(Regional Definition – It is based on the national definition/guidance as amended to exploitation and encompassing children/young people and adults. Children and young people under the age of 18.). In addition, sequencing of information has been amended following feedback from victims and survivors.

An individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child, young person or adult and exploits them (a) through violence or the threat of violence, and/or (b) for financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants. The victim may have been exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Exploitation does not always involve physical contact, it can also occur through the use of technology.

**Exploitation Screening Tool Children, Young People and Adults**

Any exploitation tool completed must be forwarded to the exploitation coordinator at …………………………………………….

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name:** |  | **Also known as:** |  | **Ethnicity:** |  |
| **Date of Birth:** |  | **Gender:** |  | **Disability:** |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Address:**  **Contact number:** |  |
| **Lives with, including siblings:** |  |
| **Who has Parental/Caring Responsibility and what is their relationship to the child/adult:** |  |
| **Current level of support/legal status**  **Early help/child in need/child protection/LAC - s20/Care Order/UASC/YOS/Any Adult Order** |  |
| **Referrer’s details:** |  | |
| Name: |  | |
| Agency: |  | |
| Designation: |  | |
| Telephone: |  | |
| Email: |  | |
| Date Completed: |  | |

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| **Reason for completing screening tool:**  **Brief history including any locations, names of perpetrators, other children/adult names – mapping of links to be done to support screening.** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Serious Risk of Exploitation** | | Current or during the past 6 months: | Prior to 6 months ago | Non recent post 12 months |
| **Please Tick** | **Please tick** | **Please Tick** |
| **Concerns**   * Evidence of multiple sexual contacts/abuse with multiple people * Concerning or escalating levels of criminal behaviours * Exploited to commit ASB/criminal behaviour frequently (and for others) * Using/carrying and/or concealing weapons * Located recovered from a place of exploitation e.g. area with exploitation concerns, cuckooed premises, involved in criminality | |  |  |  |
| **Repeated periods of absence/missing (day and/or night)**   * Frequently going missing with whereabouts unknown or of concern/missing episodes out of borough/ returning late * Missing with others assessed as being at risk/is at risk and/or abused through exploitation * Carers not reporting them missing but known episodes of being away from home for significant periods of time * Pattern of street homelessness * Unexplained absences from, or not engaged in school/college/training/work * Returned from missing episodes with injuries, and/or dishevelled | |  |  |  |
| **Contact of concern with adult (male or female) or young person, which might involve physical and/or emotional abuse/sexual abuse and/or gang activity**   * Relationship abuse which may be same sex relationship * Believing they are in a relationship with an older adult/peer relationship * Other relationship where control appears to be present that indicates concern * Gang associations (including family connections)/Organised Crime Groups * Associations with others known or suspected to be exploited | |  |  |  |
| **Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults/individuals with no reasonable explanation - or other modes of transportation e.g. train/plane**   * Have they been moved in any way for the purpose of exploitation (can include public transport/walking) | |  |  |  |
| **Unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothes or other items**   * More than one mobile phone, sim cards or use of a phone that causes concerns – multiple callers or more texts/pings than usual * Unaccounted for money/goods/jewellery/paraphernalia * Issues with drugs/alcohol/tobacco through unknown sources * Hotel keys/keys to houses, flats or other premises/keys to cars * Bank card repeatedly lost/having bank cards with other people’s names on * No form/multiple forms of identity * Required to earn a minimum amount of money every day/fearful of money being removed from them by professionals/deprived of earnings by another person * In debt bondage or “owes” money to other persons | |  |  |  |
| **Groomed/abused via the Internet and mobile technology:**   * Taking/ sharing generated images of self or others with aggravating factors such as the involvement of an adult or older person, evidence of coercion or threat, more than one person involved * Using internet and targeted online by those who pose a risk - identify and meet unknown as well-known peers/adults who seek to exploit * Evidence of displaying or receiving sexualised bullying via the internet/social media * Multiple social media accounts * Excessive texts and calls/changes in behaviour or presentation or absconding in response to phone/internet activity (aggressive/anxious) | |  |  |  |
| **Having unexplained contact with hotels, properties, taxi companies, fast food outlets or other businesses/organisations which cause concerns:**   * Unknown hotels/B&Bs * Being picked up by different or the same taxi, and/or drivers on a regular basis with no plausible explanation or money to pay for them * Uniform or business branded items | |  |  |  |
| **Evidence of sexual/physical assault including where followed by withdrawal of allegation**   * Victim of knife crime * Victim of rape, sexual assault, online exploitation * Evidence of injuries e.g. bruises * Image distribution online exploitation * Victim of Serious Offence | |  |  |  |
|  | **Evidence:**  Please include names/dates/locations/perpetrators descriptions where possible | | | |

\*\* evidence of a risk indicator from 6 months ago or more should still be considered for the need for a safeguarding referral, primarily if this is information **that has not previously been known or investigated even if it is not current.**

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| **Significant Risk – may/is being exploited** | Please Tick  Current | | Please tick prior to 6 months | Please Tick  Non recent post 12 months |
| **Whereabouts unclear or unknown – day and/or night**   * Frequently staying out late without permission/under duress to go missing or to stay out and whereabouts unknown and/or of concern * Absconding from education/workplace/training provision * Registered at multiple addresses * One among a number of unrelated children/young people/adults found at one address * Carer not reporting as missing or needs to be prompted to do so * Unusual hours/regular patterns of leaving or returning which indicates probable exploitation/working |  |  | |  |
| **Absences/exclusion from/or not engaged in school/college/training/work – NEET**   * Failing to attend education/work * Being on a part time timetable/reduced hour * Suspended or excluded from EET provision and not in alternative structure (not registered EET) * Elective home educated/work but concern around this and whereabouts during day |  |  | |  |
| **Regular/Multiple contacts from unknown adults/young people of concern**   * At educational provision/work/home or placement * On the telephone/text/messaging apps * Online via social media/gaming/email * Excited about new friendships that are unknown * Being offered work/ways to earn money |  |  | |  |
| **Physical injuries without plausible explanation/physical symptoms of exploitation**   * Evidence of injuries consistent with punishment e.g. Bruising * Overly tired in school/work * Indication of manual labour – condition of hands/skin/backaches etc * Injuries which appear old but have had no medical attention |  |  | |  |
| **Sexually transmitted infections/pregnancies/termination of pregnancies/miscarriages or stillbirths**   * Particularly multiple * Injuries consistent with rape and sexual assault * Presenting to GP/Maternity Services late in pregnancy |  |  | |  |
| **Drug and/or alcohol (mis)use**   * Suspicion of/or arrested for possession of or supply drugs * Drug dealers demanding money for drug debt/bondage * Evidence of drugs on child/young person or adult * Increasing use of drugs and alcohol |  |  | |  |
| **Self-harming/suicide attempts/ eating disorders/aggression/or other concerning behaviour**   * Identify specific concern |  |  | |  |
| **Use of a mobile phone which causes concern –**   * sending/receiving/distributing indecent images – vulnerable to online perpetrators * multiple phones/sims/protective of phone/high volume texts/calls * change in behaviour in response to mobile phone contacts |  |  | |  |
| **Significant changes in normal presentation**   * Changes in presentation e.g. dress/behaviour * Story very similar to that given by others e.g. coached |  |  | |  |
| **A & E attendance of concern or with no plausible explanation**   * No appropriate adult in attendance and they appear unwilling to share details * Attendance with adult who appears controlling * Implausible explanation of presenting symptoms * Multiple attendance at A and E, GP |  |  | |  |
| **Lack of information about family dynamics/parenting/caring role of those adults accompanying them**   * Being accompanied to appointments by an unknown person that causes concern * Unable to confirm name or address of person meeting them on arrival/address or name given gives rise to concern * Cared for by adults who are not their parents/carers or where the relationship appears controlling/exploitative |  |  | |  |
| **Association with gang members/known criminals**   * Peer Group – Gang – or Organised Crime Group * Carrying knives/guns or other weapons |  |  | |  |
| **Evidence:** |  |  | |  |
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| **At Risk Early indicators of Exploitation** | Please tick |
| **Unsuitable/inappropriate accommodation/sofa surfing/financially unsupported**   * **Unregistered private fostering arrangement** |  |
| **Isolated from or reduced contact with normal peers/family/social networks** |  |
| **Association with new/unknown groups of peers** |  |
| **Poor school/work (EET) attendance** (current in last 6 months)   * Deterioration in school results, performance at work * Missing from education (CME/MFE , work/NEET |  |
| **Concerns raised about use of internet/technology including**   * Poor privacy setting on social media and how to stay safe online * Interacting with high numbers of unknown social media “friends” * Secretive of mobile phones |  |
| **Offending and/or anti-social behaviour**   * Evidence or suspicion of child/young person/adult being exploited - committing theft/begging/working |  |
| **Siblings involved in exploitation** |  |
| **Speaking of gangs/or in a more sexualised manner** |  |
| **Disruptive behaviour at school** |  |
| **Appears unable to engage with support services/key worker**   * **Not registered with or attended a GP practice or other health professionals** |  |
| **Evidence:** | |
|  | |
| **Vulnerability Factors** | Please tick |
| Social Isolation or social difficulties |  |
| Carrying a weapon |  |
| Sexual abuse |  |
| Learning disabilities/special needs or emotional health issues |  |
| History of Local Authority Care |  |
| Family conflict/ breakdown/lack of love/security, bereavement through death, loss, illness of a significant person in their life |  |
| Prior experience of neglect, emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse |  |
| Lack of a safe/stable home environment, now or in the past (domestic abuse and/or substance misuse and/or health difficulties and/or criminality, for example) |  |
| Family history/current experience of sexual and any other form of exploitation |  |
| Underage/forced marriage |  |
| Informed capacity (due to age, education, experiences) |  |
| Disguised compliance by family or minimisation of risks |  |
| Economic vulnerability of child/young person/adult/carers/family |  |
| Homelessness or insecure accommodation status |  |
| Unclear of how to explore cultural/sexual identity safely |  |
| UASC/adult without relevant documentation |  |
| Not in full time EET |  |
| **Evidence:** |  |

