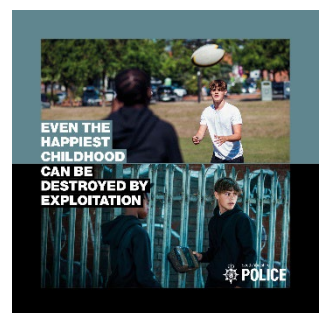
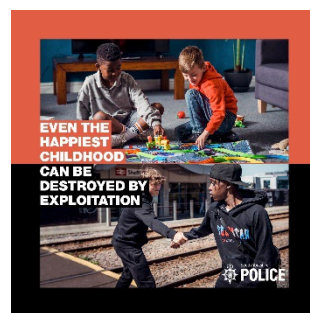
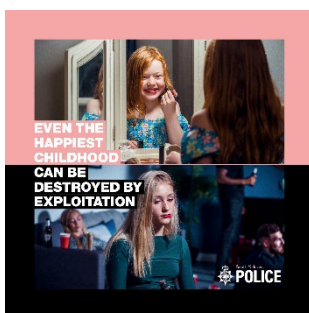


# Multi-Agency Child Exploitation meeting (MACE)

Guidance for professionals with concerns about harm outside the home including: Child Criminal Exploitation, County Lines, and Child Sexual Exploitation (October 2023)



## What is Contextual safeguarding / Harm outside the home (HOtH)

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach and a term developed by Dr Carlene Firmin and colleagues at the University of Bedfordshire in 2015. The Bedfordshire model is widely regarded as an example of good practice. Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine carer-child relationships.

Thankfully we know that most young people live positive lives and are not involved, or experience being exploited. However, there are a small number of young people who do become involved and this can have a significant impact on the families and communities, as well as themselves.

Historically different forms of exploitation have had different approaches and responses however this guidance recognises that whilst there are different forms of exploitation, there exists a child who is at risk of and/or subjected to abuse and harm. We therefore take a holistic view of exploitation; Recognising that it can occur through different forms and often occurs in and amongst other vulnerabilities that children and young people may experience and/or be exposed to.

In Barnsley, we use the term Harm Outside the Home (HOtH), this is to reflect the change in definition that has been used in the consultation Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023 (procedure?) which is looking to standardise the response to this form of abuse through undertaking pilot projects in some Local Authorities. Here in Barnsley, we recognise that current Child Protection Processes were not built to support children and families that are experiencing HOtH and so we are closely following the progress of the pilot projects taking place in other Local Authorities and will be continuously reviewing and adapting our offer for this cohort of children to ensure the best outcomes.

## What is Child Exploitation?

### Definition of child exploitation:

Child exploitation is when someone uses a child for financial gain, sexual gratification, labour or personal advantage.

Using cruel and violent treatment to force a child to take part in criminal or sexual activities often leads to physical and emotional harm to the child, to the detriment of their physical and mental health, education, and moral or social development.

"The exploitation of children can take a number of different forms and perpetrators may subject children and young people to multiple forms of abuse at the same time, such as criminal exploitation (including county lines) and sexual exploitation." [Home Office \(2022\)](#).

Exploitation in the wider definition involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (E.G. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money, status) as a result of them completing a task on behalf of another individual or group of individuals; this is often of a criminal or sexual nature.

Child exploitation often occurs without the child's immediate recognition, with the child believing that they are in control of the situation. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion, and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social, economic or emotional vulnerability. These 'constrained choices' can make it difficult for the child to recognise that they are being exploited, as they can feel that this

is something that they are choosing to be a part of without recognising the wider context of those constrained choices.

## **Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meeting**

### **Overview**

The purpose of the MACE meeting is to provide operational management oversight of the risk management for individual children and groups of children identified as being vulnerable to child exploitation. We are aware that child exploitation takes places in the local community and therefore information known to statutory as well as voluntary sector agencies should be used to highlight the vulnerabilities, threats, to establish, and reduce risk.

The MACE meeting will provide the framework to allow regular information sharing and action planning to tackle child exploitation across Barnsley. The meeting will discuss concerns about children and young people who may be at risk from: CSE, CCE (including county lines), modern slavery and human trafficking that requires a multi-agency response.

The meeting will take place weekly and will be chaired by the team manager from the B-Safe Team (or an appropriate alternate, where needed). Safeguarding partners who will also attend the meeting will include, but not exhaustively, lead practitioners and managers from: Early Help, Children's Social Care, South Yorkshire Police, Education, Youth Justice Service, Housing, Health Services, Young Persons Substance Misuse Service and the Safer Neighbourhood Service.

The MACE meeting will facilitate effective action to prevent and disrupt exploitation by:

- Supporting the effective sharing of relevant information in accordance with the BSCP Information Sharing Agreement. (ISA)
- Enable agencies to identify those at risk of child exploitation as well as victims, perpetrators, and locations of concern; to aid disruption of perpetrators and provide support to victims and their families.
- Ensuring that all agencies are working together effectively to prevent, reduce, track and respond to children missing from home, care, or education, including those children in out of Barnsley placements.
- Providing advice and guidance, including the promoting of robust and proactive multiagency investigations where a risk of exploitation has been identified, especially where children and young people do not perceive themselves as victims.
- Seek assurance from all relevant agencies that the full range of disruption measures are being used to target perpetrators.
- Sharing information to understand the nature and extent of child exploitation in Barnsley, as well as enabling the identification of patterns and intelligence gaps.

MACE Meetings are not an alternative to safeguarding and child protection processes and where there is a concern about abuse or neglect within the family, including where parents/carers not acting protectively, the usual S.47 processes should be used and where necessary a Child Protection Plan will be made.

MACE meetings can be held alongside Child Protection Conferences and Core Group Meetings.

### **Referrals to MACE**

There are 2 main referral pathways into MACE; cases that are already known and open to social care and other services and those that are new cases referred to Barnsley's Integrated Front Door. Please see Fig1 and Fig 2. Fig 3 depicts process via Child Protection Strategy Meetings (to be launched).

