

Introduction

There is a commitment within Childrens Services and the Northumberland Children and Adult Safeguarding Partnership (NCASP) to developing a safeguarding approach that supports practitioners to recognise and respond to worries and danger in contexts outside of a child or young person's family, whilst promoting safeguarding being everybody's responsibility.

Harm can occur outside of the family context, in spaces and places often identified within community settings and from people who are not a family member. Considering harm in this way encourages insight into the risk being contextual. This supports a shift in our approach and interventions, which enables us to focus our attention on supporting parents and carers by creating disruption and managing risk in the community.

Northumberland will use the term **contextual safeguarding** to describe its response to any identified harm outside of the family context.

Current situation

- ❑ Contextual safeguarding guidance was produced in September 2023 that outlines the new approach.
- ❑ The guidance was agreed at the Northumberland Children and Adult Safeguarding Partnership (NCASP) executive group in January 2024.
- ❑ A phased approach will be taken to work in this new way with children, young people and families where there are concerns outside of the family context.

Phase 1 plan

- ❑ The purpose is to pilot the new approach with a small number of young people regardless of threshold, to understand its impact and to identify any initial learning.
- ❑ The phase 1 plan is outlined below (*dates may be subject to change*). This includes a preparation stage, followed by a practice pilot over eight weeks, followed by an evaluation.
- ❑ Learning will be shared through the NCASP Strategic Exploitation Group.

