

## **Addendum to 2.1.1 and 2.1.2**

### **Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Meeting for Individual Children**

This procedure outlines the multi-agency procedure for referral and action when a child or young person has been identified as being at risk of child exploitation.

It needs to be read in conjunction with the following procedures:

- [2.1.1 Child Sexual Exploitation](#)
- [2.1.2 Child Criminal Exploitation](#)

For more information and resources:

- [2.1.1 Child Sexual Exploitation section 10. Further Information](#)
- [Appendix 1 - Consider what you can do to Prevent, Protect, Prosecute and Prepare](#)

#### **1. Scope and Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of MACE is to provide a clear and consistent identification and assessment of children at risk of child exploitation. The meeting promotes information sharing across a variety of agencies across the local area to highlight vulnerabilities, threats, and to establish and reduce risk by increasing safety around a child/young person.
- 1.2 The meeting will discuss concerns about child and young people who may be at risk from child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, gang related crime, and human trafficking.
- 1.3 MACE will include all young people within Rotherham, including Looked After Children placed from a different Local Authority. This will enable local services to have some oversight and understanding of young people placed in the Rotherham area who are identified as at risk or have vulnerabilities around exploitation.
- 1.4 This meeting has replaced the original Risk Assessment Meetings (RAM) which have been taking place on a weekly basis for a number of years. The purpose of these meetings was initially as a referral mechanism for any young person where there were concerns regarding child sexual exploitation, but the threshold was not met for a strategy meeting.
- 1.5 Nationally there has been recent recognition and acknowledgement of the need for local authorities to respond to young people who are at risk of both criminal exploitation and sexual exploitation. Local authorities have started to develop similar pathways to that of RAM. These are more commonly known in other Local Authorities as MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Panels) and a number of local authorities through the United Kingdom now have MACE arrangements in place.

- 1.6 By renaming this MACE, ensuring processes and policies mirror those being used within other local authorities. This will help with ensuring a shared understanding and meaning of MACE and pathways for victims of Child Exploitation across local authorities, better understanding of the referral process and joined up working with other local authorities and although Rotherham has been using this approach for several years, this ensures Rotherham are trailblazers for exploitation in the future.

## **2. Membership and Frequency**

- 2.1 The following multi-agency partners will continue to attend the meeting:

- Evolve Team Manager
- Detective Sergeant, CSE Team, SYP
- Evolve Worker or YOS worker (who will complete the CE risk assessment)
- South Yorkshire Police
- Youth Offending Service
- Early Help
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Housing
- 0-19 Health Practitioner - CSE Nurse
- Safeguarding Lead for the young person's education placement
- Divert - drugs and alcohol service for young people
- Team Manager for Barnardo's
- Virtual Head to be included when discussing LAC
- Children, Young People and Families Consortium Strategic Co-ordinator

- 2.2 The meeting will be chaired alternatively by the Evolve Team Manager or Detective Sergeant, CSE Team, SYP. In the Evolve Team Manager's and the Detective Sergeants absence, the meeting will be chaired by YJS Coordinator or a nominated Evolve Social Worker who has received some training and guidance regarding the procedure.

- 2.3 Attendees at this group must have delegated authority to contribute to operational decision making. Should an agency/Individual be unable to attend a suitable representative is to be nominated.

## **3. Meetings**

- 3.1 Partners involved in the meeting all commit to sharing information and working together to promote the safety of young people. The services/agencies in attendance at the MACE meeting will continue to develop in line with audit learning and service development.
- 3.2 The MACE meetings will take place every Thursday morning between 9:30 – 13:00, initial presentation will be scheduled for 45 minutes and reviews 15 minutes.

#### 4. Procedure

- 4.1 To refer a child to the meeting, the MACE referral form is to be completed CE - *Identification & Professional Consultation Form*, on LCS.
- 4.2 MACE will include all young people within Rotherham, including Looked After Children placed from a different Local Authority. This will enable local services to have some oversight and understanding of young people placed in the Rotherham area who are identified as at risk or have vulnerabilities around exploitation. *The referrals for these young people will be made via MASH when the leading local authorities inform us, they are living in our area, and this will be supported by their allocated Social Worker contacting the Evolve duty phone number; 01709 334052*
- 4.3 Once a date and time is arranged to discuss the young person, Business Support will send an invite to the lead professional. The Social Worker has responsibility to ensure any other key professionals working with the child/family are invited to the meeting.
- 4.4 The MACE will review the young people presented a minimum of 12 weekly dependent on the level risk. When a young person is presented a review date will be booked as per the guidance (one month review for high risk, three months for medium and six months low risk).
- 4.5 The Vulnerability Assessment Tool (VAT) is completed by the chair to determine the level of risk of exploitation. The tracker is used nationally and is reviewed at a central point which will send alerts if a child on our Tracker has been identified on another authority's tracker, allowing us to monitor children and any potential trafficking. Various factors affect the score. All of these factors are on the tracker and add up to create the overall risk rating. A manual score can be added or deducted by the chair of up to 20. When completing the manual score a rationale must be clearly outlined and recorded.
- 4.6 Scoring is based on intelligence and incidents over the past six months. Low Risk 0-39 - Minimal evidence at present to indicate the vulnerable person is at risk of criminal exploitation Medium 40-69 - Risk of criminal exploitation identified – Must remain open to social care until the risk is reduced. High 70+ - The risk of the subject being criminally exploited is high and a specialised response is required to reduce the risk; or the subject is already being criminally exploited or is highly likely to be exploited imminently. A [National Referral Mechanism](#) (e-form) should be considered and this [Guidance for Child First Responders](#) may help.
- 4.7 The Evolve Social Worker attending MACE will complete the CE risk assessment within 3 working days. If outcome is Medium or High for exploitation, there will be a discussion around the type of exploitation. Young people assessed as medium or high risk will remain open to Social Care alongside a dedicated worker from the Evolve Service until this risk has reduced to low. Young people assessed to be low risk will be identified support from Early Help and Preventative Services.

