

CHILD

EXPLOITATION



POLICE
NORFOLK & SUFFOLK
working together for you



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Why am I here?

- To raise awareness of child exploitation and what signs you and your staff may see whilst performing your role
- How to raise any concerns you may have in relation to a child
- Understand that we all have a **responsibility to safeguard** children that we come in to contact with in our roles
- What is the role of **MACE**
- What tools exist to help combat exploitation



WHAT IS CHILD EXPLOITATION?

- When you hear the term, what do you think of?
- What does a victim of exploitation look like?
- What types of exploitation exist?



WHAT IS CHILD EXPLOITATION?

Child exploitation is where an **individual or group** takes advantage of an imbalance of power to **coerce, control, manipulate or deceive** a **child under the age of 18** into any **criminal or sexual activity**:

- in exchange for **something the victim needs or wants**, and/or
- **for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator**, and/or
- **through violence or the threat of violence** (not just to the child but child's family)

The victim may have been exploited **even if the activity appears consensual** – children cannot consent to their abuse

CE can also occur through the **use of technology**



WHAT IS CHILD EXPLOITATION?

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

including involvement in County Lines, gangs, or serious youth violence

Child sexual exploitation (CSE)

which is a form of child sexual abuse

Abuse and exploitation can be perpetrated by anyone, for example:

A partner, carer, relative, or peer

A practitioner or professional

A stranger



SIGNS OF CHILD EXPLOITATION

- Frequently **missing** from home, care or education
- **Found in another area** without explanation
- **Inappropriate relationships** or **sexual activity**
- **Drugs** and **alcohol**
- **Social isolation** and/or **secretive social/online activity**
- Association with **others who appear to be being exploited**
- Involved in **gangs** and/or **carrying weapons**
- Involvement in **crime** – victim, witness or offender
- **Unexplained physical injuries**, sore genitals, STI's
- **Pregnancy**
- Decline in **mental health** or **physical appearance**
- **Suicide attempts / ideation**
- Lack of **engagement with education**
- Unexplained **new things** such as clothes, mobile and/or paraphernalia



Push, Pull and Control

- **PUSH FACTORS** – what is forcing the child away from their home environment/carers?
- **PULL FACTORS** – what is drawing the child towards risky situations and people?
- **CONTROL FACTORS** – what is stopping that child from seeking help/opening up?





APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE

Words matter....

Language used in services often sets the tone for how children are judged and understood. Terms which do not make explicit the context of coercion, exploitation & control can reinforce guilt & shame and the perpetrators voice. (Beckett 2011)

Children subject to exploitation rarely fit an image of 'a perfect victim' and in most cases will resist being rescued by services and practitioners and as a result may be viewed as having made a choice to engage in exploitative behaviours (Shaw & Greenhow 2020)

Each interaction becomes an opportunity to shape a child's identity positively. (NHS England 2018)

[Tricky Friends animation | Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE

WHAT SHOULD I SAY INSTEAD OF.....

- **INVOLVED IN COUNTY LINES/DRUG RUNNING**
- **HAS BEEN CONTACTING ADULTS VIA THEIR PHONE/INTERNET**
- **ENGAGED IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY WITH....**
- **IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH....**
- **PUTTING THEMSELVES AT RISK**
- **PROMISCUOUS**
- **CHOOSING THIS LIFESTYLE**
- **BEING TRAFFICKING/CRIMINAL EXPLOITED**
- **ADULTS USING TECHNOLOGY TO COMMUNICATE WITH CHILD**
- **CHILD MAY HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED**
- **GROOMED/INBALANCE OF POWER**
- **WHO IS THE ADULT CAUSING THE RISK?**
- **VICTIM OF ABUSE/EXPLOITATION**
- **CHILD IS BEING EXPLOITED**

WHAT IS MACE?

Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Team

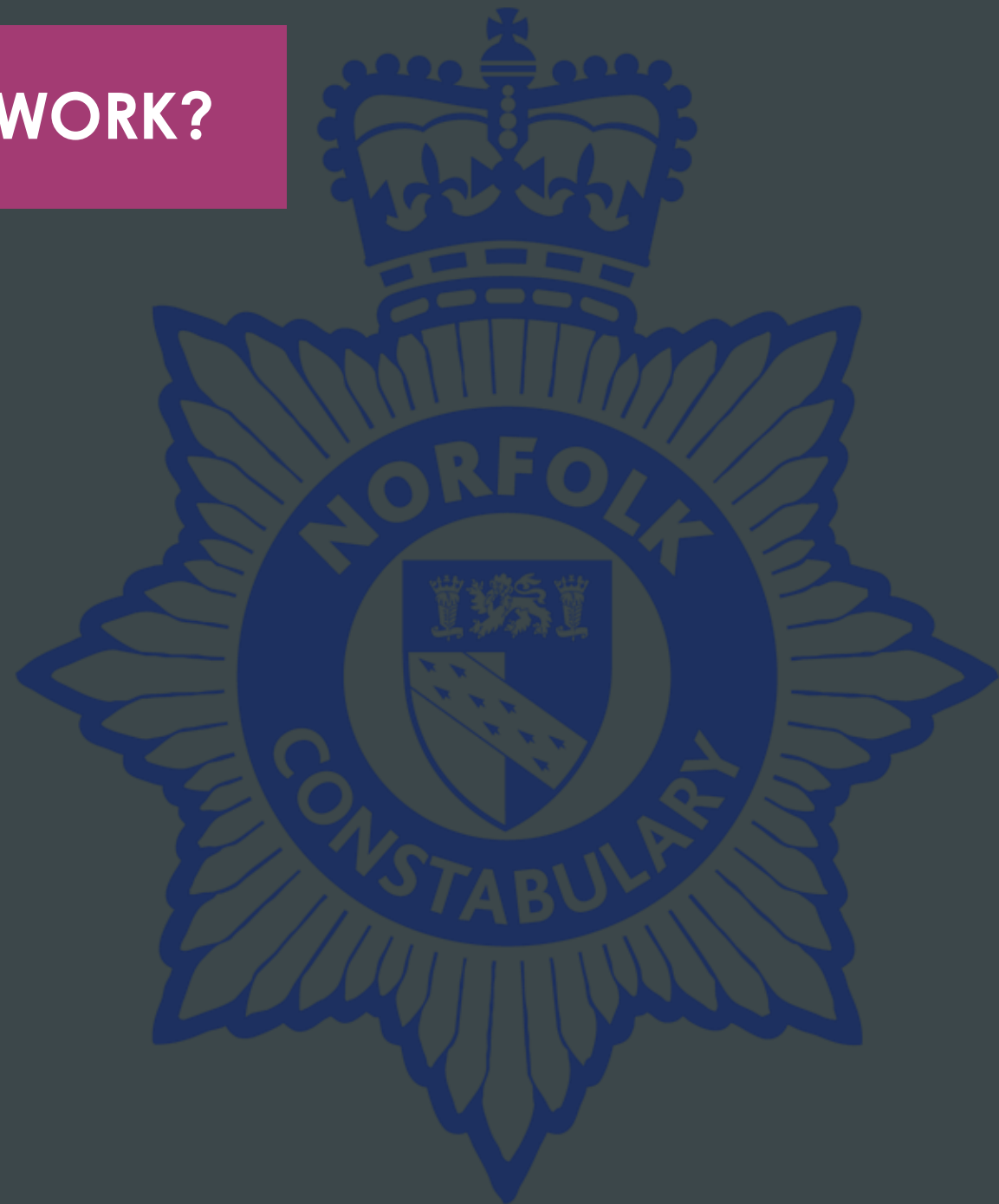
- Based at OCC – mixture of DSs, DCs, PCs and PSIs
- Children are screened in the MASH for exploitation (joint discussed between police & CS)
- Those screened at medium & high risk come out to the MACE Team to be managed
- MACE OIC attends all multi-agency meetings in relation to child
- **OBJECTIVE** – to identify if child is being exploited and, if so, by whom. Disrupt that relationship



HOW DOES THE SCREENING PROCESS WORK?

