



# Walsall Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

## APPENDIX C - EXPLOITATION PATHWAY

# Walsall Safeguarding Partnership Exploitation Pathway

Concerns identified that a Child, Young Person or Adult is being exploited or at risk of exploitation.

Professional identifying concern completes Exploitation Assessment. (see the Exploitation Assessment guidance)

Child, young person or adult is being exploited and in need of immediate protection?

No

**Send the completed Exploitation Assessment to Walsall Exploitation Team –**  
[missingexploitedchildren@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:missingexploitedchildren@walsall.gov.uk) (this email address is used for children and adults where there are exploitation concerns)

Yes

Contact the police by calling '999', and notify MASH 0300 555 2866 (Children) or Initial Intake 0300 555 2922 (Adults) and send completed Exploitation Assessment to the Exploitation Team.

**Basic checks** completed by the Exploitation Co-ordinator. If the child, YP or adult is open to Social Care, the allocated worker is notified. If not, Exploitation Assessment sent to MASH or Initial Intake. **Exploitation Co-ordinator sends Exploitation Assessment to Partners (i.e. Police: PPU, Locate, FCID, Partnerships, Health, Street Teams) in preparation for next days daily triage.**

**Strategy discussion/Information sharing** takes place by MASH/Initial Intake where there is a concern of significant harm identified for the victim at point of contact. Immediate safeguarding actions planned and any disruption activity is considered. Assessments completed i.e CFA, S.47, adult plans (see pathway guidance).

**Multi-Agency Daily triage takes place coordinated by the Exploitation Team.**  
 The Exploitation Assessment is reviewed and discussed. Initial checks completed and level of risk agreed (this is sometimes different to the initial level of risk indicated by the referrer). Appropriate course of action agreed (**see below possible outcomes**) based on risk level and information shared and safety planning considered. Key information/intel/themes identified to share at Exploitation Panel. Missing action plans considered where required.

Police referrals can be made at any time during this process via calling 101 or submission of intelligence forms (add link). Social workers should refer to police upon receipt of new or escalating exploitation concerns.

Where common **themes** are identified, **perpetrators** and evidence of **concern** within community is established – these are noted and added to the next Exploitation Panel agenda.

Exploitation Coordinator liaises with allocated worker for the Victim **if medium/high** risk – initiates safety planning in line with existing plans, i.e. Child in need, Child protection Plans, Children in Care, missing intervention meetings, adult safety plans. Mapping and intelligence gathering ongoing.

**Low risk/No risk victims** – appropriate intervention identified at daily triage. This could be Single agency support, voluntary organisations including Street Teams, Single agency Early Help, targeted Early Help

**Exploitation Panel** takes place monthly and is a strategic multi-agency panel where information and Intel is shared across the partnership who look at themes and commonalities relating to the most vulnerable victims in the borough to aid disruption of exploitation, manage resources based on key locations of concern and support formal criminal and civil actions taking place to reduce exploration risk in the Borough. Discussion is disruption and location focused informed by themes from high risk/most vulnerable victims of Exploitation. Exploitation Panel is chaired by a social care Head of Service.

**Review:** Each victim is reviewed in accordance with their existing plan i.e. CIN, CP, LAC, Adult safety plan, or as new exploitation concerns are identified. Actions are reviewed and amended or ended as required. Exploitation Assessment is updated by allocated worker following any change in exploitation concerns. The Exploitation Team capture detail of Victims reducing in risk but also increase of risk and identify any key themes/locations.

**Exit Plan/Step Down:** This would take place when there are no longer any exploitation risks evident for the victim or the risk has reduced to Low and can be managed via Early Help intervention for children and equivalent for Adults.