The framework includes categories of risk and is intended to inform appropriate responses in relation to safeguarding. It is intended to assist decision making and judgement and is not a specialist assessment. If you have concerns about a child, young person/adult follow your local safeguarding procedures and referral pathways.

**I consider this child/young person/adult to be at risk of**

Modern Slavery

Criminal/County Line Exploitation

Sexual Exploitation

**Professional Judgement:** In the box below please record your professional judgement based on the information recorded on this screening tool and consider the health, welfare and safety of the child/young person/ adult in question, include any protective factors that you are aware of. Protective factors can include:- family and parenting, education/ training/employment/learning, health emotional, physical and behavioural, peer and adult association. This is not an exhaustive list and reference should be made to your safeguarding procedures, policy and practice guidance for more detailed information.

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**The following will need to be localised with your pathways and information for practitioners.**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Please indicate** | **Description** | **Associated actions** |
| Early Help | **No Exploitation Risk evident**  A child/young person/adult who may have additional needs and/or vulnerabilities but is not currently deemed to be at risk of exploitation. | Liaise with Agency Designated Safeguarding Advisor for any advice/guidance. Child/young person/adult needs is not deemed at risk of exploitation, but there may be additional risks, vulnerabilities or needs to still require action through an early help response or a referral to the MASH.  Work with child/young person/adult and family to address the identified needs, intervene early and take proactive action to prevent escalation. Delivered via a single agency/multi-agency early help offer. Integrated into an existing multi-agency plan or through a referral to the MASH for assessment by Children’s/Adult Social Care.  Ongoing review of risk required particularly if there are any changes in circumstances.  Copy of screening tool is sent to exploitation co-ordinator: (generic email needed) |
| **Social care threshold 3**  **AT RISK** | **Early indicator of exploitation**  A child/young person/adult who is at risk of being groomed for exploitation. | The indicators raise some concerns that the child/young person/adult may be at risk of being targeted or groomed.  Liaise with Agency Designated Safeguarding Advisor for any advice/guidance, submit referral to MASH.  Work with the child/young person/adult and family to develop an awareness of the risks that can lead to a situation in which they may be exposed to exploitation, should be delivered via a single agency/multi-agency early help offer or integrated into an existing multi-agency plan.  Local early help referral pathways should be followed.  Copy of screening tool is sent to exploitation co-ordinator: (generic email needed) |
| **Social care threshold 4**  **AT SIGNIFICANT RISK** | **Strong Indicator that child/young person/adult may/is being exploited**  A child/young person/adult who is at increased risk of exploitation and is likely to be/already being targeted for abuse/exploitation. | 1. A multi-agency approach will be needed to promote child/young person/ adult safety and well-being. 2. Follow local procedures including referral to Children/Adults Social Work Services who will lead the completion of a specialist Risk Assessment on a multi-agency basis. A multi-agency exploitation meeting should be held to devise a safeguarding and support plan, or such activity should be integrated into an existing multi-agency plan. The plan should include actions in relation to disrupting, investigating and prosecuting perpetrators. Risk should be closely monitored and regularly assessed as part of the risk management process.   Inform local exploitation coordinator: (generic email needed) |
| **Social care threshold 4**  **AT SERIOUS RISK** | **A child/young person/ adult who is being exploited**  A child/young person/adult who is entrenched in exploitation, but often does not recognise or self denies the nature of their abuse often in denial, and where coercion/control is implicit. | 1. A multi-agency approach will be needed to promote child/young person/adult safety and well-being. 2. Follow local procedures including referral to Children/Adults Social Work Services who will lead the completion of a specialist Risk Assessment on a multi-agency basis. A multi-agency exploitation meeting should be held to devise a safeguarding and support plan, or such activity should be integrated into an existing multi-agency plan. The plan should include actions in relation to disrupting, investigating and prosecuting perpetrators. Risk should be closely monitored and regularly assessed as part of the risk management process.   Inform local exploitation coordinator: (generic email needed) |

