



Wandsworth MARVE (pre-MACE), MARVE Plus (Transitional Panel) and strategic MACE Terms of Reference ToR

Background

1. Wandsworth adheres to the London-Child-Exploitation-Operating-Protocol-2021, which sets out clearly the multi-agency responsibilities with respect to a pre-MACE (MARVE Operational panel) and a strategic MACE. The MARVE operational panel is a multi-agency partnership that will review and have oversight of risk assessments and plans, for children at medium and high risk of exploitation. The responsibility and accountability in managing these risks require a multi-agency response, recognising the multi-faceted nature of risks, and a need for a response that does not rely on a single agency. While this is a specialist area of practice, it is important that all practitioners, supervisors, and senior leaders are diligent in ensuring that children are kept safe, with early identification of needs, up to date risk assessments and robust plans, that are continuously reviewed to demonstrate impact.

MARVE Operational Panel (pre-MACE)

2. The decision to attend the MARVE operational panel should be made following a strategy discussion, where there are clear concerns regarding contextual safeguarding matters. In attendance at this meeting must be an exploitation police officer. Following the strategy meeting, the social worker must complete or update a risk assessment and have a clear safety plan, which should be collaboratively undertaken with a child and their network. When attending the MARVE operational panel, the social worker and manager must attend, clearly setting out the risks, safety plans, and how they would like the panel to assist. Multi-agency stakeholders will contribute with intelligence and resources to enhance safety and protective measures. When a decision has been made that a child or young people should be discussed the allocated social worker and supervisor will be invited to attend a ten-minute slot.

MARVE Plus (Transition Panel)

3. This is a panel for young people aged 18–25 where there is a cause of concern with regards to any form of exploitation, criminality, or safeguarding matters. The objective is to ensure oversight where there are concerns of ongoing exploitation, for young people as victims or perpetrators. Personal advisors (PA's) will be required to speak to a young person to seek their permission to be discussed at the panel. The pathway plan has a section that personal advisors are required to complete, to capture these concerns. If a young person does not give consent and the concerns are significant, then a team manager and PA can decide to discuss the young person, for the purposes of their safety and well-being. Like MARVE, PA's will attend with their supervisor for a ten-minute slot.

4. Stakeholders will consider the following when children and young people are presented:

- V – Victim(s)
- O - Offender(s)/perpetrators/persons of concern
- L – Location(s)
- T – Theme(s)

Strategic MACE

5. The strategic MACE panel is a multi-agency partnership that considers strategic matters that are fed through from the MARVE and MARVE Plus operational panel. The objective of this panel is strategic oversight, accountability and tracking of impact, across the multi-agency partnership. Where there are blockages to plans, themes, locations, and persons of interest; these will be discussed here with a view to early identification, escalation, planning, and disruption.

Strategy discussion

6. Whenever there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, there should be a strategy discussion involving Children’s Services, including the residential or fostering service if the child is looked-after, the police, health, and other bodies such as the referring agency. If feasible or within 24 hours a strategy discussion should also be held when a child is in police custody or about to be released from custody. The strategy discussion might take the form of a multi-agency meeting or phone calls and more than one discussion may be necessary. A strategy discussion can take place following a referral. Key stakeholders should be in attendance, including the police, and health. It is within these forums a decision is made whether to pursue the matter as a joint or single agency. There must be a clear summary of current risk and plan following this meeting and a decision made whether to refer to the MARVE operational panel, in conjunction with exploitation police colleagues. In making this decision, social workers and managers should refer to the threshold document contained within the 87a document, figure 1.

Risk Levels (RAG)

Emerging Risk	Some evidence that the child or young person is at risk of exploitation and / or places him/herself at risk. Some concerns that the child/ young person is at risk of being targeted or groomed, but there are positive protective factors in the child’s life. The child / young person may require a referral to targeted early intervention services for education / intervention.
Moderate Risk	Child is vulnerable to being exploited / but there are not immediate/ urgent safeguarding concerns. There is evidence the child / young person may experience protective factors, but circumstances and / or behaviours place him/her at risk of exploitation.
Significant Risk	Evidence / disclosure suggests that the child is at immediate and / or continuing risk of criminal exploitation. The child / young person is engaged in high-risk situations / relationships / risk taking behaviour. Evidence / assessments suggests that the child is experiencing exploitation (they may not recognise this).

