



Identifying and responding to Child Exploitation

Guidance for Professionals working with children and families

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Contents

[Introduction](#).....3

[Identifying Exploitation](#).....3

[Key factors when interpreting possible Child Exploitation](#).....4

[A Practitioner’s Contextual Approach to Working with Exploitation](#).....5

[Learning from Exploitation Serious Case Reviews](#).....6

[Disruption and Protective Powers](#)8

[Practitioner Disruption Techniques](#)15

[Trafficking and NRM](#)..... 17

[Good Practice](#).....19

[Definitions, Abbreviations and Acronyms](#)..... 21

[Local Resources](#)..... 25

Introduction

The purpose of this guidance is to be a practical aide memoire for professionals responding to concerns of suspected or identified incidents of a child being exploited. Throughout this document the term child is used to describe anyone under the age of 18. This reflects the findings of the [Casey report \(2015\)](#) which highlighted the importance of seeing the victims as children so that their status is never overlooked. All definitions are explained on Page 16.

Identifying Exploitation

The difficulty for parents, carers and professionals is in differentiating between 'normal teenager' behaviour and being at risk of exploitation. It requires the recognition of those around the child to spot subtle changes and measure these actions against the key indicators. Parents and other professionals involved with the child may have also been groomed by the perpetrator(s) or be intimidated, which may result in them not agreeing with the possibility of their child being exploited.

The use of the Milton Keynes Child Exploitation indicator (screening) tool will assist with analysing the behaviour of a child in helping practitioners explore the possibility that the child is being exploited. A child displaying key indicators does not automatically equate that a child is being abused/exploited.

Children may be fearful of talking to professionals due to their belief that the relationship with the perpetrator is a loving one, being involved in criminal activity or being fearful of repercussions from their family or the perpetrator(s). Children rejecting offers of support may result in the child being seen as rebellious. These views will hinder a practitioner's ability to assess the child's behaviour and if the perception is that the child has a certain level of resilience or resistance, then this view may increase the child's vulnerability. Grooming techniques may be employed to encourage a child to behave in a certain way, in order to gain further control over the child or to reduce the child's credibility. Children missing from school should also be recognised as possibly being exploited and efforts should be made to see why the child is not attending school and where they are going when not in school.

If the child is known or suspected to be misusing substances, an understanding should be gained regarding the substance and how it is obtained. Use a description of the substance and refer to how it affected the child and what the child believes it is, rather than recording the drug the child told you. This will allow analysis of whether the substance is what the child believes and challenges the credibility of the supplier. If relevant the Psychoactive Substances Act (2016) may provide the opportunity to disrupt any perpetrator's actions. Substance misuse may be a child's coping strategy or may be part of controlling the child.

Where sexual exploitation concerns exist, any child aged 12 years or younger where reference to sexual activity has been made will need to be reported to Children's Social Care (CSC) or Thames Valley Police (TVP). Younger children, children who have learning difficulty or disability, or are a Looked After Child can be especially vulnerable to exploitation. Check with other agencies who are working with the child to see if they have concerns and if so, what are they and have they completed an exploitation indicator tool. From the child's perspective, is there an organisation or worker that would be best placed to obtain further information to assist with the analysis of concerns?

 <p>Research/Legislation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working together to safeguard children, DfE (2018)• Sexual Exploitation of Children, Definition and guidance for practitioners (2017)• Sex offences Act 2003 (s47 – 50)• Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: County Lines guidance Home office 2018• Victims of modern slavery – frontline staff guidance (2016)
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 <p>Reflective Practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has an exploitation screening tool been completed incorporating views from the child, their family and other agencies? • Is the concern exploitation or are there other forms of controlling or manipulative relationship, such as domestic abuse, or sexual violence? • Does a Child Protection consultation need to be undertaken? • Has the social worker, CFP or YOT worker been notified of concerns?
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Some key facts to remember with regards to exploitation include:

- Both males and females can be abused within all forms of exploitation.
- Children are targeted and groomed for criminal exploitation in major cities and trafficked into other county areas as well as within the local areas.
- Children can be shown how or made to internally insert and carry drugs in their rectum or vagina. (Sometimes referred as ‘plugging’). Children can also store wrapped drugs in their cheeks, which can then be more easily swallowed if approached by police.
- The children can be sent to ‘trap’ houses, or ‘bandos’ where they will be made to sell drugs for anything from a few hours to a few weeks or more. These established bases can often involve exploitation of vulnerable adults which is sometimes referred to as ‘Cuckooing’.
- Children can receive money, mobile phones, credit, expensive clothing and footwear, jewellery, new haircuts or other items and gifts in exchange for their activities.
- Children can be vulnerable to perpetrators targeting pupil referral units, alternative education provisions, special education needs provisions and care homes/placements.
- Children are often given targets to sell drugs to, given modes of transport such as bikes or train tickets, weapons to protect themselves, and a phone with drug users’ contacts on it.
- Children receive a small cut of money/clothes/status or are ‘looked after’ by ‘elders’, e.g. taken to visit barbers and/or given items of clothing/footwear.
- Perpetrators may have set up children being harmed/abused by people wearing police uniforms or saying they are teachers or social workers to prevent them speaking to professionals.
- The phone lines can be worth thousands of pounds. There is monetary value in the selling of drugs and weapons, and also sexual exploitation.
- Organised Crime Groups (OCG) have been known to ‘set up’ muggings on the child they have given drugs or have drug money on them to trick the child into believing they are in debt to them for the lost drugs or money. This is known as ‘debt bondage’, where the child or young person believes they have to work for free to pay off the debt. This can also apply if the child is arrested and has drugs, money or the phone seized by police.
- Children may be at risk of harm from the vulnerable adults who may also be being exploited by the gangs, e.g. using their homes as a trap house. Those adults often have their own needs such as learning disabilities, substance misuse or mental health issues and there have been instances of harm to children and young people perpetrated by those individuals.
- Siblings may be forced to work or undertake exploitative activities if their brother or sister is said to owe money to a gang or perpetrator.

(Adapted from [Criminal exploitation tool kit](#))

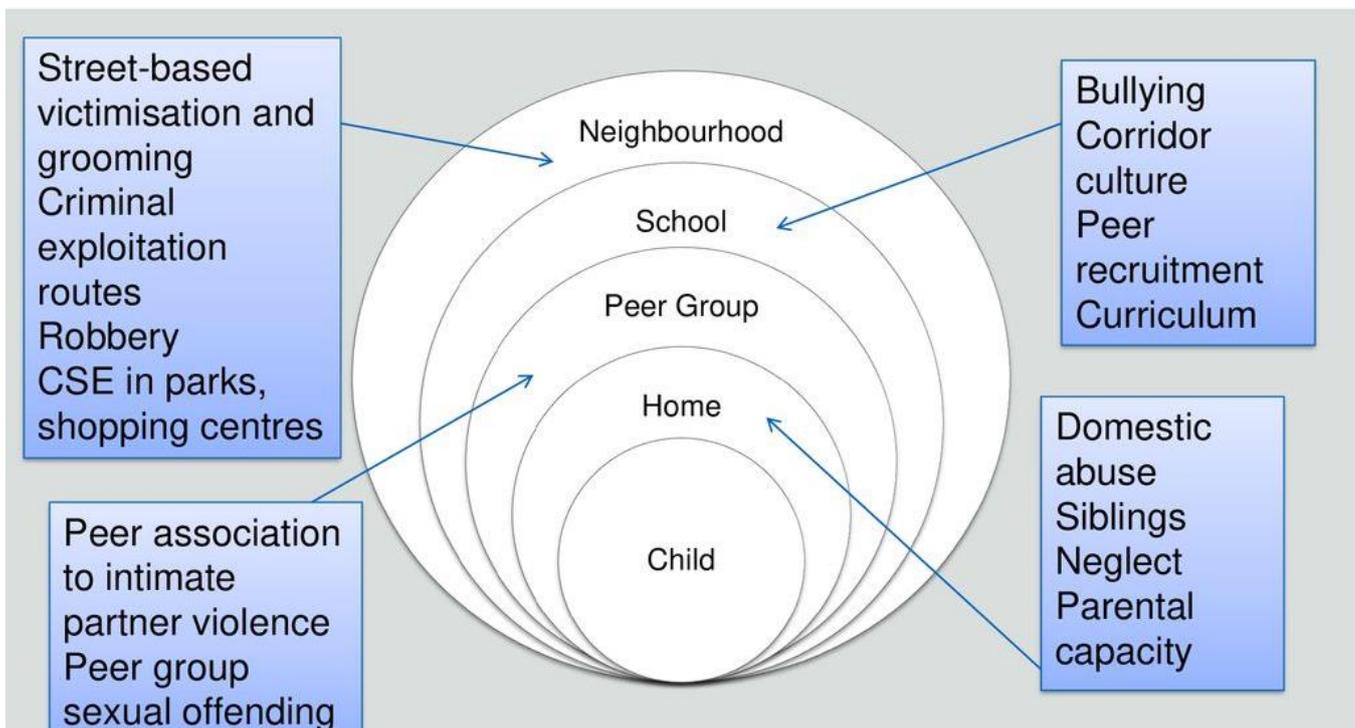
 <p>Research/Legislation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents Speak out: Crucial Partners in Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation, PACE (2016) • Puppet on a string, Barnardos (2011) • "If only someone had listened": Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups, OCC (2013) • Making Justice Work, Experiences of criminal justice for children and young people affected by sexual exploitation as victims and witnesses (2015) • Psychoactive Substances Act (2016) • Protecting children from Criminal exploitation, human trafficking and modern slavery (2018)
 <p>Reflective practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could the behaviour indicate other factors apart from exploitation? • Has the child's online life been explored? • Why are they reluctant to discuss exploitation concerns? • What other intelligence can help clarify what is going on, and has an intel report been submitted? • Are family members being threatened or intimidated? • Is the child injured and if so, could it be a 'punishment' wound? • Is the child trying to obtain money to pay a 'debt'? • If money/drugs/ possessions are seized by the police, will this place the child at additional risk?

A Practitioner's contextualised safeguarding approach to Working with Exploitation

When exploring if a child is being exploited or analysing their vulnerabilities, having an awareness of the context of how this may be occurring will help understand the risks to the child.

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighborhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

Therefore, children's social care practitioners, child protection systems and wider safeguarding partnerships need to engage with individuals and sectors who do have influence over/within extra-familial contexts, and recognise that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices. (Firmin, 2015)



 <p>Research/Legislation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hidden in plain sight, Barnardos (2015) • Sex offences act (2003) (S.15) (S.47-50) • Modern Slavery Act (2015) (s.2) • Sexting in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people (UKCCIS 2016) • What is contextualised Safeguarding
 <p>Reflective practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The child may not see their situation as abusive, believing their lifestyle is fun and safe. Is this their insight into their assessment of risk? • Ask yourself would you respond the same if the child was a different gender? • Identify if there is a power imbalance within the relationship and what it is? • Has the child been trafficked? Does the carer know much about the child and do they appear fearful or wary of professionals? • Are there other areas that strengthen or increase a child's vulnerability? • Has the child's 'online life' been explored too?

Learning from exploitation Serious Case Reviews (SCR)

The brief synopsis from SCR should be used to highlight factors relating to the failings around professionals responding to exploitation.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) (Katie)

Sexual exploitation of a 14-year-old girl from September 2016 to March 2018. Katie lived with her mother, stepfather and their children. Family known to Family Support Service and children's services. Katie lived with her father briefly before moving to foster care. She had a history of going missing, smoking and taking drugs and first disclosed sexual activity with an older male in September 2016.

Victim blaming language, not seeing wider forms of exploitation, impact of the neglect and emotional abuse was underestimated. Need for competent practitioners to work with CSE and apply a 'contextualised safeguarding' approach to incorporate wider risks to the child.

Serious Youth Violence (SYV) ([Child Y](#))

Death of an adolescent boy due to a fatal stabbing. Child Y's murder believed to be linked to a feud between local gangs. Emotional and learning needs highlighted when Child Y began secondary school. He was excluded twice and had several managed school moves, including one to a Pupil Referral Unit. Moved in with aunt after physical punishment by father; Children's Services involved, and Interim Supervision Order made. Victim of a stabbing and admitted to hospital. Allocated support worker from Safer London Gang Exit Service (SLGE) Recognised the need for early help and prevention; schools to be at the heart of multi-agency intervention, within an integrated whole systems approach across agencies, communities and families.

