

Child Exploitation Screening Tool

| Risk indicators of a child who is exploited | Current or during the past 6 months: <i>Please tick</i> | Prior to 6 months ago*: <i>Please tick</i> |
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| <p>Concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of multiple sexual contacts / abuse with multiple people <input type="checkbox"/> Concerning or escalating levels of criminal behaviours <input type="checkbox"/> Being criminally exploited to become involved in criminal behaviour where another person is profiting/benefiting..... (general levels of criminality – ie stealing from shops/cars etc would only be a concern around exploitation if they are doing it on behalf of someone else) <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of drugs on child <input type="checkbox"/> Arrest for possession of drugs | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>Repeated periods of absence/missing (day and/or night)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently missing with whereabouts unknown or of concern/ missing episodes out of borough <input type="checkbox"/> Missing with other young people assessed as being at risk/experiencing / abused through exploitation <input type="checkbox"/> Parents not reporting the child missing but known episodes of being away from home for significant periods of time <input type="checkbox"/> Pattern of street homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Persistently running away/going missing from placement or returning late <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-social behaviour | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>Abusive/exploitative relationship of concern with adult (male or female) or young person, which might involve physical and/or emotional abuse / sexual abuse and/or gang activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Teenage relationship abuse which may be same sex relationship <input type="checkbox"/> Believing they are in a relationship with an older adult / peer relationship <input type="checkbox"/> Other relationship where control appears to be present that indicates concern <input type="checkbox"/> Gang associations (including family connections) <input type="checkbox"/> Associations with other young people known or suspected to be exploited | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults (not car theft)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> has the child been transported anywhere for the purpose of exploitation (ie being used to transport packages/money or transported to commit criminality for the benefit of another) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| <p>Unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothes or other items (including digital currency)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> More than one mobile phone <input type="checkbox"/> Unaccounted for money/goods/jewellery <input type="checkbox"/> Issues with drugs/alcohol/tobacco through unknown sources <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel keys <input type="checkbox"/> In possession of travel tickets indicating unexplained travel out of the area. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>Groomed/abused/exploited via the Internet and mobile technology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Taking/sharing youth generated images of self or others with aggravating factors such as the involvement of an adult or older person, evidence of coercion or threat, more than one person involved <input type="checkbox"/> Using internet to identify and meet unknown peers/adults <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of displaying or receiving sexualised bullying via the internet/social media <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple social media accounts <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive texts and calls/changes in behaviour or absconding in response to phone activity (aggressive/anxious) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>Unexplained contact with hotels, taxi companies or fast food outlets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple unknown hotels/B&Bs <input type="checkbox"/> Being picked up by different taxis on a regular basis with no plausible explanation or money to pay for them | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>Evidence of sexual/physical assault including where followed by withdrawal of allegation</p> <p>victim of knife crime:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) starting to carry a weapon 2) Victim of an assault caused by a weapon 3) Victim of robbery (Lots of children end up debt bonded through staged robberies) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Evidence:
Please include names/dates/locations/perpetrators descriptions where possible

* evidence of a risk indicator from 6 months ago or more should still be considered for the need for a safeguarding referral, primarily if this is information that has not previously been known or investigated even if not current.

| Strong indicators that a child may be / is being exploited | Current or during the past 6 months: Please tick | Prior to 6 months ago*: Please tick |
|--|---|--|
| Whereabouts unclear or unknown – day and/or night <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently staying out late without permission and whereabouts unknown and/or of concern <input type="checkbox"/> Absconding from education provision and whereabouts are unknown (to school or parents) and/or of concern | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Absences/exclusion from school or not engaged in school/college/ training/work <input type="checkbox"/> Not attending school and whereabouts are unknown (to school and parents) <input type="checkbox"/> Being on a part time timetable <input type="checkbox"/> Suspended or excluded from school and not in alternative provision <input type="checkbox"/> Elective home educated but concern around this and child's whereabouts during day | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Regular/Multiple contacts from unknown adults (or peers) <input type="checkbox"/> At educational provision <input type="checkbox"/> At home/placement address <input type="checkbox"/> On the telephone/text/messaging apps <input type="checkbox"/> Online via social media/gaming/email <input type="checkbox"/> Excited about new friendships that are unknown | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Physical injuries without plausible explanation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sexually transmitted infections/ Pregnancies / termination of pregnancies <input type="checkbox"/> Particularly multiple | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Drug and/or alcohol (mis)use <input type="checkbox"/> Arrested for dealing drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Drug dealers demanding money for alleged drug debt <input type="checkbox"/> Carrying knives or guns | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Self-harming/challenging behaviours/suicide attempts/ eating disorders/aggression | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Use of a mobile phone which causes concern – <input type="checkbox"/> Sending/receiving of youth generated sexual images with no aggravating factors <input type="checkbox"/> multiple phones/sims/protective of phone/high volume texts/calls <input type="checkbox"/> change in behaviour in response to mobile phone contacts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Significant changes in normal presentation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A&E attendance of concern or with no plausible explanation <input type="checkbox"/> No appropriate adult in attendance (or concerns about adult in attendance) or young person unwilling to share details <input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate explanation of presenting symptoms | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| Being accompanied to appointments by an unknown person that causes concern | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Association with gang members/known criminals Peer Group – Gang – or Organised Crime Group | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Evidence: <i>Please include names/dates/locations/perpetrators descriptions where possible</i> | | |
| | | |

