Child Exploitation

Partnership Assessment and Decision Making Tool

**What is this tool? -** The tool is to help you assess whether a child may be at risk of sexual or criminal exploitation (CSE/CCE).

**Who should you use this tool with? -** The tool can be used by any professional working with a child up to their 18th birthday.

**When to use the tool -** This tool is to help you make an initial assessment relating to a child’s vulnerability to, and/or risk of exploitation, and what actions are required; it is not intended to be a referral form. When you have completed the tool, please refer to the section **‘What Next’** to inform a conversation with your manager/safeguarding lead regarding how to proceed. If on completion you contact the Children’s Social Care (CSC) Duty and Advice Team, an electronic copy of the completed tool will be required to inform discussion.

**Using the tool -** In order to identify children at risk of, vulnerable to, or experiencing sexual and/or criminal exploitation, please consider **all** of the risk and vulnerability indicators and indicate your level of concern as **No, Low, Medium or High**. The table of indicators below is only a guide to inform your assessment it is not exhaustive and you may have other concerns; please highlight these in the other information box. Additionally the factors against each indictor are also not exhaustive and are simply prompts for consideration. Highlighting one high risk concern, or several low, may indicate a serious risk of harm/child exploitation, alternatively this might be an indication of other concerns which require addressing.

**You should be aware that:**

* Where there are concerns which relate to sexual exploitation and the **child is aged under 13**, a child contact must be made with the Children’s Social Care Duty and Advice team
* Where there are concerns of criminal or sexual exploitation and the child has **learning difficulties or a disability,** a child contact must be made with the Children’s Social Care Duty and Advice team
* It is important that you provide narrative at the end of the table to support and evidence your concerns.
* It is important that you provide information relating to others who may pose a risk of harm to the child/young person.
* When completing this tool it is essential to highlight if concerns raised and/or the information provided are **current or historic**. If either are historic but relevant, it necessary to reference how they relate to the current assessment of risk and vulnerability
* When completing the tool, it is crucial that the child or young person’s use of **social media** is considered throughout.

**Child, Parent and Professional details**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Child’s name** |  | | **DOB** |  | **Age** |  |
| **Address** |  | | **Contact number** |  | **Gender** |  |
| **Postcode** |  | | **Religion** |  | **Ethnicity** |  |
| **Child participated in the assessment** | **Yes** |  | **Comments** |  | | |
| **No** |  |
|  | | | | | | |
| **Name of Primary Carer** |  | | **Contact**  **number** |  | | |
| **Address and postcode**  (If different from the child’s) |  | | **Relationship to child** |  | | |
| **Carer contributed to the assessment** | **Yes** |  | **Comments** |  | | |
| **No** |  |
|  | | | | | | |
| **Person completing the assessment** |  | | **Agency/team** |  | | |
| **Contact details** |  | | **Signed** |  | | |
| **Consent to share with CSC provided** \*( where applicable) | **Yes** |  | **Comments** |  | | |
| **No** |  |

