Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
Spotting the signs

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What we do

unseen

What is Modern Slavery?

Modern Slavery is the illicit trade in human beings, turned into commodities to be bought, sold and exploited, with very little chance of prosecution for the perpetrators and horrendous human rights outcomes for the victims.

What are ‘County Lines’?

County lines are the telephone lines used by criminals to facilitate the movement and selling of illegal drugs from one city, town or village to another, often using young people.

Targeting children for exploitation

Vulnerable children, including those that are in the care of social services, are targeted by criminal gangs to undertake criminal activity such as the criminal enterprise called ‘county lines’, where children are used to distribute drugs, supplied by large city gangs, to rural and coastal areas. Children are targeted, then tested before being trapped by the exploiter.

Why are county lines such big business?

Transient – move from one location to another

Adaptable – change their MO based on police response

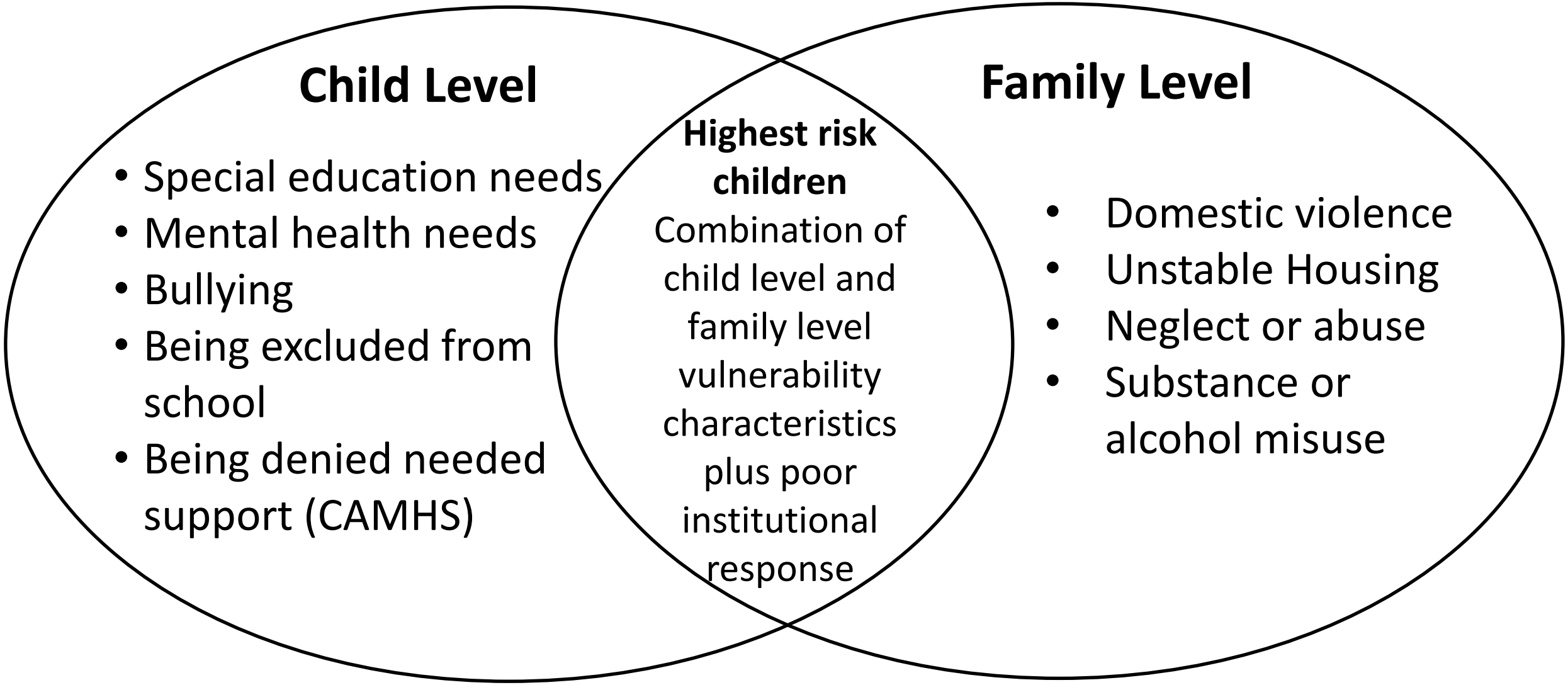
Under the radar – using different targets

Receptive customer base – demand for heroin and crack cocaine

Large recruitment pool – status and kudos

Financially beneficial - £2-5k per day!

Risk Characteristics



Role of transportation

Criminals prefer to use public transport as its easier to evade detection from the police

Signs and Indicators county lines

- More than one phone
- Large amounts of cash
- New expensive belongings
- Staying out at ‘friends’
- Unexplained absences at school
- Presence of unexplained items (knife, dongles, cash)
- Paraphernalia (bags, cling film, scales, baby wipes)
- Gang affiliations
- Becoming withdrawn and secretive
- Lots of travel tickets

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Thank you

If you are concerned or suspect someone is at risk of exploitation, call the 24/7 Modern Slavery Helpline on **08000 121 700**