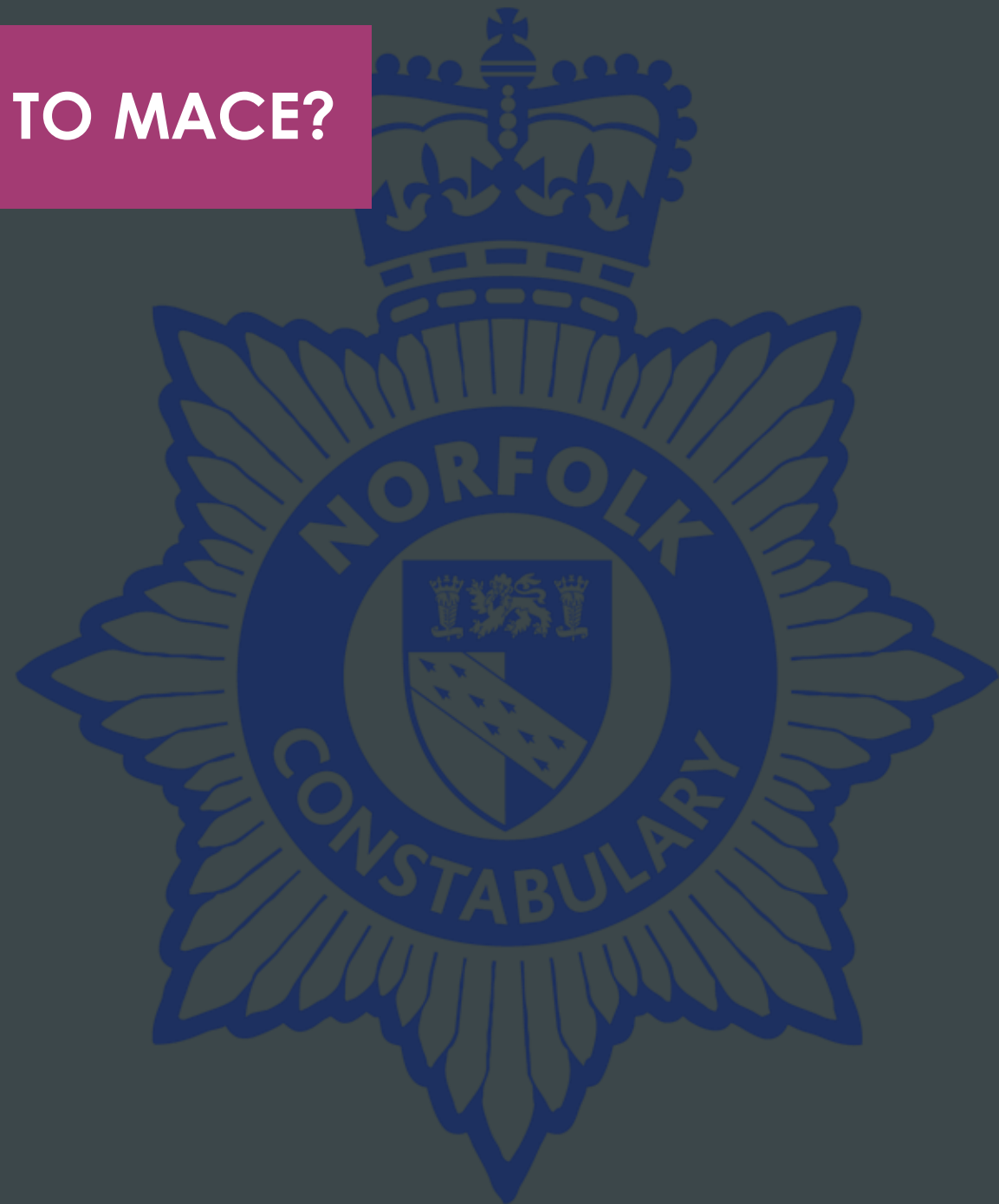
Screening

- Completed within the MASH between the police and Norfolk Children's Service
- Screening can be triggered by an investigation, CPI, intelligence, missing episodes, information from a partner agency
- Those screened at medium & high risk come out to the MACE Team to be managed
- Those screened at no risk or standard risk have a screening document saved against them on Athena



HOW WILL I KNOW SOMEONE IS OPEN TO MACE?