Cuckooing ([Brook 2014](#))

A vulnerable 16-year-old girl was living in supported housing placed out of her home area and accommodated by the local authority. She quickly became targeted by a group of Class A drug dealers who identified her premises as an ideal location from which to run their drug dealing activities and parties. Several men sexually exploited the young person. There was confusion as to whether the sexual activity was consensual or not and limited support for the children out of hours.

Child Criminal Exploitation ([Archie](#))

Archie arrived in the UK in 2014 with his mother and lived with his adult sister and three older siblings until mother's return in 2015. Adult sister died in a house fire which had a traumatic impact on Archie. His behaviour began to deteriorate and moves to new schools were unsuccessful, resulting in periods where Archie was home educated. Detained for shop lifting; other offending quickly escalated was opened to YOT. Frequent missing episodes; involved in gang culture, controlled and exploited by older associates, and on CP Plan. Sadly, Archie was fatally stabbed by another young person.

Recommended the need to check the child is receiving a balanced education, and that there are structures in place to assess, refer and intervene with vulnerable people who may be exploited by gangs and organised crime groups; and to implement Child Protection conferences that assess risk and develop plans in line with increased understanding of contextual safeguarding.

Sexually Harmful Behaviour ([Child F](#))

Child F lived with his mother, and experienced uncertainty related to their residence in the UK, poor housing, domestic abuse and mental health problems. Father deported in 2006 following imprisonment for serious drug offence. Behaviour and attendance at school erratic, and several incidences of involvement with others in minor and serious offences, including rape of a 12-year-old and 14-year old. Decision made that prosecution relating to first rape was not in public interest. In 2015 Child F died of stab wounds. It was recommended that when cases are not pursued in the public interest it is still necessary for the young perpetrator to be given a full understanding of the implications of his actions face to face; lack of support for mental health needs, good chronologies of key events would help spot risks; impact of long bail periods should be recognised and support should be provided to young person; agencies should take great care when describing sex as consensual when in law it cannot be; young teenagers are often unclear about consent.

Male CSE Victim/Survivor ([Jack](#))

A 13yo child was groomed online and sexually abused for several years by multiple males. Despite this multi-agency support services were not effective in keeping him safe due to practitioners' lack of knowledge around abuse via technology and its effects on a child. Lack of online safeguarding education for the child and his parents and the failure to appreciate that limiting a child's access to the internet will not in itself keep them safe. Safeguarding practices were also inconsistently applied.

County Lines ([Child C](#))

Child C was deliberately rammed off a stolen motorbike before stabbed to death by the passengers of the car, who were part of another gang. There was a clear chronology of concerns regarding criminal exploitation and threats of violence held by different agencies which were not shared. Recommendations are for agencies to have a clear understanding of each other area of work with a family; to access 'reachable moments' to foster engagement, and to include housing within safeguarding meetings.

Disruption and protective powers:

There are a range of options to help prevent a child being sexually exploited and reduce their vulnerabilities by disrupting the opportunities for this to happen. Adapted from West Midlands metropolitan area CSE Disruption toolkit.

Letter of Concern

Thames Valley Police will serve a letter of concern on a person considered to be a risk to a child. This has no legal powers but can be used for future legal action where evidence is needed to confirm the alleged offender knows the age of the child.

Child Abduction Warning Notice (CAWN) ([Child Abduction Act 1984 s.2](#))

Applies to children under the age of 16 years or under 18 if in local authority care under section 31 Children Act (1989).

To issue a CAWN a complainant statement from one of the parents / carers (whoever has full parental responsibility) is required. If parental responsibility is shared, just one statement is needed. (Can apply to any child including children in care under 16 years). If the child is subject to a care order (S31 Children Act 1989) the LA will need to request the CAWN is served and this will be valid until the child is 18 or leaves LA care, whichever comes first.

Emergency Protection Orders (EPO) ([Children Act 1989 s.44](#))

If the child is at immediate risk of harm the application to court for an EPO can enable the Local Authority to remove the child to a place of safety for a period of not more than 8 days.

Police Power of Protection ([Children Act 1989 s.46](#))

If a police officer has reasonable cause to believe a child under 18 years is likely to suffer harm, they have the power to remove the child to suitable accommodation, or prevent their removal from a hospital or other such place occurring.

Police Power of entry ([Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. S17](#))

If a police officer has reasonable grounds to believe a person, they are looking for may be in a dwelling they have the power to enter and search the premises.

Indecent photographs of children ([Protection of Children Act 1978 s.1](#))

A person may have committed an offence if they take, or permit to be taken or make, any indecent photograph, or pseudo-photograph of a child. They will have also committed an offence if they distribute or show such indecent photographs, or pseudo-photographs; or have in their possession such indecent photographs, or pseudo-photographs, with a view to their being distributed or shown by himself or others. Further offence will be if they publish or cause to be published any advertisement likely to be understood as conveying that the advertiser distributes or shows such indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs or intends to do so.

Forced Marriage Protection Order (FMPO) ([Family Law Act 1996 s.63A](#))

A FMPO can be obtained by anyone with the permission of the court including the adult or child being forced into the marriage. A power of arrest can be attached.

Injunction to Prevent Gang-Related Violence and drug dealing activity ([Serious Crime Act 2015 s.51](#))

The Policing and Crime Act 2009 (as amended by the Crime and Courts Act (2013), the Serious Crime Act (2015) and the Magistrates' Courts (Injunctions: Gang-related Violence) Rules 2013 gives applicants the power to apply to the Youth Court to obtain an injunction against a particular gang member aged 14 - 17 years old who has engaged in, encouraged or assisted gang-related violence or drug dealing.

Section 51 of the Serious Crime Act (2015) defines gang-related violence as "Violence or a threat of violence which occurs in the course of, or is otherwise related to, the activities of a group that;

- Consists of at least three people; and has one or more characteristics that enable its members to be identified by others as a group; and engages in gang-related violence or is involved in the illegal drug market."

The injunction aims to:

- Prevent the respondent from engaging in gang-related violence; and/or to protect the respondent from gang-related violence.

Offence of sending letters etc. with intent to cause distress or anxiety ([Malicious Communications Act 1988 s.1](#))

Any person is guilty of an offence if their purpose was to cause distress or anxiety when they sent the communication. This can be either a letter, electronic communication or article of any description, which conveys a message which is indecent or grossly offensive; a threat; or information which is false and known or believed to be false by the sender; or any article or electronic communication which is, in whole or part, of an indecent or grossly offensive nature.

This does not apply if a person can prove the threat was to reinforce a demand deemed to be seen as reasonable.

