

# Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Information Form

**All** of the following information is required when there are concerns regarding a child being at risk of /and or experiencing exploitation.

This referral should be used where there is evidence or intelligence to suggest that a child is being or has been 'exploited'.

'Child Exploitation' includes:

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
  - County Lines
  - o Children involved or living within or affected by Organised Crime Groups
- Child Trafficking and other forms of Modern Day Slavery

Referral		Review		Final		
Named worker leadin	g on		<b>Contact Details</b>		Date	
the Risk Assessment			& Agency			
Authorising line mana	iger		<b>Contact Details</b>		Date	
			& Agency			

• Additional Information : names, contact details including email addresses of professionals who contributed to the completion of this matrix.

Child's full name (+ aliases)	D.O.B.	Age	Home Address and contact number	Agency I.D. Reference Number
Disphility (not just physical)	Gender	Ethnicity	First language	
Disability (not just physical)	Identity	Ethnicity	First language	Child Legal Status
			Known to CAMHS / Referral (date	
GP Details & contact number	Known to Police	Known to YOS	made) / Awaiting Assessment / Clarify Pathway	Current School

## **Child Exploitation Risk Assessment**

The Child Exploitation Risk Assessment should be developed alongside with and complimenting any other assessment and plan for the young person's welfare. Please use this tool in line with local Safeguarding Partnership Procedures.

### **Guidance Notes**

- This guidance checklist can be used by all professionals working with children. Please refer to 8. Children s Society Appropriate language child sexual andor criminal exploitation guidance for professionals.pdf when completing this.
- This exploitation risk matrix starts with a pen picture of the young person and any presenting vulnerabilities, allowing you to then focus on the specific issues re exploitation.
- This guidance checklist can help you focus on the specific indicators of child exploitation and determine whether further advice and/or support is needed. The checklist could be used in supervision, in discussions with parents and carers, with other professionals and with the child.
- Professionals need to exercise their own judgement when completing the checklist. This includes being **explicit** about concerns based on evidence **AND** concerns based on "gut feeling". Staff should differentiate between the two and explain this in the notes section.
- Where child exploitation is suspected the worker should discuss their concerns with their manager and should also inform their agency's lead professional who will be monitoring the bigger picture for any emerging patterns.
- Professionals should feel free to use the checklist creatively, including as part of awareness raising work with children or in engaging parents and carers in understanding the issues.
- When assessing a child or young person's risk of exploitation, it is essential to highlight if the concerns and the information being provided is <u>current or historic</u>. If the concern or information is historic but relevant, it necessary to <u>evidence</u> how this relates to the current assessed risk.
- Evidence of exploitation is mandatory.
- Once completed if it confirms concerns and/ or identifies risk of significant harm, you **must** make a referral to First Contact **Note:** where a child under the age of 13 years old, and /or has learning disability and there are concerns regarding child exploitation, a referral to Children's Social Work Services is required.
- Please add any intelligence you may have onto <u>force.intelligence@durham.police.uk</u>
- Consider a referral via the NRM if it is suspected that the child is being moved for the purposes of exploitation. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-how-to-identify-and-support-victims/modern-slavery-statutory-guidance-for-england-and-wales-under-s49-of-the-modern-slavery-act-2015-and-non-statutory-guidance-for-scotland-and-northe">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-how-to-identify-and-support-victims/modern-slavery-statutory-guidance-for-england-and-wales-under-s49-of-the-modern-slavery-act-2015-and-non-statutory-guidance-for-scotland-and-northe</a>

No exploitation concerns	The child may be vulnerable and in need of support and service intervention, but particular circumstances do not increase the child's risk of exploitation over and above "normal" adolescent behaviour Not Adopted/flagged)	
Low Risk	The indicators and assessment raise some concerns that the young person is vulnerable to being targeted and groomed for exploitative means. Warning signs and multiple indicators leading to a suspicion of Child Exploitation but no known offences and there are positive protective factors in the child young person life.	
Moderate Risk	The assessment provides evidence or suspicion of the young person being groomed or targeted for the purposes of exploitation, is at risk of future exploitation and suspected to be in direct or indirect physical or sexual contact with at least one or multiple perpetrators (older adults, peers online or offline) and further work is required to understand the risk involved.	
	There is evidence the young person may be a risk of opportunistic abuse, or is being targeted or groomed, but there are <b>no immediate or urgent safeguarding concerns</b> .	
Significant Risk	Indicators, Assessment, Evidence, Disclosure suggests that the young person is being, or at significant risk of being exploited. Such as, sexually and or physically e.g. drug trafficking, trafficking for sexual purposes or other, modern day slavery (including organised begging), on-line, with one or multiple perpetrators (older adults, peers) and where coercion or control is likely to be but not exclusively implicit. The assessment leads us to suspect that a child <b>IS</b> a victim of exploitation <b>OR</b> is in <b>imminent</b> danger of being exploited Significant Risk can never be held at an early help level and requires Statutory Intervention. <b>A Strategy meeting must be initiated.</b>	