- Markers are placed on PNC, COMPACT & ATHENA
- They will have a safeguarding log, which the MACE OIC will use to manage the safeguarding of that child
- A PIR is raised detailing the concerns and who the MACE OIC to share more information with
- CAD markers will be placed on the home/relevant addresses for that child
- Some will have a response plan to deal with either missing episodes or specific risks



HOW CAN I HELP MACE?

- **INFORMATION IS KEY!!!** – CPIs, PIRs, RHIs
- If you are invited to a Child Planning/
/Professionals Meeting – try to attend
- Don't forget the 'VOICE OF THE CHILD' when
you are dealing with incidents
- Think wider than the title of your CAD – what is
going on where you have been deployed ?
- Speak to us!



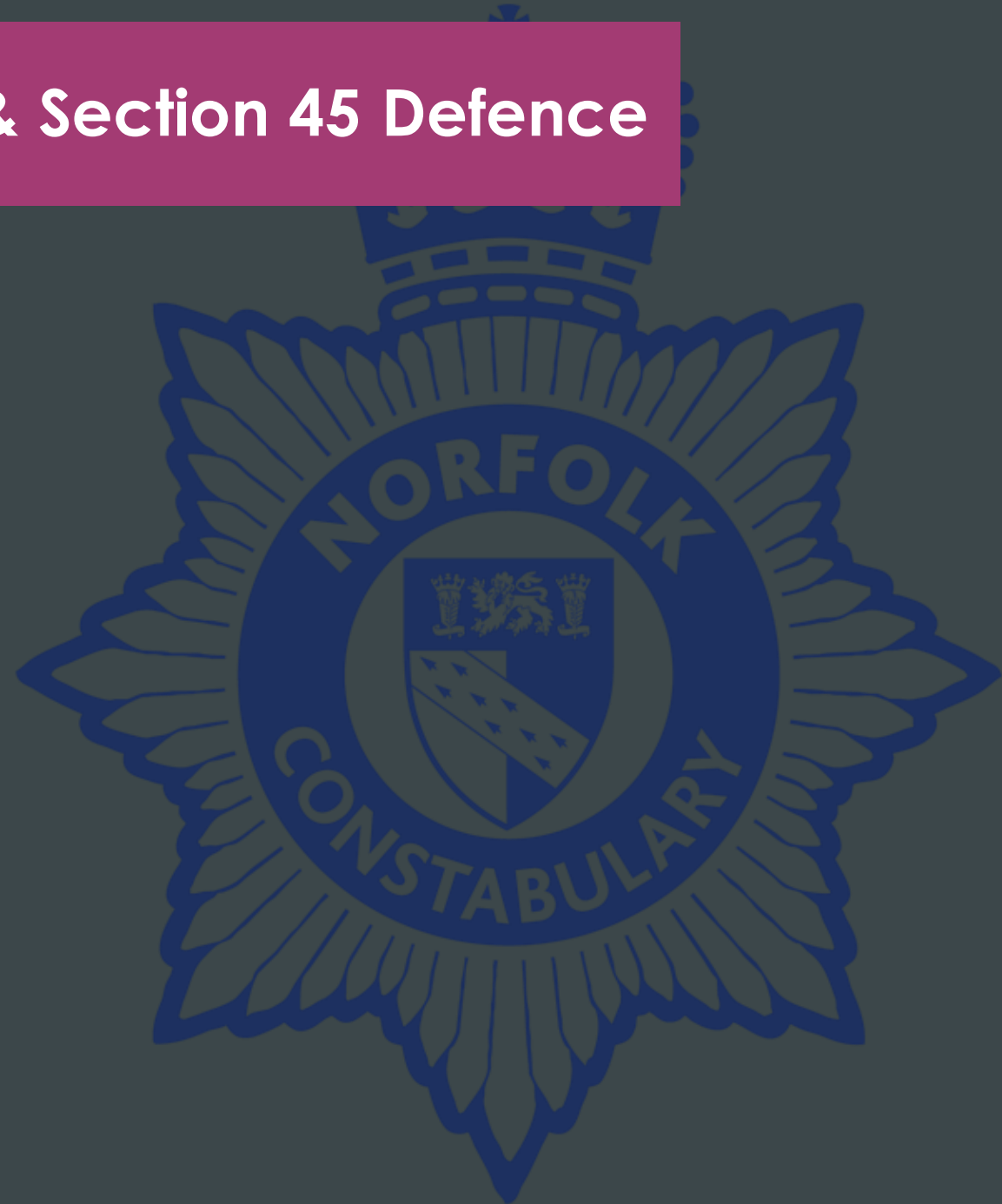
HOW CAN MACE HELP ME?

