

Safeguarding Children from Child Exploitation (CE)

Quick Links:

[Introduction](#)

[Scope](#)

[Definitions](#)

[Key Principles - Prevention, Protection & Prosecution](#)

[Indicators](#)

[Jersey Child Exploitation \(CE\) Screening Tool](#)

[Parents/Carers/Siblings](#)

[Consent](#)

[Technology Facilitated Abuse](#)

[The Child's Voice](#)

[Practitioner Actions](#)

[Sharing Information](#)

[Actions from Enquiries](#)

[Safety Planning Meeting](#)

[Multi-Agency Child Exploitation \(MACE\) Panel](#)

[Child Exploitation/Missing Strategic Oversight Group](#)

[Prosecutions](#)

[Further considerations](#)

[Supervision](#)

[Resolving Professional Difference/Escalation](#)

[Training](#)

[Amendments](#)

Further Information

[Appendix 1 – Jersey Child Exploitation Pathway \(Children and Families Hub\)](#)

[Appendix 2 – Jersey Child Exploitation Pathway \(Allocated Social Workers\)](#)

[Appendix 3 – Jersey Child Exploitation Screening Tool](#)

[Appendix 4 – Jersey Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Form](#)

[Appendix 5 – Good Practice within CE Risk Assessments](#)

Introduction

Tackling Child Exploitation (CE) is a complex task that requires a proactive, multi-agency, holistic approach. Understanding what drives CE, its themes, the risks and places where it happens provide crucial prevention opportunities to stop children become victims of exploitation. The management, disruption and prosecution of perpetrators is a key success driver in tackling this crime.

CE encompasses physical and emotional abuse, Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), County Lines and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) (see [Definitions](#)). Perpetrators of CE [groom](#) children so that they are unaware they are being exploited. It takes various forms with those seeking to exploit children often subjecting them to multiple types of abuse simultaneously (see the Home Office [Child Exploitation Disruption Toolkit](#) (2019) for further information).

Perpetrators use violence and coercion where children become involved in criminality through fear and provocation. It is vital that professionals work collaboratively to safeguard children and collectively deploy tactics to disrupt perpetrators and the drivers of exploitation.

Operationally, each form of exploitation can be categorised by its own definition, however, there are clear overlaps between different forms of exploitation and the associated risks. Risk are not siloed; professional response must consider multiple domains of risk children and young people experience when exposed to exploitation. Children and young people can be or perceived to be both victim and offender, harmed or harmer and our collective response must be able to manage all of these aspects at the same time whilst safeguarding all of the children involved.

CE is often, interconnected with other forms of child abuse and criminal activity, for example: -

- Technology Facilitated Online Abuse (which involves sharing indecent images);
- Modern Slavery and Child Trafficking;
- Children missing from home and care;
- Extremism Leading to Radicalisation;
- Harmful Sexual Behaviours (HSB);
- Domestic Violence and Abuse;
- Sexual Violence in intimate relationships;
- Organised and Complex Abuse of children and those who become involved in organised criminal groups;
- Drugs-related offences (dealing, consuming and cultivating) ;
- Gang-related activity, including carrying weapons;
- Financial Exploitation; and
- Immigration-related offences (children moving into and out of Jersey).

Refer to Safeguarding Partnership (SP) Jersey Practice Guidance on related topics [[here](#)].

CE has been recognised nationally as a significant issue in both rural and urban areas. The UK Government outlined its commitment to addressing CE in the [Serious Violence Strategy \(2018\)](#), emphasising the need for multi-agency approaches.

In Jersey, the [Building a Safer Community Framework \(BASC\)](#) (2018) outlined the Government's commitment to promoting citizens' wellbeing. While Jersey has a strong record of community safety, BASC introduces a 'fresh approach,' urging safeguarding partners to collaborate to improve outcomes for children.

CE can affect children from all backgrounds and has a profound impact on every aspect of their lives, as well as their families'. CE is described as having 'no borders,' with children at risk of exploitation locally, nationally, and internationally.

Scope

This practice guidance is intended for all practitioners and agencies, by providing practice guidance on how to recognise indicators of CE, including the procedures and legal frameworks necessary to improve children's wellbeing, health, development and safeguard their welfare.

This guidance is for all practitioners (paid or unpaid) working with children including the unborn child, those who work with parents/carers who have responsibility for safeguarding and promoting children's welfare. It should be read alongside the [Children and Young People \(Jersey\) Law \(CYP Law\) 2022](#), the commensurate [Statutory Guidance](#) and the [Jersey Children's First Framework \(JCF\)](#). The [Continuum of Children's Needs](#) supports practitioners in their identification of wellbeing, health, development and safeguarding needs.

Practitioners must adhere to [Statutory Guidance](#) on sharing information (in accordance with the [Data Protection \(Jersey\) Law 2018](#) and follow the [SP Jersey Child Protection Procedures](#) and the [Children and Young People Safeguarding Referrals Procedure](#).

All agencies in Jersey should ensure there is a dedicated lead person in each organisation with the responsibility for oversight of child exploitation and their work in Jersey is co-ordinated.

Where CE is identified/suspected practitioners must:

- Use a shared language to describe CE to avoid misinterpretation around children's behaviours as "choices," through the use of the CE Language Guide [[Found here](#)];
- Use the Jersey Child Exploitation Screening Tool [[Found Here](#) and in [Appendix 3](#)];
- Send an Enquiry for the child to the Children and Families HUB along with the completed Child Exploitation Screening Tool.
- Follow the Jersey Child Exploitation Pathways:
 - a) Jersey Exploitation Pathway - New Referrals [[found here](#)] and in [Appendix 1](#)
 - b) Jersey Exploitation Pathway - Where a child has an allocated social worker [[found here](#)] and in [Appendix 2](#).

Definitions

- **Child** – A person under the age of 18. This term is intentionally used in this chapter to emphasise that a child is at risk of exploitation and requires protection. Even if referred to as young people during their teenage years, they remain children.
- **Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)** – “an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child under the age of 18 into criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. Children may be criminally exploited even if their behaviours appear to be consensual, it may happen online as it does not always involve physical contact ([HM Government 2018](#)). It is impossible to identify age limits when children become exposed to CCE, indications are younger children are being exploited as the younger the child, the less likely they are to be arrested”
- **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)** – “Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child 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 or 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,” ([HM Government 2018](#)).
- **County Lines** – a form of CCE “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 forms 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” ([HM Government 2018](#)).

The adults running these networks remain at a distance from the frontline activity of drug dealing, reducing the risk of being caught and instead they exploit vulnerable children who are at risk of significant harm transporting and selling drugs. This can include receiving or collecting packages and moving them small or larger distances across the island. Some children are forced to carry the drugs in harmful ways that could result in their death. For example, “plugging” is commonly used, which is when children can be forced to insert and carry drugs in their rectum or vagina.

County lines activity is dynamic and perpetrators will change their methods of exploitation quickly. As practitioners become more responsive to identifying children at risk criminals adapt their tactics. For example, a child who is exploited can leave their home in the morning, sell drugs, return the same day, and so avoid being reported missing. This may include targeting new groups of children or recruiting children within the local area and hence avoid the risk of being identified.

There are high levels of violence and intimidation linked to county lines activity. Children can be very quickly groomed into criminal activity, often before parents, carers or practitioners realise what is happening.

All criminally exploited children are at risk of neglect, emotional harm, sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as substance misuse and extreme forms of violence.

- **Debt Bonded** – is a mechanism to control, coerce and intimidate children. It is a form of entrapment that can lead to people feeling as though they are caught in a situation from which they cannot escape. It occurs where a person owes money to their exploiter and are made to repay the debt either through financial means or through another means ([The Children’s Society](#))
- **Harmful Sexual Behaviours (HSB)** - is defined as behaviour, “that is developmentally inappropriate, may be harmful towards self or others and/or abusive towards another child, young person or adult” (Hackett 2019 cited in [NSPCC](#)).

- **Online** - is a term used in this practice guidance to define the use of a device (any device) where a child or young person can gain access to the Internet. Our children and young people have grown up in a digital world which is constantly changing and is now viewed as an essential part of a child's life. However, this creates risk – according to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) [found [here](#)] a significant number of child exploitation offences take place online. These offences include deceiving children into producing intimate images of themselves and engaging in sexual chat or sexual activity on-line. Children at risk of online harm may not have any previous vulnerabilities. The first parents may know that their child has been a victim of criminal exploitation is when the police contact the family. Children and young people often do not see the dangers of sharing intimate images of themselves to strangers. The internet creates a false feeling of security and diminishes inhibitions that would exist offline. The anonymous nature of the internet allows perpetrators to adopt false personas and build trust via online conversations. Children and young people do not realise that they lose control of uploaded images, falsely believing the properties of social media applications will protect them, some of their images may be made in to “deep fakes” ([NSPCC](#)). This leads to risks of threats and coercion and can lead to any of the following risks:
 - Online grooming and child abuse.
 - Access to age-inappropriate content.
 - Financial exploitation, where young people's bank accounts are used by exploiters to launder the proceeds from criminal activities.
 - Bullying and cyberbullying.
 - Personal information being obtained by perpetrator.
 - Talking to strangers or people who misrepresent themselves
- **Child on Child exploitation** - Children and young people can be exploited by children of a similar age as well as adults. Research is increasingly demonstrating that a significant number of exploited children have been abused by children and young people and how this can happen in several ways. In some cases, children/young people who have been exploited themselves by adults or peers, will recruit other children/young people to be abused. In other instances, sexual bullying in schools and other social settings can result in the exploitation of children by other children/young people. Exploitation also occurs

within and between street gangs, where sex is used in exchange for safety, protection, drugs and simply belonging. For 16-and-17-year-olds who are in abusive relationships, what may appear to be a case of domestic abuse may also involve criminal exploitation. In all cases of peer-on-peer exploitation a power imbalance will still drive the relationship, but this inequality will not necessarily be the result of an age gap between the abuser and the abused.

