A logo for a children's partnership

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**Dorset Childrens Services Extra Familial Risk and Harm (EFRH)**

**Panel**

**Terms of Reference.**

**Version:** 1 Sept 2023

*All members will sign the confidentiality agreement in line with The Data Protection Act.*

1. **Purpose of EFRH panel**

Dorset Extra Familial Risk and Harm Panel (EFRP) facilitates partnership safeguarding oversight and recommendations for interventions in cases where a child or young person - or a group of children / young people - meet one or more of the following categories:

* At risk of or are experiencing harm outside their family.
* At risk of or are causing harm to young people outside their family.
* At risk of or are experiencing or causing harm in specific contexts such as their peer group,

neighbourhoods/locations and/or school.

1. **The panel will:**

* Agree the right pathway according to the need and risk for the child and young person.
* Agree an initial multi-agency safety plan and /or specific actions for children and young people who are subject to EFRH.
* Agree initial multi agency safety planning and actions for peer groups of concern.
* Agree initial multi agency safety planning and actions for locations and contexts of concern.
* Identify, monitor and share information and intelligence on our most worrying Missing, CSE/CCE and serious youth violence children & young people.
* Identify, monitor and share information on the extent of links for Missing/CSE/CCE and group affiliation of children and young people in Dorset.
* Ensure that responses to the above vulnerable children & young people are consistent and effective.
* Identify, monitor and share information through intelligence, information and data, the links between our most worrying children and young people in Dorset as well as cross border.
* Identify the local picture of Dorset’s vulnerable children & young people to enable mapping against local, regional and national data.

1. **The Panel members will:**

* Promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young people through multi-agency partnership.
* Assess risk from a multi-agency perspective and target services appropriately.
* Collect and analyse data to inform agency responses.
* Improve inter-agency accountability.
* Problem-solve and improve the support available to professionals working with high-risk cases.
* Inform the commissioning of specialist services.
* Inform the need and risk through information held by their agency and specialist knowledge.
* Be responsible for ensuring outcomes and actions are recorded on own agencies records and followed up.

1. **Objectives:**

The EFRHP will:

* Share information from relevant professionals.
* Evaluate risks and agree when the threshold of significant harm is reached.
* Consider the risks from locations.
* Consider the links and complexities of peer groups.
* Agree specific actions /interventions with the case holding team and relevant agencies to reduce risk of harm to children and young people directly and within the context of their peer groups, schools, neighbourhoods and other locations.
* Signpost to the most appropriate pathway for ongoing intervention.
* Review cases as appropriate, where deemed necessary, by the chair and panel members and where a complex response is needed across a number of contexts.
* Identify themes, patterns and strategic issues in safeguarding children from EFRH and raise these to CAROLE, Strategic CE group, appropriate working groups, community safety team, appropriate service for locations.
* Contribute to county wide best practice around EFRH.

1. **Membership:**

The EFRP is chaired by a Service Manager from Dorset Council’s Children’s Services and

co-chaired by a Detective Inspector from the Dorset Police County Safeguarding Hub.

The EFRP consists only of professionals.

5.1 **Panel Members of the EFRP include: core and locality (split)**

* Dorset Council - Children & Families Service - Service Manager & Chair
* Dorset Police – County Safeguarding - Detective Inspector & Co-Chair
* Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Safeguarding Children Team
* Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust -MASH health
* Dorset Education – Inclusion lead for locality
* Dorset Education – Virtual School lead for locality
* Dorset Council – Early Help team manager for locality
* Dorset Council CSC team manager for locality
* Dorset Council – QARO
* Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service
* Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) for relevant locality
* Adult safeguarding lead
* Targeted Youth for relevant locality
* Reach representative.
* HARBOUR representative
* Paragon representative

1. **Relationship to other meetings**

The EFRH panel will report to CAROL and the CE/EFRH strategic board.

1. **Threshold for referral to EFRH panel and process**

* Any child or young person who has been assessed as ‘moderate’ or significant should be referred into the panel.
* A Child or young person assessed as significant must be the subject of a strategy discussion in line with the existing CP procedures prior to the panel and attend the next available panel
* A Child or young person who is assessed as moderate risk will attend the next available panel in their locality.
* A location or peer group where there are significant, escalating or reoccurring concerns should be referred into the panel.

Please refer to EFRH panel Flowchart.

1. **Frequency and Duration of the EFRH panel**

* The panel will be held weekly but rotated 4 weekly for localities.
* The panel will be held on Thursday afternoons.
* The panel will be conducted on Microsoft teams.

1. **Administration Arrangements**

* Completed risk assessments for the panel must be received via mosaic 1 week before the relevant locality panel if moderate.
* Significant risk assessments must be received by Monday before the next panel.
* The agenda, minutes of previous panel and documents will be circulated to panel members on the Tuesday morning prior to the Thursday panel.
* Minutes relevant to the child or young person will be contained within the appropriate form on Mosaic and recorded by a BST administrator.
* Agencies will be expected to record own actions on relevant files.
* Disputes and disagreements will be escalated to CAROLE chairs.

1. **Data Protection**

Key principles governing disclosures made during or following EFRH Panel.

Decisions to disclose must be necessary and proportionate, considering:

The prevention or detection of crime, including safeguarding someone’s life and/or child protection needs-

* If it is in the public interest.
* The right to life and to live free from inhuman and degrading treatment and torture.
* If it is needed in order for confidential counselling, advice and support to take place.

**Information cannot be shared outside the panel unless agreed by both chairs and meets the criteria outline above.**

In summary, information can be shared provided each case brought to the Exploitation Panel meets the criteria outlined below:

**Data Protection Act 2018**

Information can be shared where it is in the substantial public interest, and necessary for the purpose of: (i) protecting an individual from neglect or physical, mental or emotional harm; or (ii) protecting the physical, mental or emotional well-being of an individual. The amendment still expects the possibility of obtaining consent, unless it would prejudice the safeguarding purpose (i.e., the protection of the individual). The question must be whether the use of the personal data is proportionate to the lawful aim. The law intends any justifiable step to protect individuals at risk to be considered as being in the substantial public interest.

**Terms of Reference Agreed**

**(Signed by Chairs on behalf of EFRH Panel) ……………………..**

Dated: