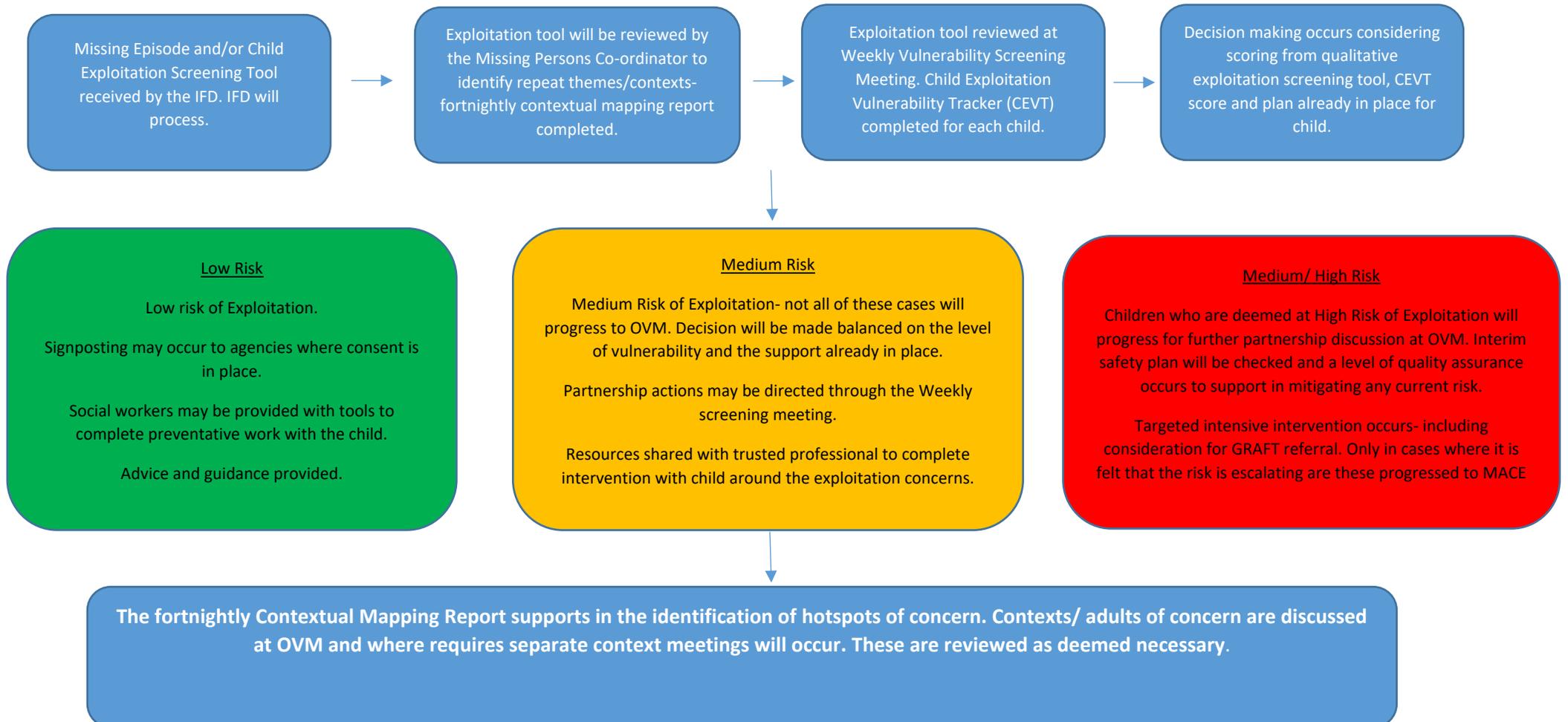




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PROCESS FOR IDENTIFICATION & INTERVENTION WHERE THERE ARE CHILD EXPLOITATION CONCERNS.





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Guidance for Practitioners regarding Child Exploitation Process

This guidance is to be used alongside the exploitation process to assist in ensuring clarification around the process for practitioners.

1. Identification of a child young person where there are concerns around exploitation/ completion of the exploitation tool.

If you have concerns regarding a child and feel that they could be at risk of exploitation/ currently being exploited, you do have a duty to ensure that the exploitation tool is completed. This needs to be done with as much relevant information as possible, utilising the partner agencies involved with the child to ensure the most holistic assessment as possible. This needs to be completed for children where the concerns are around Child Sexual Exploitation/ Child Criminal Exploitation/ Modern Day Slavery concerns or for children whose missing episodes are a cause of concern.

2. Completed and sent to the Integrated Front Door. NELCChildrensFrontDoor@nelincs.gov.uk

Once the exploitation tool has been completed and sent to the IFD, the IFD will process and add the information onto a vulnerability tracker. This is a tool which keeps track of all screening tools received and all children whereby concerns around vulnerabilities have been raised. This forms the agenda for a weekly vulnerability screening. THE IFD will also ensure that any immediate safeguards have been implemented- or advised should the case already be open to children services.

All exploitation screening tools are reviewed by the Missing Persons' co-ordinator and a Fortnightly Contextual Mapping Report Completed which seeks to identify themes/ hotspots and contexts of concern.

3. Vulnerability Screening

Vulnerability screening occurs once a week- attendees include Exploitation Manager, IFD Assistant Team Manager , GRAFT team manager, Early Help Locality Specialist Lead, along with a police researcher and school nurse. The purpose of these meetings are to ensure that the most appropriate response is taken at the first possible point.



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Within this meeting relevant documentation is reviewed, whether this be the exploitation tool, or the missing details and the return home interview. This enables appropriate consideration of the concerns and the contextual harm, and supports in not only identifying children that need to progress to the OVM (Operational Vulnerabilities Meeting) but also any adults/ themes/hotspots of concern.

Vulnerability screening quality assures the decision making previously completed by MASH and implements any required additional safeguarding measures. The CEVT is completed. The CEVT (Child Exploitation Vulnerability Tracker) is a points-based tracker which asks numerous questions to support in the identification in the level of risk around child exploitation. The tracker is a nationwide tracker implemented in respect of County Lines and CCE activity, however we have adapted this locally to encompass all areas of vulnerability, including CSE and children who go missing from home or care. On occasions there is a differentiation between the scoring level on the qualitative screening tool, and that given when the CEVT has been completed. This is due to the different scoring mechanism and no decisions will be based solely on score alone.

Where there are complex concerns around exploitation, primarily those that are Medium/ High risk and where the plan around the child does not appear to be addressing the concerns around exploitation, the decision will be made to discuss the child at the Operational Vulnerabilities Meeting.

Operational Vulnerabilities Meeting

OVM is held every 3 weeks and the venue can differ (you would be advised of a time slot and a venue should a child open to you be discussed). OVM consists of a vast team of professionals from a variety of services, including health, education, YOS, police, children services and the community sector.

At the OVM meeting the CEVT is reviewed and updated. A multi agency view will be collated on the case which will look at any other additional actions that can support the child's main statutory plan. These actions will focus on the worries around Exploitation. **There is the expectation that the social worker or case supervisor will attend OVM** unfortunately if this does not happen the child's case may not be heard as it is likely that you are the person that knows the child best.



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MACE

MACE is chaired by strategic decision makers in Children Services and the Police and this is the forum whereby the children and young people we are most concerned about are discussed. These are the young people that worries are continuing to escalate despite tried and tested support previously. The purpose of the MACE is to ensure the following;

- A framework to allow regular information/intelligence sharing and action planning to tackle exploitation from a range of statutory, voluntary and community sector agencies at a strategic level for decision making,
- A governance structure to ensure all concerns about child exploitation have been assessed and responded to appropriately via safeguarding and enforcement agencies,
- A forum to identify and respond to gaps in provision and to escalate any enforcement or safeguarding concerns,
- A meeting to share wider intelligence sharing of the CE risks and needs across N E Lincolnshire,
- A process to identify any child who presents as a victim of exploitation and also a risk towards other children to ensure risk is identified and managed appropriately,
- To identify any child turning 18 who is vulnerable to exploitation who require referring to services to ensure appropriate transition,

Review

It is felt that whereby there are concerns for a child or young person around exploitation that every 3 months the exploitation tool is reviewed and updated. This will evidence impact and whether the work being completed is achieving/sustaining change. This is imperative as the needs/vulnerabilities of children are ever changing. However, if you have an imminent worry and feel case requires re discussion do not wait, this can be recompleted at any time.



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Prior to case closure whereby there are or have been concerns around exploitation it is recommended that good practice would be that an updated tool is completed that would evidence that these worries are no longer prevalent- for such situations this would not necessarily need to go back through the MASH but would be more to aid your decision making and assessment of the case.

Contextual Safeguarding

North East Lincolnshire Council are embedding contextual safeguarding and therefore at all of the meetings, Exploitation Screening, OVM and MACE contextual aspects will be considered. This will include places and associates of concern. As such please keep this in mind when completing the exploitation tool.

In embedding contextual safeguarding, it is key that as a local authority we are considering, adults of concern, peer group relationships, and the location/hotspots of concern. This is a central theme which as managers we consider throughout the exploitation process. Positive measures are taken in the actioning of these concern, with close partnership working with our safeguarding partners, including Humberside Police to positively disrupt. Numerous resources are used to support in these mapping of concerns, such as peer group mappings, neighbourhood mappings etc.

Contexts/ Themes/ Adults of concern are discussed at OVM and where felt necessary due to complex concerns a separate context meeting will occur. All minutes and action plans are recorded within in a Contextual Mapping Spreadsheet and clearly trackable.

There is the **Identification and Intervention of contexts briefing document** and interim process for professionals for further advice and guidance in this area



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Review- Cases will be brought back to OVM for review- timeliness of this is dependant on actions suggested and level of risk.