

**Wakefield Children and Young People Service’s Missing and Children Vulnerable to Exploitation (CVE) Team**

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) & Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) Screening Tool and Referral Form**

**This form allows you to explore some of the vulnerabilities and risk indicators for a child/young person you are working with, who might be at risk of, or be experiencing, exploitation. No checklist can be exhaustive. Please phone the team for a consultation if you have concerns which are not captured here. (01924 303570)**

GENERAL DETAILS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Social Worker completing screening |  |
| Contact details |  |
| Young Person’s name – include alias |  |
| Young Person’s address |  |
| Parent’s details and address |  |
| Has consent been granted? |  |
| Legal status |  |
| Language(s) spoken |  |
| School/Education provider |  |
| Ethnicity |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| AGE | DOB | Gender |
|  |  |  |

The grids are to be used to help the practitioner focus upon likely CSE & CCE risks. Please note to add any additional risk information in the box provided below each section.

SIGNIFICANT RISK CSE (please tick)

N.B. CSE is a form of child sexual abuse. Please check with your Team Manager that your referral is appropriate for the CVE Team.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Disclosure of sexual harm/rape followed by the withdrawal of allegation  Just because a person withdraws their allegation do not think that this did not happen whilst this might make if difficult for the police to pursue an investigation a disclosure by a young person of rape or sexual harm should always be taken seriously and would warrant further exploration. A strategy discussion should always be considered. |
|  | Young person presenting sexualised both attire and physical presentation  It is easy as an adult to make judgements about the clothing that young people wear, we need to understand what is meant by sexualised attire. When considering this it’s important to explore what is seen as fashionable amongst their peers is there sudden changes in the way the young person dresses, is this different from the clothing that is being worn by their peers is this fashionable amongst young people. When we are thinking about a young person whilst we may note some changes lets first consider how does this behaviour differ from their peers, are they becoming aware of their sexuality or is their behaviour worrying if so explain what they are doing and why you are worried. |
|  | Young person is meeting/communicating with adults online (grooming)  This should always warrant further exploration. |
|  | Young person has been coerced to send implicit images or received images (sexting)  Young people send images for a variety of reasons and whilst this is against the law we need to understand that there are a variety of reasons why young people share images.  Sexting can be a result of curiosity and a young person not fully understanding the consequences. It could be that young people are in a relationship and as part of a consenting relationship they may share images of themselves to each other. They may send sexually suggestive images as a joke or to boost their self-esteem. It’s important that we understand the distinction between young people who willingly seek to make and send sexual images and those who feel some element of coercion. Young people can also feel pressured into sending images by their peers. If a young person has been pressured we need to understand what has happened it is not enough to feel that they will be safe because a parent has taken their phone off them. This will happen again unless work is undertaken with the young person to find out why. |
|  | Child under 13 subject to penetrative sex/non-penetrative sex  A Child under 13 cannot legally consent to any sexual activity. This is statutory rape and would always warrant an investigation. |
|  | Entering/leaving vehicles with unknown adults  Whilst this should raise suspicion we cannot immediately assume that this means that the young person is being exploited. I would explore further asking When is this happening, How often, Is it different vehicles, What do we mean by unknown adults are they teenagers who have teenage friends that have just got a car. Are there any details of the vehicles make, model, registration, what information the police in the EHP know about the vehicles? Ask the referrer to make notes of the vehicles, times, registration in order to gather a better understanding. What is the young person saying? |
|  | Going to areas known for on/off sex work  This should always be worrying, but needs further clarity of why is the young person going to that area. Is it an area where their friendship groups live? Is it close to a park etc where they hang out. If there is a known area where sex work is taking place speak to the PCSO’s/ neighbourhood teams as known sex workers will know if young people are engaging in selling sex in their area. They usually pass this information on as young people impact on their business so can also be at risk of violence from other adult workers. |
|  | Young person meeting different adults and exchanging or ‘selling’ sexual activity, including on the internet  This would meet the criteria for intervention and police investigation. |
|  | Receiving rewards or money or goods for introducing peers to CSE adults/CSE peers  It is important to consider that Indirect peer exploiters have usually been victims themselves.  Similar age young people will be used to engage other peers into abuse; this will often raise less suspicion with professionals. These young people’s experience also needs to be explored they may have been groomed, threatened or coerced into this activity. Sometimes a young person may introduce another person as a means to prevent them being sexually abused on that occasion. |
|  | Receiving rewards of money/food/shelter/clothes/lifts/jewellery/make-up/phone etc.  When we think about rewards do not think about expensive items it can be for something such as a pizza or a bed for the night. This can also apply to criminal exploitation where young people may receive a reward for dealing, hiding a package/weapon or delivering a package. Sometimes young people can receive rewards that are not items it may be that they are given friendship or praise. Any unexplained items needs to be explored further to understand why the young person has these items. This might not always be so obvious as they may say that this is being given by their mates or they might have swopped something they own. |