Fig 1. Referral to MACE – New Cases

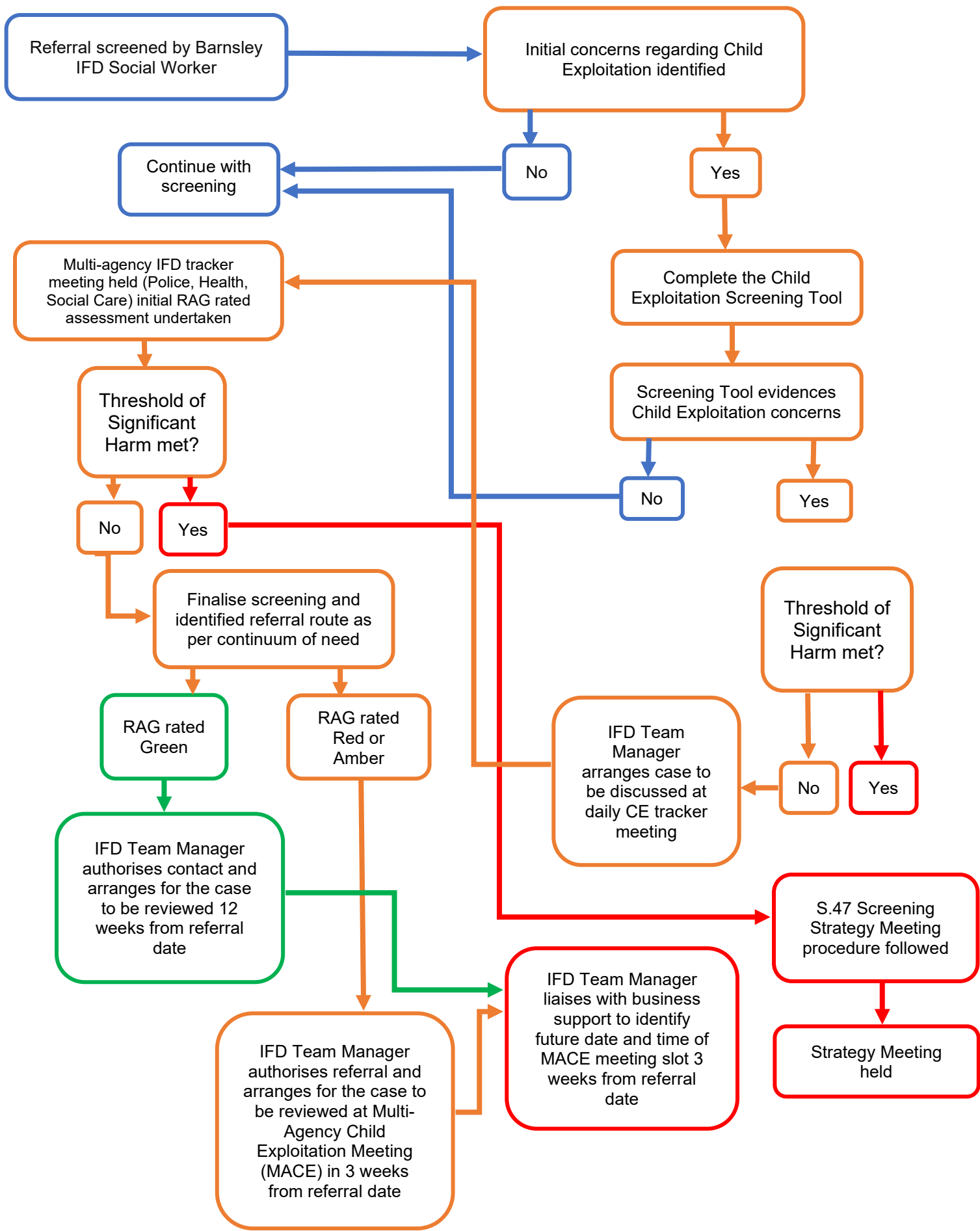
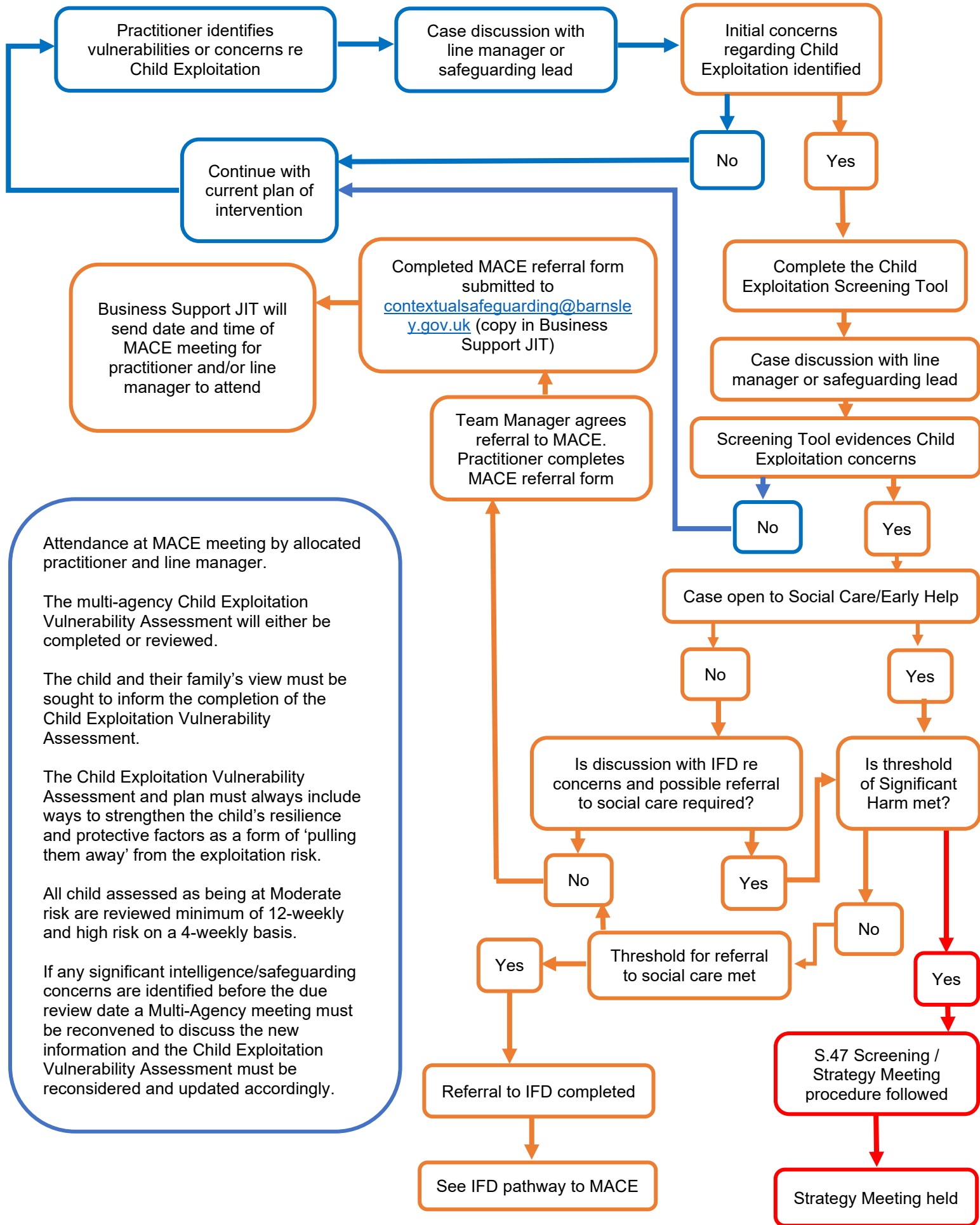


Fig 2. Referral to MACE – Open Cases (CSC/EH/YJS)



Attendance at MACE meeting by allocated practitioner and line manager.

The multi-agency Child Exploitation Vulnerability Assessment will either be completed or reviewed.