- **Radicalisation** - is defined as the process by which people, including children, come to support terrorism and extremism and in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups. Radicalisation also includes grooming into far-right groups as well as Islamism and other forms. Radicalisation is not about a specific faith or demographic and there is no obvious profile of a person likely to become involved in extremism or a single indicator of when a person might move to adopt violence in support of extremist ideas. The process of radicalisation is different for every individual and can take place over an extended period or within a very short time frame and often involves an element of exploitation.
- **Cuckooing** – This occurs when a vulnerable individual is exploited in their home by groups or individuals so they can use the property for criminal purposes. This may range from using the premises to store, supply and cut drugs and other criminal behaviours. The term comes from the behaviour of cuckoo birds who take over the nests of other birds. Victims of cuckooing are usually targeted by individuals looking to exploit vulnerable people. This could include children together with people with mental health issues or physical disabilities, lonely, isolated people, or people who have or had an addiction problem. They will often establish a friendship or relationship with the victim to be granted easy access into their home and then they will threaten to cause them harm if they tell anyone. Once an individual gains access, they will often invite a larger group to attend the property it is common for these perpetrators to use a property for a short amount of time, moving addresses frequently to reduce the chance of being caught. These environments are extremely dangerous for children.

Key Principles – Prevention, Protection & Prosecution

Perpetrators use different tactics to recruit and exploit children and young people, including befriending them. Recruitment can occur not only through face-to-face interaction but through social media and popular culture linked to music videos with the glamorisation of gang lifestyle and the perceived ease of making money. Any child may be at risk but there are some groups who are particularly vulnerable for example children with neurodiversity, those living in poverty and children in care.

[Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2018 \(reviewed 2023\)](#) reflects an increasing understanding of “extra familial risk” to children and young people from sources outside their homes. It is recognised that children who are affected by CE are often at risk of “extra familial harm” which “may arise at school and other educational establishments, from within peer groups or more widely from within their wider community and/or online.” This concept is also referred to as “contextual safeguarding” or harm from outside the home, (See further information from [NSPCC](#)).

Children who are exploited are victims of abuse and their needs must be assessed including their family environment and wider factors threatening their safety and welfare. [Jersey’s CYP Law \(2022\)](#) mandates collaborative work across agencies.

When CE is identified or a child is at risk, a proactive approach is essential and this requires commitment from senior leaders and managers. With shared responsibility, ownership and coordinated interventions, risks to children related to CE are reduced.

This requires a three-pronged approach of prevention, protection and prosecution: -

Prevention

Preventative measures should include: -

- Reducing the vulnerability of children and young people.
- Improving children’s resilience.
- Disrupting and preventing the activities of facilitators and perpetrators of CE.
- Reducing tolerance of exploitative behaviours.
- Strengthening families and communities to protect children.

- Developing education and awareness raising programmes.

Protection

Protective steps should include: -

- Systems for identifying children and young people at risk of exploitation.
- Safeguard and promoting the welfare of vulnerable children.
- Taking action against facilitators and perpetrators of CE.
- Developing resources for non-traditional safeguarding personnel (e.g., shopkeepers, taxi drivers, hotel and hostel staff), they will often identify risk and should know who to report concerns to.

Interventions should focus on: -

A child-centred approach – recognises children cannot prevent nor do they choose to be exploited and may not recognise their situation.

Supporting parents, carers and improving family life - helping them to understand how to protect, build resilience, and access support. Using for example developed resources such as those provided by Catch 22 [found [here](#)].

Children's Rights Focus - ensuring children are safeguarded from abuse and exploitation ([UNICEF](#)).

Holding perpetrators accountable – with police investigations directed at those facilitating or committing CE.

The use of disruption tactics - While steps need to be taken to increase the safety of a child we should also be focus efforts as a multi-agency group onto disrupting the activity of the perpetrators of the exploitation through: -

- Legislation and legal orders.
- The power of positive activities for a child, which should not be underestimated, to improve self-esteem and create new friendships.

- Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWNs) – These are warning notices issued by the Police to disrupt contact between potential abductors (over the criminal age of responsibility) and a child or young person where the child is aged under 16 years (or under 18 years if they are in the care of the Minister).
- Gathering intelligence and sharing this with the police – via email to partners@jersey.police.je
- Injunctions
- Curfews
- Safety planning with the family
- Tracking the child's phone/location
- Internet safety-setting restrictions, limiting time on devices
- Work with the school: children on reduced timetables or excluded are at increased risk of exploitation, therefore we need to promote and increase their time in education.
- Identify support for the child through a third sector agency or support service e.g. NSPCC, MIND Jersey, YES project.

Prosecution

Identifying, disrupting and prosecuting facilitators and perpetrators of CE is crucial to safeguarding children. While police and criminal justice agencies lead this effort, all partners must support by gathering, recording and sharing information. Those involved in caring for or working with children at risk of or experiencing CE should share relevant intelligence with Jersey Police [found [here](#)]

Parents and carers should be encouraged and supported to collect and share information in a way that can be used in prosecution.

Multi-agency interventions should consider a variety of disruption tactics, as outlined in the [Home Office's Child Exploitation Disruption Toolkit](#). This document provides guidance on how agencies can collaborate to disrupt the activities of suspected perpetrators. It is important to note that references to legislation in the Toolkit relate to legislation in England and Wales and this is not applicable in Jersey. Section 1 of the Toolkit should therefore be

read with caution, where legal advice is required, it should be sought on a case-by-case basis.

Indicators

Any child, in any community can be criminally exploited. Child exploitation is occurring in Jersey. All practitioners should be open to the possibility that the children they work with might be affected. Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation can often be interlinked, with young people at risk of or experiencing both forms of abuse. For some, their homes will be a place of safety and security: for others this will not be the case.

Age: Children aged 12-15 years of age are most at risk of child sexual exploitation although victims as young as 8 have been identified, particularly in relation to online concerns. Equally, those aged 16 or above can also experience child sexual exploitation, and it is important that such abuse is not overlooked due to assumed capacity to consent. Account should be taken of heightened risks amongst this age group, particularly those without adequate economic or systemic support, (Leeds Safeguarding Partnership Child Exploitation Practice Guidance, September 2024). Children of any age can be criminally exploited. The age of criminal responsibility in Jersey is 10 years. 15-16 years is the most common age range for criminal exploitation.

Gender: Though child sexual exploitation may be most frequently observed amongst young females, boys are also at risk. Practitioners should be alert to the fact that boys may be less likely than females to disclose experiences of child sexual exploitation and less likely to have these identified by others. Both males and females are at risk of criminal exploitation, though it may most frequently be observed amongst young males.

Ethnicity: Child exploitation affects all ethnic groups but there are disproportionate amounts of children from black and ethnic minority groups in the criminal justice system.

Heightened vulnerability factors:

- Having a prior experience of neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse;

- Lack of a safe/stable home environment, now or in the past (domestic violence or parental substance misuse, mental health issues or criminality, for example);
- Recent bereavement or loss;
- Being excluded from mainstream education;
- Social isolation or social difficulties;
- Absence of a safe environment to explore sexuality /sexual identity;
- Economic vulnerability;
- Homelessness or insecure accommodation status;
- Connections with other children and young people who are being sexually or criminally exploited or with other people involved in gangs;
- Family members or other connections involved in adult sex work;
- Having mental health or substance misuse issues;
- Having a physical or learning disability, neurodiversity;
- Being in care (particularly those in residential care and those with interrupted care histories).

It is important to remember that young people are not abused/exploited because they are vulnerable, but because someone is prepared to take advantage of their vulnerability and at that moment there is insufficient protection around them.

It is important to note that perpetrators of exploitation may themselves be children who are exploited and that victims of exploitation may also be at risk of becoming the instigators of abuse and exploitation themselves.

Various agencies such as health, schools and Police will hold critical intelligence/information about the relevant child/ young person that will assist with decision making. It is key that all agencies share this information to assist with the safeguarding plan.

CE can affect any child under the age of 18 yrs and involves force and/or enticement – based on methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence.

Individuals, groups, males and females can perpetrate CE. Is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation and the exchange of things like: -

- Attention
- A sense of belonging
- Status
- Goods
- Substances
- Accommodation
- Gifts

Through these exchanges children become **debt bonded** to the facilitators and perpetrators of exploitation.

Jersey CE Screening Tool

The Jersey CE Screening Tool includes the most common indicators, a child who is exposed to exploitation, will experience. Practitioners who use this tool to support their decision making are more able to identify a child's individual vulnerabilities and risks. These may include a range of current, previous or suspected risk indicators. Where it is important to understand these may not be fully understood nor acknowledged by the child and will be more likely seen through their behaviour, single high risk episodes or through their presentation with multiple significant indicators.

Children who go missing have a key indicator for CE, [see SP Jersey Children who go Missing From Care and Children who Go Missing From Home and Education [here](#)]. Once a missing child returns home or is located, it is important that relevant partners manage their return and identify any risks the child may have been exposed to from abuse and neglect, including the use of the Jersey CE Screening Tool to assess their risk of CE.

See the comprehensive list of CE indicators included in the Jersey CE Screening Tool ([Appendix 3](#))

Children may deny or be unaware of their exploitation, so it's crucial for practitioners to support them in understanding and navigating CE if this is the reality of their situation.

Children are unlikely to disclose abuse and exploitation, practitioners must be aware, children are far more likely to “show rather than tell”, they are experiencing abuse or exploitation through their behaviours (NSPCC). CE occurs when a perpetrator exploits a child’s vulnerabilities.

Practitioners must be curious. While not every situation indicates exploitation, practitioners should use the Jersey CE Screening Tool to guide conversations about CE as these direct conversations are in themselves protective.

The screening tool helps practitioners to identify the unique vulnerabilities a child may have, so the child may receive early protective interventions.

Children found to be particularly vulnerable to CE are those who are: -

- Known to Children’s Mental Health Services (CAMHS) or have a history of mental health, self-harm and suicidal intent;
- Those with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), particularly Attention Deficit Disorder and Autism Spectrum Disorder;
- Problematic substance users;
- Being a child in need or care experienced;
- Care Leavers and/or those living away from home;
- Family conflict, breakdown, a lack of love/security, bereavement (those with Adverse Childhood Experiences – ACE’s);
- Outside of parental control, living in poverty or homeless;
- Living with parents with problematic substance use;
- Experiencing or history of exposure to Domestic Abuse;
- Migrant Children or those with unsettled immigrant status, unaccompanied children;
- Children moving into and out of Jersey;
- Children who are excluded from education or not in education, employment or training (NEET);
- Perceived sense of status, belonging or protection; and
- Black and minority ethnic children are overrepresented in statistics on CE.

Please see SP Jersey linked practice guidance on the above topics (found [here](#)).

The fact a child is 16 or 17 years old should not alter a practitioner's response to a concern with relates to CE, where the tool recognises this age group as children.

Going missing is a key indicator of child exploitation and reporting when a child goes missing is a key safeguarding tool (see SP Jersey [Children who go Missing from Home and Education and Children who go Missing from Care](#)).

Foster carers and residential care practitioners should use the Jersey CE Screening tool to assess risk. It is important they are able to recognise possible indicators of child exploitation, respond to and share information appropriately, in line with this procedure. Where a foster carer or residential worker has completed the CE Screening Tool they must follow the steps advised in [Practitioner Actions](#). The child's Independent Reviewing Officer must also be informed of any concerns relating to child exploitation or any other form of suspected abuse and consulted about any change in care planning or provision for the child.

[Parents/Carers/Siblings](#)

Parents, carers and siblings of children exploited through CE are often threatened, intimidated, or assaulted by facilitators and perpetrators of CE.

Although there is no single driver for Child/Adolescent Parental Violence and Abuse, exploited children may exhibit child/adolescent parental violence/abuse (CAPVA) as a coping mechanism ([Barnardo's](#)).

Siblings and other children may be drawn into the exploitation, especially if the exploited child is involved in recruiting others.

Help must be provided in a timely, flexible and ongoing manner. Children and their parents / carers should feel part of the solution and confident they will be believed. Practitioners need to be child focused and adopt a strengths-based, outcomes-focused approach when working with the family.

Consent

It is important practitioners understand the meaning of consent in relation to sex and understand the [Sexual Offences \(Jersey\) Law 2018](#) creates specific offences in relation to children and where they cannot give consent:

- **Offences by adults against children** - A child of 15 years (up to the age of 16) and younger cannot give consent.
- **Sexual Offences by adults against children aged 12 or younger** – is classed as a strict liability offence. This means that consent is irrelevant, this aged child cannot give consent in any circumstance. There is “no defence of reasonable belief,” that the adult believed the child was older.
- **Sexual Offences by adults against older children** - Sexual offences by adults against children aged 13, 14 or 15 (up to the age of 16) - the child’s ability to consent remains irrelevant but there is a defence where the adult is able to show that they reasonably believed that the child was 16 or over.
- **Other offences against children aged 15 or younger** - The law deals with underage sexual offences when both participants are children. It is accepted that there is a role for the criminal law in this area to protect against: peer on peer abuse; sexual abuse, rape and abusive relationships with and between children.
- **Sexual Grooming** – It is an offence for a person (aged 18 years or over) to intentionally meet or to travel anywhere in the World with the intention of meeting a child, if they intend to commit a ‘relevant offence’ against that child either during or after the meeting.
- **Positions of Trust** - The Sexual Offences (Jersey) Law 2018 includes additional offences for those in a position of trust. The law defines those in a position of trust as an adult;

(i) who regularly looks after a child in a children’s home, school, or hospital (amongst other named premises), or

- (ii) who regularly looks after a child on an individual basis to assist a child to participate in education or training, or a professional or volunteer who coaches, trains, or guides a child for a sport, hobby, career or competitive event, or
- (iii) who has regular unsupervised contact with a looked after child, a child in secure accommodation, or is appointed as a guardian in care or adoption proceedings or someone appointed to prepare a welfare report in private law family proceedings, or
- (iv) who advises, assists or befriends a child in accordance with Article 21 Children (Jersey) Law 2002, or performs any functions in relation to a child who is freed for adoption, or
- (v) who has been appointed as a guardian for the child under Article 7 Children (Jersey) Law 2002 or as the child's tutor.

It is an offence for someone in a position of trust to engage in sexual activity with a child aged 16 or 17 even though the child is over the age of consent.

It is an offence where the person is over 18, and there is evidence they were groomed below the age of 18 by the person in a position of trust.

- Where sexual activity with a 16 or 17 year old does not result in an offence being committed, it may still result in harm, or the likelihood of harm being suffered.
- Non-consensual sex is rape whatever the age of the victim.
- If the victim is incapacitated through drink or drugs, or the victim or their family has been subject to violence or the threat of violence, they cannot be considered as having given true consent; therefore, offences may have been committed.

Child sexual exploitation is potentially a child protection issue for all children under the age of 18 years and not just those in a specific age group.

Practitioners must also consider other factors which may influence the capacity and ability of the person to give consent, e.g. neurodiversity/disability/mental ill health.

Technology Facilitated Abuse

Those who wish to exploit and abuse children will often use technology through the use of recording and sharing incriminating activity and as a medium to groom children.

The use of social media and technology is widespread among young people, smart phones, laptops, gaming etc, can be used to exchange information. The use of electronic media presents considerable opportunities and is a powerful tool with which to groom, coerce, control, and exploit children.

Where text / instant messages are used for communication between a facilitator and/or an abuser and a child, it can present significant access difficulties to investigating authorities seeking evidential material.

However, telephone and internet communication can provide a valuable source of evidence which can assist in identifying those who exploit and abuse and children previously unknown to be vulnerable or experiencing exploitation as well as helping to identify complex organised criminal activity, such as County Lines networks. It is therefore vital that professionals, parents and carers, gather as much information as possible which relates to mobile numbers, text communications and social networking contacts and forward these to the Police, to assist in safeguarding children and young people from exploitation and achieve successful prosecutions of those who exploit and abuse.

Practitioners and professionals should know how to monitor online spaces and be prepared to share information with police, where they are suspicious that exploitation is being facilitated online.

Often there is also the covert use of Apps to further entrap children in criminal activity, through for example geo tracking and online banking apps, children are involved in money laundering and other criminal activity.

See SP Jersey Technology Facilitated Abuse [here](#).

The Child's Voice

The child's voice must be central to the assessment. Practitioners should work with children to gain their perspective, capturing their lived experiences, in their own words with

conscious awareness of race, gender, faith, ethnicity, sexual orientation and culture (see SP Jersey Respecting and Capturing the Voice of the child [here](#)).

All practitioners must work to understand the wishes and feelings of children and young people, (taking into account their age, capacity and disability).

Sometimes, a child's distress may be displayed through aggressive, harmful or challenging behaviour in school or at home including running away, misusing substances or displaying harmful sexual behaviour.

Children's needs and safety must come first. This means that practitioners need to work flexibly and continue to 'stay with the child', even when they are unwilling to engage. Relationships between children and practitioners that are based on consistency, stability and respectful communication will help in supporting effective interventions with exploited children.

When a child presents with offending or other concerning behaviour, practitioners need to be curious and compassionate and ask: what is happening in this child's life that is causing them to behave this way?

The behaviours that children present with, such as offending or violence, may result from exploitation outside the home and/or from abuse at home. Any interventions need to take into account all risks and needs. Children who have been criminally exploited are the victims of crime (although they may not initially see themselves as such).

Agencies should consider the context of the child's behaviour as well as the impact (for example trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), mental health issues or substance misuse), to help determine an effective response. This is particularly relevant for children exploited through county lines activity.

Practitioners should work in a trauma informed way and be trained in methods of practice which support trauma informed practice such as the [Trauma Recovery Model](#).

Practitioner Actions

Where a child presents with risks associated with Child Exploitation practitioners must: -

- Where there is immediate risk of significant harm call the police on 999;
- Complete the Jersey CE Screening Tool ([Appendix 3](#));
- Forward an Enquiry to the [Children and Families Hub](#) (including, with their referral, the completed Jersey CE Screening Tool);
- Where the Jersey CE Screening Tool has not been completed and CE is an assessed risk the referring agency, may be given advice and asked to complete the Screening Tool;
- Where harm is also related to an adult with care and support needs, practitioners must raise a safeguarding concern to the [Single Point of Referral](#)
- On receipt of referral the Multi-Agency Safeguarding HUB (MASH) will follow Jersey Child Exploitation Pathways and refer cases dependant on risk either as a New Referral or Where a Child has an already Allocated Social Worker (see [Appendix 1](#) and [Appendix 2](#))

Specialist support should be offered to any children who has disability, neurodiversity or learning difficulties and advocacy must be considered. Where English is not their first language interpreters should be sourced in the child's and their parents/carers own language - see SP Jersey Working with Interpreters and those with Specialist Communication Skills [Found [here](#)].

Sharing Information

Where a child is exposed to or is at risk of exploitation, enquires must be passed to the [Children and Families HUB](#). This is to ensure all information about the young person, their associates and perpetrators can be shared, leading to a full picture of the level of involvement in CE and risks to the child and any other children involved in a timely manner.

Children may be frightened of the consequences of disclosure and may need to be given time to discuss their experiences. The need to share information discreetly in a timely fashion has been shown to be vital in these cases.

All the information the referring agency has relating to the child, any information on potential facilitators and perpetrators, locations and other children with must also be included on the Child and Family HUB enquiry.

If you are not sure - Whenever a practitioner is considering making a referral to the Children and Families HUB, they should discuss this with their Designated Safeguarding Lead.