Improper use of public electronic communications network ([Communications Act 2003](#))

An offence may have occurred if someone sends by means of a public electronic communications network a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character. A person is guilty of an offence if, for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety to another, they send by means of a public electronic communications network, a message that he knows to be false.

Sexual Risk Order (SRO) ([Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 s.113](#))

SRO can be made when a person has or is believed to have carried out a sexual act which would mean they pose a risk to children. The order prohibits them from doing anything described in the order, including foreign travel and internet use. The SRO can be sought without needing a conviction for a sexual offence and can be requested when a person is subject to bail conditions.

Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO) ([Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 s.113](#))

Where an individual has a schedule 3 or 5 offence under the Sex Offences Act (2003) further restrictions can be applied to reduce their risk of further harm to a child. It can prevent foreign travel and internet use and a SHPO makes the individual subject to full notification requirements for registered sex offenders for the duration of the order.

Human Trafficking ([Modern Slavery Act 2015 s.2 part1](#))

A person commits an offence if they arrange or facilitate the travel of another person with the view that the person will be exploited.

Slavery, Trafficking Prevention Order (STPO)

Sought through a free-standing application by the police, the NCA or an immigration officer. A STPO aim is to prevent and prohibit convicted defendants from activates that enable them to commit human trafficking and slavery.

([s.15 MSA 2015](#))

Slavery Trafficking Risk Order (STRO)

Can be made against an individual who has not been convicted of a slavery or trafficking offence. The Court must be satisfied that there is a risk that the defendant may commit a slavery or human trafficking offence and that the STRO is necessary to protect against the risk of harm from the defendant committing the offence ([s.23 MSA 2015](#)). It is possible to apply for an interim STRO ([s28 MSA 2015](#)).

Harassment - It is a criminal offence to pursue a course of conduct which amounts to harassment of another person, which that person knows, or ought to know, amounts to harassment. This can include alarming a person or causing them distress. The Act also says you must have experienced at least two incidents by the same person or group of people for it to be harassment.

Action can also be sought through the civil courts against the person who is doing the harassing. The claim needs to be made within six years of when the harassment happened, and civil court action can be taken even if the person doing the harassing hasn't been found guilty of a criminal offence.

When a single act alone is alleged to have occurred then the police can issue a 'harassment warning'. They will visit the individual and issue this warning to them. The warning is designed to make it known to the individual that their act has caused harassment and is to try and deter the individual from carrying out a further act. If a further act is alleged the police can go on to arrest and charge for the offence of harassment. Although harassment warnings are not convictions or cautions, they do appear on an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (ECRB) check.

Recovery Order ([Children Act 1989 s.50](#))

This order can direct the person to produce the child or direct anyone with information about the child whereabouts to disclose this to the police. If there is information that the child is at a specific location the order will give the police power to enter the address to undertake a search for the child.

Controlling and coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship ([Serious Crime Act 2015 s.76](#))

An offence is committed if a person while in an intimate or familial relationship

- Repeatedly or continuously engages in behaviour towards another person that is controlling or coercive
- At a time of the behaviour, the offender and victim are a personally connected

Restraining Order (Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 s.12)

Restraining Order and allows a court to on the conviction or acquittal of a defendant for any offence where the court feels a restraining order is necessary to protect a person from harassment.

Non-Molestation Order ([Family Law Act 1996 s.42](#))

Should be considered where an offender is deemed to be an associated person (usually family members or spouses). The order, if granted, prohibits the respondent from “molesting” the applicant. The order would usually specify that the respondent cannot use or threaten violence but may also prohibit other, more general behaviours, which amount to harassment or causing distress. An example might be unwanted frequent contact.

Civil Injunctions ([Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 s.1](#)) enables injunction Powers to be applied against a person aged 10 years or older. There are two requirements that need to be met:

1. The court is satisfied that on the balance of probability the respondent has engaged or threatens to engage in anti-social behaviour.
2. The court considers it is just and convenient to grant an injunction for the purpose of preventing the respondent from engaging in anti-social behaviour.

Perpetrators waiting in cars outside the victim’s home, perpetrators making repeated contact by phone and perpetrators waiting outside a victim’s school would all fall within the definition of anti-social behaviour. These injunctions defined in the act can prohibit the respondent from contacting the complainant, or require a respondent to conform to conditions described in the injunction, such as the observation of an appropriate curfew or the establishment of exclusion zones around the victim, their family, home or school. Powers of arrest may further be attached depending on the seriousness of the behaviour. Properties which operate as an ‘open house’ where perpetrators are allowed to gather pose an obvious danger to children, who may be allowed/encouraged to congregate there and be supplied with drugs/alcohol. Injunctions can be used to prevent these behaviours. Where an injunction is housing related and repeatedly breached, social landlords many consider eviction in addition if appropriate to do so.

Closure Order associated with Nuisance and Disorder ([Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 S.80](#)) Closure orders are civil orders available in the magistrates court which stop anyone entering or residing at a named property. There are three types of closure orders:

1. Drug closure order
2. Brothel closure order
3. Anti-social behaviour closure order

Where persistent anti-social behaviour and disorder which cannot be stopped without closing the property in question, anti-social behaviour closures orders may be used by the Local Authority (LA). The order applies to the property not the owner and the property needs to be owned by the council.

Application for an injunction under the High Court’s inherent jurisdiction – An application may be made on the basis of evidence adduced from professionals and third parties – of particular use where a young person does not wish to provide evidence. This type of injunction can be used to stop a predator from contacting vulnerable children, being in properties or cars with children, going or being outside residential homes, or entering specific public places which may be known as CSE ‘Hotspots’. Evidence is based on the balance of probabilities and the court does not have jurisdiction to attach power of areas to the terms of the injunction. An example of this being used is Birmingham City Council v Raiz & others.

Exercise of the Council’s Regulatory Functions including taxis, takeaways, nightclubs, hotels, B&B etc. A number of activities undertaken by perpetrators will occur in areas regulated by the LA. Persistent and rigorous enforcement of the regulatory functions available to the council, including placing of conditions on private hire taxi operator licences were appropriate, would send a strong signal that the trade is being monitored and

may act as a deterrent to any would be opportunistic predator who may look at soliciting children to provide sex in exchange for cigarettes, alcohol, a fare free ride, etc.

Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) ([Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 s. 59](#))

Enables LAs to issue a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) such as parks and town centres where there has been unreasonable or ASB by a number or individuals.