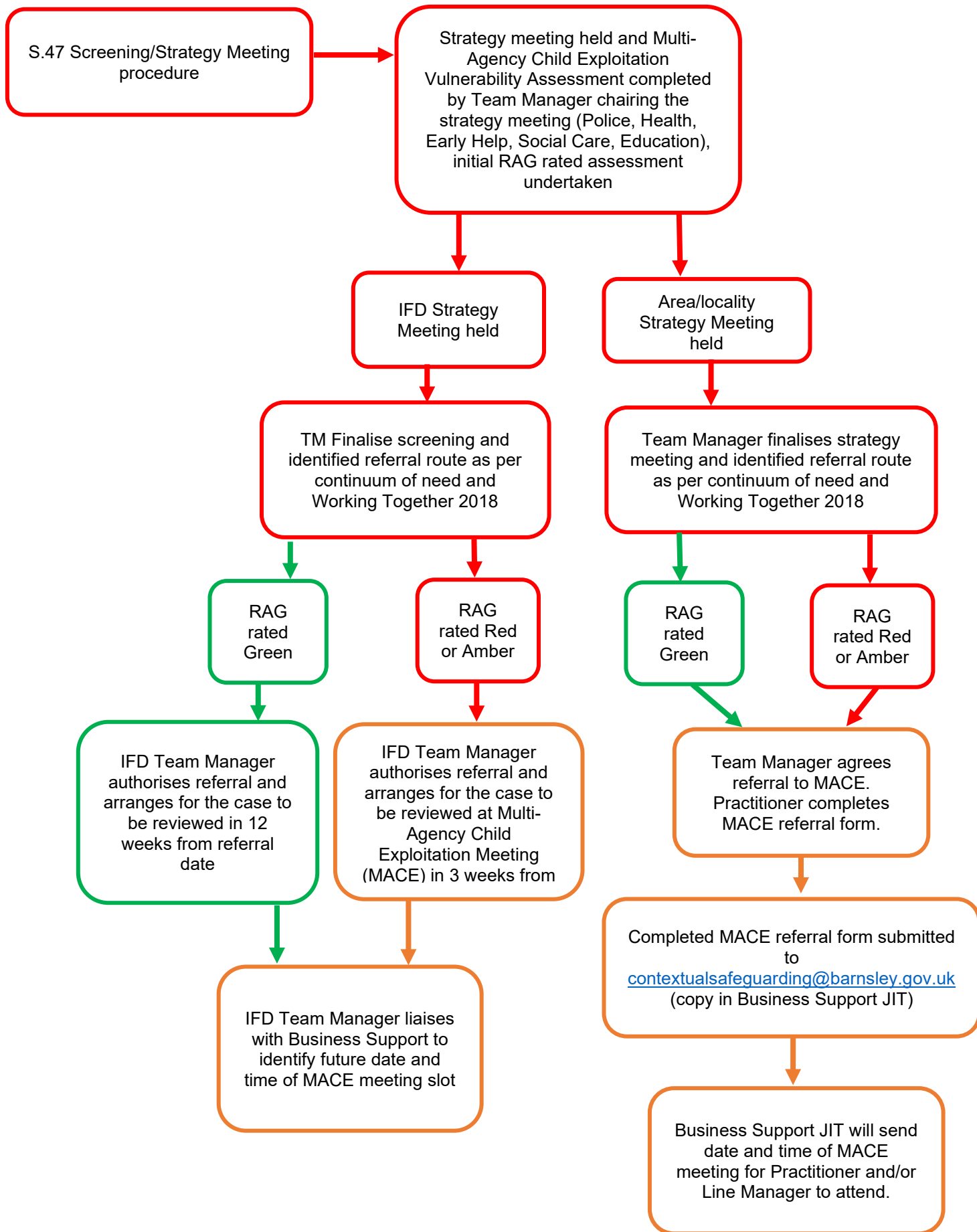
The child and their family's view must be sought to inform the completion of the Child Exploitation Vulnerability Assessment.

The Child Exploitation Vulnerability Assessment and plan must always include ways to strengthen the child's resilience and protective factors as a form of 'pulling them away' from the exploitation risk.

All child assessed as being at Moderate risk are reviewed minimum of 12-weekly and high risk on a 4-weekly basis.

If any significant intelligence/safeguarding concerns are identified before the due review date a Multi-Agency meeting must be reconvened to discuss the new information and the Child Exploitation Vulnerability Assessment must be reconsidered and updated accordingly.

Fig 3. Referral to MACE – Via Child Protection Strategy Meetings



MACE meetings identify victims and/or offenders in relation to child exploitation, offering added value solutions to the victim's care plans and clearly identifying disruption opportunities and the criminal justice responses. They are not care planning meetings and will not scrutinise individual care plans, the panels will instead consider activities that can be undertaken in addition to the victim's care plan to further enhance and safeguard them. The MACE panels will scrutinise the tasks and actions for each individual discussed and review the progress and effectiveness of allocated actions, holding to account the individuals and agencies responsible for completing the tasks.

The meeting will also facilitate: -

- Partners understanding their role in the protection of children vulnerable to exploitation, the disruption of location activity and the prosecution and pursuing of perpetrators.
- Partner agencies bringing their own agency knowledge/legislation and guidance to utilise when identifying actions.
- Partner agencies contributing to all meetings, meaning the discussions are not wholly led by the police or social care services.
- All partners contributing to the completion of the child exploitation vulnerability assessment.
- Ensure that robust plans are in place that aim to manage and work to mitigate the level of risk.
- Increased consistency for decision making regarding the level of risk and vulnerability of child exploitation across Barnsley and that resources are identified and allocated in the most proportionate way.
- Ensure that Health, Police and Children and Young Peoples Service have the right risk status allocated to an individual child and that this is consistent across the partnership.
- Understand the level of risk posed to individual children and young people, what level of threat the risks present to the child's well-being and how well these can be managed so the level of risk is reduced and safely managed.

Examples of MACE actions

- To ensure the completion of referrals to the NRM
- To explore the ascertaining of additional orders e.g. sexual risk orders
- To action Child Abduction Notices (CANs) being issued
- To consider children who transition into adulthood and the additional support they require post 18.
- To explore the additional professional presence required within identified hotspot locations.
- Identify appropriate and relevant additional support from partner agencies.
- Where possible to expedite referrals into TYS/Early help services

It is important that prior to any case being referred to MACE that the Child Exploitation Screening Tool is completed (See appendix 1)

### **Child Exploitation Vulnerability Assessment Tool**

The Child Exploitation Vulnerability Assessment Tool is a risk indicator tool which identifies the level of risk to children who are being exploited. It creates a single vulnerable cohort database which the partnership can use to inform safeguarding response, and better understand the strategic picture of child exploitation within Barnsley.

It provides a summary of risk for effective management by using key indicators. The table below shows each indicator. Each indicator has a weighted score which cumulatively create a risk rating for that individual. These weightings have been developed through national and regional practitioner input and feedback. In simple terms the Child Exploitation Vulnerability Assessment Tool is an information tracker. It is a way of capturing relevant information which is easily accessible and provides a clear case response dependent on what level of risk they are deemed to sit within.

Person Details		
URN	Age	PNC
MACE Status	Gender	ID
Referral Date	Address	Flag
Referral Criteria	Ward	NHS Number
First Name (s)	School	Mapped OCG Name
Surname	Home Force	Lead Professional
Score	Dealing Force (s)	Organisation
Review Date	Local Authority	Dept
DOB	IC Code	Mosaic Number

Welfare		
Age Score	Self-Harm / Suicidal	Drug / Alcohol Abuse
Known to Social Services	Mental Health	ACE Score
Looked After Child (LAC)	Learning Difficulties	ACE Type? (Please specify)
Currently Wanted / Missing		

Victim of Crime		
Vic of Sexual Crime	Vic of Modern Slavery	Wit of Sexual / Serious Violent Crime
Vic of Serious Violence	Vic of Other Crime	Domestic Abuse

Criminal Behaviour		
Susp / Acc of Sexual / Serious Violence	Sus / Acc of Possession of a Weapon	Sus / Acc PWITS
Sus / Acc Other Crime	Intel Firearms / Knife	

County Lines	
County Line Arrest	County Line Intel
Stopped in Another Force	Cuckoo-ing of Home Address

Other Risk Factors		
Sexually Inappropriate Behaviour	Home Schooled	Social Isolation
NEET	OCG association	Parental Engagement
Attendance	Associates with other who are being exploited (sexually or otherwise)	CE Hotspots

Missing / CSE		
Unexplained gifts/money Concealed/Concerning Use of Internet	Hidden/Unreported Missing	Found Out of Force
STIs/Pregnancies/Terminations	Regular Missing Person	



Professional Judgement Scoring Option

**Referrals**

NRM submitted	Investigation Number for MS
NRM outcome	Intelligence required

**Action Planning**

The meeting will enable further actions for each child or young person to be decided. Members will identify what actions their agency will undertake to disrupt the potential exploitation and add to the safety and protection of the child/ young person. Members may also make recommendations to actions for the involved professionals to undertake.

