

Safeguarding Children from Sexual Exploitation

Risk Assessment

- Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where the young person (or third person/s) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.
- Child sexual exploitation (CSE) can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post images on the internet / mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.
- Violence, coercion and intimidation are common. Involvement in exploitative relationships is characterised by the child's or young person's limited availability of choice as a result of their social, economic or emotional vulnerability.
- A common feature of CSE is that the child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation. Many sexually exploited children have difficulty distinguishing between their own choices and the sexual activities they are coerced into.

Vulnerability Factors

- Live in a chaotic or dysfunctional household and /or in a family with a history of abuse
- Have suffered recent bereavement or loss.
- Gang association either through relatives, peers or intimate relationships
- Attend school or are friends with young people who are sexually exploited.
- Unsure about their sexual orientation or unable to disclose sexual orientation to their families.
- Lack friends from the same age group, being a young carer or having learning disabilities
- Live in a gang neighbourhood, in residential care, in hostel, bed and breakfast accommodation or a foyer or being homeless
- Low self-esteem or self-confidence.
- Have been trafficked, either into or within the UK

The risk assessment tool is used as a guide to identify the key indicators where a child / young person may be at risk of, or experiencing child sexual exploitation. The context of the child should be considered in every area when assessing a Low, Medium or High grading. All efforts should be made where possible to obtain the relevant information to ensure a comprehensive SAFEGUARD risk assessment.

This document can be used alongside HSCB CSE Child Protection Procedures.

CSE Risk Assessment

CATEGORY	Descriptive factors	Risk level	
<p>S</p> <p>SEXUALISED RISK TAKING</p> <p>SEXUAL HEALTH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age appropriate relationships, normal attire, safe use of social media • Overt sexualised attire, meeting adults via internet. • Getting into men’s cars, older boyfriend (5 + years) • Clipping (offering sex then running upon payment) • Good sexual Health • STIs miscarriages, terminations • Multiple STIs miscarriages and terminations 	<p>L</p> <p>L</p>	<p>M H</p> <p>M H</p>
<p>A</p> <p>ATTENDANCE (EDUCATION / TRAINING)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good school attendance • Truanting • Non-school attender – excluded • Regular breakdown of school placements due to poor behaviour 	L	M H
<p>F</p> <p>FAMILIAL ABUSE AND OR PROBLEMS AT HOME</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very supportive, loving caring home. • Breakdown in family relationships – Not adhere to boundaries in family home. Sophie will switch off phone. • Domestic violence and/or high levels of family conflict • Highly abusive and criminal familiar environment 	L	M H
<p>E</p> <p>EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND PHYSICAL CONDITION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive self-image and self esteem • Poor self-image, self-harm (cutting, overdose, eating disorder, sexualised risk taking) • Chronic low self-esteem, self-harm (as above), bullying/threatening behaviour • Chronic low self-esteem, self-harm, bullying, violent outbursts, offending behaviour 	L	M H
<p>G</p> <p>Gangs and Groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All associations known to parents/carers • Associating with unknown adults and/or other sexually exploited children/young people • Extensive use of phone (esp. at night), access to premises not known to carer, seen in red light districts, reports from reliable sources suggesting involvement in CSE 	L	M H

<p>ASSOCIATIONS</p> <p>COERCION CONTROL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picked up in red light district or in premises not known to parent/carer • Frequent contact with family and friends • Reduced contact with family and friends • Limited contact with family/friends, disclosure/withdrawal of allegation of assault, external/internal physical injuries • Abduction and forced imprisonment (locked in), no contact with family/friends, no contact with support systems, physical injuries 	L	M H
<p>U</p> <p>USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SEXUAL BULLYING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate use of mobile and social media • Making video recordings, using dating chat rooms / forums, circulating images and images being shown. • Threatened and/or blackmailed through media and images being shown. • Actively making and circulating sexual images. 	L	M H
<p>A</p> <p>SUBSTANCE MISUSE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No use of drugs/alcohol • Experimenting with alcohol/drugs • Regular use of substances and/or concern about dependency • Chronic drug dependency particularly crack/heroin 	L	M H
<p>R</p> <p>REWARDS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited income from known sources • Unaccounted for monies and/or goods • Unaccounted for monies/ goods, especially mobile phones/jewellery • Substantial unaccounted for monies/good, especially mobile phones/jewellery clothes 	L	M H
<p>D</p> <p>DISTRUST</p> <p>RUNNING AWAY</p> <p>NON ENGAGEMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adheres to curfew • Regularly returns home late or goes out without permission • Stays out overnight, goes missing regularly, repeated placement breakdowns. • Persistently going missing, pattern of street homelessness. 	L	M H

Summary of assessment (strengths / risks / grey areas):

Low Risk

Medium Risk

High Risk

Action to be taken

This constitutes a child who is at **LOW RISK** of sexual exploitation but who may be at risk of being groomed for sexual exploitation

(A plan for focused early intervention and diversion should be made to safeguard and enable the child / YOUNG PERSON to protect themselves, to recognise and avoid risky behaviours and people and to engage in positive activities and relationships)

The child / young person is at **MEDIUM RISK** and may be being targeted for opportunistic abuse through the exchange of sex for drugs, accommodation, (over night stays) and goods etc. The likelihood of coercion and control is significant

(Consultation with CSE Co-ordinator & referral to MASE)

The child / young person is at **HIGH RISK**. Exploitation is likely to be habitual, often self denied and coercion and control is implicit.

(Consultation with CSE Co-ordinator & referral to MASE)