 2021/22.

Any figure under 5 is suppressed (x), to avoid identification of individuals.

2025-26 data is as of 10th March 2026.