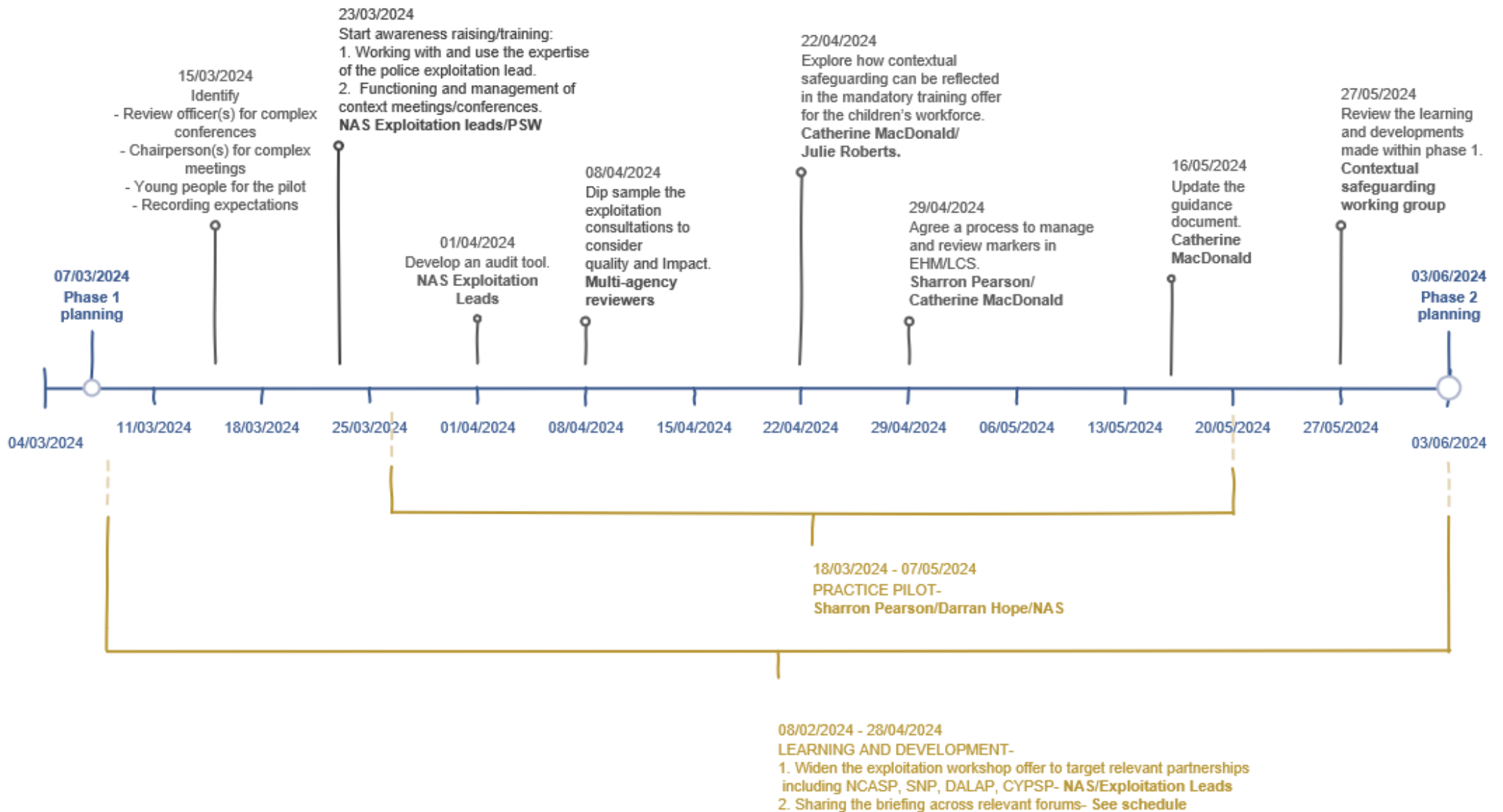
Areas for future consideration

- ❑ The learning from phase 1 will inform planning for any future phases of the pilot.
- ❑ Identified learning will contribute to the ongoing review of the Missing, Slavery, Exploitation and Trafficking (MSET) group.
- ❑ The final governance arrangements will align with statutory arrangements.

Relevant documents

- ❑ [2024 Annual Report - Exploitation](#)
- ❑ [Contextual Safeguarding guidance- September 2023](#)

Contextual safeguarding approach: Phase 1 plan



Appendix A

1. Forums to share and discuss the briefing

Safer Northumberland Partnership (SNP) - Thriving neighbourhoods and communities - Operational Alliance - NParc - Strategic board	18 March/20 May 2024 21 March/4 April 2024 June 2024 tbc September 2024 tbc	Sharron Pearson
Early Help Partnership Board	27 March 2024	Marie Roberts
Social Work Manager Meeting	02 April 2024	Catherine MacDonald
Domestic Abuse Local Area Partnership (DALAP) - CPVA subgroup - Partnership meeting	10 April 2024 01 May 2024	Saira Park
Quality of Practice Activity Group (QPAG)	24 April 2024	Sharron Pearson
Family Help Locality Meeting	02 April 2024	Marie Roberts
Children and Young People Strategic Partnership (CYPSP)	21 May 2024	Marie Roberts
Northumberland Children and Adult Safeguarding Partnership (NCASP) Business Group - Disabled children and young people group - Practice learning group - Strategic exploitation group - Safer in education group - Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Locality Meetings	21 March 2024 21 March 2024 28 May 2024 29 May 2024 27 June 2024 14/15 May 2024	Saira Park Saira Park Dorothy Chambers Sharron Pearson Jane Walker Carol Leckie

2. Multi-agency reviewers

Marie Roberts	Head of Service, Social Care and Early Help
Dorothy Chambers	Head of Service, Quality Assurance
Patrick Boyle	Head of Service, Safeguarding
Jane Walker	Head of Service, Virtual School
Sharron Pearson	Senior Manager, Northumberland Adolescent Service (NAS)
Darran Hope	Interim Service Manager, NAS
Kim Freeman	Manager, NAS
Emma Steele	Manager, NAS
Catherine MacDonald	Project and Quality Assurance Manager
Adam Hall	Residential Lead
Louise Dawson	Senior Reviewing Officer
Su Kaur	Principal Social Worker
Phil Hamlani	Detective Inspector, Northumbria Police
Alex Nesbitt	Northumbria Police (pre-MSET chair)
Liam Howley	Community and Environmental Health Manager, Public Protection
Saira Park	NCASP Business Manager
Alison Johnson	Designated Safeguarding Nurse, ICB