The primary focus of action planning will always be upon disruption and targeting of the perpetrators of abuse and recommendations made will ensure that the needs of children at risk of exploitation are responded to. A contextual approach will be crucial in ensuring the focus is not only upon the child or young person but upon the wider context of the abuse.

**Scoring**

The cumulative score is calculated, and the following nationally agreed RAG rating is applied.

Scoring Criteria	RAG Rating	Details
0-39	Green / Standard	<p>Standard – A child has identified vulnerabilities but there is no evidence of current criminal / sexual exploitation.</p> <p>Outcome: Referred back to the originating partner for single agency management.</p> <p>Any child could be vulnerable to C.E. However, to assess a child as being at LOW risk requires the identification of “something tangible” which increases their vulnerability over and above normalised adolescent behaviour.</p>
40-69	Amber / Medium	<p>MEDIUM – It is suspected that a child is being exploited or at risk of being exploited. These children may score highly on the VAT and have indicators of current exploitation through evidence or intelligence.</p> <p>Response: Consider Open to Social Care for assessment but with a preventative focus, Police will work with partners to find a workable solution to prevent the child from becoming further involved in criminality and reduce risk of harm. Consider NRM</p> <p>Suspicion does not require evidence nor proof. This suspicion could arise from police/partner information/intelligence and or the presence of C.E indicators.</p>
70+	Red / High	<p>Is the child.....</p> <p>A) HIGH risk of imminent harm but not by exploitation – this case would not be heard again at MACE but would be escalated through CP / other pathways.</p> <p>B) HIGH risk of imminently being exploited due to vulnerabilities identified at MACE</p> <p>C) HIGH risk as the child is currently being exploited. Use Modern Slavery legislation to record a crime for trafficking or force labour. Discuss the submission of NRM.</p>

Age	Age Score
0 - 13	10
14 - 16	5
17 - 18	2
19 - 50	0

### Key goals of the Child Exploitation Vulnerability Assessment Tool

- To identify and highlight vulnerability and exploitation of young or vulnerable people.
- Identify and signpost those who are at risk of Child Exploitation
- Share key information with partners to provide a clear multi agency response.
- Mitigate and reduce risk to vulnerable young people through effective and collaborative safeguarding practices.
- Support victims of criminal prosecutions under the Modern Slavery Act.
- Develop single multi-agency informed data set of Child Exploitation vulnerability.
- Provide the best wrap around care plan for the child.
- To hold services to account where necessary.

The Child Exploitation VAT considers; the child's welfare, if they are a victim of crime, criminal behaviour, county lines, child exploitation and other risk factors, enabling professionals to have a clear understanding of links to county lines and gangs/groups or if the risks are from individual adults.

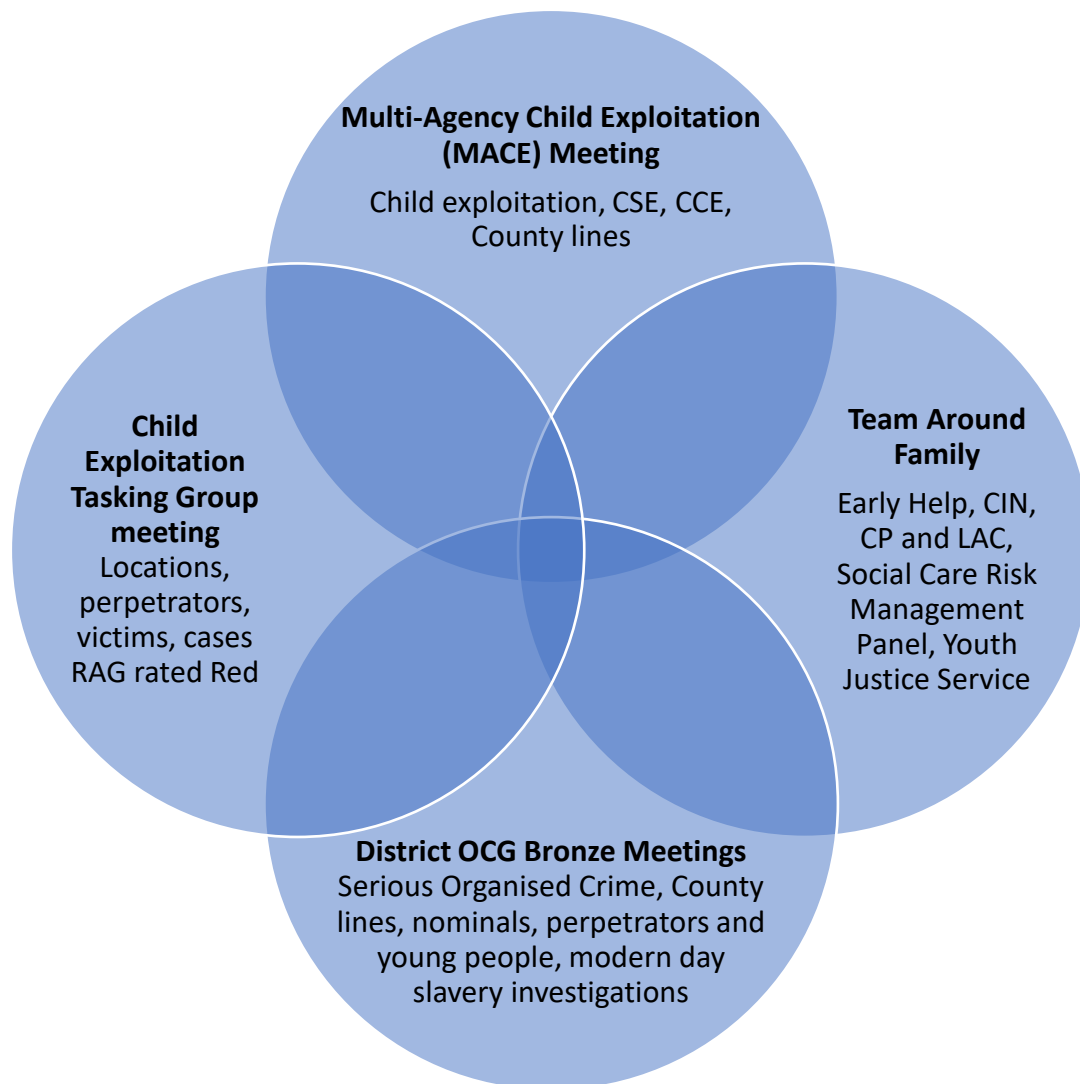
It can be used at any stage within the child's journey, from early help through to children in care.

### Benefits of using the Child Exploitation Vulnerability Assessment Tool

- Shows a current snapshot across the area of Barnsley providing information at a glance for open and closed young people subject to child exploitation. We will know the cohort of young people in Barnsley.
- It evidences preventative work, comparing scoring pre and post intervention. We can evidence impact and change.
- Capture data around requests for young people referred to the NRM and know how many have a conclusive grounds decision outcome.
- Provides a complete breakdown of the nature of the exploitation within Barnsley.
- Links with trigger plans for missing person reports.

The MACE meeting will be responsible for reviewing the Child Exploitation Assessment Tool and keeping it up to date. The highest-risk RAG rated red cases will be shared with Barnsley partners through the Child Exploitation Tactical Group

## How MACE links into other Safeguarding and multi-agency child exploitation meetings:



### **Barnsley Child Exploitation Screening Tool (See appendix 1)**

A Child Exploitation Screening tool can be completed at any point prior to or from referral and during the journey of a case. The screening tool supports 'multi-agency practitioners to better exercise professional judgement. This includes a focus on risk indicators and protective factors.

This is a screening tool that you can use to help you decide whether a child or young person may be at risk of child exploitation (CE). It is designed to be used by all professionals working with children and parents or carers. A child is defined as a person who is under 18 years of age. The tool is most effective when used as a multi-disciplinary tool, and when used in partnership with the family.

