

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Exploitation Governance and Case Planning



Introduction

Common features in the journeys of exploited children include fractures in family relationships, instability through frequent placement moves and isolation from peers. This highlights the need to understand poly-victimisation - when a child is exposed to multiple types of violence e.g. Gang violence, trafficking and the impact of trauma, neglect and abuse. It is critical therefore that the emotional and psychological needs of children are at the centre of what we do.

Contextualised Safeguarding as a model for assessment is defined as follows:

*'an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant **harm beyond their families**. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships. Therefore, children's social care practitioners need to engage with individuals and sectors who **do** have influence over/within extra-familial contexts, and recognise that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse in a range of social contexts' (Firmin, 2017:1)*

The exploitation of young people and children is a common feature in the facilitation of County Lines drugs supply, whether for the storage or supply of drugs, the movement of cash or to secure the use of dwellings held by vulnerable people (commonly referred to as cuckooing). County Lines groups use high levels of violence and intimidation to establish and maintain county line markets, whether that is forcing existing suppliers out, enacting some form of retribution, controlling vulnerable individuals or as a general show of strength. Levels of violence may vary considerably but will often include the use of knives, corrosives, firearms and other weapons. It may also include sexual violence and sexual exploitation. Targeting children, including 'clean skins' (those without a record), missing persons and children in care is common.

Sexual exploitation continues to be a significant risk factor associated with County Lines. There are numerous reports (NCA County Lines Study October 2017) of 'girlfriends' being offered to and abused by other gang members for their gratification. Almost half the Police forces consulted during the study (20) mentioned that individuals involved with County Lines came from care homes and three of those (15%) had evidence relating to care homes being actively targeted by County Lines criminals for the recruitment of vulnerable individuals.

Important points to remember when considering Exploitation:

It is important to remember that young people being exploited in this way are likely to be being trafficked as they are having their travel *arranged or facilitated for the purpose them being exploited*. It is helpful to draw on the definition of human trafficking in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to understand this:

- A person commits an offence if the person arranges or facilitates the travel of another person (“V”) with a view to V being exploited.
- It is irrelevant whether V consents to the travel (whether V is an adult or a child).
- A person may arrange or facilitate V’s travel by recruiting V, transporting or transferring V, harbouring or receiving V, or transferring or exchanging control over V.
- A person arranges or facilitates V’s travel with a view to V being exploited only if— the person intends to exploit V (in any part of the world) during or after the travel, or the person knows or ought to know that another person is likely to exploit V (in any part of the world) during or after the travel.
- “Travel” means- arriving in, or entering, any country, departing from any country, travelling within any country.

In all case where it is suspected that a child has been trafficked, **a referral to NRM must be made. (WT 2018)** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms>

In cases of exploitation we know that powerful, adult gang members recruit and arrange or facilitate the travel of children (and vulnerable adults) for the purpose of them selling drugs, firearms or sex on their behalf. This is exploitation and can fall under the Modern Slavery Act’s definitions of exploitation as:

- Sexual exploitation
- Securing services etc. by force, threats or deception
- Securing services etc. from children and vulnerable persons

Exploitation Team around the Child approach

Working Together 2018 states that:

‘Children may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their day-to-day lives. These threats can take a variety of different forms, including sexual, physical and emotional abuse; neglect; exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups; trafficking; online abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation. Whatever the form of abuse or neglect, practitioners should put the needs of children first when determining what action to take.’

Exploitation Team around the Child Meeting.

Version:2 11.02.21

Once a Social Worker is allocated a child/family where it is suspected a child is suffering harm through Exploitation, an Exploitation Team Around the Child Meeting **(ETAC) must be held within 72 hours**. If the concerns are immediate and urgent, then a strategy meeting must be held within 24 hours of the receipt of the referral.

1. The purpose of the ETAC is to:

- Ensure that all available information is shared and considered.
- Needs and vulnerabilities are identified and planned for.
- A trigger and disruption plan are completed.
- Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined.
- Timescales are agreed.

2. Members of the ETAC are:

- Social Worker/TM CST
- Police - CE/MISSING/ IMPACT / POLIT / CAIT
- Safeguarding Lead Nurse
- Missing Coordinator
- Education representative
- IRO (If child is looked after).
- Youth Justice Service representative

3. For the initial ETAC, as a minimum the Social worker, plus Health and Police representatives must attend. The ETAC will be held **monthly** to review the plan, risk, vulnerabilities and progress. Consideration will be given to any emerging intelligence received, presented by police. Other professionals and agencies involved in the plan will also be invited. The safeguarding and risk management plan (see below) will be reviewed and updated as required.

4. A decision regarding closing or ending the ETAC process **MUST** be made via the ETAC and clearly recorded in the minutes before Line Manager Approval.

5. Minutes of the meeting will be recorded using the form below and uploaded onto Mosaic/Care Director, signed by the relevant Team Manager and circulated within 3 days of the meeting to all attendees and those involved with the Child's plan. A summary of the meeting **MUST** be recorded on case notes.

An ETAC does not replace the child's CiN /CP / CiC / Pathway planning but runs in parallel or as part of pathway planning.



