

# **Surrey Child Exploitation (CE) Guidance, Assessment and Intervention Toolkit**

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## Introduction

The purpose of this Guidance is to enable practitioners to assess a child's level of risk to all forms of exploitation in a quick and consistent manner.

A child is anyone under the age of 18 (Children Act 1989) and young people up to the age of 25 for children who have Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) who are therefore considered under the scope of this toolkit.

The toolkit should be read in conjunction with local safeguarding policy and procedures, including:

- Safeguarding Children Who May be Victims of Modern Slavery (have been Trafficked)
- Children who present a risk of harm to others
- Missing from Home or Care (MFHC) Protocol
- Online Safety and Internet Abuse
- Investigating Complex (Organised or Multiple) Abuse
- Surrey Intelligence Sharing Guidance for Practitioners

The Surrey Safeguarding Children Procedures which can be accessed via;  
<https://surreyscb.procedures.org.uk/>

The toolkit will support agencies to:

- Identify and plan to protect those at risk of being exploited at the earliest opportunity.
- Take action to promote the welfare of children who are being or may be exploited.
- Develop safety plans and local prevention strategies.
- Take action against those intent on abusing and exploiting children in this way.

It should be used flexibly to take account of each child's individuality, culture and diversity, the uniqueness of their circumstances and the changes that may occur for them over time.

All agencies and practitioners should also be aware of Surrey's Exploitation Strategy which outlines how the Local Authority and partner agencies will work together to reduce the level of, and harm from CE; see page 4 for the key elements of the strategy.

## What is Child Exploitation?

Current guidance defines children at risk of exploitation (CE) as:

Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual or criminal activity; (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or inCEased status of the offender or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually or criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

A cross cutting theme of exploitation is modern slavery and human trafficking of children from one place to another, and the [Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Act](#) (2015), provides updated legislation and government guidance on this issue.

**CE** can happen in a number of contexts involving contact and non-contact abuse, via 11 (i.e. peer on peer or adult on child), constrained choices or an organised abuse (group) basis such as gang association or membership.

Exploitation may be evident through a range of behaviours;

- Child sexual exploitation
- Child criminal exploitation, including county lines
- Modern slavery
- Extremism and radicalisation
- Internet based exploitation - contact and non-contact offences, including Youth Produced Sexual Imagery (Sexting)
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Honour based abuse and violence
- Forced marriage
- Serious violence, including gang violence
- Financial exploitation
- Exploitation of individuals with mental health issues or disabilities (Cuckooing)
- Children missing from home, care or education

**Children and young people who are sexually or criminally exploited or at risk of it are victims of child abuse. As such they must be referred to Children's Social Care and the Police to implement safeguarding processes**

## Key Issues when working with CE

There are a number of important points to remember when assessing the risk of CE:

- CE is professional terminology and should not be used directly with children or their families; they do not relate to this language.
- Any child can be affected (male or female) under the age of 18 years, **including** 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to sexual relationships and make informed decisions.
- CE can still be abuse even if the activity appears consensual.
- Sexual exploitation can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity and can take place in person or via technology, or a combination of both. See [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) (2018), page 103.
- CE can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may or may not be accompanied by violence or threats of violence.
- It may occur without the child immediate knowledge through others copying videos or images they have Created and posting on social media.
- CE can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, by any gender, and by children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse.
- CE is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the abuse and usually involves a third party. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.
- Parents/carers may be complicit in the exploitation of their children, or fail to prevent/protect from it.
- **No child under 13 years** or with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) issues can be assessed as an Emerging Risk until after an assessment if behaviours indicate they are abused or at risk of CE. However, after thorough assessment if protective factors suggest they are minimal risk then they can be recorded as such.
- Children with additional needs require special consideration up to the age of 24 years. Note: The Police Child Exploitation Team only works with children under 18, children over 18 years would be dealt with as adult victims
- **Be aware:** disclosure of information by the young person may take time and evident risks may only emerge during on-going assessment, support and interventions with the young person and/or their family.

**Exploitation is never the victim's fault, even if there is some form of exchange:** All children under the age of 18 have a right to be safe and should be protected from harm.

## Who is vulnerable to exploitation?

**Any child, in any community:** Child exploitation is occurring across the country but is often hidden. However, the data on exploitation has improved which has allowed for further analysis and further developments in our response to exploitation. All practitioners should be open to the possibility that the children they work with might be affected.

**Age:** Children aged 12-15 years of age are most at risk of child exploitation although younger victims have been identified, particularly in relation to online concerns. Equally, those aged 16 and 17 or above can also be at increased risk as they can be more independent and experience less oversight of their lives. The [Office of National Statistics](#) (2017) reported that those aged 16 and over are at increased risk of sexual and criminal exploitation, compared to other age groups. It is important that such abuse is not overlooked due to assumed consent. Structural inequalities such as children and families living in poverty are vulnerabilities that place victims at heightened risk of exploitation, particularly those without adequate systemic support.

**Gender:** Though child sexual exploitation may be most frequently reported amongst young females, males are frequently reported in context of criminal exploitation however all children are at risk of all forms of exploitation. Children who identify as transgender can also be at increased risk of exploitation. Practitioners should be alert to the fact that males may be less likely than females to disclose experiences of child exploitation and less likely to be identified by others and they may not relate aspects of criminal or cultural exploitation as child abuse.

**Sexuality:** There are some groups that are more at risk through gay cultures and by virtue of presenting with difference or due to isolation.

**Ethnicity:** Child exploitation affects children from all ethnic groups.

**Heightened vulnerability factors:** [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) (2018) makes clear the requirements for holistic assessments and a need for contextual safeguarding<sup>1</sup> of children. That means we need to keep children safe in all aspects of their life and in all environments for example, within peer and family relationships, within school, the community, online and home. This also considers broader cultural and identity factors that might place the child at risk and historic factors that make them vulnerable to abuse.

Exploitation is often linked to other issues in the life of a child, or in the wider community context. Practitioners should be alert to the fact that child exploitation is complex and rarely presents in isolation of other needs and risks of harm (although this may not always be the case), particularly in relation to online abuse. Child exploitation may be linked to other crimes and practitioners should be mindful that a child who may present as being involved in criminal activity is actually being exploited.

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<sup>1</sup> See Firmin (2013) and University of Bedfordshire Contextual Safeguarding Team; Misunderstood Project.

- Good practice when working with children affected by CE includes:
- Early sharing of information to ensure that effective help is provided where there are emerging problems.
- Holistic assessment of vulnerability, examining risk and protective factors.
- Child-centred approach and intensive support around the child, their family and peers.
- Equal focus on the five pronged governmental and local approach to CE; Pursue, Partnership, Prevent, Protect and Provide.
- Awareness raising with any professional, family or community.
- Note and disrupt areas of concern for example houses, hotels, car parks and shopping centres and report information to licensing bodies where appropriate.

**The earlier the intervention, the better the chances of success and it is likely to be far more effective than intervention at a later stage, when the impact on the child's health and emotional development is likely to have escalated or constrained choices become entrenched.**

It is important to incorporate national good practice in our work and previous strategies that have successfully addressed exploitation these principles include;

- The child's best interest must be top priority;
- There must be participation of children and parents/family;
- Enduring relationships and support to be provided;
- Multi-agency mapping and problem profiling;
- Effective information sharing within and between agencies;
- Supervision, support and training;
- Evaluation of interventions and reflection and review.

## Guidance notes for completion of the CE Risk Assessment

These indicators are a guide and should assist the exercise of professional judgment.

Completion of the CE Risk Assessment by the practitioner identifying the concerns should involve liaison with other agencies, at a minimum Social Care, Police, Health and Education and Specialist Exploitation Services, to ensure that there is multi-agency information sharing and support.

Please note: the lists provided within this guide are not exhaustive, the indicators and vulnerability factors are simply the most common indicators of CE. Practitioners must expand on any indicators and provide the narrative of concern and analysis of risk based on all relevant information. It is rarely one concern that brings a child's vulnerability to our notice it is more likely to be a combination of factors, so all factors have to be considered in your response to this abuse.

A full risk assessment should be used to assess **any** risk of CE to a child, this includes:

1. Evidenced risk indicators
2. Cultural, identity and additional vulnerability factors
3. Risk assessment analysis and summary

The analysis should include;

- Identification of current level of risk, primary risk/type of exploitation and immediate concerns
- Action already taken against person/s or places or risk
- Protective and resilience factors of the child
- Contextual safeguarding analysis
- Immediate actions taken to safeguard and protect the child
- Information sharing
- Information on how, where and when this referral has been shared

The level of intervention required depends on the presenting information. Practitioners should seek advice from an appropriate person within their agency, their designated safeguarding lead or from a CE Lead/Point of Contact, if available.

A completed CE Risk assessment should accompany any referral for CE and a verbal discussion should support the referral and be appropriately documented.