|  | Concerns regarding multiple phones and sim cards including multiple social media sites  Having more than one phone tends to be suspicious particularly if the second phone is a pay as you go ‘brick’ ‘burner’ phone as most young people like to have the latest phones that have WIFI access and wouldn’t normally entertain these phones. The use of these phones means that activity on them is harder for the police to tack and trace and is the phone of choice for those involved in CCE. The use of a number of Sim cards can also be associated with someone who is engaging in online activities or talking to someone they do not want their parents to know this can be linked to CSE. The multiple use of social media sites is now quite common as these have expanded it is how they are using these sites that needs to be explored and can be worrying is they are accessing sites where it is known that they are being used to engage in sexual activities. |
|  | Receiving drugs/partaking in using substances or alcohol  Not all young people who participate in substance and alcohol use are being exploited. The majority of young people at some time will use/steal/buy alcohol and drink with their friends this does not mean that they are being exploited what we do know is that when under the influence of substances/alcohol impairs judgement and so a person may not be able to fully consent to sexual activity. We know that lots of young people experiment with recreational drugs and smoke cannabis. This does not mean that they are being exploited. Young people will often club together to share their cannabis and drugs. When a parent will say that they do not give them money explore this further as they may give them bus fare, or the odd pound for dinner/ they may receive dinner money or odd bits of money. If each young person only puts in a few pounds they can purchase enough cannabis for them all to smoke a few joints.  We do know however that this brings them into contact with a person who is dealing but not everyone who takes drugs will be in contact with the dealer it may be their friend that obtains it from someone they know. We do know that young people can be offered cannabis in exchange for dealing from someone. It is therefore important to fully explore what this actually means for the young person. |
|  | Knowledge of towns or cities child/young person has no previous connection with  It is important to explore the reason why a person has travelled. We know that they quickly develop new friendships as social media has made the world a smaller place. But it’s about being curious, how did they travel, who funded this, What is the reason, We know young people can be moved about to various locations to move drugs, money, weapons or being transported for sex. |
|  | Being taken to clubs or hotels and subjected to sexual activity  This would meet the criteria for intervention and police investigation |
|  | Possession of hotel cards/keys and body stamps or tattoos and new piercings  Why has a young person got a hotel card or keys, where are they from who do they belong too. Do we know if they are seen visiting a particular hotel/ property are they going missing for periods of time? Do we suspect that they are accessing a property hotel to look after a cannabis farm? Some gangs will have a tag/tattoo this doesn’t mean that they are being exploited but we would need to understand what that gang represents as some may denote membership. They will all have the same tattoo in the same place we need to be careful that we do not just to assumptions. We know that young people like to associate with a youth culture, music, gang but this doesn’t mean they are being exploited. |
|  | Abduction or forced imprisonment  This would meet the criteria for intervention and police investigation. A person may be forced to stay in a trap house to sell drugs or to stay in a location to look after a cannabis farm. This would be considered to be modern day slavery under the modern day slavery Act and any child found in these situation an NRM would need to be completed. |
|  | Association with taxi firms/takeaway owners/nightclubs/bars (night-time economy)  We are beginning to understand that taxis are being used by exploiters to move young people and drugs around as they are private and less likely to be detected. A young person getting in and out of taxis which they have no known money for should be considered as being suspicious and warrants further exploration. A young person getting in and out of taxis in the middle of the night should also raise concerns. Note do not rely on a taxi company to report that this has happened. Takeaways, night clubs and bars have in the past been associated with CSE. Not all young people who are trying to be grown up who attend bars under age is being exploited the information should be explored to consider who they are going with, how often. Preventative measures can be put in place with nightclubs and bars to prevent young people entering please speak to the police in the who will be able to advise. |
|  | Being taken to brothels/massage parlours  This would meet the criteria for intervention and police investigation. Sometimes a brothel is not so obvious and can be hidden behind other legitimate businesses. If information is being received that young people and men are seen going to a location at different times throughout the day and night this should raise suspicion. It is also worth checking with the police in the Hub to consider what intelligence there is about that property. |
|  | Associating with other CSE vulnerable young people  It’s likely that they have similar vulnerabilities, not all people who are known to be vulnerable to CSE are exploited. What needs to be explored is what are the issues regarding the other young people are they current. Were they exploited and is so how and is this still ongoing. We cannot rule out that if the exploitation is current that they can be drawn into CSE or CCE through their peers. We need to consider if this is historical and what do we understand about the association, how much influence do they have over the young person has there been changes in behaviours since this association are they going missing. A change in behaviour can be due to them wanting to fit in or can be an indicator that they are being exploited. |
|  | Seen in known to frequent CSE hotspots (certain flats, recruiting areas, cars or houses)  What is a hot spot? Is there a place in the community that is known for certain activities that take place? Often a hot spot can be where we know that groups of individual gather and some of these young people may be vulnerable than other’s. Why are they in those areas? Who are they associating with? Be cautious just because they are there it doesn’t mean they are being exploited. What is the current police intelligence around that person the area and their associates. |