**Assessment of Risk and Vulnerability**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Friends and Family** | | | | 1. **Accommodation** | | | |
| ❖ Reduced contact with family /friends which is of concern ❖ New friends who are not known to parents/carers ❖ Unexplained change in attitude from the child ❖ Relationship (s) breakdown ❖ Suspected abuse in family (emotional, neglect, physical or sexual) ❖ A lack of warmth/understanding/attachment and/or trust from parent/carer ❖ Carers do not implement age appropriate boundaries (including use around social media) ❖ Failure to report missing episodes ❖ Abusive/bullying friendships ❖ Friends/family are involved in gang activity/known to the criminal justice system/Neighbourhood Police/ASB teams. | | | | ❖ Child or young person and or their family reside in unsuitable/unstable/temporary/overcrowded accommodation ❖ Concerns about location (neighbourhood, ASB, gang activity) ❖ Concerns about isolation/safety ❖ Is unhappy with accommodation (although it meets physical need) ❖ Often stays elsewhere ❖ Is homeless and or sofa surfing ❖ Resides independently in unsupported accommodation.  ❖ Accommodation is being accessed/used by adults/peers of concern or who pose a risk to the young person. | | | |
| **No** | **Low** | **Medium** | **High** | **No** | **Low** | **Medium** | **High** |
|  | | | | | | | |
| 1. **Education, Training, Employment (ETE)** | | | | 1. **Emotional Wellbeing** | | | |
| ❖ Is not engaged in ETE, and/or is not motivated to be❖ Excluded and/or does not have an education offer ❖ Whereabouts often unknown ❖ Frequently late/leaves early/leaves site, incidents of absence without permission ❖ Change in attitude to learning/employment ❖ Regular breakdown of school/training placements due to behavioural issues ❖ Increasingly disruptive, hostile/physically aggressive ❖ Friendships/peer groups either within or outside the ETE setting are with others at risk of criminal and/or sexual exploitation ❖ Is socially isolated in the ETE setting, and /or experiences bullying, abuse/violence/harassment | | | | ❖ Fatigue ❖ Poor self-image ❖ Low mood ❖ Self-harm - Cutting ❖ Overdosing ❖ Eating disorder ❖ Suicide attempts ❖ Concerning perceived ‘risk taking’ (substance misuse, sexual, offending)  ❖ Low self-esteem /self-confidence ❖ Bullying /threatening behaviour ❖ Aggression/violent outbursts ❖ Concerning substance misuse ❖ Expressions around invincibility or not caring about what happens to them  ❖ Fear and scare of reprisal or violence from other young people and /or adults | | | |
| **No** | **Low** | **Medium** | **High** | **No** | **Low** | **Medium** | **High** |
|  | | | | | | | |
| 1. **Experience of Abuse and Violence** | | | | 1. **Missing From Home or Care** | | | |
| ❖ Known (previous or current) violence and/or abuse from within the family, and/or from peers, associates, intimate partners ❖ Physical injuries ❖ Disclosure /evidence of physical /sexual assault ❖ Evidence of coercion /control ❖ Living in a gang associated neighbourhood ❖ Use of sexualised language and /or violence ❖ Risk taking behaviours (sexual and /or offending) ❖ Low self-esteem/self-confidence/self-harm ❖ Bullying/threatening behaviour, aggression, violent outbursts ❖ Limited or no recognition of abusive /exploitative behaviour or understanding of abusive /exploitative behaviour but unable to apply this to their own situation | | | | ❖Stays out late or overnight without permission /explanation ❖ Whereabouts unknown and child /young person secretive about where and who they spend time with ❖ Repeated episodes of running away/going missing/away from home/accommodation (Including short periods) ❖ Reported missing with other children /young people assessed to be at risk of criminal /sexual exploitation ❖ Known to spend time when away/missing with peers /adults assessed to be of concern ❖ Returns looking well cared for/not hungry/with new belongings ❖ Found/known to have been outside of their local of area and/or in locations of concern ❖ No known means self-support /travel whilst missing/away ❖ When missing /found, known to be with others involved with group /gang activity/offending behaviour/at risk of exploitation | | | |
| **No** | **Low** | **Medium** | **High** | **No** | **Low** | **Medium** | **High** |
|  | | | | | | | |
| 1. **Associations and Locations** | | | | 1. **Substance Misuse** | | | |
| ❖ Extensive use of phone/secret use/calls and contact with unknown others ❖ Has use of more than one mobile phone ❖ Spends time at addresses and places not know to parent/carer ❖Goes or is taken to places they or their family have no connections with  ❖ Evidence of associations /relationships with others believed /known to be involved in grooming /exploitation ❖ Friendships/associations with others at risk of criminal or sexual exploitation ❖ Gang association through relatives / peers /neighbourhood /intimate relationships ❖ Information suggests that they are at risk of /involved in County Lines (grooming/exploitation, drug dealing, moving money/goods and/or organised crime) ❖ Use of social media/mobile phone to share sexualised images ❖ Has arranged to meet up with unknown others via social media contact ❖ Use of social media/mobile phones for sharing gang related material/activities | | | | ❖ Evidence of regular / heavy or dependant substance (including alcohol) use ❖ Professional /parent /carer concern relating to use ❖ Concern regarding how substance misuse is being accessed /funded /supplied  ❖ Is believed to owe money/ be in debited to others related to substance misuse ❖ Has previously been cautioned /arrested /charged for, possession of drugs/ dealing drugs. ❖ Offending behaviour related to substance misuse | | | |
| **No** | **Low** | **Medium** | **High** | **No** | **Low** | **Medium** | **High** |
|  | | | | | | | |
| 1. **Coercion and Control** | | | | 1. **Rewards** | | | |
| ❖ Limited/reduced /no significant contact with family/friends, significant adults and/or services ❖ Appears to be ‘controlled’/negatively influenced by others ❖ Concerns about significant relationships and domestic abuse/coercion /control ❖ Is known to be associating with adults and/or peers of concern and does want to alter this ❖ Abduction/ forced imprisonment ❖ Gang association /involvement ❖ Sharing of intimate pictures /information online at the when asked /told to by an adult /peer/unknown person ❖ Secrecy regarding relationships ❖ Presents as being scared ❖ Picked up /dropped off from appointments by person’s unknown ❖ Phone calls that have to be responded to and /or leads to them be ‘needing’ to be elsewhere ❖ Professional concern relating to Modern day slavery /child trafficking | | | | ❖ Concern about unaccounted for monies and/or goods, (new clothes, jewellery mobile phone, mobile phone top –ups etc) ❖ Concern regarding the funding of drugs /alcohol /use of tobacco, cigarettes, entry into clubs, trips away from home, through unknown sources ❖ Has use of more than one mobile phone ❖ Secrecy about ability to ‘get around’ /‘be places’ without known mode of transport /funds ❖ Concerns about how the child/young person funds other items (fast food, taxi fares, etc.) | | | |
| **No** | **Low** | **Medium** | **High** | **No** | **Low** | **Medium** | **High** |
|  | | | | | | | |
| 1. **Sexual Relationships** | | | | 1. **Risk to Others** | | | |
| ❖ Young person is sexually active but not practising safe sex/is not accessing/willing to access, sexual health services ❖ Disclosure from young person regarding feeling pressured to have sex or to perform sexual acts in ‘exchange’ for status /protection, possessions, substances or affection ❖ Evidence of having (previously or currently) a sexually transmitted disease ❖ Concerns about untreated STi’s ❖ Miscarriage(s) /termination(s)/Pregnancy ❖ Physical symptoms suggestive of sexual assault ❖ Is in a sexual relationship with an adult /or there is a wide age gap  ❖ Is under 13 and sexually active ❖ Concerns about ability to consent due to intoxication/substance misuse/learning difficulty /disability | | | | ❖ Displays violence/bullying and threatening behaviour and/or angry outbursts ❖ Encourages or coerces others to engage in ‘risky’ activities and /or situations ❖ Introduces others to ‘risky’ people /places, via friendships, associations, venues ❖ Bullying  ❖ Sexualised bullying, including via the internet /social media sites ❖ Offending behaviour ❖ Gang association through relatives, peers or intimate relationships  ❖ Has been cautioned/arrested/charged for weapon offence(s)/gang activity/related violence ❖ Sells /distributes/shares drugs ❖ Displays harmful sexual behaviours | | | |
| **No** | **Low** | **Medium** | **High** | **No** | **Low** | **Medium** | **High** |
|  | | | | | | | |
| 1. **Engagement with Services** | | | | 1. **Wider Child and Family Factors** | | | |
| ❖ Reduced level of engagement or no meaningful engagement ❖ Secretive about friendships /associations/behaviours ❖ Sporadic contact, and /or missed appointments with limited explanation  ❖ Professional concern re ability to engage with child /young person ❖ Often otherwise distracted when attends /engages ❖ Presents as nervous and /or keen to be elsewhere | | | | **Family factors** – ❖ Known abuse /neglect in the family. ❖ Parental /family substance misuse ❖ Parental mental health ❖ Partner domestic abuse /violence /coercion and control ❖ Child to parent abuse ❖ Adult sex work ❖ Deprivation ❖Social isolation ❖ Parental experiences of exploitation  **Child factors** - ❖Learning disabilities /difficulties, (including not diagnosed) ❖ Financially unsupported  ❖ Unaccompanied migrant/refugee/asylum seeker  ❖ Recent bereavement or loss ❖ Unsure about sexual orientation or unable to disclose sexual orientation  ❖ Young carer ❖ Unmet need (social, emotional, physical) | | | |
| **No** | **Low** | **Medium** | **High** | **No** | **Low** | **Medium** | **High** |