Figure 1

7. The contextual risk assessment on Mosaic must be updated, which is embedded within the children and family's assessment, and pathway plans. This updated risk assessment will result in an updated plan, which must be collaboratively completed with the child or young person. The Wandsworth ethos of one plan is key. There is no need to have several iterations of risk assessments or plans, as this causes confusion and leads to challenges when tracking evidence of impact. The local authority will ensure through several internal panels that these risks assessments and plans are robust and demonstrate impact. These internal panels include Care Panel, Daily Intelligence Briefing, monthly meeting for missing children, learning episodes, and practice assurance activity. In all instances where exploitation is a concern for new and open children and young people, the updated risk assessment must be sent to the MARVE in box, so the administrator can ensure circulation for panel members to have sight of in the operational panel.

Organised and complex meetings

8. When exploitation has been identified and there are concerns that the abuse involves one or more abuser, multiple victims, a group, or location where additional focus is required to monitor peer networks and activity; consideration should be given as to whether this falls within the Organised and Complex Abuse procedures as outlined in chapter 8 of the London Child Protection procedures. There will be an expectation that intelligence from complex meetings will be shared at the strategic MACE panel, for oversight and to ascertain what resources can be galvanised from the partnership to assist with safety.

Practice

9. The MARVE and MARVE Plus panels are not there to manage the 'safe uncertainty' (Mason, 1993), that can arise in this specialist area of practice. The panels are not there to repeat conversations regarding risks and plans that have already taken place in strategy and complex meetings. Doing so is time consuming and detracts from resources that are needed to support and protect those children and young people we are most concerned about. In all discussions/supervision where exploitation has been evidenced, the following questions should be considered, explored, and evidenced on the child's file.

Is there an up-to-date risk assessment/plan?

Is it having impact/new risks emerging?

If there are blockages/increased/new risk or themes-is a strategy meeting required, with a view to refer to the MARVE or MARVE Plus operational panels?

Care experienced children-is there a up to date trigger plan?

Has an NRM been completed, and the outcome noted on the child/young person's file, with the reference number?

Wider Context

10. Both operational (MARVE and MARVE Plus) and strategic (MACE) report into the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP). Impact of practice is monitored by changes in RAG rating, which is included in our Corporate KPI's.

Missing

11. All Wandsworth missing children are recorded accordingly on Mosaic our case management system and upon their return from a missing episode, a Return Home Conversation (RHC) is offered and completed. The RHC is the responsibility of the allocated worker, be it the allocated Social Worker or Lead Practitioner. These allocations and notifications come directly from the Daily Intelligence Briefings (DIB) meeting, that occurs daily. The allocated worker and their manager will be tagged in the DIB minutes and expected to undertake and record the RHC within 72 hours of the child's return, as per the national Missing processes. This will be recorded on the child's record under the missing work step. The missing lead and intel analyst will have oversight of all missing children and ensure that RHCs are accurately recorded on the case management system, whilst adhering to the Missing protocol. Quarterly missing reports are produced and shared at the MACE and the monthly Missing meetings to highlight key themes and reflections around missing, whilst auditing RHCs and providing insight around thematic data from RHCs.

Daily Intelligence Briefings

12. This meeting is chaired by Children's services and in attendance are multi-agency partners including police, education, CSP, health and YJS. The purpose is to discuss children who have come to the attention of police, the preceding night. The objective is to ensure that children receive support at the earliest possibility, mitigate risks, and enable the network around children to be made aware of concerns. During this meeting, there is tracking of thematic data, including places or spaces of concern, these are fed into the MARVE and strategic MACE meeting by the chair. The community safety partnership being a key partner, enables decisive action in the community to keep children safe when concerns are raised.

National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

13. The NRM, is a legal status that can assist our vulnerable, exploited children and young people to ensure that they receive the appropriate support including legal advice, appropriate protection, and/or emotional support. The Evolve service leads on performance reporting for all Wandsworth children who have had an application for NRM's, due to experiences of forced labour, exploitation, and modern slavery. This enables tracking, and an ability to understand our children impacted by exploitation, including their age, gender, ethnicity, offence type, and location of offences. A monthly report is shared at MACE to highlight these themes, patterns of exploitation, modern slavery, and the intersectionality between these. The process of referring for an NRM and recording this on the child's record, is the responsibility of the social worker. The Evolve Senior Information Analyst is responsible for analysing the data and scrutinising this to understand the experiences of exploitation for Wandsworth children in and out of the borough.