|  | Sexually transmitted infection or pregnancy/termination  Whilst this raises concerns about a young person’s sexual health it does not necessarily mean that they are being exploited but would need further exploration. The wish clinic are able to speak to young people offer sexual health advice and will alert us if they are concerned. Recurring sexual transmitted diseases, pregnancy and termination may be an indicator that something is happening for this young person. |
|  | Sexualised harmful behaviour  CSE is sexual abuse but not all sexual abuse is CSE, interfamilial sexual abuse is not often associated with CSE but cannot be ruled out as some families do exploit their children.  Sexualised harmful behaviour can be an indication that something is happening to a young person. Some young people may be engaging in sexual harmful behaviour because they are being controlled by a perpetrator. There may be other reasons but support for the young person is required it is important to gather information to understand what behaviour is taking place and why. |
|  | Carrying weapons  Carrying weapons should always be considered as a worry, whilst this may indicate that they are involved in gangs or drug running it might also be that the young person feels scared about travelling in the community they may be bullied and feel that they need this to feel safe. We know that carrying weapons can indicate that a young person is at risk of harm or believe that they are at risk of harm. This perception could also lead to the YP harming others. This should always warrant further exploration and intervention from a welfare perspective. |
|  | Change in behaviour – being more secretive/withdrawn/isolated from peers or not mixing with usual friends  There could be a number of reasons why this has happened and whilst this might be an indicator it does not always mean that they are being exploited. It warrants more understanding and exploration about what is occurring in this young person’s life and family. It is useful to try to explore if there has been any triggers does this coincide with any significant triggers/ issues within the family/community. What have others noticed what would the family say. | |
|  | Increasingly disruptive, hostile or physically aggressive at home or school, including use of sexualised language.  There can be a number of reasons why this is happening, a young person could be bullied, they may be struggling to deal with school work, they may have some undiagnosed learning needs, there may be problems at home, They may be being abused or exploited it’s important to keep an open mind and ask exploratory questions to gather as much information about the YP circumstances. | |
|  | Associating/relationship with significantly older men or women who encourage emotional dependence, loyalty and isolation from safe  You need to determine what is meant by significantly older. This then raises the question of how do they know the young person. What is the relationship whilst we need to keep an open mind we also need to consider that not everyone is intend on abusing young people? The nature of the relationship needs to be explored some people may not have a good relationship with their parents and are seeking this support from someone else, it is when this is an exploitative relationship that we would be concerned. It is always concerning if an older adult is encouraging emotional dependence, loyalty and isolation from their family or peers. | |
|  | Physical or emotional abuse by a boyfriend/girlfriend or controlling adult including use of manipulation, violence and/or threats  This can be a feature in exploitation such as sexual can criminal exploitation but it can also be a feature of a domestic abusive relationship. Teenagers can enter into peer relationships that is abusive we should always consider DV alongside asking the questions about exploitation as some of the behaviours are very similar. When the word adult is used it should always warrant further exploration. What is meant by adult we need to consider the ages of the people involved and the nature of the relationship? A much older male or female adult with a teenager should always raise suspicion. | |
|  | Multiple callers (unknown adults/older young people)  This could be an indication that something is taking place. What times this taking place is there any set patterns to people coming and going. Clarify what is meant by Multiple callers, what is suspicious about the activities that someone is reporting. How long has this been going on What is the current police intelligence they may have information that supports these concerns | |
|  | Estranged from family  This will increase a young person’s vulnerability to exploitation particularly if their estrangement means that they are homeless. Some young people may be estranged from their family but have support from a trusted person if they are not related and they are under 16 then we need to consider Private fostering regulations. If they are homeless and are under 18 then we need to support them in obtaining suitable accommodation. Young people can be vulnerable to exploitation if they have nowhere to sleep and need to swop sex for a bed. | |
|  | Concealing/concerning use of internet including webcam, online gaming (via X-Box, PlayStation) chatrooms etc.  Exploration required we know that young people spend a great deal of time on their phones, internet, play stations etc. this is why we need to understand what are they engaging in whilst online. What is it that the young person is trying to conceal is this that they are beginning to develop some independence and privacy or is it due to something more sinister. We know that chat rooms can be used as a mechanism to groom young people so would need to be explored who they are talking to what sights are they using. We should also be aware of boys and young men being groomed via online gaming sites and through using the internet to explore their sexuality. | |
|  | Exclusion from school or unexplained absences from, or not engaged in school/college/training/work  School exclusion increases a child’s vulnerability to exploitation but there may be a number of reasons why the young persons is not attending school, consider what the teachers have noticed has there been any changes recently to behaviour, friendship groups, do they struggle in school. Is school a safe place for them? What are parents saying about the absences or non-attendance? This on its own would not warrant a referral to the CVE team but raises questions that need to be explored. If the young person is found to be NEET this can be chased up with the NEET team who can explore with the young person the reasons for this. | |