This tool is intended to assist in your decision making; helping you make an initial judgement regarding the risk of child exploitation; it is neither a specialist assessment nor a referral form. The tool aims to help practitioners focus on the specific child exploitation evidence, indicators, existing safety and vulnerabilities, and determine whether further investigations are needed by Children's Social Care or suitable for referral to another prevention and early intervention service.

When you are considering making a referral relating to harm outside the home or sharing your concerns with the child's allocated social worker, this screening tool should form the basis of those discussions and your professional analysis.

Practitioners need to exercise their own professional judgment when completing this tool because factors such as the child's age, any additional vulnerabilities, their history etc. may mean that they are more vulnerable to CE.

Professional judgment also includes capturing concerns about which you have evidence as well as concerns based on 'gut feeling'. It is important that you differentiate between the two and provide explanation and rationale. It is important to include the child's strengths and existing safety so that this can be considered as part of the child's ongoing safety.

Your observations of behaviours and any significant changes will be important as children will often deny or be unaware that they are being exploited.

***The Barnsley Child Exploitation Screening Tool must be completed for all children prior to making a referral to MACE.***

**Child Sexual Exploitation** is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual (CSE perpetrator) takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage of increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. Department for Education (DfE) (2017)

**Child Criminal Exploitation** (including County Lines) involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where children (under 18) receive or are promised 'something' tangible e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, gifts or money or 'something' intangible e.g. affection, respect, status, or protection in return for committing a criminal act for the benefit of another individual or group of individuals or be threatened, coerced, or intimidated into committing that criminal act (Home Office, 2018)

**County lines** is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line". They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons (Home Office, 2018)

[National Working Group - definitions](#)

### **Cuckooing**

Urban gangs establish a base in the market location, often by taking over the homes of local vulnerable adults by force and/or coercion, in a practice referred to as 'cuckooing'. Gangs then use children and vulnerable people to move drugs and money.

### **The Modern Slavery Act 2015**

Section 2 Human Trafficking A person commits an offence if the person arranges or facilitates the travel of another person to exploit them. It is irrelevant whether the exploited person, adult or child, consents to the travel. A person may arrange or facilitate another person's travel by recruiting, transporting, or transferring, harbouring, or receiving them, or by transferring or exchanging control over them. 'Travel' means arriving in, or entering, any country, departing from any country and travelling within any country. A person who is a UK national commits an offence under Section 2 regardless of where the arranging or facilitating takes place, or where the travel takes place. A person who is not a UK national commits an offence under Section 2

if any part of the arranging or facilitating takes place in the UK, or the travel consists of arrival in or entry into, departure from, or travel within the UK. In determining whether or not a child is a victim of trafficking, their consent to being trafficked is irrelevant and how they are trafficked is also irrelevant. Only the act and the purpose need to be present. It is not necessary to prove coercion or any other inducement.

Exploitation alone does not constitute trafficking – there also needs to be recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a person. Slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour is, or may be, a crime in its own right under Section 1 Modern Slavery Act 2015. It should also be noted that the ‘travel’ could be from one house to another on the same street, or from hotel room to hotel room, there is no specification of distance.

[Modern Slavery Resources - Home Office page](#)

### **National Referral Mechanism**

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. Modern slavery is a complex crime and may involve multiple forms of exploitation.

It encompasses:

- Human trafficking
- Slavery, servitude, and
- Forced or compulsory labour

An individual could have been a victim of human trafficking and/or slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Victims may not be aware that they are being trafficked or exploited, and may have consented to elements of their exploitation, or accepted their situation. If you think that modern slavery has taken place, the case should be referred to the NRM so that the Single Competent Authority (SCA) can fully consider the case. You do not need to be certain that someone is a victim.

Public Health England defines modern slavery as:

‘the recruitment, movement, harbouring or receiving of children, women or men through the use of force, coercion, abuse of vulnerability, deception or other means for the purpose of exploitation. It is a crime under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and includes holding a person in a position of slavery, servitude forced or compulsory labour, or facilitating their travel with the intention of exploiting them soon after’.

[Report Modern Slavery](#)

[NSPCC information - protecting children from trafficking and modern slavery](#)

### **Children Missing from Home**

The South Yorkshire Missing from Home and Care protocol 2020 uses the following definition of missing.

*Anyone, whose whereabouts cannot be established will be considered as missing, until located and their well-being or otherwise is confirmed. All reports of missing people sit within a continuum of risk from ‘no apparent risk (absent)’, low risk, medium risk and high-risk cases that require immediate, intensive action.*

College of Policing guidance states children can be categorised in one of these four ways,

however the Statutory Guidance states that the police will prioritise all incidents of missing children **as medium or high risk**. It is unlikely that a missing child will ever be categorised as ‘no apparent risk’.

The protocol relates to all children and young people in South Yorkshire who run away and go missing from home or care. This includes children and young people looked after by another Local Authority and placed in a home, care, or residential school within South Yorkshire.

The protocol does not provide for situations where a child has been abducted or forcibly removed from their place of residence. This is a “crime in action” and should be reported to the Police immediately.



SYP Philomena  
Protocol Missing Inc

### **Online Child Exploitation**

Children and young people can be exploited online through a wide range of different methods. They can be exploited through cyberbullying, grooming, sexual abuse, financial abuse, sexual or criminal exploitation or emotional abuse. This abuse can be solely kept online, or can lead into contact abuse, through grooming and bribery.

[NSPCC - what is online abuse?](#)

[Report - Remove \(guidance for removing a nude image shared online\)](#)

### **Disruption Measures**

Child exploitation may be associated with other crimes, or perpetrators may be involved in other criminal activity. In these instances, there are a number of civil measures that can be used to disrupt the activities of individuals also involved with child criminal exploitation, alongside criminal and civil processes that directly address offending and other child protection procedures.

The range of formal and informal disruption measures that may be used to help tackle child exploitation include:

- Obtaining orders on an identified individual.
- Investigation of other crime types such as drugs or theft.
- Increased Police attention on an individual (checking car tax, road worthiness of car etc.).
- Increased Police presence in suspected hotspots (online or offline).
- Working with internet providers to address online risks; and
- Use of licensing laws and powers to obtain guest information or close down premises associated with child exploitation.

Where applicable, an effective disruption strategy may use a range of these methods in conjunction with one another to address individual perpetrator behaviour, protect victims and address wider contexts of concern. In developing an effective disruption strategy, local partners including the Police and local authorities should work together to consider the full range of powers available. An effective disruption strategy will also involve work with children and young people to address the issues contributing to their vulnerability and to provide them with alternative options.

The NWG Exploitation Response Unit has developed the Child exploitation disruption tool kit

imbedded below. The toolkit provides information that aims to empower workforces from all professional disciplines to be as creative as possible and to utilise all the opportunities available to them. Disruption is not the focus of a single agency but requires us all to work collectively to create safe spaces for our children and young people.



NWG-Disruption-Toolkit-v3-1.pdf

## Civil Orders and Other Means of Controlling Individual Behaviour

**Gang Injunction** a gang injunction is a civil tool that allows the Police or a local authority to apply to the County Court, High Court or Youth Court for an injunction against an individual to prevent gang related violence and gang related drug dealing. By imposing a range of prohibitions and requirements on the respondent, a gang injunction aims to prevent the respondent from engaging in, or encouraging or assisting, gang related violence or gang related drug dealing activity and/or to protect the respondent from gang related violence or gang related drug dealing activity.

**Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWNs)**, formerly known as Harbourers' Warnings. These can be issued by the Police and used with individuals over 18 to let them know (and record that they have been told) that they are not allowed to associate or contact with a named child (under 16, or under 18 if in care). CAWNs have no statutory basis in and of themselves but are very useful in providing evidence to support the prosecution of other offences by, for example, registering that a suspect knew the child was 15, thereby taking away the age defence in criminal cases.

**Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPOs)** can be applied for by the Police or the National Crime Agency. They can be used to impose restrictions on an individual who has been convicted or cautioned of a sexual or violent offence, where there is reasonable cause to believe that the imposition of such an order is necessary to protect an individual or the wider public from harm. Restrictions can include things like limiting their use, preventing them from approaching or being alone with a named child and prohibiting foreign travel. Breach of the order, without reasonable excuse, is an offence punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment.

**Sexual Risk Orders (SROs)** can also be applied for by the Police or the National Crime Agency. These are similar to Sexual Harm Prevention Orders, and can include similar restrictions, but do not require an individual to have been convicted or cautioned. SROs can be issued when an individual has carried out an act of a sexual nature and there is reasonable cause to believe that such an order is necessary to protect an individual or the wider public from harm. As with SHPOs, breach of the order is an offence punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment.

- Both SHPOs and SROs may be used with children under 18, but recent Home Office guidance on Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 states that the following principles should apply when considering this:
- The early consultation and participation of the youth offending team in the application process.
- That 14 to 17 year olds made subject to civil injunctions in relation to harmful sexual behaviour are offered appropriate interventions to reduce their harmful behaviour.
- That the nature and extent of that support is based on a structured assessment that takes into account the needs of the young person and the imminent risk.
- That the welfare of the child or young person is the paramount consideration, in line with local safeguarding procedures.

- That the requirements of all other orders and sentences that may already be in existence are taken into account to ensure that any requirements made by these orders do not restrict a young person's ability to complete other current orders or sentences, and the combined burden of requirements is taken into account to ensure the young person has the capacity to comply (Home Office, 2015).

Where there are concerns that a child has been trafficked as part of the child sexual exploitation (this can include movement from one area to another within England), Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Orders (STPOs) and Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders (STROs) can also be considered. STPOs and STROs can be applied for by the Police, the National Crime Agency or an immigration officer. These were introduced under the Modern Slavery Act (2015) and, like the SHPOs and SROs outlined above, offer a means of placing restrictions on an individual's movements and actions. A STPO can only be made against an individual who has been convicted of a slavery or human trafficking offence, while a STRO can be made against an individual who has acted in a way which means that there is a risk that they will commit a slavery or human trafficking offence. Both require reasonable belief that the individual may commit a modern slavery offence in the future and that application of the order is necessary to protect an individual or the wider public from harm.

**Notification Orders** are intended to protect the public from the risks posed by sex offenders in the UK who have been convicted or cautioned for sexual offences which have been committed overseas. A Notification Order makes the offender subject to notification requirements in the same way as if they had been convicted in the UK for a sexual or violent offence.

**Non-Molestation Orders** are civil injunctions that can be issued to protect named children from abuse from an individual and any third party acting on the behalf of that individual. The order only applies to those individual(s) 'associated' with the child. It is an offence if the order is breached.

**Exclusion Orders** can be sought upon the application for an Interim Care Order or Emergency Protection Order. The order can be taken where there is reasonable cause to believe that if an individual is excluded from a dwelling, house or defined area in which the child lives, the child will cease to suffer, or cease to be likely to suffer, significant harm. The order cannot cover an unlimited area.

**A Wardship** is a civil injunction which can be used to prevent an 'undesirable association' between a child and an individual(s). A local authority can make a Wardship application to the High Court to make a named child a ward of court and to seek an injunction against a named individual(s) to prevent that person from making any contact with the child. An injunction can be used where there is reasonable cause to believe that the child is likely to suffer significant harm without the court's intervention.

### **Confidentiality and Information Sharing within MACE**

Importance of "need-to-know" and "need-to-share" approach to sharing sensitive information.

Sharing information about organised crime and child exploitation is a complex process but it is recognised that information sharing is a key enabler for effective multi-agency working.

Fundamentally the development of intelligence relies on the sharing of information between agencies.

This not only helps to achieve a shared understanding of the nature and extent of criminality but can also develop opportunities to implement and mobilise effective preventative and operational interventions.

This supports our shared aim to pursue, protect, prevent, and prepare, and ultimately to detect and disrupt crime. It can also help us evaluate our impact.



While there are clear benefits to information sharing, there are also risks.

Maintaining and sharing information securely is a significant task for all agencies. It requires trusting that recipient agencies handle and share their information securely and lawfully. This means that when we are operating within an information sharing network, we are expected to abide by a common set of security standards governing the storage and dissemination of information.

As a result, there is a constant trade-off between the need to share information and the need to ensure that, when it is shared, it is held securely. The sharing of information must have due consideration with the law relating to confidentiality, data protection and human rights. Having a legitimate purpose for sharing information is an important part of meeting those legal requirements.

Six key documents provide the main national framework for information sharing:

- Data Protection Act 2018 - This act provides the main legislative framework and information sharing issues and stipulates the conditions under which information may be shared i.e. the legal justifications.
- Confidentiality and information Sharing
- Human Rights Act 1998 - This act incorporates article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights which provides states that everyone has the right to respect for their private and family life.
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998 - The Act is the primary legislative tool, common to all crime reduction protocols. It does not override existing legal safeguards on personal information.
- Caldicott Guidance - Caldicott Standards are applicable to Children's Social Care and Health. These standards have applied to NHS organisations for some time. They have more recently been extended into councils with social care responsibilities, in order to provide a framework for working within the Data Protection Act 2018 and to promote appropriate information sharing. See Implementing the Caldicott Standards into Social Care Department of Health 2002.
- NHS Confidentiality Code of Practice - The code was issued in July 2003 and applies to all NHS organisations. It is a guide to the practice on confidentiality, security and disclosure of personal information.
- Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers; 2018.

### **Key Points to Remember for Practice**

The basic approach is to think about the “need-to-know” and “need-to-share” requirements of any request and to make sure that any sensitive information is made available only to those persons:

- with appropriate level of clearance/vetting
- for the performance of their and your own duties
- is in line with either an information sharing agreement or an operational requirement.

### **What is Good Information Sharing Practice?**

- In a nutshell, it is the right information shared with the right staff member in the right agency/agencies at the right time and in the right way.
- How and to whom you pass on information depends very much on your role and local

policy. Make sure that you know how these apply to you.

- There is an Information Sharing Agreement in place, or the purpose justifies infringing the individual's right to privacy.
- In exceptional circumstances information could be disclosed for operational or emergency situations when a record of the information disclosed MUST be recorded, by the discloser. Make sure that you know how this applies to you.

The method of transmitting the information depends both on urgency and local policy. If you are giving important information verbally, always make a note according to local policy.

Ensuring the security and confidentiality of information is most important; therefore, an audit trail is essential. Information sharing must:

- Have lawful authority (permission from the data owner)
- Be necessary.
- Be proportionate and done in ways, which.
- Ensure the safety and security of the information shared.
- Be accountable.

## Appendix 1

### Barnsley Child Exploitation Screening Tool

Child exploitation is about children who are being used for someone else's advantage, gratification or profit which results in harm of the child. This incorporates both sexual and criminal exploitation. The commonality is that these activities involve manipulation, misuse, abuse, victimization and ill-treatment. All of which are detrimental to the child's physical and mental health and well-being, their education, and their social-emotional development.

Further information - [Child Sexual Exploitation](#); [Child Criminal Exploitation](#)

***This Child Exploitation Screening Tool does not replace existing multi-agency safeguarding arrangements that are in place in Barnsley. If you have safeguarding and child protection concerns about a child's welfare, then you should contact the Barnsley Integrated Front Door Service to discuss.***

#### Purpose of this screening tool

This is a screening tool that you can use to help you decide whether a child or young person may be at risk of child exploitation (CE). It is designed to be used by all professionals working with children and parents or carers. A child is defined as a person who is under 18 years of age. This tool should not be used as a blanket tool for all children, it should only be used where you have worries that a child may be vulnerable to exploitation.