A record must be kept of case discussions, decision making and interventions in the child's case file. In all cases in order to facilitate the systematic collation of information in respect of children considered to be at risk of exploitation.

A new risk assessment should be completed after any significant incident and every team around the family, network or core group meeting or CP Conference. The level of risk recorded at the meeting will then update LCS with the reviewed Risk rating. Any planned meeting date can be brought forward if there are serious concerns about the safety of a child, but the normal safeguarding procedures must also be followed.



In Surrey CE Risk will be assessed in a similar way to any other Safeguarding concern. However Safeguarding Adolescents is a specialised area of work and there are dedicated teams to do this work. CE cases will usually sit with either a Safeguarding Adolescent team (SAT) or Targeted Youth Support (TYS) Team and follow Threshold models of practice. Again due to the complexity of Exploitation Workers may work across recognised team boundaries.

CE cases must be reviewed every three months as a minimum and this can be brought forward if a noted incident occurs. Children can move very quickly between the risk indicators and therefore there should be a regular review of the risk assessment and any action plan.

**Any outside agency to Social Care who has identified risks of exploitation should refer immediately to Children's Social Care as outlined in [Surrey Safeguarding Procedures](#) and record in the child's file.**

It is common for children in the SIGNIFICANT and EXPERIENCING Exploitation categories to be reluctant to work with practitioners, particularly if they believe that they are in love, have misplaced loyalties to others or are embarrassed and have financial needs met by the exploiter. They may also be at an early stage of the grooming process and be excited by the attention/ activities and enjoying the financial and material rewards. The fear of the offender may be stronger than the wish to engage with practitioners as such the level of coercion used to groom and abuse a child should never be underestimated.

Where reluctance to engage is an issue, the person with the best relationship with the child should lead the work with them. There should also be a strong focus on the disruption and prosecution of offenders to prevent their contact with the child. SIGNIFICANT and EXPERIENCING exploitation cases are also monitored through monthly partnership meetings and there may be requests through those forum to complete work with the child and information can be shared with the forum through the relevant CE leads.

## **Children with a disability; learning difficulty/disability or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**

- Children with disabilities are three times more likely to be abused than children without a disability.
- Children with behaviours or conduct disorders are particularly vulnerable to exploitation.
- Other high-risk groups include children with learning difficulties/disabilities, children with speech and language difficulties, children with health-related conditions and deaf children.
- Children with disabilities are often over-protected and not informed about sex and relationships.
- Children who use technology as a means of communication are also more vulnerable to online grooming and abuse.
- Children in transition from children's to adult services and independent living are particularly vulnerable.
- Learning difficulties or delayed development may be a consequence of trauma or sexual abuse.
- A lack of diagnosis and assessment for learning disabilities can result in a child's behaviour being misunderstood, and exclusion from school. This can lead to the child being vulnerable to CE.
- Attitudes and assumptions about children with a disability and the reluctance to believe disabled children are abused increases vulnerability.
- Barriers to provision of support services may lead to isolation of the child and their family.
- Dependency of a number of carers for personal assistance, impaired capacity to resist/avoid abuse, communication difficulties and inability to understand what is happening or how to seek help increases vulnerability.

## The CE Risk Assessment

The CE Risk Assessment should be completed where there are CE concerns about a child. The assessment should be kept on the child's file with any relevant action taken to mitigate the risk.

It is vital that the CE Risk Assessment is thorough and has a good narrative and analysis to ensure the protection of the child/family and that the offenders can be dealt with swiftly. Any case recorded with a SIGNIFICANT and EXPERIENCING outcome should be referred immediately to a manager and;

- For new referrals not already open to Social Care –refer immediately to Children's Social Care as outlined in [Surrey Safeguarding Procedures](#) and record in the child's file.
  - For open cases to Social Care Surrey – send to the Social Worker and Team Manager for a threshold discussion.
- CE is not a child protection status, so if a child is on a child protection plan then the issues must be incorporated into the child protection and child in need meetings. However, you may also wish to have a professional meeting to bring together the required information before any conference, exploitation strategy meeting is further convened.
- Should the Exploitation risk be seen to be Complex and multifaceted, involving a number of children or perpetrators then a consultation with the SM and Exploitation lead for the County should be held to discuss instigating [Complex \(Organised or Multiple\) Abuse](#), chaired by an Assistant Director or above
- If a child is looked after then a discussion regarding the need for a Strategy Discussion or Intervention meeting should be held between the CIC Team Manager and the SAT Team Manager with disputes falling to SM to resolve.,

The CE Risk Assessment should be sent to Social Care as soon as it is completed and at a minimum within 24hours of completion. **All immediate risks will require an immediate telephone referral to both Social Care and the Police.**

## CE Risk Assessment Examples

The CE Risk Assessment asks the referrer to review the level of risk in context of Low, Medium or High risk to further CE. Below are some examples of CE are provided to assist the risk analysis.