- Up to date information about a child and context around their current risks
- Link in with the child's professional network to assist with communication/gaining information
- Support engagement with a child
- Support with information building for preventative orders
- Advise around the issuing of CAWNs
- Support around NRM submissions and understanding Sec 45 defences



National Referral Mechanism (NRM) & Section 45 Defence

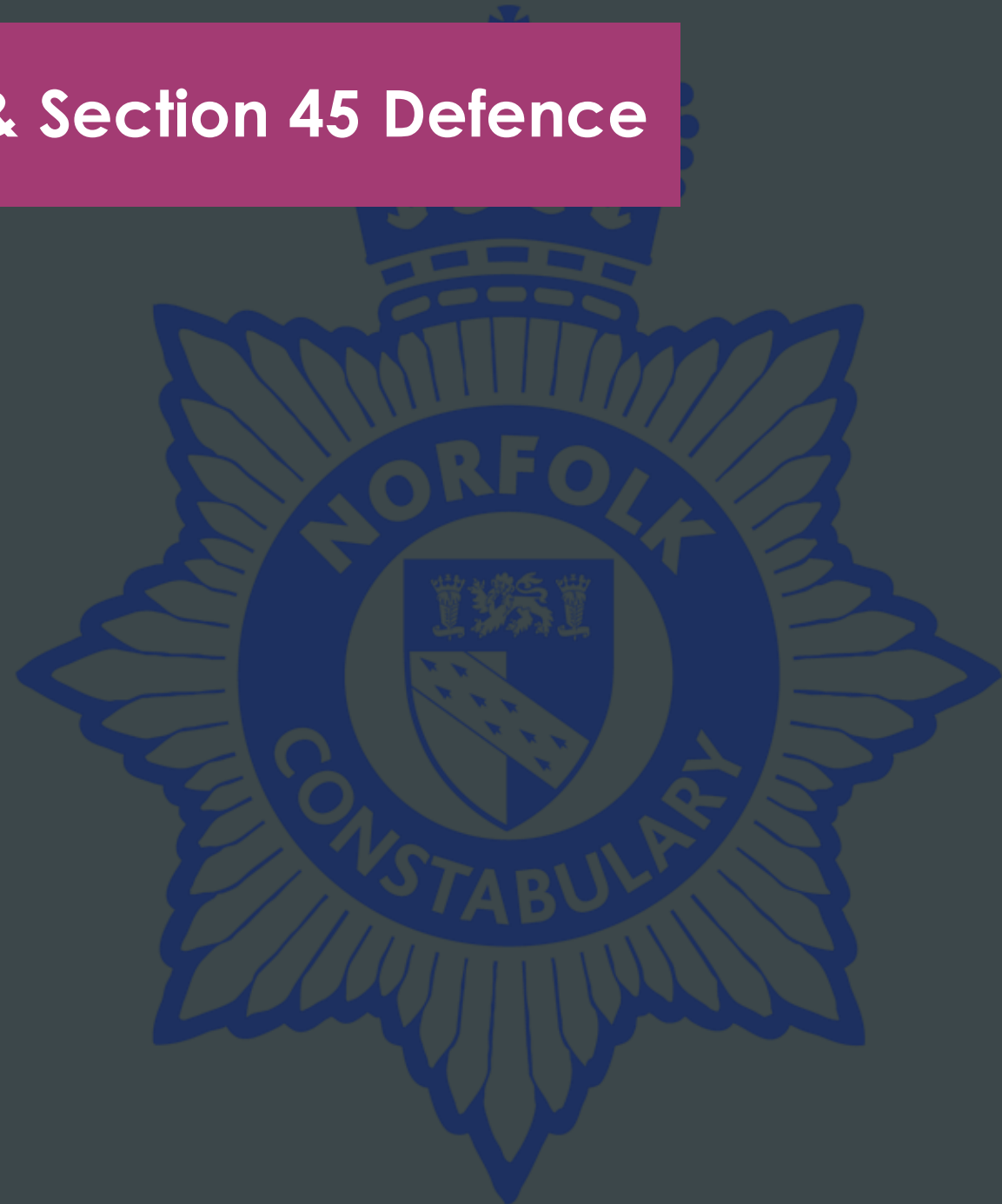
- The NRM is a civil process, introduced in England & Wales in 2009
- It is a framework for identifying & referring potential victims of modern slavery. Ensuring they receive the appropriate support
- Police are in of twenty 'first responder' agencies authorised to make a referral
- Consent is required for adult referrals (DTN if no consent). NO CONSENT required for children
- Initial RG decision, followed by CG decision – both on balance of probabilities