I consider this child to be at risk of:	Please tick
Sexual Exploitation	
Harmful Sexual Behaviours	
Online Exploitation	
Criminal Exploitation	
County Lines	
Modern Slavery / Trafficking	
Financial Exploitation	

See link for: Child sexual exploitation: definition and guide for practitioners - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Line Manager/ Designated	Date agreed	
Child Protection lead		
verification		

## What Next

- On completion of this exploitation matrix risk identification tool, please make an initial judgement about the level of risk of exploitation for the child / young person.
- Please **tick** against your assessed level of risk and discuss this with your Manager /designated Child Protection Lead and take appropriate action to manage the risks, in accordance with the Local Authority / Safeguarding Partnership procedures.

#### Vulnerability / Welfare Pen Picture

Below provides a list of vulnerability indicators, to help you create a pen picture of the young person's vulnerability, including involvement with professionals and services. The intention is to separate out the issues that make a young person vulnerable from what concerns us in respect of exploitation. In the evidence box below can you be specific about the young persons vulnerabilities.

Vulnerability Factors	Please tick
1. Known to the Local Authority	
2. History of Local Authority Care	
3. Mental Health issues / Self Harm / Suicidal (provide details)	
4. Physical Disability (be specific about what disability)	
<ol><li>Learning Difficulties / Education, Health &amp; Care Plan/ Special Educational Needs/Disability (be clear in the evidence box below relevant issue)</li></ol>	
6. Learning disabilities/special needs (be specific about disability)	
7. Reduced capacity (due to age, education, experiences, mental health, language barriers)	
8. Drug / Alcohol Use of the child	
<ol> <li>Family conflict/ breakdown, lack of love/security, bereavement through death, loss, illness of a significant person in child's life (ACE'S)</li> </ol>	
10. Behaviour outside of parental control	
11. Prior experience of neglect, emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse	
12. 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)	
13. Organised Crime Group Family	
14. Social Isolation	
15. Education attendance issues / Attends an alternate education provision / NEET	

16. Disguised compliance by family or minimisation of risks / Poor parental engagement with professionals			
17. Family history / current experience of sex work			
18. Economic vulnerability of child and family / Homelessness or insecure accommodation status			
19. Unclear of how to explore cultural / sexual identity safely			
Evidence (please reference the number of the vulnerability you have ticked and include evidence):			

### **Guidance:**

Below you will see a list of indicators that range from a child who is being exploited, may be being exploited or early indicators of exploitation. There is also space to indicate current or prior to 6 months ago. It is vital you provide clear evidence with date stamp and source of information.

**NB** you must also ensure you have shared any intelligence with Durham Police through the partnership form. If a child is at risk of significant harm and/or a crime is happening now you must dial 999.

	Within the last	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months
Risk indicators of a child who is exploited	month:	ago*:	ago:
	Please tick	Please tick	Please tick

<ol> <li>Criminal concerns/risk factors         <ul> <li>Concerning or escalating levels of criminal behaviours</li> <li>Increasing contact with Police (for example, arrests and stop-searches)</li> <li>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)</li> </ul> </li> </ol>		
<ul> <li>2. County Lines concerns/risk factors</li> <li>a) Evidence of drugs on child</li> <li>b) Arrested for dealing drugs</li> <li>c) More than one mobile phone, multiple sim cards</li> <li>d) Information to suggest child has more than one mobile number</li> <li>e) Use of social media to sell drugs</li> <li>f) Evidence or intelligence to suggest child is carrying a weapon</li> <li>g) Victim of robbery (Lots of children end up debt bonded through staged robberies)</li> <li>h) Drug dealers demanding money for alleged drug debt</li> <li>i) Carrying knives or guns</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>3. Repeated periods of absence/missing (day and/or night)</li> <li>a) Frequently missing with whereabouts unknown or of concern/missing episodes out of borough</li> <li>b) Missing with other young people assessed as being at risk/experiencing / abused through exploitation</li> <li>c) Parents not reporting the child missing but known episodes of being away from home for significant periods of time</li> <li>d) Pattern of street homelessness</li> <li>e) Persistently running away/going missing from placement or returning late</li> </ul>		