**Additional Information**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * **Identified Protective Factors** | | | | |
|  | | | | |
| * **Other Relevant Information (such as places and people of concern)** | | | | |
|  | | | | |
| **Views of the child or young person** |  | | | |
| **Views of parent/carer** |  | | | |
| **Overall level of assessed Risk and Vulnerability**  **(Please provide details of relevant information to support your indicated levels of concern)** | | | | |
|  | | | | |
| **No** | | **Low** | **Medium** | **High** |
| Whilst there may be concerns for the welfare of the child which may require service provision, there are no current concerns relating to the risk of vulnerability of exploitation | | The information and assessment raises some concerns relating to the child’s risk and vulnerability, but there are positive protective factors in the child/young person’s life. | Overall the information and assessment indicates that the child is vulnerable to /at risk from exploitation. However there are no immediate or urgent safeguarding concerns | The overall assessment indicates that the child is highly vulnerable to, at risk from exploitation or that they are currently experiencing exploitation. (They may not recognise this) |
|  | |  |  |  |

**What Next**

* Where the assessed level of risk and vulnerability is **Medium or high,** contact Children’s Services Duty & Advice team to discuss and agree next steps.
* Keep a copy of this tool in your agency records and use it to inform any identified vulnerability, risk or need, and for planning intervention /support the child and their family may require.
* Where the overall assessed level of concern is **Low** and the child does not have an allocated social worker, review your assessment on a regular basis, (at a minimum on a quarterly basis) and if there is an increased level of concern, complete a new tool. Where this leads to an overall assessment of **Medium or High**; contact Children’s Social Care Duty and Advice Team to discuss your increased concern.
* Where the child /young person already has an allocated social worker, you must contact them to share this tool.
* If sharing a completed tool with Children’s Social Care, an electronic version of this tool will be required.