If practitioners need further advice about whether to make an enquiry about a child, they may contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding HUB (MASH) Decision Maker who can offer advice and support (contact details [here](#)).

The child and their parents/carers may be informed a referral is being placed; where a child has health and development needs or they have safeguarding needs, consent is not required as practitioners have a public duty to share information.

Action from Jersey CE enquiry forwarded to the Children and Families HUB –

On receipt of an enquiry to the Children and Families HUB with a completed CE Screening Tool the MASH CE & Missing Social Worker and MASH Police Officer will assess the child's needs and risks.

Depending on the outcome of the assessment of the CE Screening Tool one of Jersey Child Exploitation Pathways will be followed: -

a) Jersey Child Exploitation (CE) Pathway – New Referral: -

A professional identifies a child as potentially at risk of or vulnerable to exploitation. The professional completes a referral to the Children and Families HUB along with the completed CE Screening Tool.

The MASH CE & Missing Social Worker and MASH Police Officer will assess the CE screening Tool, agree an initial (RAG) rating based on the assessed level of risk (explained below) and from this forward the child's case to the appropriate services dependent on assessed risk:

- **Green – Low Risk of Exploitation** – Where there is some evidence the child/young person is at an increased vulnerability of being exploited, but protective factors are in place. The child will be referred back to the most appropriate key agency to offer an Early Help Wellbeing Assessment, (see [JCF Framework](#)). The CE Screening Tool informs the Early Help Wellbeing (EHW) Plan, which should be designed to support and educate the child and their family about risk, consent and actions to reduce the child's risks from CE in the future. The EHW plan should review the Jersey CE Screening Tool in an agreed time frame, risk reduction named and praised. Where an EHW Plan is turned down by the child or their parents, or risks increase a further [Children and Families HUB](#) Enquiry should be considered where the case can be re-reviewed in light of these increased risks.
- **Amber - Medium Risk of Exploitation** – Where there are indicators the child/young person is vulnerable to being exploited. They may be at risk of opportunistic abuse. This is classed as the initial stages of a child's risk of involvement in child exploitation. The child's case will be passed to the Assessment and Support Team and given an allocated Social Worker. The allocated social worker will complete a CE Risk Assessment (**within 10 working days**). A Safety Planning Meeting will be called and chaired by the CSC Team Manager, including the child and their parent/carers. A safety plan will be developed to intervene, prevent, disrupt and mitigate risks. The case will then be reviewed as per TAC process, via Child in Need, Child in Care or Child in Need of Protection Processes. Where a reviewed CE Screening Tool should be completed in an agreed timescale and kept as a record on the child's file. Praise given where risks have reduces, and further action considered where risks have increased.
- **Red – High Risk of Exploitation** - Assessment, evidence and/or disclosure denote the child is at immediate risk or is currently being exploited. The child is at a risk of harm or significant harm from CE. The child's situation will be passed to the Assessment and Support Team and they will be given an allocated Social Worker: -
- A Strategy Meeting will be held.

- The allocated Social worker will begin CE Risk Assessment (**completed within 10 working days**), [see [Jersey Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Form](#) and [Appendix 4](#).
- A referral will be forwarded by the allocated social worker to the MACE Panel (CSW refer to single agency Practice Guidance.)
- Where a case is referred to the MACE Panel, the allocated Social Worker should prepare to present their CE risk assessment to the MACE Panel Meeting, (the MASH CE & Missing Social Worker may initially support the allocated social worker with the completion of this assessment.)
- A Safety Planning Meeting will be chaired by the CSC Team Manager (including the child and their parents/carers).
- A safety plan will be developed to intervene, prevent, disrupt and mitigate risks. Their case will be reviewed as per TAC process, via Child in Need, Child in Care or Child in Need of Protection Process. As part of safety plan, the CE Screening Tool should be reviewed, praise given where risk reduces, with further actions considered where risk increases.
- The Allocated Social Worker present the child's case to the MACE Panel along with the child's CE Risk Assessment.

Jersey CE Pathway – Where the child has an Allocated Children's Social Worker: -

A professional identifies a child as potentially at risk of or vulnerable to exploitation who has an allocated children's social worker. The CE Screening Tool will be completed by the allocated children's social worker, (where the social workers Team Manager will authorise this.) The Allocated Social Worker will forward an enquiry to the Children and Families HUB along with the Jersey CE Screening Tool. The MASH CE & Missing Social Worker and MASH Police Officer will assess risk and allocate an initial (RAG) Rating : -

- **Green Low Risk of Exploitation** - a safety planning meeting will be chaired by the CSC Team Manager (including the child and their parents/carers) where a prevention and safety plan will be developed. The case will be reviewed as per

Team Around the Child (TAC) process via a child in need, child in care or child in need of protection process.

- **Amber Medium Risk of Exploitation** - the allocated social worker will begin a CE Risk Assessment (**within 10 working days**) [[see Jersey Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Form - Appendix 4](#)].
 - A Safety Planning meeting will be chaired by the CSC Team Manager (including the child and their parents/carers where a prevention and safety plan will be developed. Cases will be reviewed as per TAC Process via a child in need, child in care or child in need of protection process.

- **Red High Risk of Exploitation –**
 - A Strategy Meeting will be held, (See SP Jersey Article 42 Enquiries [here](#)).
 - The allocated Social worker will begin CE Risk Assessment (**completed within 10 working days**) - [[see Jersey Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Form - Appendix 4](#)].
 - A referral will be forwarded by the allocated social worker to the MACE Panel.
 - Where a case is referred to the MACE Panel, the allocated Social Worker will present the Jersey CE risk assessment to the meeting, (the MASH CE & Missing Social Worker may initially support the allocated social worker with the completion of this assessment.)
 - A Safety Planning Meeting will be chaired by the CSC Team Manager (including the child and their parents/carers).
 - A safety plan will be developed to intervene, prevent, disrupt and mitigate risks. Their case will be reviewed as per TAC process, via Child in Need, Child in Care or Child in Need of Protection Process.
 - The Allocated Social Worker present the child's case to the MACE Panel along with the child's CE Risk Assessment.

Safety Planning Meeting –

Safety Planning Meetings will be led by Children's Social Care and chaired by CSC Team Lead. Where multi-agency protective steps will be taken to reduce the immediate risk of harm to the child, including short, medium and long term strategies to support their recovery and promote meaningful change.

A CE risk assessment will consider: -

- The concerns against some of the key risk factors associated with Child Exploitation within a multi-agency response.
- Ensure the CE risk is assessed in a consistent manner (no risk, low/emerging, medium/moderate, high/significant).
- Disruption and prosecution of perpetrator/s is also of significant importance.

Social Workers are encouraged to go beyond the child's presenting behaviour e.g. missing episodes and to explore what else might be going on for the child. Where early intervention improves the chances of positive outcomes.

See [Appendix 5](#) for Good practice within CE Risk Assessments

Safety Planning Meetings will be chaired by a Children's Social Work Team Manager and will involve the child's allocated social worker and a multi-agency of partners working collaborative with the child and their parents/carers (where this does not prejudice the child's welfare). Parents should be seen as partners, children as holding a valuable voice into their lived experiences (See SPB Jersey [Respecting and Capturing the Voice of the Child](#)).

Intervention and Support

Agencies and practitioners should recognise that there may be a strong bond between the child and a facilitator of exploitation and/or their abusers and it may be difficult for the child to break relationships and contact. Importantly continued contact between a child and their abusers may continue. Any ongoing contact should be viewed and responded to with an informed understanding of the power dynamics that are present in abusive relationships and the child's constrained 'choice'.

Support and intervention should (wherever possible) be agreed and developed with the child and their family. This should include: -

- Specialist therapeutic support;
- Mentoring support;
- Assistance to return to, or access education, training or employment;
- Outreach work;
- Help to secure appropriate health services including where required access to the sexual assault referral centre (SARC) and/or a Child Protection Medical;
- Access to safe accommodation;
- Assistance to develop positive networks and activities.

The particular circumstances of the child (and their family) should be taken into account when developing the multi-agency response, and the plan for services should be tailored to meet their specific needs, e.g. whether the child is Looked After and/or preparing to leave care, not receiving a suitable education, reported as missing from home or care, has been trafficked, is an unaccompanied asylum seeking child and/or is a member of a gang.

Effective multi-agency safeguarding involves a wide range of partner agencies to help reduce/prevent risk and disrupt exploitative activity.

All practitioners need to adopt a trusted adult relational approach when working with children affected by exploitation. This may require a deviation from agency timeframes as building a meaningful trusting relationship can take time and is the priority.

Practitioners working with children and young people affected by exploitation should discuss this with their line managers and record any agreement to deviate from agency standards and time frames.

Safety Planning meetings will be called every 4 to 8 weeks based on the level of risk.

Where assessments need to be regularly updated as children's circumstances and the risks they face can change rapidly.

MACE Panel

The MACE Panel ensures that agencies and commissioned services work collaboratively to identify, prevent, and disrupt all forms of child exploitation while addressing risks faced by children and young people who go missing from home, care, or education. The panel also seeks assurance regarding service quality, risk assessments, and threshold application.

The MACE Panel meets monthly to drive proactive response to Child Exploitation. Before presenting to the MACE panel the allocated Social Worker will organise a safety planning meeting with key professionals, the child and their parent/carers. This meeting must be chaired by a Team Manager and aims to develop a robust safety plan with the family to prevent, disrupt and mitigate identified risks.