4.	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			
a)	Teenage relationship abuse which may be same sex relationship			
b)				
c)	Young person believing they are in a relationship or friendship with an older adult / peer			
	relationship			
d)	Other relationship where control appears to be present that indicates concern			
e)	Gang associations (including family connections)			
f)	Associations with other young people known or suspected to be exploited			
5.	Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults (not car theft)			
a)	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)			
6.	Unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothes or other items (including digital currency)			
a)	More than one mobile phone, multiple sim cards		_	
b)	Unaccounted for money/goods/jewellery			
c)	Hotel keys			
d)	In possession of travel tickets, or any indication that the young person is intending to travel, or has			
	travelled out of the area (not necessarily out of County).			
e)	In possession of condoms, Vaseline (possible plugging)			
7.	Internet and mobile technology: groomed/abused/exploited:			
a)	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, offer of financial reward,			
	more than one person involved			
b)	Using internet to identify and meet unknown peers/adults		_	
c)	Evidence of displaying or receiving sexualised bullying via the internet/social media			
d)	Multiple social media accounts			
e)	Excessive texts and calls/changes in behaviour or absconding in response to phone activity	_		
	(aggressive/anxious)			
8.	Unexplained contact with hotels, taxi companies or fast food outlets:			
a)	Frequented unknown hotels/B&Bs			
b)	Being picked up by different taxis on a regular basis with no plausible explanation or money to pay			
	for them			

<ul> <li>9. Evidence of significant harm sexual/physical assault</li> <li>a) Victim of assault caused by weapon/knife</li> <li>b) Evidence or intelligence to suggest child is carrying a weapon</li> <li>c) Victim of robbery (Lots of children end up debt bonded through staged robberies)</li> <li>d) Concerns child has made an allegation of serious sexual/physical harm (can include kidnap)</li> <li>e) Allegation of sexual/physical harm later withdrawn</li> </ul>				
<ul> <li>10. A&amp;E attendance or presenting an injury of concern to any professional</li> <li>a) No appropriate adult in attendance or concerns about adult in attendance with child</li> <li>b) Young person unwilling to share details</li> <li>c) Inappropriate explanation of presenting symptoms/physical injuries without plausible explanation</li> </ul>				
Evidence: The information should be clearly dated as to when it was first received, but also as to the date the concern relates to. The information should specify clearly where the information originated – what was the source? E.g pupil x disclosed to teacher that they witnessed, Child of concern disclosed to substance misuse worker that The Information should be specific to a particular person, vehicle, or incident Please provide as much detail as possible regarding names / nicknames / dates of birth / descriptions / vehicle details / addresses - which should include residence if known, location of incident, school / college / workplace attended etc.				

\* evidence of a risk indicator from 3 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	Within the last	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	
Strong mulcators that a child may be / is being exploited	month:	ago*:	ago:	

		Please tick	Please tick	Please tick
1.				
a)	Frequently staying out late without permission and whereabouts unknown and/or of concern			
b)	Absconding from education provision and whereabouts are unknown (to school or parents) and/or of concern			
_				
2.				
a)	Not attending school and whereabouts are unknown (to school and parents)			
b) c)	Being on a part time timetable Suspended or permanently from school and not in alternative provision			
d)	Electively home educated but concern around this and child's whereabouts during day		_	_
ω,				
3.	Involvement in Anti-social behaviour/low level offending/criminality			
a)	Subject to formal anti-social behaviour enforcement			
b)	Criminal damage in the community/home	_		_
c)	Low-level assaults with peers (could be in school or in the community)			
d)	Frequenting abandoned buildings			
e)	Alcohol seized by Police			
4.	Regular/Multiple contacts from unknown adults or known adults/peers of concern			
a)	At educational provision			
b)	At home/placement address			
c)	On the telephone/text/messaging apps			
d)	Online via social media/gaming/email			
e)	Excited about new friendships that are unknown			
5.	Sexually transmitted infections/ Pregnancies / termination of pregnancies			
a)	Multiple (of the above)		_	
b)	Concerns raised via school nurse/GUM Clinic			
6.	Drug and/or alcohol (mis)use			
a)	Concerning or increasing levels of substance use	_		
b)	Issues with drugs/alcohol/tobacco through unknown sources			

