**Definition of CCE is:**

Involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where a child (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them completing a task on behalf of another individual or group of individuals; this is often of a criminal nature. Child Criminal Exploitation often occurs without the child's immediate recognition, with the child believing that they are in control of the situation. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.

Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economical and/or emotional vulnerability.

**Who does it affect?**

This type of abuse could happen to any young person from any background. It happens to boys and young men as well as girls and young women. Some children are particularly vulnerable such as disabled children, children looked after, care leavers, migrant children and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

**What do we all need to do?**

We all have an important role to play in protecting children and young people from criminal exploitation. We can do this by the following:

Identification— Children and young people rarely self-report CCE, so it is important that we are aware of vulnerability and risk factors and indicators (see next page);

Acting— Contact the Children and Families Duty and Advice Team (guide) to discuss concerns regarding a child being at risk of, or experiencing CCE. If a child is believed to be at risk of immediate harm, ring the Police on 999;

Vulnerability and Risk Management—Where it is recognised that a child is at risk, has been targeted or is being criminally exploited, services should work together to manage the child’s vulnerability and risk. This is usually coordinated by Children’s Social Work Service; and

Disruption – Practitioners, businesses and communities should work in partnership to disrupt perpetrator activity. Effective sharing of information and intelligence is vital to help the police and services working with children and adults to disrupt exploitation and secure prosecutions.

**What to do if you are worried about a child**

Any practitioner working with a child who they think may be at risk of Criminal Sexual Exploitation should follow the guidance set out in Working Together and share this information with LBTH MASH. An exploitation screening tool is available to support professional judgement and should be completed and sent alongside any referral made to MASH about child sexual exploitation.

Children’s Social Care need to complete an exploitation risk & harm assessment and make a referral through an 87a to Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT).

If you believe a child is in immediate risk of harm, you should contact the police

**For further information, support or advice please contact:** **exploitation.team@towerhamlets.gov.uk**