Power to issue Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) ([Crime and Security Act 2010 s.24](#))

A DVPN is an emergency non-molestation and eviction notice which can be issued by the police, when attending to a domestic abuse incident, to a perpetrator if over 18. Because the DVPN is a police-issued notice, it is effective from the time of issue, thereby giving the victim the immediate support, they require in such a situation. Within 48 hours of the DVPN being served on the perpetrator, an application by police to a magistrates' court for a DVPO must be heard. A DVPO can prevent the perpetrator from returning to a residence and from having contact with the victim for up to 28 days.

Community Protection Notice (CPN) ([Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Police Act 2014 s.43](#))

Issued by police, LA or other designated persons. If it has been identified that an individual or business is having a detrimental effect of a continuing nature on the local community a warning can be given. If after a warning, there is no improvement the notice can be given to:

- Stop Doing Specific things
- Do specific things
- Take reasonable steps to achieve specific results.

Forfeiture of Detained Cash ([Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 s.298](#))

The police can seize funds over £1000 of cash where they have reason to believe that the cash has been generated through criminal activity or are likely to fund criminal activity.

Dispersal Powers ([Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 s. 35](#))

A senior police officer can authorise the use of dispersal powers for a specific area for up to 48 hours, if they can identify that without taking this course of action the public may become distressed, harassed or there is the likelihood of criminal activity taking place.

Arranging or facilitating a child ([Sexual offence Sex offences Act 2003 s. 14](#))

A person commits an offence if they intentionally arranges or facilitates something that they intends to do, intends another person to do, or believes that another person will do, in any part of the world, and by doing it will involve the commission of an offence under any of sections 9 to 13 SOA 2003.

Meeting a child following sexual grooming ([Sexual offence Sex offences Act 2003 s. 15](#))

A person will commit an offence if they met or communicated with another person (B) on one or more occasions and subsequently

1. intentionally meets B, and B is under 16
2. A travels with the intention of meeting B in any part of the world or arranges to meet B in any part of the world, or
3. B travels with the intention of meeting A in any part of the world,
4. A intends to do anything to or in respect of B, during or after the meeting mentioned in paragraph (1) to (3) and in any part of the world, which if done will involve the commission by A of a relevant offence,
5. A does not reasonably believe that B is 16 or over

Sexual communication with a child ([Sex offenders act 2003 s.15a](#))

A person will commit an offence if they are aged 18 or over and for the purpose of obtaining sexual gratification, intentionally communicates with another person who is under 16 years and the person does not reasonably believe they are 16 or older. The communication needs to be sexual or encourages the other person to communicate in a sexual way. For the purposes of this section, a communication is sexual if any part of it relates to sexual activity, or a reasonable person would, in all the circumstances but regardless of any person's purpose, consider any part of the communication to be sexual.

Sexual Exploitation of Children ([Sexual offence Sex offences Act 2003 s. 47](#))

A person commits an offence if they intentionally obtain for themselves the sexual services of a person who is under 18, and they do not reasonably believe that the person is 18 or over or is under 13. Before obtaining these services, they have made or promised payment for those services to the child or a third person or knows that another person has made or promised such a payment. In this section, "payment" means any financial advantage, including the discharge of an obligation to pay or the provision of goods or services (including sexual services) gratuitously or at a discount.

Causing or instigating the Sexual Exploitation of a child ([Sexual offence Sex offences Act 2003 s. 48](#))

A person commits an offence if a person intentionally causes or incites another person who is under the age of 18 and they do not reasonably believe that the person is 18 or over or is under 13 to be sexually exploited, in any part of the world. This includes having sexual/naked images of a person under 18 years old.

Controlling a child in relation to Sexual Exploitation ([Sexual offence Sex offences Act 2003 s. 49](#))

A person commits an offence if a person intentionally controls any of the activities of another person who is under the age of 18 and they do not reasonably believe that the person is 18 or over or is under 13 to be sexually exploited, in any part of the world.

Arranging or facilitating the Sexual Exploitation of a Child ([Sexual offence Sex offences Act 2003 s. 50](#))

A person commits an offence if a person intentionally arranges or facilitates sexual exploitation of another person(s) who under the age of 18 or and they do not reasonably believe that the person is 18 or over or is under 13 to be sexually exploited, in any part of the world.

Inherent Jurisdiction - In [Birmingham City Council v Riaz and Others](#) [2014] EWHC 4247). Mr. Justice Keehan granted the permission, necessary pursuant to [section 100\(3\) of the Children Act 1989](#), to enable the local authority to pursue the applications for injunctions against the men believed to have sexually exploited a child in their care. He drew attention to [Practice Direction 12D from the Family Procedure Rules 2010](#) rehearsing that:

It is the duty of the court under its inherent jurisdiction to ensure that a child who is the subject of proceedings is protected and properly taken care of. The court may, in exercising its inherent jurisdiction, make any order or determine any issue in respect of a child unless limited by case law or statute. The court may, under its inherent jurisdiction, in addition to all of the orders which can be made in family proceedings, make a wide range of injunctions for the child's protection of which the following are the most common:

- a) Orders to restrain publicity;
- b) Orders to prevent an undesirable association;
- c) Orders relating to medical treatment;
- d) Orders to protect abducted children, or children where the case has another substantial foreign element; and
- e) Orders for the return of children to and from another state.

Information about guests at hotels believed to be used for child sexual exploitation ([Anti-Social, Crime and Police Act 2014S.116](#))

A police officer of at least the rank of Inspector may issue a notice in writing to the owner, operator or manager of a hotel that the officer reasonably believes has been or will be used for child sexual exploitation or conduct that is preparatory to, or otherwise connected with, child sexual exploitation.

 <p>Research/Legislation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption Tool Kit
 <p>Reflective practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the parents and child an understanding of grooming and Exploitation and what information do they have that can support disruption opportunities? • Is everything being done to disrupt the perpetrator(s)/Facilitator(s)? • Is the plan equally focusing on the perpetrator(s)/Facilitator(s)? • Have the child and family been included to discuss the risks? • Is the safety plan up to date, clear and had involvement from the child and their family? • Is 'Intel' being shared with the police? • What else can be done to identify the perpetrators/Facilitators?