Date and name of person discussed with manager / safeguarding lead (signature to agree level)

**Where to refer or discuss your concerns:**

*Anyone who completes an exploitation screening tool, or is considering the need to do so, can seek advice from the Designated Safeguarding Advisor in their agency/service/setting. Advice can also be sought from the Exploitation*

***All cases that are screened at risk, significant risk, or serious risk should be referred to the MASH or discussed with the child’s/young person/ adult’s social worker if already known.***

**Children’s Social Work Services:**   **MASH**

**Adult Social Work Services: MASH / TEAM**

**Emergency Duty Team (EDT) (out of hours)**

**Police:** : Emergency **999**

Guidance for completing the screening tool:

* **Guidance notes and risk indicators are not exhaustive and professional judgement must be used.**
* The purpose of the exploitation screening tool is **to support a professional judgement** about whether a child/young person/adult is at risk of/being exploited and inform decision making about what action is required.
* The screening tool supports in identifying where the behaviours/voice of the child/young person/adult may indicate they are being exploited, a more detailed multi-agency assessment and/or investigation may need to be undertaken which may confirm this initial judgement, heighten or reduce concern.
* In some instances, the screening tool will identify that the child/young person/adult is no more vulnerable to exploitation than is typical for children/young people/adults of that age i.e. the risk is universal. This would be deemed to be “**Not Current Exploitation Risk”.**
* An **“Early Indicators of Exploitation”** screening tool will indicate the need for a referral and therefore professionals are encouraged to use the appropriate pathway for referrals and have discussions with relevant services (MASH, missing co-ordinator/social care front door) to determine appropriate action.
* Once a screening tool has been completed, local referral pathways and thresholds need to be followed to ensure that where necessary a MASE/strategy meeting is convened, and a risk assessment undertaken. Risk assessments should be led by a lead professional, contributed to and supported by the professionals working with the child/young person/adult and family/carers.
* The tool should be completed immediately by any professional who has a concern about a child/young person/adult being exploited. (A child/young person is anyone under the age of 18). It is important that the screening **tool is not completed in isolation as far as possible** and that relevant people as appropriate are involved, so that a complete picture of specific risks is ascertained. Children/young people/adults **SHOULD NOT** be asked to complete a screening tool.
* If “**Strong Indicator**” or “**Exploited”** is identified, a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) referral must be made unless the child/young person/ adult, is already known and in this case the agency who has identified the concerns should notify the social worker immediately. If this is a new referral then MASH will determine what course of action will be taken.
* It is helpful where possible to capture the voice of the child/young person/adult in the final section. There is no need for the child/young person/adult to be with you when completing the screening tool. The voice of the child/young person/adult is more than a spoken word and often behaviours/actions are the first sign something may be wrong. Evidence about your concerns should be captured as fully as possible, including any examples of the behaviour.
* Where you are aware of names of other children/young people/adults, and adults and locations of concern please include them in the evidence box on the screening tool and complete and submit the intelligence form attached to this screening tool with guidance on instructions. These names should also be passed to the MASH if the children/young people/adults are not known to social care, for appropriate action to be taken.
* The information inputted in this screening tool is sensitive as per data governance legislation/GDPR and should be recorded, stored and shared as per information sharing guidance. Where possible consent should be sought from individuals/parents/carers (as appropriate) to complete the screening tool and share the information, unless to do so would place the child/young person/adult at increased risk. However, refusal of consent should not prevent the tool from being completed and a referral to the MASH being made if there are concerns about significant harm to a child/young person or significant impact/risk on the well-being of the adult.