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 Multi-Agency Exploitation Screening Tool

The purpose of the tool is to enable professionals to assess a child’s level of risk of exploitation including CSE and County Lines in a consistent evidenced based approach manner. The screening tool can be applied to all children (male and female) under the age of 18 years and is to be used by anyone who has a concern that a child may be being exploited.

**Important points to remember when considering Exploitation:**

* Both girls and boys can be victims of exploitation and are equally vulnerable.
* The coercer(s) and perpetrator(s) are usually an adult(s), but children and young people can also act in an exploitative abusive way towards other young people or exert power e.g. group/gang members of either gender.
* Children and young people may exchange or sell sex as a result of constrained choices such as poverty, isolation and historic abuse.
* Although it is rare, parents/carers may be involved in the exploitation of their children.
* Groups of children and multiple perpetrators may be involved (organised abuse).
* No child under 13 years should be assessed as Low Risk if behaviours indicate a risk of Exploitation.
* Children with additional needs require special consideration up to the age of 21 years.
* No child with a learning disability should be assessed as Low Risk if behaviours indicate involvement in or risk of exploitation.
* Be aware: disclosure of information by the child may take time and evident risks may only emerge during ongoing assessment, support and interventions with the child and/or family.

Guidance on the use of the screening tool

1. Completion of the Screening Tool by the professional identifying the concerns should involve liaison with other agencies to ensure that there is multiagency Information sharing and support.
2. The screening tool is intended to assist the exercise of professional judgment by assisting professionals to consider the risk of harm to a child. Professionals are encouraged to go beyond the child’s presenting behaviour e.g. missing episodes and to explore what else might be going on for this child/young person.
3. If a child presents with one indicator, action is required. Early intervention improves the chances of positive outcomes. One indicator is unlikely to require Children’s Social Work Services or specialist services intervention unless it is a Significant Risk category.
4. Assessing or screening for child exploitation should not be seen as a one off event. Young people can move very quickly between risks categories, therefore regular assessment should be undertaken using the Screening Tool. Any escalation of risk should be dealt with in accordance with MSCB procedures.
5. Using the CSE Multi-agency Threshold Descriptors alongside the Screening tool will determine which the level of intervention required dependant on the assessed level of risk. If in doubt please contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Tel: 01612192843 or by e-mail to Contact Centre mcsreply@manchester.gov.uk . For advice and consultation please ring the Duty Social Worker, Complex Safeguarding Hub on 01612264196
6. Disruption and prosecution of perpetrator/s is also of significant importance therefore, any information which comes to light about the victim/s or Perpetrator/s (however insignificant this may seem) should be passed on to the Police.

**IMMEDIATE SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS:** If you are concerned that a child or young person is at immediate risk of harm then you should dial ‘999’ and tell the Police. If you have any information which might help protect a child you should dial 10

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| **Details of Person completing the Screening tool** |
| **Name** |   | **Telephone No’** |   |
| **Organisation/role** |  | **e-mail address** |  |

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| **Personal Details of Child / Young Person** |
| **Family Name** |   | **Address** |   |
| **First Name (s)** |  |
| **Middle name (s)** |  |
| **Gender** |   |
| **Date of Birth**  *(dd/mm/yy)* | Click here to enter a date. | **Post code** |  |
| **MC No** *(CYPS only)* |   | **School /** **Education setting** |  |
| **Social care** **case level**  | Choose an item. | **Assessment Date***(dd/mm/yy)* | Click here to enter a date. |
| **Ethnicity** | Choose an item. | **Age at time of Assessment** |  |

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| **Perpetrators Details**  |
| **Family Name** | **First Name (s)** | **Middle Name (s)** | **Alternative Name** | **Date of Birth** | **Gender** | **Ethnicity** | **Age** |
|   |   |   |   |  Click here to enter a date. |   |  Choose an item. |   |
| **Family Name** | **First Name (s)** | **Middle Name (s)** | **Alternative Name** | **Date of Birth** | **Gender** | **Ethnicity** | **Age** |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |  Choose an item. |   |