National Referral Mechanism (NRM) & Section 45 Defence

THE NRM IS NOT:

- A 'one stop' shop for safeguarding a potential victim of trafficking
- The SCA will not investigate on your behalf – they merely assess the information provided by you and the victim
- That decision is only as reliable and detailed as the information you provide to the SCA
- Be aware that information you do share could be shared with the victim – consider whether sensitive information needs to be shared



Section 45 Defence

Adult	Child
(a) the person is aged 18 or over when the person does the act which constitutes the offence,	(a) the person is under the age of 18 when the person does the act which constitutes the offence,
(b) the person does that act because the person is compelled to do it ,	
(c) the compulsion is attributable to slavery or to relevant exploitation, and	(b) the person does that act as a direct consequence of the person being, or having been, a victim of slavery or a victim of relevant exploitation, and
(d) a reasonable person in the same situation as the person and having the person's relevant characteristics would have no realistic alternative to doing that act.	(c) a reasonable person in the same situation as the person and having the person's relevant characteristics would do that act.

Section 45 Defence

It is important to note that.

- A person under 18 does not have to be compelled to commit the offence.
- Schedule 4 of the MSA 2015 lists offences for which the defence cannot be used.
- Section 45 does not apply to offences committed before 31st July 2015.

In order to avail himself of the Section 45 defence, the defendant will only have to adduce sufficient evidence so as to allow the defence to be considered by the jury.

If a defendant succeeds in discharging the evidential burden, then the legal burden falls upon the prosecution to disprove the defence beyond reasonable doubt.

The ruling has placed the onus on police, prosecutors, defence and the courts to identify indicators of trafficking whether or not the suspect makes any disclosure that they are a potential victim and whether or not they make any admissions concerning the offence.

Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWNs)

- What are they?
- Why do we use them?
- What do we do with them?
- Please speak to Mace BEFORE you issue one



Preventative/Safeguarding Orders

- Criminal Behaviour Orders
- Sexual Risk Orders
- Slavery & Trafficking Risk Orders