Practitioner Disruption Techniques

Aim	Intervention options
<p>Disrupt the child's relationship with other children suspected of introducing them to adults involved in violence, gangs, and exploitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify who the child is spending time with and recognise negative relationships. ● Prevent visits to the home by other children who may either deliberately or unwillingly be recruiting the child. ● Screen calls to the home ensure online safety has been explored ● Does the child's online details and emails need to be closed and changed ● Complete information report forms on known associates and any risk they pose. ● Do the parents have these friends' details so visits can be made if the child is missing
<p>Disrupt the child's contact with adults or other children suspected of being involved in violence, drugs, gangs and exploitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implement child abduction warnings or relevant orders. ● Recognise and acknowledge abusive relationships. ● Deny individuals suspected of abusing, grooming, or recruiting the child access to their placement or home. ● Seek to have the child's mobile phones and sim cards secured, particularly if supplied by abusers. ● Restricting the child's access to mobile phone or the internet at bedtime for the purpose of charging the phone and limiting the opportunity for contact with the perpetrator during the night.
<p>Gather information to assist prosecution and disruption of those suspected of being involved in violence, gang activity, drugs, child exploitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Obtain as much information as possible to identify associates and those who pose a risk to children. Good information includes name, nickname, online names, telephone numbers, addresses, car registration numbers, etc. ● Keep accurate records and retain the information on the child's personal file - It is important to log the date, time and who was involved in the incident. ● Report any child protection concerns to the MASH/allocated worker. ● Report non child protection information (intelligence) to TVP on either 101, using the 'TVP Intel form' or contacting Crimestoppers
<p>Promote positive relationships with family, friends and carers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents/carers should be actively engaged in searching for the child to show that they care. ● Promote positive relationships with family and friends. ● Promote the need for parents/carers to show attention. ● Encourage honesty; reinforce there may have been coercion or threats that are being placed on the child. ● Involve the parent/carer/child in how to tackle the issue. ● Identify long term workers who either have a good rapport with the child or can build up a positive relationship with them.
<p>Maintain contact whilst absent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ring/text the child's mobile phone during the day, evenings and weekends to prevent the child from feeling isolated when out of hours. ● Ensure the numbers for ESWT, missing helpline, and Child line is in the child's mobile phone, if not text them to the child. ● Send text/SMS messages to the child telling them that you are worried and care about their safety and encourage them to contact you or another worker. ● Liaise with TVP and the parent carer on other methods to raise awareness regarding the child being missing. ● If passport or documentation is missing report this to the police immediately. ● Follow missing person protocol.

Enhance the return procedure to ensure it is a positive experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show the child compassion and care for their welfare when they return. • Analyse what the child has said with what is already known. • Offer an independent/advocate to see the child. • Return interview should be followed up by active support to ensure the return interview is seen as a positive experience. • Ensure reports are forwarded to the TVP Misper Coordinator for further analysis. • Does the child need information about safeguarding organisations to talk to?
Set clear boundaries for acceptable behaviour and motivate positive behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider reward schemes. • Be flexible, and don't just focus on the negative aspects of their behaviour • Consult with the child and agree rewards and penalties and have clear boundaries in place • Give the child more independence in response to responsible behaviour. • Look at doing fun activities around times when the child has gone missing before
Empower the parent/carer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise their awareness of Exploitation indicators, legal powers and their responsibilities. • Involve and support the parent and carer in the intervention. • Check to see that they are not being targeted or intimidated by the perpetrators.
Build the child's self-esteem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and encourage activities the child may engage in. • Take time to explain the issues and keep the child informed. • Involve the child in looking at alternative options. • Support the child with understanding their vulnerabilities while highlighting the child's strengths.
Raise the child's awareness of the dangers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with school to raise the awareness of risk. • Use websites that raise awareness about the dangers of going missing/being groomed. • Ensure the child is getting a consistent message from all professionals they come into contact with. • Promote the opportunity for the child to talk to their favoured professional. • Explore if a mobile phone would enable the child to call for help if required, does the child have a safe word and are confident in calling 999.
Consider the health needs of the child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contraceptive and STI advice or screening • Medical treatment if suffering neglect, injury or poor health. • Therapeutic intervention
Involve the child in diversionary activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and support the child to participate in exciting positive activities. • Arrange work experience or vocational training • Use all agencies involved to engage the child in activities.
Make home a more attractive place to live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the Push/Pull factors and deal with them. • Address relationship problems, and any domestic abuse the child is exposed to. • Tackle drug/alcohol problems within the family • Would FGC identify wider support for the family? • Do the residential staff have a range of options to make the placement positive?
Achieve normality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce bed times. • Enforce waking times • Promote attendance at school • Encourage eating meals together.

Make school a more attractive place to go	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle bullying, truancy and peer pressure. • Provide Personal, Social and Health Education • Encourage afterschool activities and ensure that they have access to PHSE lessons. • Is the school addressing sexualised/coercive behaviour within the classrooms? 		
Provide specialist support through agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual, domestic abuse, or drug/alcohol counselling services. • Therapeutic services or Advocacy support • CAMHS, Youth Services • Do an exploitation screening tool • Provide the child with local and national help lines. 		
Make positive changes and set small targets to achieve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets need to be agreed with the child and parents/carer with achievable rewards 		
Is the alleged perpetrator subject to any restrictions	Length of sentence	Registration period on sex offenders register	
		Adult	Under 18
	30 months or more	Indefinitely	Indefinitely
	More than 6 months – up to 30 months	10 years	5 years
	6 months or less	7 years	3½ years
	Community order	5 years	2½ years
	Caution	2 years	1 year

Trafficking & NRM

UK and migrant children can be trafficked into, within and out of the UK for exploitation. Child trafficking indicators are not definitive, and the same indicators could be present in more than one type of exploitation, just as the child victims could be subject to more than one type of exploitation. However, the one vulnerability that is present in all forms of child trafficking is the imbalance of power between the trafficker and the victim.

For a child to be defined as being trafficked you will need to prove both the **Action** and **Exploitation**.

Component of child trafficking	What this means
Action	Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a child which included an element of movement whether national or cross border.
Exploitation	Sexual, forced labour or domestic servitude, slavery, financial exploitation, illegal adoption, removal of organs of child (organ harvesting).

The trafficker sees the child as a commodity and a source of income that they have paid for or invested time and expense in recruiting or grooming for their benefit. For this reason, the trafficker may go looking for a child who has been placed within the LA Care system, so any child removed from a situation of exploitation should still be considered to be at risk from a trafficker. Professionals need to look for hidden mobile phone numbers or addresses concealed by the child.