Risk Level	Examples
<p><b>Minimal/Emerging</b></p> <p><b>Significant</b></p> <p><b>Experiencing</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Coming home late or going missing</b></p> <p>Occasional, short episodes with a plausible explanation of what has occurred.</p> <p>More regular or lengthy missing episodes, particularly if there is no explanation of where the child has been and / or if the child returns from an episode with new belongings or clothing.</p> <p>Lengthy missing episodes overnight, particularly in very bad weather. Regularly returning with new and unexplained items, especially if they are valuable. Actively hiding or lying about where they have been, after any significant incident such as a missing episode.</p>
<p><b>Emerging</b></p> <p><b>Significant</b></p> <p><b>Experiencing</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Concern re: online activity</b></p> <p>Increased secrecy around the use of mobile devices, especially if the child is a teenager.</p> <p>Evidence of sexualised language being used online, either by or towards the child. Repeated contact with unknown people online.</p> <p>A dramatic and extreme increase in secrecy around the use of mobile devices. Evidence of planning or arranging to meet in relation to criminal activity.</p>
<p><b>Significant</b></p> <p><b>Experiencing</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Being abused on or off line by an adult /or targeted for abuse</b></p> <p>A child being targeted or abused by an adult is very unlikely to be low concern. May also be Intra or extra familial Abuse</p> <p>Repeated contact by adults, whether reciprocated or not.</p> <p>Evidence of actual abuse taking place by an adult.</p>
<p><b>Emerging</b></p> <p><b>Significant/ May be Sexual Abuse</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Peer on peer abuse, including sexualised bullying and revenge pornography</b></p> <p>Distribution of indecent images to a person of similar age (or similar developmental age), or minor bullying by age appropriate peers.</p> <p>Distribution of sexualised or indecent images or having sexual contact with a peer where there is an element of coercion or aggression. Assaults by peers or being encouraged or coerced into being involved in criminal or antisocial behaviour.</p>

Risk Level	Examples
<b>Experiencing</b>	Prolonged peer on peer abuse or one or more serious incidents, particularly if there is a disparity of age, or significant consequences for the child, such as more serious injuries or sexual offences.
<b>Minimal/Emerging</b>  <b>Significant</b>  <b>Experiencing</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Offending, for example drugs, violence or theft</b></p> <p>Low level acquisitive crime or personal drug possession/use.</p> <p>Multiple instances of offending or more serious offending, such as violence towards others.</p> <p>Supplying of drugs, especially if in association with others, organised violence or acquisitive crime linked to desperation for money.</p>
<b>Emerging</b>  <b>Significant</b>  <b>Experiencing</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Gang member or association with gangs or extremist thinking</b></p> <p>Peripheral association with gangs or gang culture among age appropriate peers.</p> <p>Association with older gang members, particularly if no age appropriate peers involved (isolated through age), or criminal activity linked to gang members.</p> <p>Clear indoctrination into gang culture, coupled with association with older gang members and a breakdown of relationships that are not with gang members. Physical harm being caused to the child, particularly if significant.</p>
<b>Emerging</b>  <b>Experiencing</b>  <b>Experiencing</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Coerced into sexual activity</b></p> <p>Where the child is persuaded to engage in low level sexual activity e.g. sending of indecent images (unless extreme) by an age appropriate peer.</p> <p>Where the child is coerced/forced into contact sexual activity by a peer.</p> <p>Contact sexual activity with an adult, or very extreme or dangerous sexual activity with a peer.</p>
<b>Significant</b>  <b>Significant</b>  <b>Experiencing</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Evidence of grooming</b></p> <p>Prolonged contact with a groomer but without the intention to meet.</p> <p>Arranging to meet a person following being groomed.</p> <p>Meeting with an adult following being groomed.</p>
<b>EXPERIENCING</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Abduction and forced imprisonment</b></p> <p>A child being abducted or falsely imprisoned.</p>