Partner Agency Responsibilities

- Representatives from partner agencies must gather and document relevant information related to the child/ young person's case.
- Each agency is responsible for progressing any assigned actions.
- Careful use of language is essential when discussing children/young people to ensure accuracy and sensitivity, see [here](#).
- The MACE panel will consider the following types of children/young person's situations/ circumstances:

a. Children or young people at specific risk of exploitation

- Where information suggests an imminent or significant risk, requiring focused discussion on prevention and disruption to ensure safeguarding.

b. Children or young people posing a risk to others

- Where there is concern that a child or young person may pose a risk of exploitation to others.
- Recognising that they may also be victims of exploitation, requiring actions focused on both their own safeguarding and the protection of others.

c. Emerging trends and patterns

- New or developing concerns related to child exploitation, such as:

- Gang activity
- New grooming methods
- Patterns of offending
- Spaces/ places in Jersey
- Peer groups and associations

Child Exploitation/Missing Strategic Oversight Group

The Operational MACE panel will directly report to the CE/Missing Strategic Oversight Group on performance, analysis of trends from intelligence, outcomes of audits and evidence of good practice. It will also report on barriers, gaps in interventions and any concerns about performance to be addressed. It will provide information as appropriate to other forums such as JMAPPA, MARAC and Offender Management.

The Child Exploitation/Missing Strategic Oversight Group will discuss high risk children who have been escalated to understand and report any emerging and existing themes and methods of exploitation in Jersey and recommend operational responses.

Prosecutions

Working with exploited children is complex, it can involve prosecution, serious crime and investigations over a wide geographical area. It is important that agencies work together, cross-reference and share information effectively when there are emerging concerns.

The prosecution and disruption of perpetrators is an essential part of the process to reduce harm. It is the responsibility of the police to gather evidence, investigate and interview perpetrators, prepare case files for consideration by the Law Officers' Department with the intention of obtaining successful conviction of offenders.

Information gathering and sharing is essential in this process to understand local patterns to disrupt and deter perpetrators and to identify, help and protect children. Effective early information sharing and intelligence gathering can:

- Help build a coherent picture of risk sources and potential targets for abuse.
- Identify and support a child's needs at the earliest opportunity, reducing the duration of harm and escalation to more serious abuse.
- Help identify and understand the links between different forms of exploitation and hidden, or related, crimes.
- Identify locations being used for the purposes of exploitation.
- Identify networks or individuals who pose a risk to children.
- Provide evidence in applications to the court for civil and criminal orders.
- Enable quicker risk assessment of a potential victim of trafficking; and
- Assist in the development of effective safety plans.

Problem Profiling and Mapping

Agencies can support the disruption and prosecution of facilitators and perpetrators by working together to undertake problem profiling and mapping exercises, to gain shared understanding of friendships, associations, potential perpetrators, other children who may be recruited, locations and contexts of concern.

Mapping exercises can help practitioners understand the places where children feel safe and those they feel unsafe in and why, and these should be undertaken with children to support informed multi-agency planning and intervention. The collation of intelligence is important and the definition of specific areas as 'hotspots' for trained observation will assist enquiries and prevention.

Considering information from underutilised sources of information. Areas that attract young people but are less regulated than formally organised spaces. Any area that has a concentration of fast-food outlets and takeaways, taxi facilities, cinema, leisure centre, restaurants, shopping malls, parks is a potential area of recruitment. Any area that has high levels of runaway activity needs to be mapped as a hotspot. Similarly, probation services need to map areas of employment for known offenders, if patterns of employment arise in these areas this intelligence needs to be forwarded and shared with other agencies.

It is important that intelligence systems around Missing Persons (MISPERS) and CE are interlinked within all organisations.

Further Considerations

Organised and Complex Abuse

Cases of organised and complex abuse are often multifaceted, because of the serious nature of the allegations being made and (in many cases) the number of children involved. Where there is often a need for specialist expertise owing to the complex nature of consequential investigations and legal proceedings, [see SP Jersey Organised and Complex Abuse [here](#).]

[The London Safeguarding Partnership Board \(CP8\)](#) define organised and complex abuse as abuse involving “one or more abusers and a number of related or non-related abused children” stating “...it may take place in any setting. The adults concerned may act in concert to abuse children, sometimes acting in isolation, or may be using an institutional framework or position of authority.”

If this form of abuse is identified practitioners must share their concerns, with their DSL, Registered Manager or Heads of Service as soon as practicably possible so timely decisions can be made around how to make appropriate referrals and reduce and mitigate the risks for the children involved.

Immediate Protection

Where immediate action to safeguard a child is required, this may involve having to move the child (and at times their family) to a safe place. Those working with children in these circumstances must never underestimate the power of those who exploit and abuse to locate a child, and in such circumstances children (and their families) will need practitioners (including carers) who are able to build and maintain meaningful trusting relationships.

A decision to place a child in secure accommodation on welfare grounds, should only be considered in extreme circumstances, and will require legal advice and careful consideration of the child’s best interests.

Raising Awareness

Raising awareness of CE with the wider community including parents and carers as well as public services such as transport and recreation and the business community is important and helps in developing an understanding of the local risks and patterns of offending. Schools have a crucial role in prevention by educating young people to understand the risks especially when young people are involved in developing prevention and awareness resources.

Crossing Police Force Boundaries

Many CSE cases cross police force boundaries and therefore there should be cross boundary cooperation and information sharing. This may involve Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre [CEOP](#) who can support the police by helping to coordinate cross-boundary or international investigations involving child sex offender networks or in the management of high-risk offenders which may involve grooming through chat rooms and social networking sites or involvement with paedophile rings.

Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) -

Children and their parents can self-refer and will be offered support from Dewberry House, the islands sexual abuse referral centre (SARC) [Dewberry House](#) at any point. Children and their families do not need to make a complaint to the police to access support from this service.

Child on Child Abuse

Child on Child (also known as Peer on Peer Abuse) is defined as any form of physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, and coercive control exercised between children, and within children's relationships (both intimate and non-intimate), friendships, and wider peer associations. It can take various forms, including (but not limited to): bullying (including cyber-bullying), relationship abuse, domestic violence and abuse, youth and serious youth violence, harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) and/or prejudice-based abuse including, but not limited to, gender-based violence ([Farrer & Co 2024](#)).

Online Child on Child Abuse

“Online child on child abuse is any form of child on child abuse with a digital element, for example, sending sexually explicit messages and images, online abuse, coercion and exploitation, child on child grooming, threatening language delivered via online means, the distribution of sexualised content, and harassment.” ([Farrer & Co 2024](#)).

It is important to consider the context in which any child on child abuse is taking place, as this will inform the best approach to working with and supporting the child. You may need to refer to guidance on other forms of abuse such as domestic abuse and/or involvement in gangs and criminal exploitation (See SPB core procedures on Domestic Abuse and Gang activity, youth violence and criminal exploitation).

Children and Young People who go missing.

As CE can occur within and between street gangs, exploitation happens in exchange for safety, protection, drugs and simply belonging. This can result in children experiencing CE and being put in a position of acting in the exploitation of other children. Children may then be seen as perpetrators of CE. The advice is these children first and foremost should be viewed as being exploited and they are in need of protection themselves. A significant number of children and young people who are being exploited may go missing from home or care, and education. Some go missing frequently; the more often they go missing the more vulnerable they are to being exploited, (see SP Jersey [Children Missing from Home and places of Education and Children who go Missing from Care](#)).

Return Home Interviews (RHI's) with the child or young person help in establishing why they went missing and the subsequent support that may be required, as well as preventing repeat incidents. Information gathered from RHI's can be used to inform the identification for Referral and Assessment of any CSE cases. Practitioners are encouraged to consider how best to conduct return interviews, using Trauma Informed Approaches and moments of opportunities to gather information from children as opposed to the use of only a prescriptive format for conducting return interviews which a child may turn down.

Supporting Children through related Legal Proceedings

Children need to have access to supportive practitioners or agencies to support them through court processes if prosecutions are to be successful. Consideration of the best service to provide this is essential.

Where CSE is concerned children who have been harmed through sexual abuse will be allocated to a Sexual Offences Liaison Officer and there will also be an officer in charge of the case.

Children will also require the support of independent advocacy.

A child should not be deterred from accessing pre-trial therapy as this can ensure their emotional wellbeing through a court hearing. See the [Attorney General's Guidance on 'The provision of therapy for witnesses prior to trial'](#) 2023.

A pre court familiarisation visit should take place and all aspects of cross examination explained. Interviews need to be in accordance with Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) guidelines and undertaken by ABE trained staff.

Staff throughout the justice system need to be familiar with CE and the impact this can have on children's health, wellbeing and development into adulthood. If a young person is involved in legal proceedings because of or in addition to criminal proceedings, the impact of CE upon the child's needs must be considered. Given the complexity this may add to any proceedings the child may need to have independent legal advice within proceedings and this be considered by the courts.

Harmful Sexual Behaviours (HSB)

Where a child presents with Harmful Sexual Behaviour practitioners should consider the use of the Brook Traffic Light Toolkit (accessed via [Digital Learning](#) for Government employees and [virtual college](#) for those (on island) who work outside the government.

Child Protection Medical Pathway and/or Child Sexual Abuse Pathway

Where a child may have been physically abused, suffered neglect or sexual abuse, consideration must be given to following the Child Protection Medical Pathway and/or the Child Sexual Abuse Pathway found [here](#).

Supervision

It is also important that front line workers supporting children affected by exploitation receive reflective supervision and are supported in their work in this complex area of practice.

Practitioners should have access to regular [single agency safeguarding supervision](#).

Agencies should consider multi-agency reflective supervision where cases are complex, stuck or drifting.

Resolving Professional Difference/Escalation

Professional challenge should be welcomed and partnership working depends on resolving professional difference and conflict as soon as possible. Where staff experience professional differences, they must follow the [SPB Resolving Professional Difference/Escalation Policy](#).

Training

Multi-agency Safeguarding Partnership Training is accessed [here](#).

