

Child Sexual Exploitation

A guide for working with young people deemed to be low risk



Coventry
Safeguarding
Children
PARTNERSHIP



RISK DEFINITIONS

LOW RISK

A child who is at risk of being groomed for sexual exploitation. This may be someone who already has some vulnerabilities or additional needs, however is not exclusive to this and could affect any young person.

MEDIUM RISK

A child who is targeted for abuse through exchange of sex for affection, drugs, accommodation and goods etc. The likelihood of coercion and control is significant.

HIGH RISK

A child who is entrenched in sexual exploitation, but often does not recognise or self denies the nature of their abuse often in denial, and where coercion/control is implicit.

PROTECTIVE FACTORS that may help reduce the risk of a young person being exploited

- Consistent school attendance
- Supportive friendships
- Good relationship with a trusted adult
- Monitoring of social media, hobbies/ activities that they are engaging with
- Parental supervision
- Good relationships within the family

RISK FACTORS that might increase the likelihood of a young person becoming exploited

- Peers linked to CSE
- Drug and/or alcohol abuse
- Unmonitored access to social media
- Family breakdown
- Lack of awareness of staying safe
- Missing episodes
- Lack of supportive network
- Low school attendance or NEET
- Mental Health needs
- Learning needs
- Physical disabilities
- Family/child poverty



SCREENING TOOL

If you have a concern, complete the CSE Screening Tool which you can find at www.coventry.gov.uk/csescreeingtool and follow local safeguarding procedures.

You can contact the CSE Team on **024 7678 8555** for advice and guidance.

A MASH Referral can be completed at www.coventry.gov.uk/mashreferral

Use your professional judgment! There could be no risk factors and all of the protective factors, if you have a concern, share it.



ADDRESSING VULNERABILITIES...

A single agency safety plan should be developed to support the young person. Or a professionals meeting of the agencies currently in contact with the child / young person should be arranged to discuss risks and develop a multi-agency safety plan.

Practitioners should consider a safety plan which includes:

- Specific risk factors identified
- Awareness raising work around healthy relationships, CSE, grooming and online safety
- Education/training/employment support
- Family Support and other networks
- Any other relevant concerns

Remember to log your decision making on your own agency system.

BUILDING A TRUSTED RELATIONSHIP

For a young person to open up about their situation, it's important to build a positive relationship with them. Here are some tips on how to build trust:



The trusted relationship doesn't need to be with the lead professional, it can be anyone that the young person gets on with.

STARTING A DIFFICULT CONVERSATION

Talking to a young person about sexual exploitation may not be easy. Here are some tips on how to start that difficult conversation . . .

Where are you? Is this a private area? Is there space for them to retreat to in order to reflect? Try and meet in a location where they feel safe and able to express themselves. Some of the best conversations occur in informal settings.

Who is with them at the time? Are they able to offer support? Are they likely to help the situation or make it more difficult?

Where are they going to go after or what are they planning to do? Are they going somewhere where there are people they can talk to?

Who is going to support them after this? Do they have someone appropriate to talk to or ask questions or verbalise how they feel?

Try and consider any questions which the young person may have and find the answers to them. If during the conversation they have any questions which you do not have the answer to, explain that you are unsure of the answer, however will find out and let them know when you will contact them by with an update.

Start the conversation with **positivity** and **interest**, ask how they are or what they have been up to.

Avoid being critical, judgmental or using **victim blaming** language.

Always **be honest** with the young person. It is better to deal with a difficult situation when hearing difficult news than rebuilding a relationship through a breakdown in trust.

A young person may be hostile towards your input and may avoid contact. It is essential to continue to attempt to meet with a young person regardless and ensure they know that you are willing to be flexible in order to meet their needs.

If they do become angry or upset, allow them to. Do not match a raised voice with a raised voice. Try and avoid asking a young person to **"calm down"** as they may not have the tools to be able to do this. Instead offer them advice on how to calm down, such as **"come and sit down", "let's think about this", "let's take a walk", "try and talk slower"**.