| Early indicators of exploitation | <i>Please tick</i> |
|---|--------------------------|
| Unsuitable/inappropriate accommodation/sofa surfing/financially unsupported (including migrant or refugee children) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Isolated from or reduced contact with normal peers/family/social networks | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Association with new/unknown groups of peers | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Poor school attendance (current in last 6 months) <input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration in school results <input type="checkbox"/> Missing from education | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Concerns raised about use of internet including <input type="checkbox"/> Poor privacy setting on social media <input type="checkbox"/> Interacting with high numbers of unknown social media “friends” <input type="checkbox"/> Poor understanding of how to stay safe online | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Engaged in offending and/or anti-social behaviour | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Siblings involved in sexual exploitation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Poor engagement with support services/key worker | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Evidence: | |
| | |

Vulnerability Factors

Please tick

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|---|--------------------------|
| Social Isolation or social difficulties | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Carrying a weapon | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Learning disabilities/special needs or mental health issues | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| History of Local Authority Care | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Family conflict/ breakdown, lack of love/security, bereavement through death, loss, illness of a significant person in child's life | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prior experience of neglect, emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of a safe/stable home environment, now or in the past (domestic abuse and/or substance misuse and/or mental health difficulties or criminality, for example) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Family history/current experience of sex work | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reduced capacity (due to age, education, experiences, mental health, language barriers) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Disguised compliance by family or minimisation of risks | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Economic vulnerability of child and family | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Homelessness or insecure accommodation status | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unclear of how to explore cultural / sexual identity safely | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Evidence:

This tool includes four categories of risk and is intended to inform appropriate responses in relation to children and young people's safeguarding needs. The presence of *one significant risk indicator* will necessitate action as per [GSCP safeguarding procedures](#)

I consider this child to be at risk of (please tick):

Criminal Exploitation (including county lines)

Sexual Exploitation

Trafficking

Sexually Harmful Behaviours

Professional Judgement: In the box below please record your professional judgement based on the information recorded on this screening tool and consider the health, welfare and safety of the child in question, include any protective factors that you are aware of.

Please indicate

Description

Associated actions

Early Help

No exploitation risk evident

A child who may have additional support needs and/or vulnerabilities but is not currently deemed to be at risk of exploitation (sexual or criminal)

- Consider liaising with CCIN team for consultation/advice/guidance.
- Child is not deemed at risk of exploitation (sexual or criminal) but there may be additional risks, vulnerabilities or needs to still require action through an early help response or a referral to the IRT.
- Work with child, young person and family to address the identified support needs, intervene early and take proactive action to prevent escalation – Delivered via a single agency/multi-agency early help offer, integrated into an existing multi-agency plan or through a referral to the IRT for assessment by Children’s Social Care.
- Ongoing review of risk required particularly if there are any changes in circumstances.
- Copy of screening tool is sent to cwlccin&rrtteam@gateshead.gov.uk**