Amendments

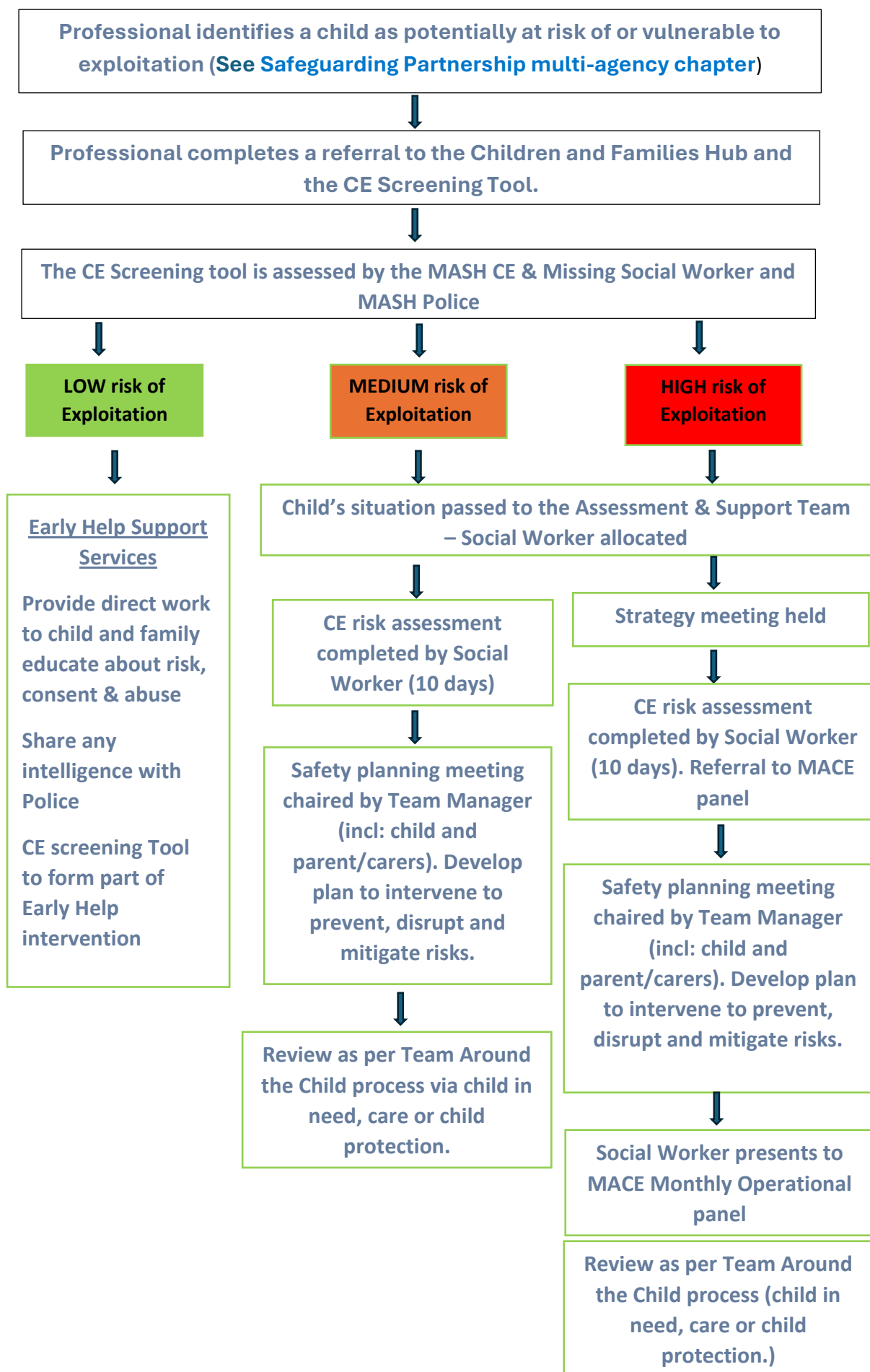
- Child Exploitation is new Practice Guidance introduced in 2025.
- The chapter includes the Jersey Child Exploitation Pathway.
- The Jersey Child Exploitation Screening Tool.
- The Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Information Form.

Further Information

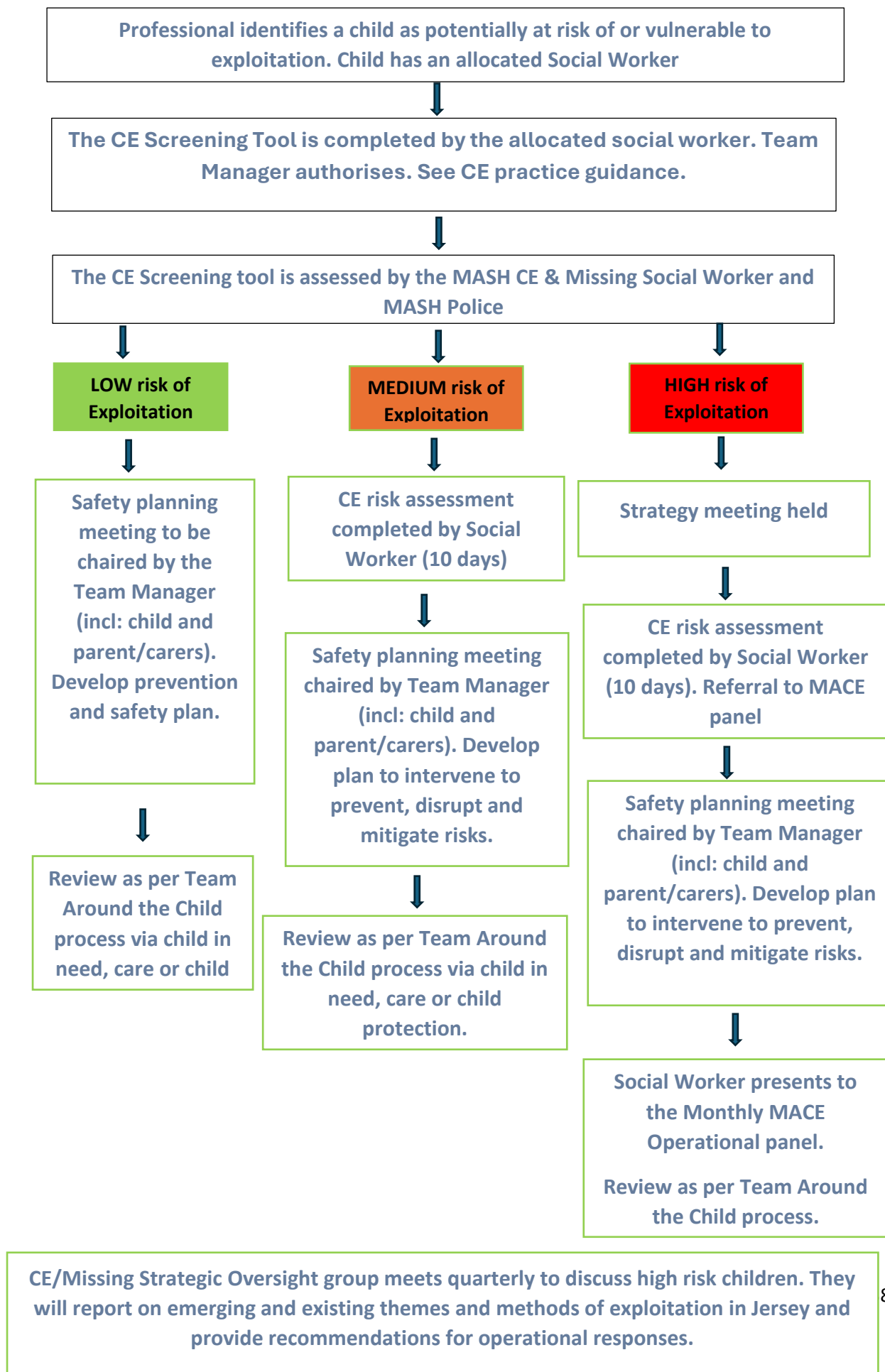
- [Child Sexual Exploitation: Definition and Guide for Practitioners \(DfE, 2017\) - Definition and a Guide for Practitioners, Local Leaders and Decision Makers Working to Protect Children from Child Sexual Exploitation](#)

- [Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse](#)
- [Child Sexual Exploitation: Practice Tool \(Research in Practice, 2017\)](#)
- [The Children's Society – Exploitation Toolkit](#)
- [Contextual Safeguarding Network](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges\)](#)
- [Keeping Kids Safe - Improving Safeguarding Responses to Gang Violence and Criminal Exploitation \(The Children's Commissioner, 2019\)](#)
- [Counting Lives - Responding to Children who are Criminally Exploited \(The Children's Society, 2019\)](#)
- [County Lines: Criminal Exploitation of Children and Vulnerable Adults \(HM Government\)](#)
- [Home Office Child Exploitation Disruption Toolkit, 2019](#)
- [Tackling Child Exploitation: Resources Pack \(Local Government Association\)](#)
- [“It’s a Hidden Problem” The issue of Violence against women and girls in Jersey Report](#)
- [Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy \(GOV.UK\).](#)
- [Protecting children from criminal exploitation, human trafficking and modern slavery \(GOV.UK\)](#) - thematic report from Joint Inspections on the risk of child criminal exploitation.
- [Children and Young People Trafficked for the Purpose of Criminal Exploitation in Relation to County Lines a Toolkit For Professionals - \(The Children's Society in partnership with Victim Support and the National Police Chiefs' Council\)](#) - a number of resources that may be useful for professionals when working with children and young people, their families and communities at risk of abuse and exploitation.
- [County lines exploitation: guidance for practitioners \(Ministry of Justice\)](#) - Practice guidance for Youth Offending Teams and frontline practitioners.
- [County lines exploitation: practice guidance poster \(Ministry of Justice\)](#) - Note: not all processes included may be applicable to your local area, so please refer to your local CCE Pathway as well.
- [Running the Risk \(Catch 22, 2015\)](#) - Report on children and young people being recruited to travel to areas away from home to sell drugs.
- [County Lines after COVID - a new threat? \(2020\)](#) - Crest Advisory Report examining the changing picture of county lines activity.
- [Serious Violence Duty - Preventing and Reducing Serious Violence: Statutory Guidance for Responsible Authorities](#)
-

Appendix 1: Jersey Child Exploitation (CE) Pathway: New Referral



Appendix 2: Jersey Child Exploitation (CE) Pathway



Appendix 3

Jersey Child Exploitation (CE) Screening Tool

The Screening Tool uses the term ‘child’ deliberately to remind us that a child at risk through exploitation is a child in need of protection and not a young adult making poor choices. It is designed to be used by anyone who has concerns for a child. A child is defined as a person who is under 18 years of age.