<b>Indicators of Modern Slavery/Trafficking</b>	
<b>Emerging</b>	A child appearing to find transport easily available despite having limited access to funds.
<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>Examples</b>
<b>Significant</b>	Evidence of the child being transported by an adult.
<b>Significant</b>	Evidence of the child being transported by an adult with additional evidence of an exploitative intention (by the adult), such as sexualised communication or communication about drugs.
<b>Carrying Weapons/Feeling the need for protection</b>	
<b>Emerging</b>	Evidence of the child talking about needing to carry weapons for protection.
<b>Significant</b>	A child being found to be in possession of a weapon (not necessarily by the police).
<b>Significant</b>	A child repeatedly carrying weapons despite being dealt with by the police and exhibiting fear if not in possession of a weapon.
<b>Knowledge of other areas or found out of area, with no legitimate links</b>	
<b>Emerging</b>	Talking about locations that are out of area despite no known experience of that area.
<b>Significant</b>	Being found in other areas with no explanation of how they got there, or repeatedly talking about having visited locations that they should not be able to reach.
<b>Significant</b>	Repeatedly returning to a specific area despite no known links to that area, or being found living/staying in a dwelling they have no links to.

# CE Risk Assessment.

Child/Young person's name/alias/known as		Date completed / period covered	
Name of person completing		Agency and contact details	
Age/Gender / DOB/Address		Has sexual exploitation previously been identified as a specific issue for this child? Provide details	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Ethnicity/Religion / Language spoken (Is this their first language?) / Interpreter required		Disability/Special Needs: (If yes, please clarify further)	
Consent of young person to share information/ family agreement / rationale for sharing of information without consent			
Other agencies involved ( <b>share completed risk assessments with permission</b> )	School		
	GP		
	CAMHS		
	Social Care		
	Police		
	Other		
	Other		

Indicators One or more indicators identified requires input	CE
Concern re: online activity	
Regularly missing from home, care or education	
Being abused on or off line by an adult /or targeted by an adult	
Change of contact with family and friends and other support networks	
Experimenting with drugs and/or alcohol (dependent on age)	

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>CE</b>
<b>One or more indicators identified requires input</b>	<b>CE</b>
Noticeable change of self-image/appearance or dress	
Peer on peer abuse, including sexualised bullying and revenge pornography	
Getting into cars with adult(s)	
Associating with peers or adults with a known risk of exploitation	
Arranging to meet for sexual activity	
Making and then withdrawing a complaint/s	
Unexplained injuries	
Going to unsafe places i.e. known houses or places identified as a risk	
Knowledge of other areas or located out of area, with no legitimate links to that area	
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>CE</b>
<b>One or more indicators identified requires input</b>	<b>CE</b>
Unaccounted for money or goods including mobile phones, drugs and alcohol	
Increased interest in making money or need for money	
Offending e.g. violence, theft and drug dealing	
Gang member or association with gangs or extremist thinking including 'normalisation' of gang violence and criminality. Consideration to be given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graffiti style 'tags' on possessions</li> <li>• Starting to adopt certain types of group behaviours e.g.</li> <li>• ways of talking, hand signs and abbreviated text</li> </ul>	
New nicknames	
Coerced into sexual activity	



Evidence of grooming	
Abduction and forced imprisonment	
Indicators of modern slavery/trafficking	
Miscarriages or terminations/presenting for pregnancy or sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing	
Self-Harm	
Carrying weapons/feeling the need for protection	
Forced marriage or marriage of convenience or preparations for such	
Suspected Female Genital Mutilation (FBM) or known culture of this within the family	
Child shows/family interest in radicalisation or extremism	
Other: Please expand on any indicator above (external agencies only)	

**Summary of CRE Risk Indicators**

Level of Risk (Emerging, Significant, Experiencing):	
Related to Thresholds: emerging concerns (Early Help)/ complex or serious needs (Section 17 Child In Need) or child protection concerns (Section 47):	

**Offender/Location/Environments of Concern** - give as much information as possible about those locations, environments and persons who pose a risk to the child

**Locations:**

**Environments:**

**Person/s who pose a risk:**

**Other:** e.g. does child pose a risk to themselves?

**Risk Management Framework**

**Category 2 – Minimal risk of sexual exploitation**

*Vulnerable child*

**Category 3 - Emerging risk of exploitation**

*Vulnerable child with one or two risk indicators present*

**Category 3 – Significant risk of sexual exploitation**

*Vulnerable child with a number of risk indicators present*

**Category 4 – Experiencing risk of sexual exploitation**

*Vulnerable child with multiple risk indicators present*

**Situations identified as Significant or Experiencing Exploitation should lead to a referral to Children's Social Care. In these circumstances the Referrals Procedure must be followed.**