The initial response would be the same for any child where safeguarding concerns are identified and existing child protection protocol needs to be followed for any child who is moved by someone with the intention of exploiting them, regardless of whether they are a British citizen or not.

'First Responders' such as the Police, and Local Authority staff have a legal duty to refer suspected trafficked cases to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for identifying and recording victims of trafficking. A [child NRM form](#) needs to be completed and the NRM should respond to a referral within 5 days, providing a Reasonable Grounds (RG) decision. There will then be a 45-day reflection and recovery period which will enable NRM officers to analyse the child's circumstances. If concerns are substantiated a Conclusive Grounds (CG) decision will be made reflecting that the child has been trafficked.

There are a number of benefits for children who have been positively identified by the NRM as being trafficked. One such advantage is that the NRM identification can be tendered as evidence in court and cannot be challenged.

 <p>Research/Legislation</p>	<p>Safeguarding Children who may have been Trafficked (2011) Department of Education Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005) UK Human Trafficking (NCA) Care of unaccompanied and trafficked children, Statutory guidance for local authorities on the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking and trafficked children, DOE 2014</p>
 <p>Reflective practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the concerns reach Child Protection (CP) levels, and have these been discussed with DTM, Team manager? • Has an expoint screening tool been completed and/or an NRM referral form been sent? • Has the assessment taken into account the possibility of a trafficker trying to locate or gain access to the child? • Has the possibility of an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child being sexually abused/exploited either during the journey or once they have arrived been explored with the child. • Has a Trafficking warning 'flag' been added to LCS/EH and has the RG or CG status been updated? • If relevant does a strategy meeting need to be considered or a MARF need submitted.

Good Practice

1. Recent research has highlighted that professionals can apply different risk levels depending on the child's gender, seeing females as more vulnerable. Assumptions regarding a child's sexual orientation or level of understating have also been shown to have affected the practitioner's response.
2. Assumption as to what is 'normal' sexual development and activity can also cause confusion and the use of the [Sexual Behaviour traffic light tool](#) can assist with this.
3. Child Exploitation requires a multi-agency response as well as including the family. Parents often report feeling side-lined during the intervention or excluded in decisions.
4. Terminology used by practitioners verbally and in their recording has indicated that they have not understood the control that the perpetrator has over the child. Please see <https://www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/sites/default/files/Guidance%20App%20Language%20Tool%20kit.pdf>
5. There may be more than one form of exploitation occurring - keep an open mind and explore further than just the presenting concerns. Are there equal concerns with their associates and have any referrals been made in respect of the other children or vulnerable adults?
6. Ensure that any 'rumours or unsubstantiated information' regarding gangs, children carrying weapons or drugs, suspicious associations or other criminal activity is reported to Thames Valley Police (101) or Crimestoppers.
7. Don't just take the child's word for it. If we don't ask the questions, they won't tell us; explore other areas of abuse where grooming may be used by a perpetrator, such as the possibility of radicalisation.
8. Consideration needs to be given to children approaching adulthood to assess if they will need additional support when they transition to adulthood.
9. Risk – this is fluid and positive action by the family may increase the risk for a child, e.g. family hand drugs over to the police which results in the child owing the lost revenue to the perpetrator; this may increase the likelihood of them or their family being attacked. Has ESWT (Emergency Social Work Team) been made aware of any out of hours concerns?
10. Remember they are still a child...

 <p>Research/Legislation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexual Behaviour Traffic light tool• Appropriate Terminology
 <p>Reflective practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the child seen as vulnerable and the victim and not being blamed for what is happening?• Have the factors that are increasing the child's vulnerability been recognised and are they being addressed?• Are the concerns the same if the child's gender was different?• Are there any factors that are increasing the child's vulnerability and if so, what are they?• Have assumptions been made about the child's resilience because of their age, gender or sexuality?• Have other children been identified and do their workers need notifying or a MARF need to be submitted to safeguard them?

Definitions, Abbreviations and Acronyms

CAIU	Child Abuse Investigation Unit (Thames Valley police)
CFP	Children & Families Practice (early help service)
CSC	Children’s Social Care
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	<i>‘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 or young person 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’. (DOE 2017)</i>
County Lines or County Drug Lines (CDL)	<i>County lines 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 form 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.</i>
Criminal Exploitation (CCE or CE)	<i>Child Criminal Exploitation is common in county lines and occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. Criminal exploitation of children is broader than just county lines and includes for instance children forced to work on cannabis farms or to commit theft. (HO 2018)</i>
Consent	<i>In order for a person to be able to consent to sex (Sex Offences Act 2003 s.74) they need: Choice - Someone is free to make a choice if there isn’t anything bad that would happen to them if they said no - for example if they were being threatened with violence or if they felt forced into making a decision because they didn’t feel they could do anything else. Freedom - Freedom is also affected if there is a power imbalance between two people, because of age, status or some kind of dependency (i.e. drug use, financial control). Having the freedom to consent means doing something because you want to, not because something or someone is pressuring you one way or the other Capacity - Capacity is about whether you are physically and/or mentally able to make a choice and to understand the consequences of that choice. Being under the influence of drugs/alcohol will affect a person’s capacity. Other examples that will affect a person’s capacity are: if you are asleep, unconscious, have a learning disability or are of a younger age... basically anything that means you aren’t fully aware of what saying yes or no means.</i>
CSEP	Child Sexual Exploitation Project – CSC intensive support service for children and their families where sexual exploitation concerns exist.
DASH	Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment Tool
ESWT	Emergency Social Work Team (CSC) (for out of hours response)