c) d)	, 1 0		
a) b) <b>c)</b> d) e)	Internet and mobile technology which causes concern – Sending/receiving of youth generated sexual images with no aggravating factors Protective of phone/high volume texts/calls Change in behaviour in response to mobile phone contacts, increasingly secretive Unexplained mobile phone / gaming credits Online through the night		
	Significant changes in normal presentation		
a) b)	Isolation from peers and / or withdrawal & detachment from family. Volatile behaviour exhibiting extreme array of mood swings or abusive language which is unusual for		
- /	the child.		
c)	Physical aggression or violence towards parents, siblings, pets, teachers or peers.		
d)	Becoming angry, hostile if any suspicions or concerns about their activities are expressed or plans are disrupted.		
e)	Detachment from age-appropriate activities.		
f)	Secretive behaviour.		 
g)	Change in social group; particularly change in age (older associates) or size of group (gangs).		
h)	Viewing family as enemy and associates as family. Wearing two layers of clothing from home (one to shed to avoid police detection)		
i) j)	Change in behaviour – from lack of eye contact to bravado, arrogant, squaring up, rudeness or		
11	aggression.		
k)	Change in language / vocabulary – use of coarse and offensive language and/or terminology / unusual		
	nicknames.		
I)	Change in appearance – smart to 'street' or wearing expensive/ designer labels (no explanation).		
	A&E attendance of concern or with no plausible explanation		
a)	No appropriate adult in attendance (or concerns about adult in attendance) or young person		
	unwilling to share details		

b) Inappropriate explanation of presenting symptoms		
10. Being accompanied to any appointments by an unknown person that causes concern		
Evidence: The information should be clearly dated as to when it was first received, but also as to the date the concern relates to. The information should specify clearly where the information originated – what was the source? E.g pupil x disclosed to teacher the concern disclosed to substance misuse worker that The Information should be specific to a particular person, vehicle, or incident Please provide as much detail as possible regarding names / nicknames / dates of birth / descriptions / vehicle details / addresses - wh location of incident, school / college / workplace attended etc.		

Early indicators of exploitation	Please tick
Unsuitable/inappropriate accommodation/sofa surfing/financially unsupported (including migrant or refugee children)	
Isolated from or reduced contact with normal peers/family/social networks	
Association with new/unknown groups of peers	
Poor school attendance (current in last 6 months)         Deterioration in school results         Missing from education	
<ul> <li>Concerns raised about use of internet including</li> <li>Poor privacy setting on social media</li> <li>Interacting with high numbers of unknown social media "friends"</li> <li>Poor understanding of how to stay safe online</li> </ul>	

Engaged in offending and/or anti-social behaviour		
Siblings involved in sexual exploitation		
Poor engagement with support services/key worker		
Evidence: The information should be clearly dated as to when it was first received, but also as to the date the concern relates to. The information should specify clearly where the information originated – what was the source? E.g pupil x disclosed to teacher that they witnessed, Child of concern disclosed to		

#### substance misuse worker that.....

The Information should be specific to a particular person, vehicle, or incident

Please provide as much detail as possible regarding names / nicknames / dates of birth / descriptions / vehicle details / addresses - which should include residence if known, location of incident, school / college / workplace attended etc.

**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.

Voice/views of the child or young person. (Consider Peer Mapping)		

Views of the parent / carer / Network of Support

Information about suspects, vehicles and locations

(\*Such as the name of adults /peers about who there are concerns, relating to the child's risk of exploitation)

Identified Gaps in Assessment and Action Required to Obtain Information

## **Multi-Agency Safety Plan**

**NB** there shouldn't be any confidential information within this document, the purpose of the matrix is to share with the young person their parents/ carers and support network to help understand the exploitation concerns and how we can work together to reduce them.

Guidance on engagement and disruption can be found here: Child exploitation disruption toolkit - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

#### **Disruption Plan:**

#### What actions have already been taken and by whom to reduce the harm and address the future danger.

Date	Agency	Action Taken

#### Ongoing Disruption Planning: Consideration to the CE Home Office disruption toolkit

What needs to happen?	By whom?	By when?

Young Person and family Network of Support: consider who is supporting the young person, parents / carers to keep the young person safe outside the home:

## **Review timescales**

For those children and young people who are judged to be at low, medium or high risk of Child Exploitation, the level of risk <u>must</u> be reviewed at the following frequency:

LOW RISK	Durham 6 weekly	At low risk work should be incorporated into the child's current care plan
MODERATE RISK	Durham 4 weekly	Forward this assessment form to ERASE (Child Exploitation) Team (email below)
SIGNIFICANT RISK	Durham 4 weekly	Forward this assessment form to ERASE (Child Exploitation) Team (email below)

Please send medium and high assessments electronically via CEVT@durham.police.uk

- Durham Children and Young People to First Contact at Durham Social Services
- Darlington Children and Young People to Children's Access Point at Darlington Borough Council

Review why practitioners send through low matrix is this necessary?