

# CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION (FORCED SHOPLIFTING)

**Criminal exploitation is a type of Modern Slavery. It refers to the exploitation of a person for the purpose of criminality and where victims are forced to perform a wide range of unlawful acts. This may include acquisitive crime such as shoplifting.**

## **Background:**

- Offenders target vulnerable people who may be children, homeless, suffering from addiction, or have learning difficulties
- Offenders arrange and facilitate travel for victims, incurring debt for victims
- Offenders promise victims employment, accommodation and a 'better life'
- Victims are forced to steal and are not given the work they were promised
- Offenders use violence, surveillance, abuse and debt bondage to control victims

## **Signs of exploitation:**

- Shoplifter hands over stolen goods to another person
- Shoplifter is dropped off and picked up by others
- Shoplifter is watched and/or instructed by others
- Shoplifter is committing crimes over long distances and moving around regularly
- Shoplifter (when apprehended) appears to be coached in what to say or fearful of engaging in conversation

## **Reporting:**

- If you suspect a person is being exploited in this way, call the Police on: 101 (non-emergency) or 999 (emergency)
- Make it clear to the call handler that you believe a person is involved in **FORCED CRIMINALITY** and may be a victim of **MODERN SLAVERY**