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| <p>Social Care Threshold 3</p> | <p>Early indicator of exploitation</p> <p>A child who is at risk of being groomed for sexual exploitation / criminal exploitation / county lines</p> | <p>The indicators raise some concerns that the child may be at risk of being targeted or groomed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Consider liaising with CCIN team for consultation/advice/guidance. <input type="checkbox"/> Work with the child, young person and family to develop an awareness of the risks that can lead to a situation in which they may be exposed to exploitation should be delivered via a single agency/multi-agency early help offer or integrated into an existing multi-agency plan. <input type="checkbox"/> Early help referral pathways should be followed <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of screening tool is sent to CCIN team cwlccin&rrtteam@gateshead.gov.uk |
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| <p>Social Care Threshold 4</p> | <p>Strong Indicator that child may be / is being exploited</p> <p>A child who is at increased risk of CSE / criminal exploitation and is likely to be/already being targeted for abuse through sex for affection, drugs, accommodation and goods etc</p> | <p>A multi-agency approach will be needed to promote child's safety and well-being: see MSET Framework</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Follow usual procedures including referral to IRT who will lead the completion of a Risk Assessment (with multi-agency input) 2) A multi-agency meeting should be held to devise a safeguarding and support plan or such activity should be integrated into an existing multi-agency plan. 3) The plan should include actions in relation to disrupting, investigating and prosecuting perpetrators. Risk should be closely monitored and regularly assessed as part of the risk management process (this could be via MSET). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Inform CCIN team - cwlccin&rrtteam@gateshead.gov.uk |
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| <p>Social Care Threshold 4</p> | <p>A child who is being exploited</p> <p>A child who is entrenched in sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation / county lines but often does not recognise or self denies the nature of their abuse often in denial, and where coercion/control is implicit.</p> | <p>A multi-agency approach will be needed to promote child's safety and well-being: see MSET Framework</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Follow safeguarding procedures including referral to IRT who will lead the completion of a Risk Assessment (with multi-agency input) 2) A multi-agency meeting should be held to devise a safeguarding and support plan or such activity should be integrated into an existing multi-agency plan. 3) The plan should include actions in relation to disrupting, investigating and prosecuting perpetrators. Risk should be closely monitored and regularly assessed as part of the risk management process (this could be via MSET) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Inform CCIN team - cwlccin&rrtteam@gateshead.gov.uk |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|

Form completed by:

| | |
|-------|--|
| Name: | |
| Team: | |
| Date: | |

Discussed with manager / exploitation social worker (to agree level)

| | |
|-------|--|
| Name: | |
| Team: | |
| Date: | |

Where to refer or discuss your concerns:

Anyone who completes an exploitation screening tool, or is considering the need to do so, can seek advice from the Complex CIN team cwlccin&rrtteam@gateshead.gov.uk.

All cases that are screened at risk, significant risk, or serious risk should be referred to the IRT or discussed with the child's social worker if already known.

National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

The NRM is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. Modern slavery is a complex crime and may involve multiple forms of exploitation. An individual could have been a victim of human trafficking and/or slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.

Victims may not be aware that they are being trafficked or exploited, and may have consented to elements of their exploitation, or accepted their situation. If you think that modern slavery has taken place, the case should be referred to the NRM so that the relevant competent authority can fully consider the case. You do not need to be certain that someone is a victim – see: [The Referral Process](#)

Guidance for completing the screening tool:

- The purpose of the exploitation screening tool is to **support a professional judgement** about whether a child is at risk of/ being exploited and inform decision making about what action is required
- The screening tool supports in identifying where the behaviours / voice of the child may indicate they are being exploited, a more detailed multi-agency assessment and/or investigation may need to be undertaken which may confirm this initial judgement, heighten or reduce concern.
- In some instances, the screening tool will identify that the child is no more vulnerable to exploitation than is typical for children of that age i.e. the risk is universal. This would be deemed to be “**No Current Exploitation Risk**”.
- For any **Early Indicators of Exploitation** workers are encouraged to use the appropriate pathway for referrals and have discussions with relevant services (Child exploitation Social Worker/IRT) to determine appropriate action.
- Once a screening tool has been completed, usual referral pathways and thresholds need to be followed to ensure that where necessary a strategy meeting is convened and a risk assessment undertaken.
- Risk assessments should be led by a Social Worker, contributed to and supported by the professionals working with the child and family.
- The tool should be completed immediately by any worker who has a concern about a child or young person being exploited. A child is anyone under the age of 18.
- It is important that the screening tool is not completed in isolation as far as possible and that relevant people where possible are involved so that a complete picture of specific risks is ascertained. Children SHOULD NOT be asked to complete a screening tool.
- If **Strong Indicator** or **Exploited** is identified, a referral to IRT must be made unless the child is *already known* and in this case the worker who has identified the concerns should *notify the social worker* immediately. If this is a new referral then IRT will determine what course of action will be taken.
- It is helpful where possible to capture the voice of the child in the **evidence section**. There is no need for the child to be with you when completing the screening tool. The voice of the child is more than a spoken word and often behaviours / actions are the first sign something may be wrong. Evidence about your concerns should be captured as fully as possible, including any examples of the behaviour.
- Where you are aware of names of other young people, adults of concern, locations of concern please include them in the **evidence box** on the screening tool and complete and submit the intelligence form. These names should be passed also to IRT if the children are not known to social care for appropriate action to be taken.
- Guidance notes and risk indicators are not exhaustive...**PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT MUST BE USED**
- The information inputted in this screening tool is sensitive and should be recorded, stored and shared as per information sharing guidance.
- Where possible consent should be sought from parents and carers to complete the screening tool and share the information unless to do so would place the child at increased risk. However refusal of consent should **not** prevent the tool from being completed and a referral to the IRT being made if there are concerns about **significant harm** to a child.