This tool is intended to assist in your decision making; helping you make an initial judgement regarding the risk of child exploitation; it is neither a specialist assessment nor a referral form. The tool aims to help practitioners focus on the specific child exploitation (CE) evidence, indicators, existing safety and vulnerabilities, and determine whether further investigations are needed by Children's Social Care or suitable for referral to the Hub or another prevention and early intervention service.

When you are considering making a referral to the Barnsley Integrated Front Door Service or sharing your concerns with the child's allocated social worker, this screening tool should form the basis of those discussions and your professional analysis. This screening tool works best

when used as a multi-agency tool and in conjunction with children and families where this is possible.

Practitioners need to exercise their own professional judgment when completing this tool because factors such as the child's age, any additional vulnerabilities, their history etc. may mean that they are more vulnerable to CE. Professional judgment also includes capturing concerns about which you have evidence as well as concerns based 'gut feeling'. It is important that you differentiate between the two and provide explanation and rationale. It is important to include the child's strengths and existing safety so that this can be considered as part of the child's ongoing safety.

No box should be left unchecked. Where you have ticked 'yes' there must always be evidence provided to support this (this can include untested evidence such as information from a third party, but this should clearly be identified).

Your observations of behaviours and any significant changes will be important as children will often deny or be unaware that they are being exploited.



Please include the details of anyone who has been involved in completing this screening tool (please insert more rows if required):

Name	Organisation	Job Role	Contact information

Has the child, young person or family been involved in completing this screening too? Yes / No

Please give details:

#### Child Exploitation Screening Tool

Strong signs/indicators of Child Exploitation	Yes (please provide details and evidence)	No	Historical (over 6 months)	Unknown
1. Entering / leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults				
2. Unexplained physical injuries and/or refusal to seek/receive medical treatment.				
3. Association with taxi firms/takeaway owners (night-time economy) or gang members / criminal activity / organised crime that suggest child exploitation is a possibility.				
4. Found travelling out of Area – no legitimate reason identified				
5. Multiple mobiles/changing phones frequently- or having more sim cards, receiving multiple callers or more texts/pings than usual / change of behaviour around the phone – consider what is usual phone use for a child of that age.				
6. Possession of hotel keys / cards or keys to unknown premises.				
7. Refuses/scared to enter certain geographical areas				
8. Expressing aggressive or intimidating views towards other groups of young people, some of whom may have been friends in the past				
9. Minimising or retracting statements of harm/assault made to Police / Professionals				

10. Driving vehicles (underage) either alone or with other young people or adults				
11. Information to suggest that child is involved in or has been present during a theft of motor vehicle / motorbike / scooter / quad bike				
12. Found with drugs concealed internally in any body part (plugging)				
13. Child having sex where there is exchange / coercion / reward involved. Involved in 'clipping' (receiving payment in exchange for agreement to perform sexual acts but not performing the sexual act)				
14. Possession with intent to supply Class A drugs				
15. Possession with intent to supply Cannabis or other illicit substances				
16. Received parcels from abroad, addressed to unknown people.				
17. Possession of a modified firearm				
18. Child refusal to engage with ANY services offered				
19. Multiple STIs or terminations of pregnancies				
20. Possession of significant amount of unexplained cash (this can include unexplained money through bank transfer / PayPal etc)				
21. Knowledge of towns or cities child/young person has no previous connection with				
<b>Moderate signs / indicators of Child Exploitation</b>	<b>Yes (Please provide details and evidence)</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Historical (over 6 months)</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
1. Sudden change in appearance in either direction (E.G. changes in clothing, wearing more makeup OR reduction in self-care / hygiene)				
2. Seems withdrawn / emotionally 'switched off' – from family				
3. Unexplained money or possessions - including high value clothing and / or jewellery, unexplained budget to access things such as taxi's / takeaways / activities / beauty appointments etc				

4. Increase in aggressive behaviour / use of intimidation or threats				
5. Changed friendship groups and no contact with old friends				
6. Stays out unusually late without reason or consistently breaking parental rules				
7. Self-harm indicators and/or mental health concerns and/or suicidal thoughts/attempts				
8. Interest in music which glorifies weapons/gang culture or seems to have detailed knowledge of local criminal groups				
9. Using new/unknown slang words				
10. New nickname				
11. Known/suspected involvement in minor criminal activity				
12. Parent or close family member known/believed to be involved in crimes relating to either drugs or motor vehicle theft (either through intel or convictions)				
13. Concerned by the presence of unknown youths in their neighbourhoods				
14. Loss of interest in school, decline in attendance or achievement				
15. Possession of knife or other weapon – to protect/threaten				
16. Constantly talking about someone who seems to have a lot of influence over them				
17. Dropped out of positive activities				
18. Increased episodes of going missing and / or absconding. Parents / carers not consistently reporting the child missing				
19. Drug and alcohol use – Concerns for use / dependency & change / increase of use				
20. Starting to adopt codes of group behaviour E.G. Ways of talking and hand signs				
21. Unsuitable / inappropriate accommodation I.E. sofa surfing, homelessness				

22. Single sexually transmitted infection				
23. Young person considered to be at risk of sexual harm on more than one occasion				
24. Expressions of invincibility or not caring about what happens to them				
25. Associating with other young people / vulnerable young adults believed/known to be at risk of exploitation				
26. Lack of / deterioration of positive relationships with adult/s				
27. Living in a chaotic / dysfunctional household				
28. Child/young person attending concerning locations				
29. Some engagement but sporadic contact, often misses appointments, limited explanation, secretive and unwilling to engage meaningfully				
30. Concealed / concerning use of the internet including webcam, on-line gaming (via X-box, PlayStation), chat rooms, use of social media to buy or sell Class B / C drugs				
31. Being accompanied to appointments by an unknown person that causes concern				
<b>Welfare / Vulnerabilities to Child Exploitation</b>	<b>Yes (Please provide details and evidence)</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Historical (over 6 months)</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
Reduced time in education (consider attendance issues, reduced timetables, regular exclusions, EHE following any of these.				
Social isolation (lack of clear friendship group, being bullied, recently removed from education etc)				
Trauma – consider Domestic Abuse, parental drug or alcohol misuse, bereavement / family breakdown / past history of abuse (not an exhaustive list)				
Neurodivergent / speech and language difficulties / Learning difficulty / disability				
Mental Health / suicidal ideation / self-injurious behaviour				
Presenting at hospital / GP with injuries indicative of violence (also consider reports of being 'jumped' and not wishing to press charges)				
Child is known to the Youth Justice Service, or has received a diversionary disposal from police				
Living in an area of increased ASB with peer links to this behaviour				

Protective Factors	Yes	No	Historical	Unknown
<b>Education and Learning Needs</b>				
• Enjoys and participates in learning activities				
• Good links between home and school				
• Planning for career and adult life				
• Engaged / re-engaged in education or training, or in work				
• No behavioural concerns in school or college				
<b>Health Needs</b>				
• Health needs being met				
• Developmental milestones appropriate				
• Safe and age-appropriate sexual activity				
• No concerns over misuse of drugs or alcohol				
• No known physical or mental health needs identified				
<b>Emotional Health and Behaviour Needs</b>				
• Responds appropriately to boundaries and constructive guidance				
• Can differentiate between safe and unsafe contacts				
• Child engaged in positive activities				
• Child has age appropriate and positive peers				
• Good engagement with appropriate services				
<b>Family and Parenting Needs</b>				
• Parents/carers shows warm regard, praise and encouragement				
• Good relationships within family, including when parents are separated				
• Provides for child's physical needs, e.g. food, drink, appropriate clothing, hygiene, medical and dental care				
• Accommodation has basic amenities and appropriate facilities and can meet family needs				
• Age-appropriate boundaries and routines set by carer and adhered to				
• Carer is aware of peer group				
• There is no known criminality or anti-social behaviour amongst members of the household living at the address				
• Good engagement with appropriate services				
• There is a network that is willing to engage with a safety plan for the child.				