Cuckooing	Term given to incident where drug dealers, OCGs take over the home of a vulnerable person (age, disability, finically vulnerable, drug user) in order to use it as a base for criminal or exploitative activity.
FAST	Family Assessment and Support Team (CSC)
FIB	Force Intelligence Bureau (Thames Valley Police)
Forced Labour:	<p><i>Not all work done by children should be classified as child labour that is to be targeted for elimination. Children's or adolescents' participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling is generally regarded as being something positive. This includes activities such as helping their parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours and during school holidays. These kinds of activities contribute to children's development and to the welfare of their families; they provide them with skills and experience, and help to prepare them to be productive members of society during their adult life.</i></p> <p><i>The term "child labour" is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and</i> • <i>Interferes with their schooling by:</i> • <i>Depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school prematurely; or</i> • <i>Requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.</i> <p><i>In its most extreme forms, child labour involves children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets of large cities – often at a very early age. Whether or not particular forms of "work" can be called "child labour" depends on the child's age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed, and the objectives pursued by individual countries. (ILO Accessed 2018)</i></p> <p><i>For UK child employment legislation see https://www.gov.uk/child-employment</i></p>
Fraser Guideline	<p><i>The 'Fraser guidelines' specifically relate only to contraception and sexual health. They are named after one of the Lords responsible for the Gillick judgement but who went on to address the specific issue of giving contraceptive advice and treatment to those under 16 without parental consent. The House of Lords concluded that advice can be given in this situation as long as:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. He/she has sufficient maturity and intelligence to understand the nature and implications of the proposed treatment</i> <i>2. He/she cannot be persuaded to tell her parents or to allow the doctor to tell them</i> <i>3. He/she is very likely to begin or continue having sexual intercourse with or without contraceptive treatment</i> <i>4. His/her physical or mental health is likely to suffer unless he/she received the advice or treatment</i> <i>5. The advice or treatment is in the young person's best interests.</i> <p><i>Health professionals should still encourage the young person to inform his or her parent(s) or get permission to do so on their behalf, but if this permission is not given they can still give the child advice and treatment. If the conditions are not all met, however, or there is reason</i></p>

	<p><i>to believe that the child is under pressure to give consent or is being exploited, there would be grounds to break confidentiality.</i></p> <p><i>Fraser guidelines originally just related to contraceptive advice and treatment but, following a case in 2006, they now apply to decisions about treatment for sexually transmitted infections and termination of pregnancy. Information from the Care Quality Commission.</i></p>
Gillick Competent	<p><i>Victoria Gillick challenged Department of Health guidance which enabled doctors to provide contraceptive advice and treatment to girls under 16 without their parents knowing. In 1983 the judgement from this case laid out criteria for establishing whether a child under has the capacity to provide consent to treatment; the so-called 'Gillick test'. It was determined that children under 16 can consent if they have sufficient understanding and intelligence to fully understand what is involved in a proposed treatment, including its purpose, nature, likely effects and risks, chances of success and the availability of other options.</i></p> <p><i>If a child passes the Gillick test, he or she is considered 'Gillick competent' to consent to that medical treatment or intervention. However, as with adults, this consent is only valid if given voluntarily and not under undue influence or pressure by anyone else. Additionally, a child may have the capacity to consent to some treatments but not others. The understanding required for different interventions will vary, and capacity can also fluctuate such as in certain mental health conditions. Therefore, each individual decision requires assessment of Gillick competence.</i></p> <p><i>If a child does not pass the Gillick test, then the consent of a person with parental responsibility (or sometimes the courts) is needed in order to proceed with treatment. Information from the Care Quality Commission.</i></p>
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference - victim focused information sharing and risk management meeting attended by all key agencies, where high risk cases are discussed.
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement - assess and manage the risks posed by sexual and violent offenders
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
MEP	Missing and Exploitation Panel
RFMI	Return from Missing Interview
STEP	Supporting Teenagers Empowering Parents (CSC)
SEP	Strategic Exploitation Panel
OCG	Organised Crime Group
Organ Harvesting (Illicit removal, sale or storage of human organs)	<p>The removal without the free, informed and specific consent of the living donor, or, in the case of the deceased donor, without the removal being authorized under its domestic law, or</p> <p>Where in exchange for the removal of organs, the living donor, or a third party, has been offered or has received a financial gain or comparable advantage, or</p> <p>Where in exchange for the removal of organs from a deceased donor, a third party has been offered or has received a financial gain or comparable advantage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of illicitly removed organs; • The illicit solicitation or recruitment (of organ donors or recipients), or the offering and requesting of undue advantages;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The preparation, preservation, storage, transportation, transfer, receipt. Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs (2015)
POLIT	Paedophile On Line Investigation Team (Thames Valley Police)
VISOR	Violent and Sexual Offences Register (Dangerous Persons Database)
YOT	Youth Offending Team

Additional guidance for specific services

Individual organisations and services should consider whether they require additional procedural guidance for identifying, responding to and recording exploitation.

Local resources

Organisation	Details	Contact details
ICASH	Sexual health service with various location in Milton Keynes	Telephone line – 0300 300 3030 https://www.icash.nhs.uk/where-to-go/icash-milton-keynes
Healthy Relationship Project (Children’s Social Care)	The Healthy Relationship Project will undertake work with children and families where there are concerns around domestic abuse and controlling unhealthy relationships.	Healthyrelationships@milton-keynes.gov.uk
Child Sexual Exploitation Project (Children’s Social Care)	Referral requirements are if family are open to CSC, CFP. SEP or Head of Service can agree for a referral where intensive direct work will be undertaken with the child and their family/carers relating to sexual exploitation.	For further information contact Lawrence Jordan – 01908 252642
Family Assessment and Support Team (Children’s Social Care)	Referral requirements are if family are open to CSC	Referral form on LCS
Boxing/youth club (TVP)	club will take place from 6-7pm on Fridays at the New Bradwell Community Centre	PC Cafe
Ride High	Ride High is a registered charity based in Milton Keynes that transforms the lives of disadvantaged children and those having difficulties in their daily lives, by giving them the opportunity to learn to ride and care for horses.	T: 01908 696169 M: 07507 308943 https://www.ridehigh.org/ride-high-referral-form

Willow Project	Provides direct work with the victims and their families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Crisis intervention •Advocacy •Longer term practical and emotional support 	Referral to the Willow Project can be made through (enquiries@vfwillowproject.org.uk or 0753 824 1045)
Early Support Project (ESP)	The Early Support Project is a service within YOT for under 18-year olds who might need some ideas on how to keep themselves safe and out of trouble.	For further information contact Jenna Palmer - 01908 254584 MKYOT@milton-keynes.gov.uk
VCT (Violent Crime Taskforce (Police))	The VCT have access to additional interventions if the child is open to this team. A Discussion should be had to explore if/what other options may be available	violentcrimetaskforceMK@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
YP Drug and Alcohol Service	Direct work can be undertaken with those under 18 where drug and alcohol are an issue for the child or their family	ypdaservice@milton-keynes.gov.uk
Youth: MK	Youth workers can provide a range of support both 1-2-1 and group work.	youth@milton-krynes.gov.uk