- 4.8 In terms of the high-risk young people the multi-agency group will decide on a case-by-case basis whether they need to come back sooner. For example, some of our young people who are high risk are having fortnightly risk management meetings, attended by the SYP and the Evolve Team Manager which negates the need for him to come back to MACE monthly. Any updates will be shared to the MACE meeting by the Evolve Team Manager or Detective Sergeant, CSE Team, SYP.
- 4.9 A plan is formulated by the multi-agency group with agreed multi-agency actions and timescales. Agencies will then contribute to an overall plan which will address the exploitation risk, increase the protection and safety of the young person and disrupt the exploitation.
- 4.10 The CE risk assessment will be updated at a minimum of once every 12 weeks within a multiagency meeting such as the MACE, Child in Need Meeting, Core Group, LAC Review or Team Around the Child meeting. If the young person is open to Evolve, Barnardo's or the Youth Justice Service, they will be responsible for completion of this assessment. Otherwise, the Social Worker will update this (for example if a young person is placed out of South Yorkshire and not open to the Evolve team) and can utilise the support of the Evolve duty number for assistance around this
- 4.11 The MACE minutes/record of engagement form will be completed – see the form at the end of this document.
- 4.12 Rotherham will not include young people who demonstrate sexually harmful behaviour at MACE as these young people are discussed at the YMARAC which is led by the Youth Justice Service and takes place fortnightly. The proposal is that this arrangement remains in place.

For more information see **Consider what you can do to Prevent, Protect, Prosecute and Prepare** in Appendix 1 below

**Appendix 1 - Consider what you can do to Prevent,  
Protect, Prosecute and Prepare**

<u>Disruption</u>	<u>Support for Young Person/Child – SoS Tools</u>	<u>Family Support (Caregivers) – SOS Tools</u>
<p><u>Mapping of connectivity Hot spots, Venues, Adults of concern, other children at risk etc</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licensing for venues</li> <li>• Taxis</li> <li>• Food Outlets</li> <li>• Hotels etc.....</li> </ul>	<p><u>Positive Engagement</u> <i>Person Centred Activities (Identify Work)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspirations</li> <li>• Friendship Groups (<i>Eco mapping friendships and plan positive activities</i>)</li> <li>• Likes/dislikes (<i>develop one page profile to include communication styles</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental Presence (also increase professional presence)</li> <li>• De Escalation of Conflict (NVR techniques)</li> <li>• Helpful Supporters 'No secrets' including appropriate extended family, friends and neighbours, Family Network Meetings</li> </ul>
<p><u>Housing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tenancy Agreements</li> <li>• Anti-Social Behaviour</li> <li>• Sub Letting</li> <li>• Over crowding</li> <li>• Appropriate activity</li> <li>• Noise disturbance</li> </ul>	<p><u>Diversion Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arts/Crafts/Creative writing/Fashion</li> <li>• Sports/Physical Activity</li> <li>• Music/DJing/Song writing</li> <li>• Gaming (<i>safe game sites</i>)</li> <li>• Work experience</li> <li>• Voluntary work</li> <li>• Organised groups</li> </ul>	<p><u>Reconciliation Gestures</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive acts of kindness and inclusive gestures (<i>regardless of conflict &amp; challenges</i>)</li> <li>• Avoid punitive and aggressive parenting styles.</li> <li>• Mum &amp; Dad offer positive role models and provide family time with children</li> <li>• Language of Love (<i>Family Culture</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><u>Police Disrupt Activity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police intelligence forms</li> <li>• Investigate &amp; prosecute offenders</li> <li>• Abduction Orders</li> <li>• Trafficking Laws.</li> <li>• Drugs Supply</li> <li>• Trading Standards (Alcohol)</li> <li>• Visiting Houses</li> <li>• Review Vehicle licenses, MOT's, Insurance etc</li> <li>• Probation (<i>If open to probation or on licence</i>)</li> </ul>	<p><u>Communication Styles</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Texting</li> <li>• Apps</li> <li>• Engagement during activities</li> <li>• Short note messages including positive encouragements</li> <li>• Age-appropriate safety plan with danger statement</li> </ul>	<p><u>Work with Siblings</u> <i>Support all Parents</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify needs of siblings and support them</li> <li>• Parents provide positive time with siblings, away from CSE concerns</li> </ul>
	<p><u>Interventions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extracurricular activities</li> <li>• Sexual Health Relationships &amp; Health support</li> <li>• Identify/Self Esteem Work</li> </ul>	