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| **Risk Assessment** |

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| **Significant risk** (select all appropriate options) |
| Previous victim of CSE | [ ]  | Unexplained gifts or additional mobile phone | [ ]  | Visiting hotels with adults | [ ]  | Visiting nightclubs with adults | [ ]  |
| Recruiting others into exploitative situations | [ ]  | Meeting known or unknown adults inappropriately | [ ]  | Being groomed to meet via the internet | [ ]  | Transported from town to town for sexual /or criminal activity with adults | [ ]  |
| Clothes / phones / money / jewellery / drugs / cigarettes | [ ]  | Over sexualised appearance | [ ]  | Associating with known CSE perpetrators/ drug dealers or other victims of exploitation  | [ ]  | Presence at hotspot CSE areas such as taxi ranks, bus stations, off licences and take away | [ ]  |
| Information of direct involvement in exploitation from reliable sources | [ ]  | Engaging in sexual activity with adults or with peers at young age | [ ]  | Presence of frequenting red light areas | [ ]  |
| **Comments:** |

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| **Strong Indicators of exploitation** (select all appropriate options) |
| Considerable change in school performance / attendance / behaviour | [ ]  | Multiple callers to address | [ ]  | Receiving calls/text from unknown person / additional unexplained mobile phone or other mobile device | [ ]  | Self-harming and/or suicide tendencies / Substance misuse  | [ ]  |
| Association with other victims of exploitation  | [ ]  | Multiple boyfriends/girlfriends | [ ]  | Sexualised risk taking (including internet)  | [ ]  | Involvement in crime or anti-social behaviour | [ ]  |
| STI or Emergency Hormonal Contraception  | [ ]  | Forming relationships via internet | [ ]  | Missing or Absent from home episodes | [ ]  | Entering or leaving unknown vehicles | [ ]  |
| Found in areas with no known connection | [ ]  | Over sexualised behaviour for age | [ ]  | Involvement in exploitative relationships | [ ]  | Involved in gang type activity.Possessing large amount of unexplained cash.Suspicious bank account activity  | [ ]  |
| Association with risk adults | [ ]  | Pregnancy and/or termination | [ ]  | Unexplained relationships with adults | [ ]  | Evidence of self-harming | [ ]  |
| Older boyfriend/girlfriend | [ ]  | Unexplained physical injuries | [ ]  | Exclusion from school due to behaviour – may not have been excluded - reduced timetable/alternative provision | [ ]  | Change in physical appearance - weight loss/ weight gain / external signs such as extreme fatigue or sudden increase in make-up, tattoos, piercings etc | [ ]  |
| **Comments**: |

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| **Early Indicators of CSE** (select all appropriate options) |
| Absent/truanting from school | [ ]  | Detached from age related activities | [ ]  | Lack of interest in education | [ ]  | Physically aggressive to other family members | [ ]  |
| Frequent poor behaviour | [ ]  | Secretive relationships | [ ]  | Returning home late | [ ]  | Secretive behaviour | [ ]  |
| Becoming estranged from family | [ ]  | Mood swings | [ ]  | Hostility towards other family members | [ ]  | Secretive about internet use | [ ]  |
| Change in appearance – including sudden increase in make-up or tattoos or piercings etc | [ ]  | Change in sporting or leisure activities/ interests (e.g. no longer interested in football / dancing when they used to be) |[ ]   |
| **Comments:** |

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| **Vulnerability Factors** (select all appropriate options) |
| Live in a chaotic or dysfunctional family | [ ]  | Low self-esteem or confidence | [ ]  | Parents with mental health problems | [ ]  | Live in residential or foster care or unstable adoptive placement | [ ]  |
| Drugs or alcohol abuse | [ ]  | Mental health problems | [ ]  | Sexually active | [ ]  | Subject of bullying | [ ]  |
| History of sexual abuse within the family | [ ]  | Social or learning difficulties | [ ]  | Recent bereavement or loss | [ ]  | Homeless | [ ]  |
| Parents with drugs or alcohol abuse | [ ]  | Migrant, refugee or asylum seeker | [ ]  | Unsure of their sexual orientation | [ ]  | Previous victim of CSE | [ ]  |
| Lack of protective factors within family unit | [ ]  | History of domestic abuse within the family | [ ]  |    |
| **Comments:**  |

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| **Additional Comments**  |
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| **Name(s) and Signature(s) of Professional(s) making this assessment** |
| Name  |   | Name  |  |
| Role |   | Role |  |
| Agency |   | Agency |  |
| Signature |   | Signature |  |

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| **Multi Agency Management Decision** |
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| **Name(s) and Signature(s) of Multi Agency Management making this Decision** |
| Name  |   | Name  |   |
| Role |   | Role |   |
| Agency |   | Agency |   |
| Signature |   | Signature |   |

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| Name  |   | Name  |   |
| Role |   | Role |   |
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