The Screening Tool is designed to help identify vulnerabilities and risks associated with exploitation and for you to explain your concerns relating to the child. Your observations of behaviours and any significant changes will be important as children will often deny or be unaware that they are being exploited. Significant changes in behaviours, a single high-risk episode or multiple risk factors may indicate that the child is a victim of abuse through exploitation rather than a teenager experimenting with risk taking. Please complete as fully as possible.

Please use the Children’s Society guidance on use of language [Child Exploitation Language Guide | The Children's Society](#) to assist with the completion of this tool.

Child Details			
Forename(s)	Click or tap to add details here.	Surname	Add details here.
Child also known as?	Click or tap to add details here.		
Date of Birth	Click or tap to add details here.	Gender	Choose an item.
Ethnicity	Please Choose		
Home or Placement Address	Click or tap to add details here.		
School / College / Employment attended by Child	Click or tap to add details here.		
SEND	Click or tap to add details here.		
Professional judgement of any additional learning needs? If yes, please provide details below			Yes / No (Please choose)
Click or tap to enter text.			
What is your relationship to the child?	Click or tap to add details here.		

Parent/Carer Details			
Forename(s)	Click or tap to enter text.	Surname	Click or tap to enter text.
Address Details	Click or tap to enter text.		
Do they have Parental Responsibility?	Yes / No (Please choose)		

Risk - Can highlight more than one risk if required				
Sexual Exploitation		Yes / No (Please choose)	Missing	
Criminal Exploitation / County Lines		Yes / No (Please choose)	Serious Youth Violence	
Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking		Yes / No (Please choose)	Honour Based Abuse	
Harmful Sexual Behaviours		Yes / No (Please choose)	Online Harm	
Radicalisation	Yes / No (Please choose)	If yes, have you contacted the Police to report this.		Yes / No (Please choose)
Agency Involvement – Please specify current agency involvement e.g. Social Care; School Nurse; CAMHS; Youth Service, etc				
Agency Name		Role	Details (including contact details)	
Children's Services		Add details here.	Click or tap to add details here.	
Police		Add details here.	Click or tap to add details here.	
Probation		Add details here.	Click or tap to add details here.	
CAMHS		Add details here.	Click or tap to add details here.	
ED		Add details here.	Click or tap to add details here.	
School Nurse		Add details here.	Click or tap to add details here.	
School / Education / Training Provider		Add details here.	Click or tap to add details here.	
Housing		Add details here.	Click or tap to add details here.	
Youth Service		Add details here.	Click or tap to add details here.	
Other (add here).		Add details here.	Click or tap to add details here.	
Other (add here).		Add details here.	Click or tap to add details here.	
No Lead Agency	Early Help Plan	Child in Need	Child Protection Plan	Child in Care / Leaving Care
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lead Practitioner Name?		Click or tap to add details here.		
Is the child placed from a different authority? If yes, please provide details below including the authority and if known, the date they were placed.				Yes / No (Please choose)

Areas of Concern		
Which of the following are applicable to this young person? (Current: 0-6 months Previous: 6+ months Suspected)		
Concern	C / P / S	Details
Repeat missing incidents	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Drug or alcohol misuse	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
In possession of money/ gifts / items / phones / clothing that cannot be accounted for	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Change in physical appearance or behaviour / isolated from peers / more secretive	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Pregnancy, termination or repeat testing for sexually transmitted infections	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Being coerced into taking/sharing indecent images of self or others	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Arrested / Involved in criminality	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Found / travelling out of island	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Multiple mobile phones	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Young person feels indebted to an individual or group	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Items missing from home	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Young person carrying / concealing weapons	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Connections with other people in gangs, criminality, or Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) - please provide names	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Absent from school / Non-school attendance	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Living in a chaotic / dysfunctional household	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details

Child has experience of extra or intra familial violence	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Low self-esteem / self confidence	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Minimising or retracting statements of harm to professionals	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Self-harm indicators and / or mental health concerns and / or suicidal thoughts / attempts	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Injuries – evidence of physical or sexual assault (i.e. domestic abuse)	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Relationship breakdown with family and or peers	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Expressions around invincibility or not caring what happens to them	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Forming relations with known or unknown adults and young people, including online	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Increasing disruptive, impulsive behaviour, hostile or physically aggressive, including use of sexual language and language in relating to criminality and / or violence.	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Young person's sexuality increases their vulnerability as they feel unaccepted due to sexual orientation	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Location of concern (include vehicles / parks / buildings) provide names / registration	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Homelessness / family having to move or leave their home / lack of housing entitlement	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Struggling to manage in current living arrangement (independent living / with other / family)	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Child associating with peers of concern (provide name)	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Association with others who have been exploited or go missing (provide names)	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details
Found in possession of drugs and or significant amount of money locally or out of borough	Please Choose	Click or tap to add details

With the above highlighted risk(s) – Do you think the child is being exploited? If so how? (Give as much information as possible)

Click or tap to enter text.	
What are the concerns, and what is the potential impact for the child? (Give as much information as possible)	
Click or tap to enter text.	
What are the key factors influencing the child's vulnerability and resilience? How do these impact on the level of risk?	
Click or tap to enter text.	
What is the child's view of these concerns?	
Click or tap to enter text.	
Are the parents / carers aware of these concerns? If not, why not?	
How can parents/carers be involved in addressing the concerns?	
Click or tap to enter text.	
What support have you put in place to address these concerns? And what else do you think the child / family needs?	
Click or tap to enter text.	
Have you submitted a Children and Family's hub referral for any peers who are linked	Yes / No (Please choose)
Click or tap to enter Names.	

Referrer's Details			
Name	Click or tap to enter text.		
Organisation/Agency	Click or tap to enter text.	Role	Click or tap to enter text.
Email			
Telephone landline	Click or tap to enter text.	Mobile	Click or tap to enter text.

Date of Referral	Click or tap to enter a date.

Appendix 4

Jersey Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Information Form

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

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

'Child Exploitation' includes:

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

Date of completion/review		Review	
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Named worker leading on the Risk Assessment		Contact Details & Agency		Date	
Authorising line manager		Contact Details & Agency		Date	

- **Additional Information: names, contact details including email addresses of professionals who contributed to the completion**

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Child's full name (+ aliases)	D.O.B.	Age	Home Address and contact number	
Disability (not just physical)	Gender Identity	Ethnicity	First language	
GP Details & contact number	Known to Police	Known to Probation	Known to CAMHS /Referral (date made) / Awaiting Assessment / Clarify Pathway	

I consider this child to be at risk of: (highlight all that apply)	Please indicate
Sexual Exploitation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Harmful Sexual Behaviours	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online Exploitation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criminal Exploitation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cross Border (County Lines)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Modern Slavery / Trafficking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial Exploitation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Radicalisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Honour based violence	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Vulnerability / Welfare Pen Picture

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

Vulnerability Factors	<i>Please indicate</i>
1. Known to Jersey Children's Social Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. History of Jersey Children's Social Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Mental Health issues / Self Harm / Suicidal (provide details)	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Physical Disability (be specific about what disability)	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Learning Difficulties / Education, Health & Care Plan/ Special Educational Needs/Disability (be clear in the evidence box below relevant issue)	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Learning disabilities/special needs (be specific about disability)	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Reduced capacity (due to age, education, experiences, mental health, language barriers)	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Drug / Alcohol Use of the child	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Family conflict/ breakdown, lack of love/security, bereavement through death, loss, illness of a significant person in child's life (ACE'S)	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.Behaviour outside of parental control	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.Prior experience of neglect, emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>

12.Lack of a safe/stable home environment, now or in the past (domestic abuse and/or substance misuse and/or mental health difficulties or criminality, for example)	<input type="checkbox"/>
13.Organised Crime Group Family	<input type="checkbox"/>
14.Social Isolation	<input type="checkbox"/>
15.Challenges for Education attendance / Attends an alternate education provision / NEET	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.Disguised compliance by family or minimisation of risks / Poor parental engagement with professionals	<input type="checkbox"/>
17.Family history / current experience of sex work	<input type="checkbox"/>
18.Economic vulnerability of child and family / Homelessness or insecure accommodation status	<input type="checkbox"/>
19.Unclear of how to explore cultural / sexual identity safely	<input type="checkbox"/>

Evidence (please reference the number of the vulnerability you have ticked and include evidence):

Guidance:

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

Risk indicators of a child who is exploited	<i>Within the last month: Please indicate</i>	<i>1 to 3 months ago*: Please indicate</i>	<i>3 to 6 months ago: Please indicate</i>
1. Criminal concerns/risk factors a) Concerning or escalating levels of criminal behaviours b) Increasing contact with Police (for example, arrests and stop-searches)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

c) Being criminally exploited to become involved in criminal behaviour where another person is profiting/benefiting..... (general levels of criminality – ie stealing from shops/cars etc would only be a concern around exploitation if they are doing it on behalf of someone else)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. County Lines concerns/risk factors a) Evidence of drugs on child b) Arrested for dealing drugs c) More than one mobile phone, multiple sim cards d) Information to suggest child has more than one mobile number e) Use of social media to sell drugs f) Evidence or intelligence to suggest child is carrying a weapon g) Victim of robbery (Lots of children end up debt bonded through staged robberies) h) Drug dealers demanding money for alleged drug debt i) Carrying knives or guns	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Repeated periods of absence/missing (day and/or night – including for short periods) a) Frequently missing with whereabouts unknown or of concern/ missing episodes b) Missing with other young people assessed as being at risk/experiencing / abused through exploitation c) Parents not reporting the child missing but known episodes of being away from home for significant periods of time d) Pattern of street homelessness e) Persistently running away/going missing from placement or school or returning late	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Abusive/exploitative relationship of concern with adult (male or female) or young person, which might involve physical and/or emotional abuse / sexual abuse and/or gang activity a) Teenage relationship abuse which may be same sex relationship b) Evidence of multiple sexual contacts / abuse with multiple people c) Young person /child believing they are in a relationship or friendship with an older adult / peer relationship d) Other relationships where control appears to be present that indicates concern e) Gang associations (including family connections) f) Associations with other young people / child known or suspected to be exploited	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults (not car theft)			

a) has the child been transported anywhere for the purpose of exploitation (ie being used to transport packages/money or transported to commit criminality for the benefit of another)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothes or other items (including digital currency) a) More than one mobile phone, multiple sim cards b) Unaccounted for money/goods/jewellery c) Hotel keys d) In possession of travel tickets, or any indication that the young person is intending to travel, or has travelled out of the area. e) In possession of condoms, Vaseline (possible plugging)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Internet and mobile technology: groomed/abused/exploited: a) Taking/sharing youth generated images of self or others with aggravating factors such as the involvement of an adult or older person, evidence of coercion or threat, offer of financial reward, more than one person involved b) Using internet to identify and meet unknown peers/adults c) Evidence of displaying or receiving sexualised bullying via the internet/social media d) Multiple social media accounts e) Excessive texts and calls/changes in behaviour or absconding in response to phone activity (aggressive/anxious)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Unexplained contact with hotels, taxi companies or fast-food outlets: a) Frequented unknown hotels/B&Bs b) Being picked up by different taxis on a regular basis with no plausible explanation or money to pay for them	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
9. Evidence of significant harm sexual/physical assault a) Victim of assault caused by weapon/knife b) Evidence or intelligence to suggest child is carrying a weapon c) Victim of robbery (Lots of children end up debt bonded through staged robberies) d) Concerns child has made an allegation of serious sexual/physical harm (can include kidnap) e) Allegation of sexual/physical harm later withdrawn	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

10. A&E attendance or presenting an injury of concern to any professional a) No appropriate adult in attendance or concerns about adult in attendance with child b) Child/young person unwilling to share details c) Inappropriate explanation of presenting symptoms/physical injuries without plausible explanation	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Evidence: The information should be clearly dated as to when it was first received, but also as to the date the concern relates to. The information should specify clearly where the information originated – what was the source? E.g pupil x disclosed to teacher that they witnessed....., Child of concern disclosed to substance misuse worker that..... The Information should be specific to a particular person, vehicle, or incident Please provide as much detail as possible regarding names / nicknames / dates of birth / descriptions / vehicle details / addresses - which should include residence if known, location of incident, school / college / workplace attended etc.			

Strong indicators that a child may be / is being exploited	Within the last month: Please indicate	1 to 3 months ago*: Please indicate	3 to 6 months ago: Please indicate
1. Whereabouts unclear or unknown – day and/or night a) Frequently staying out late without permission and whereabouts unknown and/or of concern b) Absconding from education provision and whereabouts are unknown (to school or parents) and/or of concern	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

2. Absences/exclusion from school or not engaged in school/college/ training/work a) Not attending school and whereabouts are unknown (to school and parents) b) Being on a part time timetable c) Suspended or permanently from school and not in alternative provision d) Electively home educated but concern around this and child's whereabouts during day	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Involvement in Anti-social behaviour/low level offending/criminality a) Subject to formal anti-social behaviour enforcement b) Criminal damage in the community/home c) Low-level assaults with peers (could be in school or in the community) d) Frequenting abandoned buildings e) Alcohol seized by Police	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Regular/Multiple contacts from unknown adults or known adults/peers of concern a) At educational provision b) At home/placement address c) On the telephone/text/messaging apps d) Online via social media/gaming/email e) Excited about new friendships that are unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Sexually transmitted infections/ Pregnancies / termination of pregnancies a) Multiple (of the above) b) Concerns raised via school nurse/GUM Clinic	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Drug and/or alcohol (mis)use a) Concerning or increasing levels of substance use b) Issues with drugs/alcohol/tobacco through unknown sources c) Arrest for possession of drugs d) In possession of/or selling of vapes amongst peers or to other children	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Internet and mobile technology which causes concern – a) Sending/receiving of youth generated sexual images with no aggravating factors b) Protective of phone/high volume texts/calls	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

c) Change in behaviour in response to mobile phone contacts, increasingly secretive d) Unexplained mobile phone / gaming credits e) Online through the night	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Significant changes in normal presentation a) Isolation from peers and / or withdrawal & detachment from family. b) Volatile behaviour exhibiting extreme array of mood swings or abusive language which is unusual for the child. c) Physical aggression or violence towards parents, siblings, pets, teachers or peers. d) Becoming angry, hostile if any suspicions or concerns about their activities are expressed or plans are disrupted. e) Detachment from age -appropriate activities. f) Secretive behaviour. g) Change in social group; particularly change in age (older associates) or size of group (gangs). h) Viewing family as enemy and associates as family. i) Wearing two layers of clothing from home (one to shed to avoid police detection) j) Change in behaviour – from lack of eye contact to bravado, arrogant, squaring up, rudeness or aggression. K) Change in language / vocabulary – use of coarse and offensive language and/or terminology / unusual nicknames. l) Change in appearance – smart to 'street' or wearing expensive/ designer labels (no explanation).	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
9. A&E attendance of concern or with no plausible explanation a) No appropriate adult in attendance (or concerns about adult in attendance) or young person unwilling to share details b) Inappropriate explanation of presenting symptoms	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
10. Being accompanied to any appointments by an unknown person that causes concern	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evidence: The information should be clearly dated as to when it was first received, but also as to the date the concern relates to. The information should specify clearly where the information originated – what was the source? E.g pupil x disclosed to teacher that they witnessed....., Child of concern disclosed to substance misuse worker that..... The Information should be specific to a particular person, vehicle, or incident			

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

Early indicators of exploitation	<i>Please indicate</i>
Unsuitable/inappropriate accommodation/sofa surfing/financially unsupported (including migrant or refugee children)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Isolated from or reduced contact with normal peers/family/social networks	<input type="checkbox"/>

Association with new/unknown groups of peers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poor school attendance (current in last 6 months) <input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration in school results <input type="checkbox"/> Missing from education	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Concerns raised about use of internet including <input type="checkbox"/> Poor privacy setting on social media <input type="checkbox"/> Interacting with high numbers of unknown social media “friends” <input type="checkbox"/> Poor understanding of how to stay safe online	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Engaged in offending and/or anti-social behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/>
Siblings involved in sexual exploitation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poor engagement with support services/key worker	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evidence: The information should be clearly dated as to when it was first received, but also as to the date the concern relates to. The information should specify clearly where the information originated – what was the source? E.g pupil x disclosed to teacher that they witnessed....., Child of concern disclosed to substance misuse worker that..... The Information should be specific to a particular person, vehicle, or incident Please provide as much detail as possible regarding names / nicknames / dates of birth / descriptions / vehicle details / addresses - which should include residence if known, location of incident, school / college / workplace attended etc.	

Professional Judgement: In the box below please record your professional judgement based on the information recorded on this screening tool and consider the health, welfare and safety of the child in question, include any protective factors that you are aware of.

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

Views of the parent / carer / Network of Support

Information about suspects, vehicles and locations

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

Identified Gaps in Assessment and Action Required to Obtain Information

Multi-Agency Safety Plan

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

Disruption Plan:

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

Date	Agency	Action Taken

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

What needs to happen?	By whom?	By when?

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

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Review timescales

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

LOW RISK	*8 WEEKLY
MEDIUM RISK	*6 WEEKLY
HIGH RISK	*4 WEEKLY

**Timescales should be considered in line with increasing concerns*

Overall Assessed Level of Exploitation Risk

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

Appendix 5

Good practice within CE risk assessments:

- Language - Be conscious of the words and terms we use as professionals. Sometimes we can unintentionally use victim blaming phrases such as 'lifestyle choice' or 'putting themselves at risk.' Are boys seen as more resilient when it comes to exploitation? Be conscious of gender stereotyping, assumptions and bias. When thinking about the term “engaging” – link this to a trauma informed approach- consider why professionals have not been able to engage the child and what can be tried differently. Thinking about the terms “choice” and “risk taking behaviours” - These are victim blaming. Children cannot be sex workers. Children cannot consent to exploitation. Please use the Children’s Society guidance on use of language [Child Exploitation Language Guide | The Children's Society](#).
- Child's views are a central component of the assessment of risk and should be captured where possible in the child’s own words. (Children who have been abused have already experienced a loss of control and the assessment process should be managed so they can meaningfully participate)
- Consider the child's unique needs and individual vulnerability to CE.
- Use description and analysis drawing on professional judgement.
- Hypothesis-what do you think is happening for this child and what is your professional opinion?
- Contextual factors-think about places, spaces and connections.
- Views of other agencies and family members (multi agency approach)

- Push and pull factors e.g. low emotional warmth, poverty plus promise of vapes/alcohol and being made to feel like they have a sense of belonging and connection (see diagram below).
- Not being disclosure dependant-remember most children don't realise they are being exploited.
- Protective and resilience factors-including strengths for the family and the child. • Consideration of disruption opportunities.
- Be underpinned by professional curiosity and not simply rely on checklists, disclosures or what is or is not known. If something is not known, professionals should not assume that may not happening.
- Consider the impact of the issues identified in the assessment of the individual and identify the support that is required to meet their needs

