**Care Leavers at risk of exploitation indicator guidance – Care leaver exploitation indicator form.**

Children in care under the age of 18 years can be robustly supported through child protection procedures, such as the use of strategy discussions and child protection conferences but once a young person turns 18 years there are less formal structures in place. Derbyshire County Council has developed an Exploitation Indicator form to support Leaving Care workers to identify potential exploitative circumstances for care leavers.

The intended purpose is to disrupt any harmful exploitation situation for the young person and help them to access the right support from the right service. It also supports the ethos that we do not give up on our own young people just because they are adults and we will continue to parent/support/guide as we would any other young person. Battling exploitation requires persistence and focus. The toolkit will support this approach.

* The workflow is titled *“CS Care Leaver’s Exploitation Indicator Form”.*
* This form is used by the leaving care worker to identify any indicators of exploitation for the young person.
* The leaving care worker should complete the form with the young person where possible but **MUST** include any information that they are aware of or are concerned about for the young person. This is in recognition that young people who are exposed to coercive control and exploitation rarely feel able to disclose specific information or confirm concerns due to fear or anxiety.
* When completing the exploitation indicator form information should be gained from all agencies involved with a young person at risk of exploitation
* The young person will be provided with their own copy of the form, so that they can consider the points in their own time.
* Young people will be assessment as being at low, medium or high risk of exploitation. For those assessed as medium or high risk, there should be a discussion with a manager about calling an immediate VARM.
* For young people who require a multi-agency strategic response, consideration should be given to a referral to the care leavers Safety Panel.

**Reviewing the care leaver exploitation indication form:**

For those young people assessed as **low risk** of exploitation, the exploitation indicator form can be closed with no further action:

For those young people assessed as **medium risk** of exploitation, the exploitation indicator form will need to be reviewed in a further 8 weeks and then subsequently at each 8 weeks thereafter until the risk is assessed as low. .

For those young people as **high risk**, the exploitation indicator form will need to be reviewed in a further 6 weeks and then subsequently at each 6 weeks thereafter until the risk is assessed as medium/low.