**Where professionals have concerns that a child/young person may be being exploited they should take immediate action to ensure the child/young person is safeguarded.**

**Box A - Please include a rationale for what you have scored \*Practitioners are to be aware that the identification of vulnerability is a guide and should not replace professional judgement\* - also include protective factors identified (eg. parental protectiveness).**

**Record of professional discussion on Risk and Outcome**

**Record of child's views and parents' / carers' views of risk**

**Intended action: Please document any further action, treatment or monitoring arrangements – copy risk assessment to partner agencies with permission**

**Date of next review of CE Risk Assessment (at least 3 monthly) or give rationale of why CE Risk assessment will not be reviewed again**

Send completed Risk Assessment to [CSMASH@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:CSMASH@surreycc.gov.uk) alongside usual request for help referral.

## Intervention Strategies

Common strategies are outlined below:

- Disrupting the child's relationship with other children suspected of introducing them to adults involved in violence, gang activity, drugs and sexual exploitation.
- Disrupting the child's contact with adults suspected of being involved in violence, drugs and exploitation.
- Gather, record and share information (via CE Information Report Operation Liberty) to assist prosecution and disruption of adults or other children suspected of being involved in violence, gang activity, drugs and exploitation.
- Corroboration of evidence is very important to prevent reliance on the child's statement.
- Promote positive relationships with family, friends and carers, communities.
- Physically protect the child for example Emergency Protection Order, Police Protection Order harbourers notice if required and at the disCEtion of the relevant authority.
- Maintain contact whilst absent; 'compassion banking' i.e. text, email, letter, card.
- Enhance the return procedure to ensure it is a positive experience.
- Set clear boundaries of acceptable behaviour and motivate positive behaviour through reward.
- Empower the child/parent/carer/ foster carer, remember they are a key partner in protecting the child and gathering information to disrupt perpetrators.
- Build the child's self-esteem.
- Raise the child's awareness of CE and the dangers of risk taking behaviours.
- Consider physical, sexual and emotional health needs of the child and family.
- Involve the child in diversionary activities.
- Make home a more attractive place to live. □ Achieve normality.
- Make school a more attractive place to go.
- Provide specialist support through other agencies.
- Plan on positive change for the future and set small targets to achieve monthly.
- Where a child is refusing or reluctant to engage and is involved in selling or exchanging sex or grooming peers discuss this with the Police or your CE Lead. If they are a persistent offender the case should be referred to a Police and Child Protection Manager for a high risk strategy meeting.
- When considering commissioning specialised support please provide a rationale for using one service over and above another.

## Disruption Toolkit

In addition to the above practitioners should refer to the [Child Exploitation Disruption Toolkit; disruption tactics](#) (2019) which:

- Sets out many of the tools useful for police and other safeguarding professionals to disrupt the sexual and criminal exploitation of children and young people, break the cycle of abuse and send a signal to perpetrators about the consequences of their actions.
- Helps safeguarding partners know how their knowledge, expertise and information sharing could contribute to the protection of victims, evidence for further action, arrest and potential prosecution of offenders.
- Provide useful guidance about technological options available to support interventions.

## Key Local and National Contacts and Resources

- PACE (parents against child sexual exploitation): [www.paceuk.info](http://www.paceuk.info) Safe and Sound: 01332 362120: [www.safeandsoundgroup.org.uk](http://www.safeandsoundgroup.org.uk)
- NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice Centre: 0808 800 5000  
[www.nspcc.org.uk/preventingabuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-trafficking/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventingabuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-trafficking/)
- UK Safer Internet Centre: Helpline 0844 3814722, [helpline@saferinternet.org.uk](mailto:helpline@saferinternet.org.uk)  
[www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)
- [Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Hub](#) (part of National Crime Agency):
- [Contextual Safeguarding Network](#), University of Bedfordshire
- [Serious Violence Strategy](#) (2018) Home Office
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (2018) Department for Education
- [Child Sexual Exploitation: definition and a guide for practitioners](#) (2017) Department for Education
- [Child Sexual Exploitation: Practice Tool](#) (2017) Research in Practice (open access)
- [Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines](#) (2018) Home Office
- [Protecting children from criminal exploitation, human trafficking and modern slavery: an addendum](#) (2018)
- [Disruption checklist for child criminal exploitation \(related to 'county lines'\)](#) (2018) The Children's Society
- [Child Exploitation Disruption Toolkit: disruption tactics](#) (2019) Home Office
- [National protocol on reducing criminalisation of looked-after children](#) (2018) Department of Education