

Sexual Exploitation (Adults) – At a Glance

Seeking assurance that victims of sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and human trafficking sits with the [Darlington Safeguarding Partnership](#). Sometimes victims of Sexual exploitation are also a victim of modern slavery. This tool is a guide to support staff and volunteers, if it is known or suspected that an adult is experiencing or at risk of sexual exploitation. For all concerns related to children, visit the [Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Multi Agency Child Protection Procedures](#)



Signs Indicators of Sexual Exploitation

Exploitation is the deliberate maltreatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over another person. It is taking advantage of another person or situation usually, but not always, for personal gain. Being able to recognise the signs or indicators that someone is being exploited can help to prevent victims from further abuse and offer access to help, support and protection. Everybody has a responsibility to keep people safe from abuse.

Some Signs of potential increased risk include – Low self- esteem, lack of engagement with protective networks, history of sexual abuse, social isolation, breakdown of relationships, coercion or control, substance misuse, learning disability or difficulty, unusual internet activity or susceptibility to grooming, going missing, changes in appearance or behaviour, sexual health issues or self harm. See also –Darlington Safeguarding Partnership – Practice tool to aid decision making. If you suspect someone is displaying signs that they are experiencing or at risk of sexual exploitation you can use the practice tool to assist your decision making and the potential of increased risk.

REMEMBER to document your decision making, have you taken action to manage the current risk, have you recorded whether you will [share information or your reasons for not sharing](#)

Sexual Exploitation Referral Pathway

Victim has the appearance of care and support needs

Safeguarding Adults procedures include sexual exploitation as a form of abuse. If you suspect a victim of sexual exploitation is an adult at risk as defined by the Care Act 2014:

1. is aged 18 or over and
2. has needs for care and support (whether or not those needs are being met) and
3. as a result of those needs is unable to protect him or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it you should submit a [safeguarding adults concern form](#) to ssact@darlington.gov.uk

or
ring the First Point of Contact Team
01325 406111

Case meets MARAC criteria

1. Explain to the victim what the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) procedure is, and confidentiality.
2. Complete the [DASH \(Domestic Abuse Stalking and Honour Based Violence\) Risk Checklist](#). Find out more and checklists in a range of [languages and formats](#).
3. Complete [the MARAC referral form](#).

Where DASH risk checklist highlights a high risk, you must make a MARAC referral. (MARAC applies to age 16 years and over)

Does not meet MARAC or Safeguarding criteria

1. Take action. Consider any immediate or longer term risk.
2. Signpost to relevant services. e.g. [Harbour](#) or
3. Refer to the First Point of Contact Team on 01325 406111 for signposting
4. Reconsider the DASH Risk Checklist and MARAC referral regularly.

If you cannot identify a victim but suspect modern slavery, human trafficking or sexual exploitation ring 101