Operation Philomena

14. Philomena Protocol as an important tactic to increase partnership and supportive engagement with Children's Social Care (CSC) placements across London, and to highlight the importance of information sharing. At the point of placement for a child/young person in local authority care, a Trigger Plan should be collaboratively completed. This will set out very clearly expectations regarding times to return to the place of residence and what actions to take if this does not happen. It is important that adults placed in a position to care for children and young people, are curious in their actions and seek information as to the location of the young person. By having a clear plan with contact numbers of family/friends and networks, this will

be the starting point for enquiries to take place. It is important to appreciate that each child and young person is risk assessed on merit and the appropriate police and partner action taken. In 2016, the College of Policing issued new Authorised Professional Practice, and this altered the definition of 'missing'. The definition of missing is 'Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established will be considered as missing until located, and their well-being or otherwise confirmed'.

Wandsworth Young People Placed Out of Borough

15. For young people placed out of borough, who do not reside in neighboring boroughs; the initial concerns will be heard at the Wandsworth MARVE operational panel. Subsequently a referral will be made to the MARVE operational panel equivalent that the child and young person resides in.

CHILD EXPLOITATION & MARVE PATHWAY

Lead practitioner identifies possible concerns/risks related to Child Exploitation using the **CE Risk Assessment Screening Tool** and referring to **MASH**.

MASH uses the **Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Screening Tool** to assess the level of risk (no risk, emerging, moderate, significant) based on available evidence. Moderate and Significant Risk, strategy meeting, and consider referral to **MARVE Panel**.

MASH to record **concerns/risks** related to child exploitation, including type and the level of risk, and record on Mosaic regarding the CYP and family.

MASH uses the threshold continuum, CE Risk Assessment Screening Tool and MARVE Protocol to determine what course of action to take, based on the level of risk identified.

ADDITIONAL NEEDS / UNIVERSAL

COMPLEX & SIGNIFICANT

EMERGING RISK

UNIVERSAL/ VULNERABLE EARLY HELP ASSESSMENT

- MASH refer to most appropriate Universal Service with input from the family and NFA.
- MASH to EH Lead Practitioner completes an Early Help Assessment.
- Information from the CE Risk Assessment Screening Tool is incorporated into Early Help Assessment and Family Plan for resulting intervention/s.
- Family Plan put in place and monitored via TAC.

MODERATE RISK

EARLY HELP/ TARGETTED SERVICES

- MASH to refer to EH Services for assessment or BIT for a C&F assessment.
- Information from the CE Risk Assessment Screening Tool is incorporated into relevant assessment and family plan i.e., EH plan, CiN, CP/S47.
 - Ensure timely and effective interventions are offered to children and families to safeguard those vulnerable to child exploitation.

MODERATE RISK

STATUTORY SERVICES

- May be at significant risk of harm.
- Lead Practitioner to escalate children and young people leading to a strategy meeting.
- Lead Practitioner completes a Child & Family Assessment.
- Information from the CE Risk Assessment Screening Tool is incorporated into relevant assessments/plans i.e., S47, CP/CiN Plan.
- Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Screening Tool to be used to inform Strategy Meeting and resulting Social Work intervention/s.
- Lead Practitioner to raise with professionals in the Strategy Meeting whether the children and young people should be referred to the **MARVE**

SIGNIFICANT RISK

STATUTORY SERVICES

- Identified as significant risk of harm.
- Lead Practitioner to escalate children and young people leading to a strategy meeting.
- Lead Practitioner completes a Child & Family Assessment.
- Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Screening Tool to be used to inform Strategy Meeting and resulting Social Work intervention/s.
- Information from the CE Risk Assessment Screening Tool is incorporated into relevant assessments/plans i.e., S47, CP/CiN Plan.
- Lead Practitioner to raise with professionals in the Strategy Meeting whether the child and young person should be referred to the **MARVE**

There will be ongoing communication/consultation with the Adolescent and Clinical Service where appropriate.
 Nana Bonsu (Head of Service for Adolescent and Clinical Services) November 2023

NO RISK
**Single Agency /
 Universal Services**
 Use a whole family approach to target risk factors.
No Further Action