Based on the assessment above, please provide your professional opinion by ticking **ONE of the boxes below**:

- No concerns of exploitation - concerns relate to behaviours associated with age-appropriate child/young person behaviours.
- Evidence of vulnerability to exploitation
- Evidence of being groomed or targeted for the purposes of exploitation.
- Evidence that child is being exploited



**For internal use only**

Please provide your professional judgement and analysis of all collated information:

Safety Planning - Please ensure that there is a safety plan in place and outline the details below:

## MACE Referral Form

### Young Person's Information:

Mosaic No.	
Name	
DOB	
Age	
NHS No.	
Address	
Postcode	
Parent/Carer Name	
Parental responsibility	Yes / No
Ethnicity	
Nationality	
Gender	

### Practitioner completing referral:

Name	
Job role	
Agency	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone No.	
Working week contact availability	<input type="checkbox"/> Mon <input type="checkbox"/> Tue <input type="checkbox"/> Weds <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs <input type="checkbox"/> Fri

### Nature of Exploitation:

<input type="checkbox"/> County Lines (out of borough)	<input type="checkbox"/> Committing offences under coercion	<input type="checkbox"/> On street
<input type="checkbox"/> In Borough drug dealing	<input type="checkbox"/> Partner (boyfriend / girlfriend)	<input type="checkbox"/> Peer
<input type="checkbox"/> Storing weapons / drugs for others	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult / Lone offender	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify:
<input type="checkbox"/> Online / Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Group / gang	

**Lead Agency Involvement (please tick):**

<input type="checkbox"/> No lead agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Child in Need	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Protection	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Looked After / leaving care
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Lead Practitioner name:	
Is the child placed from a different Local Authority?	Yes / No
If yes – state location and date placement commenced	

**Education Health Care Plan**

<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Diagnosed Learning Need
<input type="checkbox"/> On pathway for assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Referral required
Details:	

Have you completed the Child Exploitation Screening Tool?	Yes / No
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Why do you suspect the child is being exploited?

What is the agency evidence or intelligence from the last 6 months relating to vulnerability / exploitation – please see guidance

## Guidance

Please consider the following questions and factors when completing the referral form. It is important that you are clear in recording relevant information where there is a level of assurance about its credibility and confidence that it is factually correct and accurate. It is important that where you have concerns regarding the possibility of something happening or you believe it is occurring but have no tangible evidence that you clearly record the information as such. It is also important that you are clear in terms of the timeline of the information and evidence provided. We want to ensure that any risk assessment is based upon information that is current.

### Missing episodes from home / schools / care

- Number of missing episodes
- Stays out late but not missing.
- Occasionally goes missing.
- Frequent missing for short periods of time
- Frequent missing form prolonged periods of time
- Not missing overnight but whereabouts during day not known

Also consider – times that they go missing, where do we think/know they are going, are they always being reported as missing, are parents/cares aware that they are going missing, are parents or carers aware of where they are and who they are with?

### School / college

- Engaged in education, training, or in work or actively seeking employment.
- Is participating in education or employment but attendance is a concern. Parent /Carer engaging with services to improve attendance.
- Is on a reduced timetable, or is persistently absent from school, or sudden noticeable change in attendance, performance or behaviour at school.
- Not attending school or is NEET.
- Shows no interest in accessing educational or training opportunities. No engagement from carer.

Also consider – any current or previous prosecution for school attendance. What services currently involved with improving school attendance, any recent changes in attendance, any change in attitude towards attending education, any recent significant incidents within education setting.

### Home and relationships

- Positive relationships and good communication with parents/carers living in home.
- Does the child live in good quality accommodation that meets young person's needs?
- Are age-appropriate boundaries & routines set by parent/ carer & are they adhered to?
- Have there been frequent placement/accommodation changes,
- Has Parent /carer starting to show signs of not having capacity to input & maintain boundaries /consequences and challenge and behaviour?
- Has the child become homeless and or been sofa surfing?

- Is there evidence of current / suspected abuse / neglect in the family.
- Poor communication, limited warmth, attachment, or trust. Carer does not have the capacity to respond.

Also consider – any evidence of financial difficulties, living in home where DA is a feature, any recent trauma, family deaths etc.

### Peer and adult association

- Young person started to disengage from positive activities.
- Does the child surround themselves with age-appropriate peer group and is parent/carer aware of peer group?
- Are they starting to associate with a problematic peer group? Spending more time with peers in the community. Secrecy around peers and have their peers been found.
- out of borough?
- Are they coming to the attention of services?
- Is there evidence that they are starting to engage in ASB.
- Is the young person associating peers / adults who are known by criminal justice agencies or to have been sexually exploited?
- Are any peers or adult associates suspected of carrying weapons? Is there any affiliation to Organised Crime Groups? Is there evidence that the young person is or is suspected to be involved in a gang/group?

Also consider – what services is the young person known to, who are the peers/suspected peers, what is their age range, what are we worried about these peers? What information/intelligence do we have from Police or partner agencies.

### Misuse of drugs or alcohol

- Are concerns about drugs or alcohol is this deemed to be age appropriate?
- Is the young person starting to associate with negative peer influence where substance use is suspected?
- Is substance use known & part of daily life of young person?
- Do we know how substances are being financed?
- Is the young person dependent on alcohol / drugs?
- Do we know where the drugs/alcohol is being obtained? Is it from older peers / family members?
- Has the young person been found in the possession of class A drugs more than once?
- Do we believe they are involved in the movement or selling of drugs? If so, what is our evidence?

Also consider – Where do they use substances? Who with? What Type of substance? How much are they using what are the concerns around peer influences? Is it one person or many?

### Mental and physical health

- Do we have any concerns regarding young person's physical health?
- Do we have any concerns regarding young person's mental health?

- Is there any increased need to access mental health support? If so, do we know and understand the reason why?
- Is there any formally diagnosed mental health illness or disorder?
- Has there been a decline in young person's physical or mental health in last 6 months? If so - what is this?
- Is the young person accessing regular health appointments?

Also consider – Has there been any episodes of self-harm? Has the young person talked about self-harm in the last 6 months? Has the young person ever attempted to kill themselves? Does the young person have any current suicide ideation?

#### Further evidence of exploitation

- Young person having extra money or new items that cannot legitimately be accounted for
- Having multiple phones and sim cards
- People demanding money for drug debts.
- Family or young person has had to move or leave their home.
- Items have gone missing from the home.
- Previous CE concerns
- Sudden change in behaviour/appearance
- Multiple callers (unknown adults/older young people)
- Possession of hotel keys / cards or keys to unknown premises
- Frequenting known locations that have concerns of CE.
- Knowledge of towns/cities they have no previous connection with
- Offences committed.
- Evidence of inappropriate sexualised behaviour and language
- Affiliation with a group or gang
- Evidence that s/he is coerced to recruit other children.
- Additional Police Intelligence
- Injuries – Physical or Sexual
- Associating / relationship with adults who encourage emotional dependence, loyalty and isolation from safe relationships.
- Reports of being taken to hotels, nightclubs or out of the area by unknown adults
- Entering / leaving vehicles with unknown adults. Association with taxi firms/takeaway owners