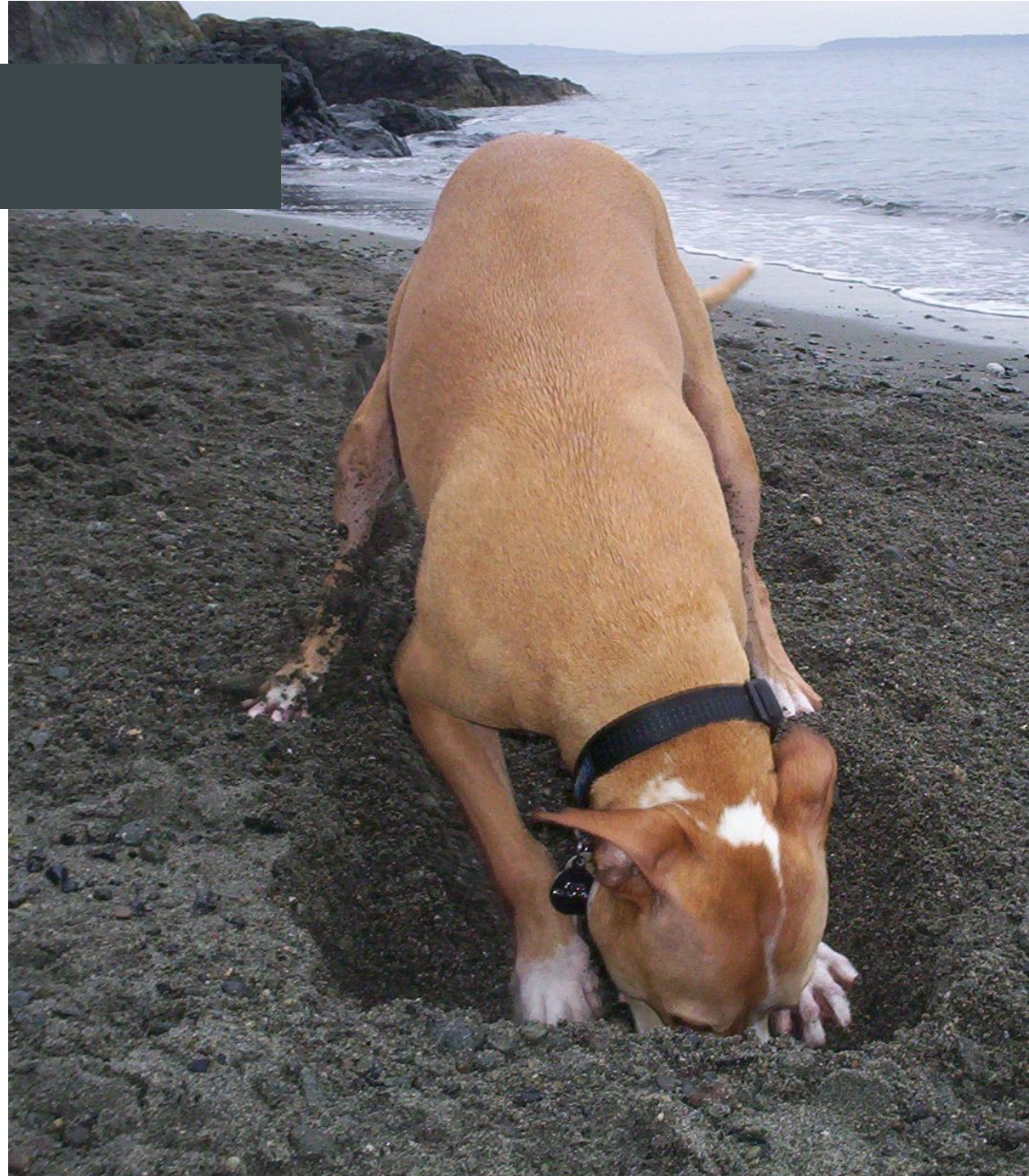


PROFESSIONAL CURIOSITY

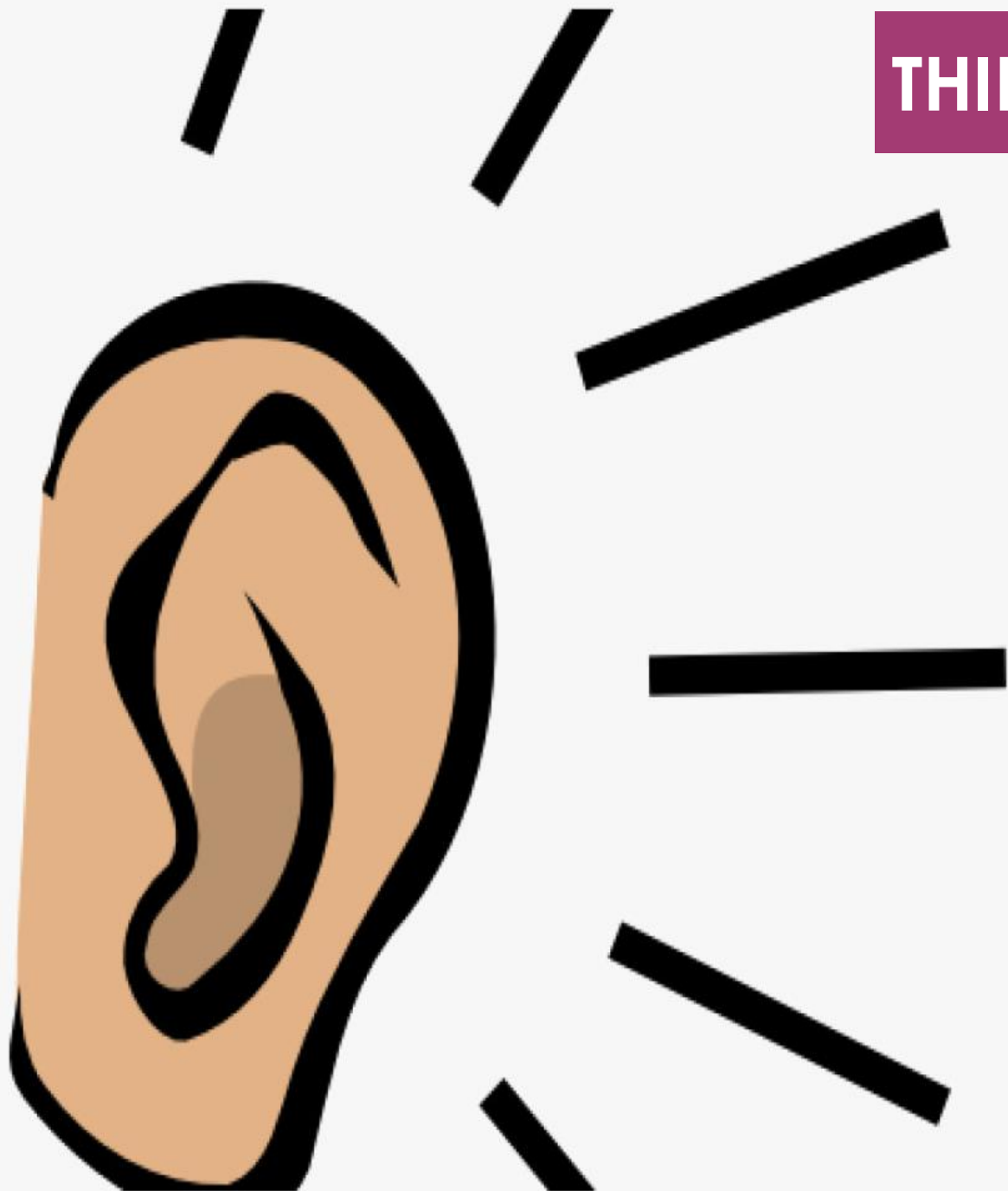
“The use of **communication skills** to **explore** and **understand** **what is happening within a situation** rather than making assumptions or accepting things at face value”

This is key to safeguarding and protecting children from exploitation

Be alive to what you can see, what you can hear, and what you can smell....



THINK EARS!



 E - EXPLOITATION ...

 A - AWARENESS ...

 R - REPORT IT ...

 S - SAFEGUARD



CHILD

EXPLOITATION

Any questions?



POLICE
NORFOLK & SUFFOLK
working together for you

