

**Care Leavers Experiencing Risk and/or Exploitation Safeguarding Protocol**

**Purpose**

To ensure that there is effective multi-agency safety planning and support for care experienced young people.

**Types of risks**

* Homelessness – potential street homelessness, frequent tenancy breakdowns, poor contingency options.
* Significant mental health concerns – risky self-harm and any suicide risks.
* Self-neglect – poor hygiene, hoarding, dangerous living conditions due to poor maintenance.
* Risk of exploitation – including modern day slavery, trafficking, sexual and criminal exploitation, such as cuckooing, sex work.
* Risk of facing custodial time or due to be released from prison with potential risks.
* Risk of violence or abuse from others.
* Missing or refused communication with leaving care for more than 6 months.
* Significant risky substance misuse.
* Significant financial difficulties that have not been resolved through signposting or support.
* Young parents at risk of losing care of their child, i.e., through care proceedings.

**Process**

Where there are concerns regarding risk the Leaving Care Personal Advisor will complete the YARE – Young Adults at Risk of Exploitation tool kit.

YARE meaning in the dictionary: ready; prepared · 2. brisk; active; quick · 3. responding quickly and truly

When the YARE has been completed the PA will notify their Team Manager and a case discussion will be held the same day and case recorded in a management decision case note in LCS.

If the YARE and case discussion identified that the risk to the care experienced young person is medium or high risk the Leaving Care PA will immediately develop a safety plan with the young person and discuss with their Team Manager if a referral to Adult Safeguarding is required, then follow the process set out below for the level of risk identified.

The outcome of the YARE Tool Kit must be added to the chronology (this should also be done for any updated YARE’s).

Case supervision - if assessed as medium/high the Team Manager will review when the YARE, safety plan, and EPPM has been updated and held and hold a reflective discussion on impact. This will be recorded in the supervision template.

When the YARE has bene completed the YARE episode needs to be started in LCS and level of risk and date assessed needs to be added. This will create a ‘lozenge’ at the top of the LCS file front page for ‘YARE’ which identifies that there is an open episode. The episode history will then need to be maintained as the level of risk changes.

**Care leavers living out of area**

The Leaving Care PA would complete the YARE and all other steps would be followed except for the Safety Panel. The Team Manager and Leaving Care PA would instead need to identify what the process is for safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable care experienced young people in the area the young person resides and contact that local authority to progress this.

**Outcome of Young Adult Risk Assessment is Low Risk**

Enhanced Pathway Planning Meetings (EPPM) will be held minimum within 2 weeks of the YARE being completed and a minimum of 6 weekly thereafter; using strengths-based paperwork (chaired by Leaving Care PA and minutes reviewed by Team Manager for authorisation of the plan and agreed level of risk).

YARE to be updated if new concerns emerge.

Where a young person has moved to low risk having had a previous period of being considered medium or high risk; and a future risk assessment determines that the risk has again increased to medium or high the processes set out below should be followed.

**Outcome of Young Adult Risk Assessment is Medium Risk**

An Enhanced Pathway Planning Meeting (EPPM) will be held within 1 week of the YARE being completed and then held minimum of 6 weekly, using strengths-based paperwork (chaired by LCS Team Manager).

The YARE will be reviewed 6 weekly within the EPPM.

Case to be referred to monthly Safety Panel. (See referral process).

Outcome of Panel may either confirm assessed risk level (medium), increase or reduce this. The processes for managing low and high-risk cases (as described within this document) should then be followed.

If the outcome of Safety Panel is medium risk, case is managed through on-going review at Safety Panel every 3 months until the risk level is reduced.

If the case is subsequently escalated to high risk, then the process for high risk cases would then be followed.

The panel may also highlight the need (where there are tangible exploitation risks) for referral into the SOCEX meeting structure.

**Outcome of Young Adult Risk Assessment is High Risk**

Case to referred to monthly Safety Panel. (See referral process)

Outcome of panel may either confirm assessed risk level (high or reduce this). The processes for managing medium or low risk cases (as described within this document) should then be followed.

If the outcome of Safety Panel is high risk, consideration to threshold for a referral to Adult Social Care should be made (where applicable, i.e., there are tangible exploitation risks) and referral into the SOCEX meeting structure should also be made.

Where a referral to Adult Social Care results in a case being accepted for management within adult services, any meetings arranged for the young person will supersede the safety planning meetings until such time that the case closes to Adult Social Care.

If the case does not meet Adult Social Care threshold at point of referral, then Enhanced Pathway Planning Meetings (EPPM) chaired by the Team Manager will be held within 1 week of panel to develop a safety plan with the team around the young person, which will also be informed by safety planning with the young person

EPPM will then be held a minimum of 6 weekly, using strengths-based paperwork (chaired by LCS Team Manager).

The YARE will be reviewed 6 weekly within the EPPM

Case will be reviewed at Safety Panel every 3 months while assessed as high risk.

Process for a Referral to the Safety Panel and Safety Panel Meeting

2 weeks prior to the Safety Panel the Leaving Care PA will complete the referral form and send to panel and minuting PanelandMinuting.Support@derby.gov.uk along with the YARE

The agenda will be sent to panel members 1 week prior to panel to enable panel members to prepare and gather relevant information for the panel.

The Leaving Care PA will attend panel and present the information they have gathered regarding the concerns.

Each case will have a 30-minute slot and 3 cases per panel will be heard.

There will be 30 minutes as the last agenda item for updates on cases that have previously been assessed as high risk that have been assessed and stepped down to medium risk and for updates on cases that remain high risk 2 months after being presented to panel that need to return to the next panel. These updates will be provided by the Leaving Care Team Manager chairing the Safety Panel, and the names will already have been added to the agenda by the Team Manager informing Panel & Minuting 2 weeks prior to panel.

The case will then have an agreed slot at the next panel and the PA will then be informed so that they can ensure they are able to attend.

There is an expectation that action will be taken by all involved services, as well as the young person and therefore actions will be shared out accordingly.

**Care Experienced young person’s engagement and voice**

The young person will be given an opportunity to share their views through their Leaving Care PA prior to the meeting.  They can choose to directly email information if they wish to.  Workers will be creative in making sure the young person has their voice heard.

The Leaving Care PA will also take the THINK family approach and with the consent of the young person will get any relevant information from key people to the young person, such as family members, close friends and anyone the young person may seek support from.

Following each Safety Panel, the Leaving Care PA will have a specific meeting with the young person to look at the actions, who is doing what and what responsibility the young person has to help resolve the concerns.  They will be given their own copy of the safety plan to refer to.

**After Safety Panel**

Panel & Minuting Support will send the minutes to panel attendees.

The Leaving Care PA will add the date of Safety Panel to the chronology.

The Leaving Care PA will ensure that the minutes of the Safety Panel are indexed into Open Text and a case note added that the Safety Panel has been held and where the minutes can be located.