

TRICKED AND TRAPPED

Activity 4 – Caught in a Web Activity

'Criminal Exploitation is when a child or young person is befriended and abused, taken advantage of, groomed and controlled for a criminal purpose'.

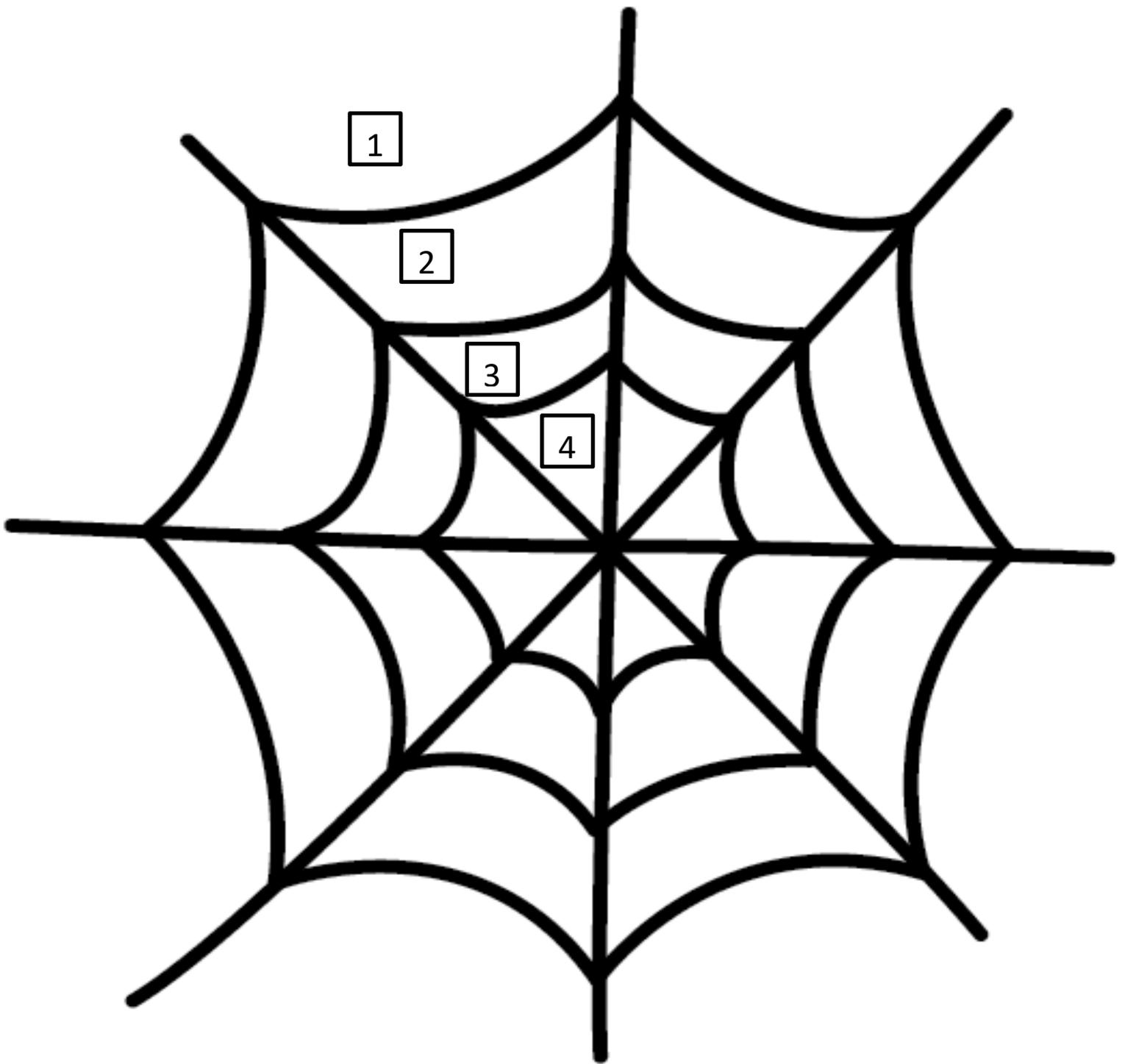
When a child or young person is criminally exploited, things soon spiral out of control.

As we explored during the lesson, there were some signs early on that things were not quite what they seemed.

There are usually 4 stages of recruitment for a young person: Targeting, Experience, Hooked and then Trapped. This can be illustrated as spider's web. Children and young people can get caught very easily in criminal exploitation, sometimes without realising.

Read the statements from the chart below, and then cut them out or write the statements on the spider's web (on the following page) according to how entangled or caught up the young person has become into the web.

Truancing from school	Being paid money as a reward for a small favour	Using drugs and or Alcohol
Receiving a top of the range SMART phone	Receiving new branded clothes	Going away from home for a short trip
Helping a friend	Carrying drugs	Carrying a knife
School results going downhill	Making new, older friends	Carrying large amounts of money for other people
Worried family	Feeling anxious and scared	Physical assaults
Self-harm	Don't care about anything anymore	Receiving excessive texts and phone calls
Being arrested by the Police	Being in a new and strange area	No friends



1. Targeting stage

This is when an exploiter targets a young person who is vulnerable, reducing their chances of getting caught. Exploiters pick their targets based on things like your age, strength or situation.

3. Hooked stage

This is the stage where an exploiter will make a young person feel like they're a member of their gang, even though they're just exploiting them.

2. Experience stage

This stage is where an exploiter might try to get a young person used to their lifestyle, or train them up in what they're doing.

4. Trapped stage

This is when a young person feels dependent on the group, their relationship with their exploiter may start to become unpleasant, as their exploiter's true intentions or character is revealed.

