

Protocol for the transfer of young adults from Children's Social Care to Adult Safeguarding Services where Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation, Honour Based Violence, Forced Marriage and Criminal Exploitation is an identified ongoing risk

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This protocol intends to provide a clear pathway for young people who are identified to be at continued risk of sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, honour based violence, forced marriage and criminal exploitation post 18 years of age. The purpose is to ensure that the needs of young people are identified and responded to by the appropriate services and risks are reduced.
- 1.2 This protocol does not replace existing transition processes for those likely to need continued care and support services post 18. In these instances referrals should be made to the relevant Adult Social Care service such as Preparing for Adulthood Team or Locality Team accordingly.

2. Context

- 2.1 There are a number of risks faced by young people who have experienced abuse. Young people who have been victims of abuse within the scope of this protocol often present with a number of vulnerabilities that are both the cause and consequence of the abuse. This includes mental health and emotional wellbeing difficulties.
- 2.2 There are identified risks and additional support needs of victims who suffer further trauma and emotional harm as victims of abuse within the criminal justice system, due to adversarial cross examination and close proximity to offenders and their family and friends in court. There are also risks of negative outcomes in court. There are additional risks as victims are vulnerable to further unhealthy relationships due to low self-esteem for example.
- 2.3 This demonstrates a need for there to be on-going support and services available to those young people who have been victims of abuse covered within this protocol, but are now 18 years or older.
- 2.4 Key principles of effective transition at times where sexual exploitation is the predominant need was identified in the joint serious case review commissioned by Newcastle Child and Adult Safeguarding Boards (Feb 2018). Features of good practice included;

- Early assessment of a child's likely needs for care and support when they reach adulthood
- Persistence of staff being there
- Continuity of staff

- Tailored responses
- A named worker particularly for young people leaving care
- Involvement of adult safeguarding services where it was likely that the vulnerability of the child would continue into adulthood

Derby City Council considers the above to be best practice in the other areas of abuse covered within this protocol in addition to sexual exploitation.

3. Adult Safeguarding duties

- 3.1 There is a statutory criteria for Safeguarding Adults, set out at s.42 of the Care Act 2014. The local authority's duties apply when someone with care and support needs is experiencing or likely to experience an abuse and are unable to protect themselves from the abuse.
- 3.2 Consent for referrals to adult safeguarding services are considered best practice and referrals should include the views and outcomes that the adult wants to achieve. It is important to note that there are legal provisions that allow for the sharing of information without the consent of the adult; these are outlined on the safeguarding referral form to Adult Social Care.
- 3.3 The lead agency in an adult safeguarding enquiry is the local authority. Where safeguarding enquiries and duties are delegated to other agencies, the local authority retains overall accountability.

4. Transfer arrangements – steps to be taken

- 4.1 Where a child is subject to a CSE Plan or Child Protection (CP) Plan, the need for involvement by adult safeguarding services post 18 will be considered at the first Conference Review after the child's 17th birthday. If required a recommendation will be made in the CSE/CP Plan for a referral as described within this document within appropriate timescales; the adult safeguarding team must be included and invited to the Core Group and Review Conference Meetings. Attendance will be based on a review of the information provided.
- 4.2 Where the young person is identified prior to their 18th birthday as likely to continue to be at risk of significant harm and it is unlikely that the harm will be reduced without continued safeguarding intervention post 18 the below actions will be taken;
- 4.3 Children and Young People's Department will refer to Adult Safeguarding prior to the child's final review. The Adult Safeguarding Team will be invited to the final review however will make a decision based upon the complexity about whether they attend at this point. Children's Services will provide the following information in the referral to Adult Safeguarding;
 - i. A completed Adult Safeguarding referral form
 - ii. Chronology
 - iii. Latest plan
 - iv. Update of the CSE Screening Tool

- 4.4 The Adult Safeguarding Team will review the information and make a decision as to whether they should attend the final review or a more suitable team, such as a team tasked with other aspects of the young person's transition.
- 4.5 Once the young person has turned 18, Adult Safeguarding will convene a safeguarding meeting in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the Children's Services worker will be invited to attend. It will be at this meeting that an initial safeguarding plan will be developed building upon work already undertaken by Children's Services. A decision will be made as to whether a longer term team will be involved with the adult or whether existing safety measures are felt to mitigate the risks from an adult safeguarding perspective. In these situations a referral to Community Led Support Programmes will be considered.
- 4.6 It is acknowledged that there may be a number of young people who may have been referred to adult safeguarding for further support under the protocol who will subsequently decline the involvement of Adult Safeguarding Services. Where possible the young person should be provided with details of how they could self-refer themselves in the future should they change their minds. There will be other circumstances where after consideration and review by Adult Services the most appropriate support will be an onward referral to another therapeutic service. There may also be alternative legal provisions that enable the local authority to continue their enquiries without the need for consent.

5. Care Leavers

- 5.1 Children who have been in the care of the Local Authority will have an allocated Personal Advisor until at least the age of 25. It is suggested that they retain involvement as a key worker within their network. However, a referral to adult safeguarding should still be made prior to the young person's final review as per the above process. The statutory responsibility for the safeguarding work post 18 is that of the Adult Safeguarding Team and Adult Social Care.

Version Control

Version	Author/s	Updated by	Agreed by	Date	Review Date
1.	Head of Service Childrens Quality Assurance and Adult Safeguarding Team Manager	-	DSCB Policy and Procedures Group	July 2018	July 2021
2.	-	Adult Safeguarding Team Manager	-	November 2018	July 2021

Safeguarding Transfer Protocol Flowchart