CSE Other information – Something else that is significant and personal to young people risk taking

Making a referral

If you are considering making a referral or wish to step up a case due to exploitation concerns a member of the team would be happy to hold a consultation with you to explore if this is appropriate.

If you are concerned about a young person it’s important to gather as much information as possible in order to build a picture and evidence your concerns.

We know that in CCE there is not always evidence that the young person is being exploited but there are indications it is these that you need to evidence to build your case.

Consider is your information factual or is it based upon hearsay and if so how reliable is the information. Are conclusions being drawn from the information that has no bases? An example being that child A is being exploited because they hanging around with child B who was previously known to the CVE team. There may be risks for A but you would need to explore if the concerns for B are still current as this might increase the risk to A.

Gathering information from partners will either add weight to the referral or may help you to come to a decision that whilst there may be vulnerabilities there is no evidence of exploitation.

Consider if stepping up what work has been done, why are you still concerned it may be that you have new information as a result of your involvement or a new incident has occurred.

It’s important to understand that vulnerabilities are not evidence of exploitation. Some children will always be vulnerable but will never be exploited. Some children who have very few vulnerabilities can be exploited.

What do we do with the information?

I would look at what the information is telling me, I would read the child’s records that are available and speak to police colleagues to gather what intelligence is available. The more information that is in the referral the easier it is to make a decision.

CSE Suspects – Known perpetrators, risky adults, risky peers.

Any names that can be provided is a really good way of understanding the risks around the young person,

Mapping associates is one way to do this, however just knowing a person doesn’t mean that they are at risk it is the relationship that the child has with the person who you have highlighted is risky that we need to understand. We need to understand how often they are in the persons company, has their behaviour changed as a result.

SIGNIFICANT RISK CCE (please tick)

CCE Other information – something else that is significant and personal to young person risk taking.

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|  | Young person has disclosed gang/or threat of affiliation |
|  | Abduction or forced imprisonment |
|  | Young person is known to be involved in receiving or passing drugs |
|  | Young person has multiple phones/sim cards/social media sites |
|  | Young person has quantities of money/gifts/new clothing |
|  | Young person is arrested away from home (out of area) |
|  | Young person is known YOT |
|  | Young person is known to be at cuckooed addresses |
|  | Young person is known to be hanging out in large groups |
|  | Unexplained injuries, presenting at A&E/other health departments |
|  | Arrested with or are accompanied by older males or females |
|  | Entering/leaving vehicles with known adults |
|  | Involved in petty crime and known for ASB |
|  | Uses substances and been seen with substances |
|  | Carrying weapons |
|  | Known threatening behaviour |
|  | Branding (use of gang names or affiliation) |
|  | Involved with adult strangers online |
|  | Online us concerns of violent images or threats |
|  | Changes in behaviour – being more secretive/withdrawn/isolated from peers or not mixing with usual friends |
|  | Increasingly disruptive, hostile or physically aggressive at home or school, including use of criminalised language |
|  | Associating/relationship with significantly older men or women who encourage emotional dependence, loyalty and isolation from safe  Physical or emotional abuse by a boyfriend/girlfriend or controlling adult including use of manipulation, violence and/or threats |
|  | Multiple callers (unknown adults/older young people) |
|  | Estranged from family |
|  | Concealed/concerning use of the internet including webcam, online gaming Via X-Box, PlayStation) chatrooms etc. |
|  | Possession of hotel cards/keys and body stamps/tattoos/new piercings |
|  | Displaying signs of harassment/unwanted attention |
|  | NEET/sporadic attendance/missing from education |

CCE Other information – Something else that is significant and personal to young person risk taking.

CCE suspects – Known perpetrators, risky adults, risky peers

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**MISSING**

Analysis & Recommendation – Does a CVE assessment need to be completed? What are you worried about etc

The following boxes need to be completed by the CVE Team

Discussion with the allocated social worker

Missing: Failing to stay in touch with parents/carers/young person not telling you where they are/missing during the day/missing at night/missing over 12/24 hours/missing out of area/missing from education/ Be specific about dates/times/last seen with/with whom/alone or with others/frequency.

What is the main cause for running away – Family issues, bullying, peer pressures etc.

**The following needs to be completed by the CVE Manager**

Analysis & Recommendation – Should a CVE Risk Assessment be completed? Should a CVE Social Worker be allocated to the case? If a CVE Risk Assessment is required then ensure case is booked onto the next Risk Assessment Meeting – maximum of 1 week after referral to the team.