

**A YOUNG PERSON WHO IS INVOLVED IN COUNTY LINES CHILD TRAFFICKING ACTIVITY MIGHT EXHIBIT SOME OF THESE SIGNS:**

- Frequently missing from home or school
- Break from the child's usual behaviour
- Unexplained money, clothes or mobile phones
- Suspicion of self-harm, physical assault or unexplained injuries
- Relationships with older controlling people
- Excessive texts or phone calls
- Significant decline in school performance
- Significant changes in emotional wellbeing
- Criminal exploitation (being forced to commit petty crimes and carry weapons)

**FAMILY VULNERABILITIES**

- No recourse to public funds (which limits family's capacity to care for their children)
- Language barriers
- Child with learning disabilities
- Absent parenting
- Mental health issues
- Unemployment
- Cultural beliefs
- Immigration problems
- Housing difficulties
- Lack of ability to engage with services (including education, law enforcement, youth justice, social services)
- Lack of understanding of risks of harm posed by human traffickers

**IF YOU SUSPECT THE ABOVE APPLIES TO YOU PLEASE CONTACT AFRUCA FOR CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT!**



**CONTACT US**

AFRUCA Safeguarding Children Centre for BME Children and Families

**Tel:** 0161 205 9274

**Fax:** 0161 205 2156

**Email:** info @afruca.org

**www.afruca.org**

Opening Times

Monday-Friday: 8.00am to 6.00pm

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**MANCHESTER**  
CITY COUNCIL

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**AFRUCA**  
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

**FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE**



**COUNTY LINES CHILD TRAFFICKING & CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION**

## OUR MISSION

AFRUCA aims to promote the well-being and protection of children in UK Black and Minority Ethnic communities. Our work is a response to the risks that children face in regards to safeguarding and protection from abuse and harm. The main focus of our work is Child Abuse Prevention and Early Intervention.

## BACKGROUND TO OUR SERVICE

In early 2019 alone Manchester figures have shown 787 cases of knife crime, along with that child criminal exploitation has also grown.

Our family support service is a response to the growing problem of child criminal exploitation, especially county lines child trafficking across Manchester.



## OUR FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE

**We provide support to parents with children of age 11+ who may be at risk of county lines child trafficking or criminal exploitation. The services are:**

- Basic training in child protection and the law to understand roles in protecting and safeguarding. Will enable understanding of the indicators of exploitation.
- Support and Guidance to parents struggling to understand children's behaviour (especially where identity, peer pressure and the absence of a positive role model are concerned).
- Support parents to engage with a range of statutory agencies involved with their children.
- A Weekly Peer Support Forum, to enable parents share knowledge, information and learn from each other's experiences.
- Group Counselling or one to one as required (optional).
- Where services are not available at AFRUCA signpost parents to relevant service providers.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Parents will have better knowledge and understanding of child protection laws and their roles in keeping their children safe from exploitation.
- Parents will have access to reliable support to address concerns about their children's behavior.
- Parents will be able to act quicker to report suspected cases and liaise with agencies about their children's behavior and safety.
- Parents will have a support network of other parents to share knowledge and information about issues of concern.