Following a session or meeting with a young person which has ended negatively, contact them to see how they are getting on. Try and draw a positive from it. For example, ***"I know yesterday was a really tough day for you and you had to hear things which you didn't want to, however I'm really impressed with how you handled it"***

Contact the young person later in the day or the following day to see how they have digested the discussion and how they are getting on. Also reflect on their understanding of the discussion again.



SHARING INFORMATION

Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of children, which must always be the paramount concern. Be open and honest with the person from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will or could be shared.

Seek advice from Information Governance in your agency if you are in any doubt, without disclosing the identity of the person where possible

Share with consent where appropriate, however consent is not always needed or appropriate

The Data Protection Act and GDPR are not a barrier to sharing information!

Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it

Consider safety and wellbeing of all individuals concerned

Ensure the information shared is relevant, accurate, timely, secure and necessary

INTELLIGENCE SHARING . . .

There are 3 elements to CSE: **Victims, Perpetrators** and **Locations**. If we remove one aspect of the risk, that risk can be prevented. When intelligence is gathered around a young person at risk of CSE, action can be taken to reduce the risk.

VICTIMS

Movements, social media accounts, gifts, friend circle, phone numbers, information provided by them or their friends.

PERPETRATORS

Names, nicknames, usernames, social media, phone numbers, IMEI numbers, vehicles, associates, addresses (not exhaustive)

LOCATIONS

Times/dates attended, addresses, specific rooms, how paid for, who present. Travel routes/methods. Cyberspace, a location can be virtual and online, think social media, chat rooms/apps.

Intelligence is collected information that has been developed for action by the Police. Intelligence collection is a continuous process.

You don't need to be certain that your information is definitely linked to a CSE risk. If you have suspicion a child, person or location is involved in CSE, then let the Police know with this form www.coventry.gov.uk/intelreportform and send to FIB@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

The source will be kept confidential and not contained within the body of the log (there's a separate bit for that).

Keep information clear, concise and no abbreviations.

Share all the information, whether you think it is relevant or not.



SUPPORT SERVICES

Where possible, speak to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead** within your organisation about any concerns that you have.

If you need to report a matter to the police, call **101** with your concerns.

If you need to report an emergency matter always dial **999**

Social worker (out of office hours): **024 7683 2222**



024 7678 8555 weekdays 8.30am-5pm

cse.horizon@coventry.gov.uk

- Can offer advice to anyone who has concerns about a young person at risk of or being sexually exploited
- Have a directory of resources that can be used on a 1-2-1 or small groups
- Work on a 1-2-1 with young people identified as a medium or high risk of sexual exploitation

Please contact them for guidance on the best resources to use.



024 7627 7777 Mon-Fri 10am-2pm, Mon-Thurs 6pm-8pm

helpline@crasac.org.uk

Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (CRASAC) provide support to young people, parents, partners, supporters and professionals. They can offer pre-CSE 1-2-1 work, parents groups (or 1-2-1), women's groups, counselling sessions, therapy groups, crisis support and advocacy. CRASAC deliver workshops/group work in schools and also provide specialist training to professionals They also work alongside the Horizon team with medium and high risk young people.

Referrals can be made by the young person, professionals or parents/carers to the helpline or via email.

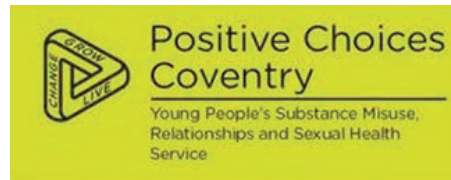


coventry_partnership@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Project Artemis is a West Midlands Police led programme focusing on the awareness and prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation delivered to females living in Coventry between the ages of 12-19. The project discusses CSE case studies, grooming, sexual health and healthy behaviours as well as drug awareness and making positive choices. Some sessions include a personal trainer focusing on the health and well being of the participants to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

This project is Police led with inputs delivered by partner agencies and is suitable for vulnerable females and those scored as being low risk of CSE.

For referrals please contact PCSO Jenna Carlin directly on jenna.carlin@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk or via the Partnerships email above.



024 7655 3130 Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-4.30pm positivechoices@cgl.org.uk

Positive Choices are an integrated risk taking service for children and young people. Their age range is from aged 5 and extends to 25. Positive Choices can be broken down over 3 age brackets;

- Primary School Aged 5-11- children can access support for hidden harm (affected by a parents substance misuse) and risky behaviour.
- Young people aged between 11-16 can access for support around risky behaviour; substance misuse, poor sexual health, poor partner relationships and hidden harm.
- Young people aged up to aged 18 can access support around problematic substance misuse. This service extends to aged 25 young people with a LAC status or additional vulnerability including mental health, learning disability or NEET.

Anyone can refer a young person into service including family members.

Young people can also self refer.



024 7644 5439

info@creativeoptimisticvisions.co.uk

Creative Optimistic Visions is a Community Interest company, supporting individuals with a range of Protective Behaviours courses including:

- Mentoring support
- Primary school aged 4-11 children can access a programme to explore the sense of feeling safe and strategies for when they feel unsafe
- Children and young people can access courses around confidence and self esteem, feeling safe and an Urban Arts course.

To access alternative education, accredited training and wellbeing services through the lens of The Protective Behaviours Process, contact through the above details.



024 7655 9550 Mon-Thurs 9.30am-5pm

admin@kairoswwt.org.uk

Kairos is a womens' charity based in Coventry supporting women over 18 who are at risk of or caught up in streetbased prostitution and women aged 18-24 who have been or at risk of sexual exploitation and/or prostitution.

They offer:

- A Street Outreach and Drop-In service on Wednesday evenings
- Prison in-reach, Criminal Justice Support, Horse Therapy and Awareness Raising Sessions
- 1-1 Support and Group Support
- 1-1 Protective Behaviours Work
- Group Work and a specific group for those who have exited or looking to exit street-based prostitution
- A Summer Programme of 6 weeks fun activities

Referrals can be made by contacting Kairos on the above details and a referral form will be sent to you. Referrals for Feeling Safe can also be made by emailing Tianne at **tianne@kairoswwt.org.uk** as well as through the above contact details.



There are 8 Family Hubs located in Coventry supporting children, young people and families. Contact details for each of the hubs can be found at www.coventry.gov.uk/familyhubs

- Referrals can be made directly to a hub by a family or a professional. Please telephone your local hub and ask to speak to the Here to Help Workers or visit www.coventry.gov.uk/applyearlyhelp
- The Here to Help Workers will be able to offer signposting, complete additional referrals or contact services who are involved with the child in order to collate further information.
- Each hub has a dedicated Youth Worker who can respond to issues and provide support. The youth provision provides a range of programmes and interventions that tackle issues affecting young people such as risky behaviours in terms of sexual health.
- A management decision will then be made as to whether the child and family will be signposted to a single agency or discussed by the multi-agency team at the Family Matters meeting. This meeting ensures that appropriate help is offered to safeguard the child, prevent the issue escalating and deliver early help to children and families.

Family Group Conferencing are independent co-ordinators (separate to Social Care). They are solution focussed and help to co-ordinate meetings for families and the supportive individuals who they want there. Families are encouraged to come up with their own solutions to issues and there is a lot of focus on support and safety planning. Referrals can be made by anyone who is case responsible. For referrals and general enquiries, please email fgc@coventry.gov.uk and they will send the referral form or alternatively the electronic referral document can be accessed at: www.coventry.gov.uk/FGCCoventry The co-ordinator will spend time with the referrer to support the referral and help complete the family information sheet.

USEFUL LINKS

www.seeme-hearme.org.uk

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.nwgnetwork.org

www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre

www.paceuk.info

www.coventry.gov.uk/safeguardingchildren

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.coventry.gov.uk/csescreeingtool

www.barnardos.org.uk

www.coventry.gov.uk/mashreferral

www.coventry.gov.uk/lscb

www.west-midlands.police.uk/your-local-police/coventry