ETAC- Disruption and Risk Management Plan (Initial Meeting)

The meeting should be chaired by the relevant Children's Services Team Manager. The meeting will consider information available, identify information required and agree a multi-agency plan of disruption and intervention for child(ren) at risk or suffering harm through exploitation.

Child's Details	
DOB	
ID	
Legal Status	
Address	
Family Composition	
Ethnicity	
Faith or belief	
SEND needs known	
Education provision	

<p>Outline any immediate risk and safeguarding concerns.</p> <p>Danger statement</p>	
<p>Immediate actions and response agreed</p> <p>Safety plan</p>	

Strategic Aim	Intervention Options All agencies Be SMART
<p>Disrupt the young person's relationship with other young people who they go missing with and those suspected of introducing them to adults involved in violence, criminal exploitation and sexual exploitation.</p>	<p><u>Plan:</u></p> <p>.</p>
<p>Disrupt the young person's contact with adults or young people suspected of being involved in violence, drugs and sexual exploitation whilst Missing.</p>	<p><u>Plan:</u></p>

Strategic Aim	Intervention Options All agencies Be SMART
<p>Gather information to assist prosecution and disruption of adults suspected of being involved in violence, gang activity, drugs, sexual exploitation.</p> <p>Consider Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWN) for those who harbour children whilst Missing</p> <p>Consider and act on suspected trafficking offences. - Who, when, how?</p> <p>Referral to National Referral Mechanism (NRM)</p> <p>Is there an intel. gap – how will this be addressed by whom and when?</p>	<p><u>Plan:</u></p>
<p>Promote positive relationships with family, friends and carers.</p> <p>What support do parents/carers need?</p> <p>What support do siblings need?</p> <p>What intervention does the family need to help make home more attractive?</p> <p>How can we help improve relationships within the home?</p> <p>Who is the child closest to and how can we support /increase this contact?</p>	<p><u>Plan:</u></p>
<p>Maintain contact whilst child is missing from home or care</p> <p>Who will do this?</p> <p>What specific steps will the Police take to find the child?</p> <p>Is the 'Missing Passport' up-to-date?</p>	<p><u>Plan:</u></p>

Version:2 11.02.21

Strategic Aim	Intervention Options All agencies Be SMART
<p>Who will actively look for the child – frequency, locations?</p> <p>Will mobile telephones be cell sited – when, by whom, who will monitor this?</p> <p>Check social media, who, when and how?</p> <p>What is the plan once child is found?</p> <p>How will the child be welcomed back and supported?</p>	
<p>Enhance the return home procedure to ensure it is a positive experience.</p> <p>Who is the best person to do this?</p> <p>What methods and approach will be used? (be creative and flexible)</p>	<p><u>Plan:</u></p>
<p>Build the young person's self-esteem.</p> <p>What does the child do well, how can we build on this?</p> <p>What are their ambitions – how can we help them realise these?</p> <p>What small steps can we take immediately?</p> <p>How do we ensure the child feels and believes they are wanted and valued?</p>	<p><u>Plan:</u></p>
<p>How will we raise the young person's awareness of the dangers?</p> <p>Do we fully understand the threats against the child and</p>	<p><u>Plan:</u></p>

Strategic Aim	Intervention Options All agencies Be SMART
their family / network?	
<p>What are the health needs of the young person?</p> <p>What do they need, who will provide and when?</p>	<u>Plan:</u>
<p>How can we involve the young person in diversionary activities?</p> <p>What does the child enjoy doing- who will facilitate this?</p> <p>(Be creative and think outside of the box)</p>	<u>Plan:</u>
<p>How can we support achieving normality?</p> <p>Consider bedtimes, routines, education/training offer/engagement)</p>	<u>Plan:</u>
<p>How can we make school a more attractive place to go?</p> <p>*Consider a named person for regular 1-1support</p> <p>*Create safe spaces within school.</p> <p>*Consider a flexible timetable. (Remember a child who attends school is at less risk of harm).</p> <p>*Focus on favourite subjects and those in which the child excels – be flexible and creative?</p>	<u>Plan:</u>
<p>Plan for positive changes and set small achievable targets.</p> <p>*Identify one person to build and maintain close relationship with young person/child?</p> <p>*Who will visit, how often, how will the child contact workers?</p>	<u>Plan:</u>

Strategic Aim	Intervention Options All agencies Be SMART
*Agree frequency of meetings with child/young person. Be flexible and creative Health and safety considerations for staff	<u>Plan:</u>

Date of this plan:

Names of parents/carers involved in the plan:

Police Officers:.....

Education Rep:

Health Rep:.....

Name of any other people involved in the delivery of the plan:.....

Name of Team Manager:

Name of Social Worker:.....

Name of Independent Review Officer (IRO):

Name of YJS Rep:

Date shared with child/young person and parents/carers:.....

Date of next review

ETAC Review Meeting

- Parents/carers and child should be invited and attend, if appropriate.
- Consider a 'family friendly' space to hold meeting

Name of Attendees:

Date of Review:

Update on actions above

Summary

What is going well?

What are we still worried about?

What are we going to do?

*Please update the plan above

Team Manager – comments

Name:

Date: