

Leicestershire County Council' Child Exploitation Framework 2024-26



One of the key messages from those working with children involved in the different aspects of child exploitation is to not give up trying to work with the children and young people, even where they are unwilling to 'engage'. The TCE programme highlights the importance of perseverance in safeguarding professionals and how that is interpreted by children:

A lot of people give up on me really easily because they don't see that I'm engaging, or they don't think I'm trying or something. It's not that, it's just I can't trust them, if that makes sense. They need to show that they're going to stay a bit before I can offload and open up to them.

(Child/young person), Tackling Child Exploitation, 2023

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Tackling Child Exploitation (Harm outside the Home) is one of the biggest challenges facing Local Authorities and Safeguarding Children's Partnerships. It is the responsibility of **all partners** to identify all children and young people at risk of exploitation to prevent them from becoming victims, and it is the responsibility of all partner agencies to protect and safeguard all children and young people who are experiencing exploitation from further harm. Children and Young People must be seen as a 'Child First' and exploitation being the main driver of offending behaviours/risks.
- 1.2 The National Crime Agency have reported 4,722 mapped Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) groups in the UK (NCA Annual Plan 2020-21); In 2020, more children than ever before were identified as potential victims of trafficking with exploitation being the most prevalent cause. In 2020, the number of children assessed by children's social care of being at risk from gang involvement increased from 10,960 to 14,700. Meanwhile, those involved in trafficking rose from 2,490 to 3,010, and children involved in drug misuse increased from 23,710 to 29,170. In 2019/20 nearly 7,000 children were arrested for drug offences. A further 2,063 were charged with weapon offences. Many of these children will have been groomed and exploited to commit these offences (Barnardo's 2021).
- 1.3 During 2023 we received 173 referrals for young people where Child Criminal Exploitation was a concern. Leicestershire Police and the Hub undertook 107 association mappings, a high proportion of those referrals were from social care on open cases. Most young people were White/British males between the ages of 14-17. Hot spot areas are Charnwood and Northwest Leicestershire. Charnwood has consistently been an area of concern and resources are higher in this area. Half of young people referred were missing from home (55), missing from care (11) and 66 were not missing. Of those 6 had an NRM.
- 1.4 During 2023 we received 118 referrals for young people where Child Sexual Exploitation was a concern. Risk Assessments were completed on all these young people. A high proportion of these young people were referred via Social Care, 57 were NFA'd, 86 consultations took place and 36 were allocated for CE worker intervention. 13 were deemed high risk and the model for CSE was higher for Online as it has been throughout 2020, 2021 & 2022. The age range is highest between 14-15 with 12-13 and 16-17 being 2nd highest and Female, with an ethnicity of White (106) compared to 12 BAME. 35 were recorded as missing from home and 25 from care and 17.8% had a known learning disability.

2. The purpose of the framework

- 2.1 This framework seeks to ensure a response that is effective and coordinated for children and young people at risk of exploitation, and one which identifies potential risks early and seeks to reduce risk and harm through the offer of safety and support. The framework will be underpinned by a greater understanding of the problem and behaviours that will visibly challenge the abuse of organised crime and the impact on our children and their families.

3. Commitment statement

3.1 Children and Family Services in Leicestershire, in conjunction with corporate colleagues, partner agencies, young people and their families, communities and East Midlands regional neighbours will ensure they provide clear direction to put children and families at the centre of our work and to recognise Exploitation/Harm outside the Home when confronted with it; to offer best response; to challenge ourselves and each other in order to achieve the best possible outcomes. In seeking to achieve this we, as partners will work tirelessly to prevent, protect, pursue, and bring to justice (prosecute) by ensuring that we:

- Focus and coordinate robust multiagency resources in relation to the identification and intervention support to those at risk of CE/Harm outside the Home.
- Produce and implement effective guidance including the assessment of risk which supports practitioners in recognising and responding appropriately.
- Continue to develop and implement training and awareness raising for practitioners.
- Ensure that children and young people across Leicestershire and their parents and carers, are aware of CE and its effects.
- Ensure the framework is aligned to early intervention and missing strategies.
- Aim to bring justice to the perpetrators and to ensure that children and young people are properly safeguarded in respect of any legal proceedings in relation to any form of child exploitation. This may be sexual exploitation, drug's offences, trafficking, and modern-day slavery. Where required they will be supported in the Court process.
- Young people will be kept at the heart of our practice and their voice must be heard throughout and that this must be evidenced for the duration of their experience (Child First).
- We will ensure where young people are working with more than one service area there is a clear and robust joined up plan for everyone to work to that the Young Person and Family/Community understand.

Our dedicated website across the East Midlands supports professionals in recognising and supporting young people and their families at risk of Child Exploitation (Harm outside the Home) [Home | Child Exploitation East Midlands](#)

4. Scope of the framework

4.1 This framework responds to young people who are victims of any form of Child Exploitation (CE): both Sexual and criminal exploitation.

4.2 It is imperative that there is a clear and accepted understanding of who these young people include:

- Trafficked within the UK with the intention of being used to commit criminal acts that benefit the trade of sexual, drug and criminal gangs
- Coerced into the supply, transporting, and dealing of class A Drugs. They may be doing this within their local area, however they are often crossing one or more police force and local authority boundaries
- Coerced into carrying drugs, weapons, and money to assist in the trade and movement of drugs.
- Involvement in the exploitation of vulnerable adults and the “cuckooing” of premises.

- Recognising that any child can be exploited in any form of exploitation. Professionals will be curious in exploring their involvement to safeguard the child/young person.
- Young People from BAME communities have added vulnerability due to racism and disproportionality.
- Potential persons of concern in respect of exploiting children may themselves be children who are being exploited. Awareness of how this cycle of abuse/exploitation may repeat itself without appropriate exit strategies which may result in the exploited child becoming a person of concern.

5. Ensuring Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in our response to CE/Harm Outside the Home

- 5.1 We know that any young person can become a victim of CE. CE is the systematic abuse of power and control and is fundamentally linked to inequality and vulnerability/trauma. In responding to CE, it takes account of the broader inequalities. This does not replace the responsibilities set out by the Public Sector Duty (s149) of the Equalities Act 2010 to have a due regard for the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different groups.
- 5.2 Leicestershire County Council are committed to equity, diversity and inclusion and ensuring the human rights of all users and, in delivering the service, adheres to the Equality and Human Rights Act (2010). We will ensure all Young People we work with are seen as 'Children First'.
- 5.3 Leicestershire County Council, CE Service are collocated in The Safeguarding Hub, with Leicestershire police and Leicester City social care. Rutland Council Childrens Social care have a virtual place in the Hub. A Specialist Child Exploitation Health representative is available to all services in the Hub, present at the Daily Risk management meeting and strategic meetings. This amalgamation has created an environment for information sharing and collaborative risk and response assessments. The Safeguarding Hub will continue to review intelligence, to determine any areas where there are emerging indicators of under or over representation and that may need a stronger focus. The findings will consider potential of impact on families of victims and perpetrators' and ensure that consideration of any action to address indirect discrimination is given and responded to. In addition, the quality assurance framework will support rigorous qualitative evaluation to promote improved practice and to capture the voice of the young people and the voice of parents and carers so that we can learn and improve the effectiveness of our practice.

6. Defining and Understanding Child Criminal & Sexual Exploitation

- 6.1 Leicestershire County Council have agreed, and are committed to use the definitions of Child Criminal & Sexual Exploitation provided by the Home Office:

Child criminal exploitation 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 into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something that victim needs or wants and/or (B) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or see bracket through violence or the threat of violence. 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 using technology.

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.

- 6.2 These clear definitions underpin and will remain central to the Safeguarding Hubs commitment and joint understanding of the key principles underpinning our multiagency response to Child Exploitation.
- 6.3 Leicestershire Children and Family Services CE Team, work with children and young people, predominantly over the age of 11 years. The work of the team considers a preventative, educational offer to both individual young people and their families but also to other professionals such as Schools or other service areas within Children and Family Services. The team can support allocated Targeted Family Help/childrens social care workers with specific pieces of work with young people, or where there are no other concerns and Harm outside the Home is the main area of risk, they can be the solely allocated worker. Where the concerns are deemed high risk, the young person will be subject to a Child in Need plan to ensure a clear focus on the Harm outside the home is assessed and SMART actions set and outcomes measured. The work that the CE Team provide is not time limited, it is relationship based to build the trust of the child/young person and find ways to engage them in the work/walk alongside them to gain trust. We are aware of the impact of Adultification on young people and adopt a 'Child First' approach with every child.
- 6.4 The Team can work through to an individual's 18th birthday. Where there is an active police investigation open involving that 18-year-old, we can continue to offer a service to support them through the judicial process and beyond to survivor status. This is with the agreement of the individual and appropriate written agreements are put into place regarding information sharing.

7. The Exploitation of Children includes a combination of:

- 7.1 **Pull factors:** children performing tasks for others resulting in them gaining accommodation, food, gifts, status or a sense of safety, money, or drugs; often the draw is through the person of concern supplying class B drugs such as cannabis to the child or young person.
- 7.2 **Push factors:** children escaping from situations where their needs are neglected and there is exposure to unsafe individuals, where there is high from the conflict or the absence of a primary attachment figure;
- 7.3 **Control:** brainwashing, violence, and threats of violence by those exploiting particularly when the child or young person is identified by the police, they are expected to take full responsibility for the offences to which they are charged- i.e. possession and supply of illegal substances.

8. Understanding Exploitation in a wider context

- 8.1 The adopted definition of CE as described above offers clarity and insight into what Child Exploitation is. However, there are strong links that need to be understood between

children and young people being at risk of exploitation and other behaviours such as children going missing **from home or care**. Significant evidence highlights the children and young people who go missing from home or care are at increased risk of being or experiencing child exploitation. It is therefore essential that partner agencies continue to act rigorously to reduce incidents of children and young people going missing.

9. Criminal Exploitation and Legislation

9.1 Wider legislation and guidance help us to understand the nature of Child Criminal Exploitation and Organised Crime. For example:

- Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation: Supplementary Guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023
- Children and young people who go missing from Home or Care Joint Protocol 2022 – LSCP https://lscpb.proceduresonline.com/files/jnt_pr_missing.pdf
- Modern Slavery Act (2015)
- Safeguarding Children who may have been Trafficked (DFE 2011)
- Office of the Children Commissioner Report Gangs and Groups CDE
- Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: County Lines guidance (Home Office 2023)
- County Lines Violence, Exploitation & Drug Supply, National Briefing Report (Home Office, 2017)
- Child Sexual Exploitation – Definition and guide for practitioners (Home Office Feb 2017)
- Children and Young Person's Missing from home, Education or Care (2014)
- Child Exploitation Disruption Toolkit (Home Office 2019)
- Serious Violence Framework (Home Office Apr 2018)
- National Referral Mechanism (NRM)
- National County Lines Coordination Centre (National Crime Agency Sept 2018).

10. Impact of Child Exploitation

10.1 Every child deserves the right to grow up in a safe, stable, and secure environment in Leicestershire we believe that the best and safest place for children is, wherever possible, with their families and in their own communities. However, the experience of CE can reduce the resilience and confidence of even the strongest individuals, families, professionals, and groups. The impact is devastating and often leaves people feeling powerless and having no control or influence:

- Child exploitation can affect the whole family. Families will often feel shame and powerless and Child Protection processes can impact even more as a barrier.
- As part of the grooming process, the person of concern will deliberately seek to sever family relationships and instil a sense of distrust by the child towards their family.
- Leave families isolated, unable to protect their child and in fear of reprisal.
- The child might act violently or out of control, leading to possible difficulties at school or with the police and in their local community.

- Relationships or marriages can come under stress.
- Parents own mental health can be seriously challenged including the development of anxiety disorders, self-harm, and suicide attempts.

11. Our Vision

11.1 Leicestershire is a place where child exploitation will not be tolerated; where people will not be judged, will enjoy equality and respect and live free from the fear of reprisal from organised criminals. Child Exploitation must become everyone's business and we will work tirelessly to support the full understanding of all forms of Child Exploitation, acknowledging Harm outside of the Home with the development of contextualising safeguarding model of delivery.

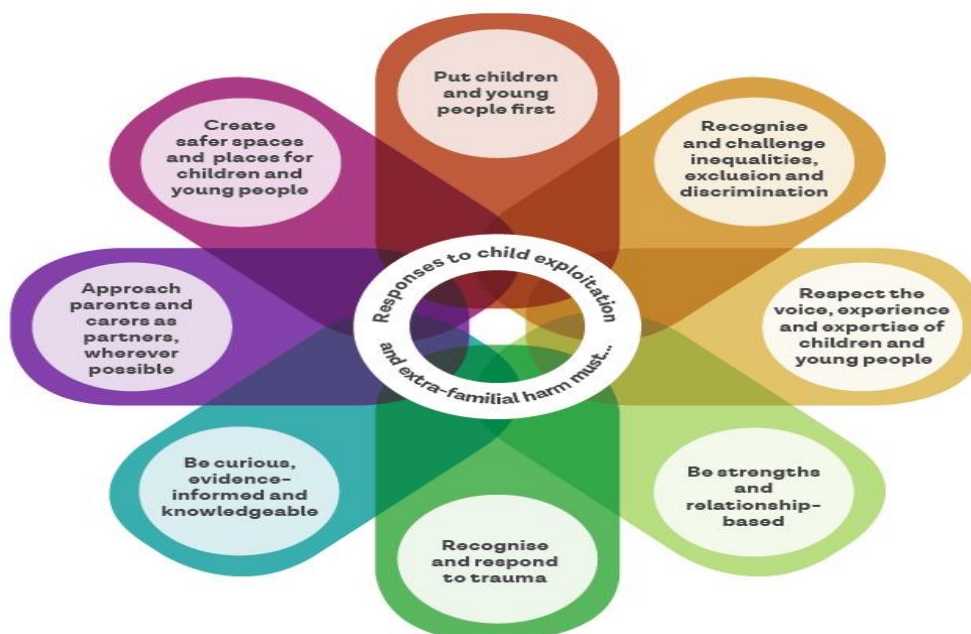
11.2 Leicestershire County Council will remain and are committed to the co-location of the CE service with Leicestershire police and Health services. This collaboration will continue to create opportunities for cross border information sharing and joint targeted work when children develop associations. Our vision continues to value the additional benefits of co-location with Leicester City and Rutland social care partners which further strengthens the co-ordinated sharing and action planning for those young people and operational activity that cuts across our nearest neighbours.

11.3 Our Framework to the early identification, prevention, and protection of young people and their families from CE will be built on a continued emphasis of the need to develop greater recognition and understanding of CE. This includes its many manifestations along with pursuance of changing thinking processes, associated feelings, and behaviours necessary to secure both immediate and long-term impact.

12. Key Principles

12.1 The Key principles underpinning our community and multiagency understanding response to Child Exploitation include:

- Recognition that criminal exploitation can include sexual, physical, and emotional abuse as well as in some cases neglect.
- Understanding that children do not make informed choices to enter or remain in exploitative relationships, but do so from coercion, intimidation, violence, enticement, manipulation, or desperation.
- CE covers a range of vulnerabilities which will need different approaches and responses from a range of agencies.
- Parents and Carers are, in most cases, key to the protection of children exposed or part of CE.
- Locally and nationally, it is recognised that CE, county lines activity, youth gang violence issues, Domestic Abuse are intrinsically linked.
- Criminally exploited children and young people should be treated as victims of modern-day slavery under the category of forced labour and potentially trafficking and this should be used in mitigation during any criminal proceedings.



The eight Practice Principles are evidence-informed, which means they draw on the expertise of children, young people, parents, carers and professionals and on what we know from research. Taken together, they promote a holistic response to child exploitation and extra-familial harm that recognises the potential presence of different and multiple forms of harm in children and young people’s lives.

Those affected by child exploitation and / or extra-familial harm are due the same rights and protections as other children and young people, so the Principles will be relevant to work with all children and young people. We know, however, that for children and young people experiencing these forms of harm, the complexities and presentation of child exploitation and / or extra-familial harm can mean that responses sometimes undermine the realisation of these rights.

To support partnerships, agencies and professionals to shape how they respond to this context, the Practice Principles:

- Offer a compass to help navigate a complex landscape, rather than a detailed map for every individual situation, as no one set of circumstances or local context is the same as another, and there is no single answer for how to respond to these types of harms.
- Are high-level to support a coherent approach across local partnerships and to support multi-agency working.
- Focus on behaviours and culture to help direct work with children, young people, and families, operational management and strategic leadership to align.
- Complement existing and forthcoming guidance and are broad enough to sustain utility over time and to fit within diverse local working arrangements.
- The eight Practice Principles below are interrelated and interdependent. Taken together, they can guide useful partnership behaviours to help support a coherent, collaborative and creative local response to child exploitation and extra-familial harm.

13. Key Objectives

13.1 The key objectives of the CE Team in Leicestershire County Council in partnership with the Multi Agency Child Exploitation Hub (MACE Hub):

- Prevent young people becoming at risk and raise awareness of Child Exploitation.
- Identify and safeguard victims of CE.
- Identify and monitor vulnerable locations across the area.
- Empower those affected by child exploitation by supporting them to identify strategies to exit and withdraw safely.
- Disrupt persons of concern and bring them to justice using modern day slavery and trafficking legislation.
- Maximise operational solutions with local, regional, and national partners to disrupt county lines and reduce associated criminal exploitation and youth violence.

13.2 This framework and joint working are underpinned by:

- A strong commitment from leaders and senior managers with clear lines of accountability.
- Clear governance and operational structure.
- Clear risk management and risk action planning processes aligned with safeguarding policy and practice.
- Shared understanding of the problem of child exploitation
- Clear information sharing agreements, protocols, and guidance.
- Clear pathways for referral depending on the threshold need.
- Collective training and briefing sessions for all practitioners, elected members, and the wider community.
- Effective coordination by the LSCP
- Clear communication framework.

14. Prevent through Early Identification

14.1 Action to tackle child criminal exploitation should be proactive focusing on prevention early identification and intervention as well as on disrupting activity and prosecuting persons of concern.

14.2 Early identification to take preventative action and early intervention is likely to be far more effective than intervention at a later stage when the impact on the child or young person's health or development is likely to have escalated. Prevention strategies should therefore be regarded as a key part of agencies approaches to child criminal exploitation.

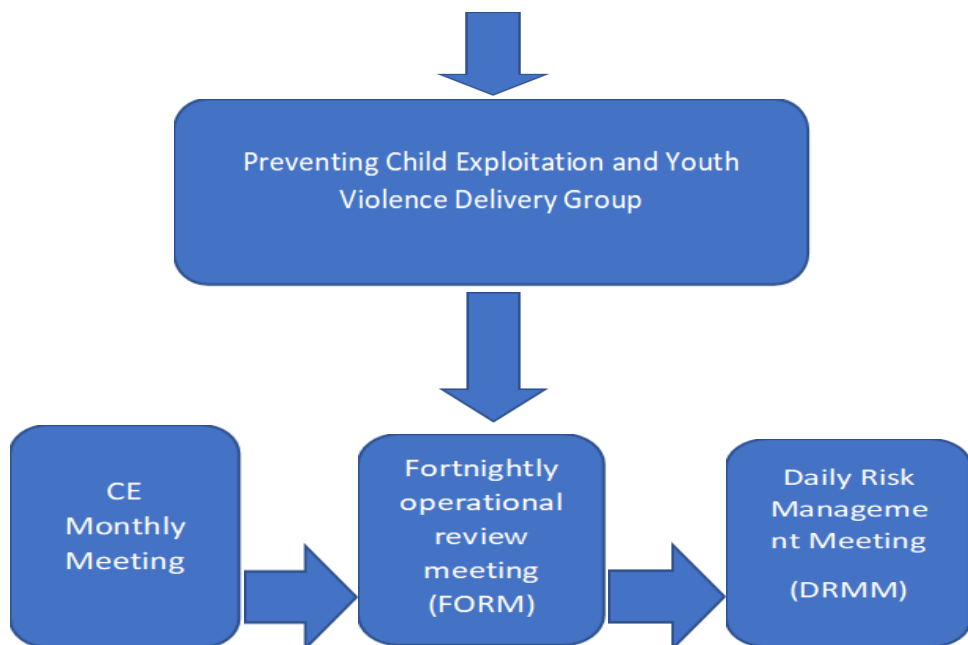
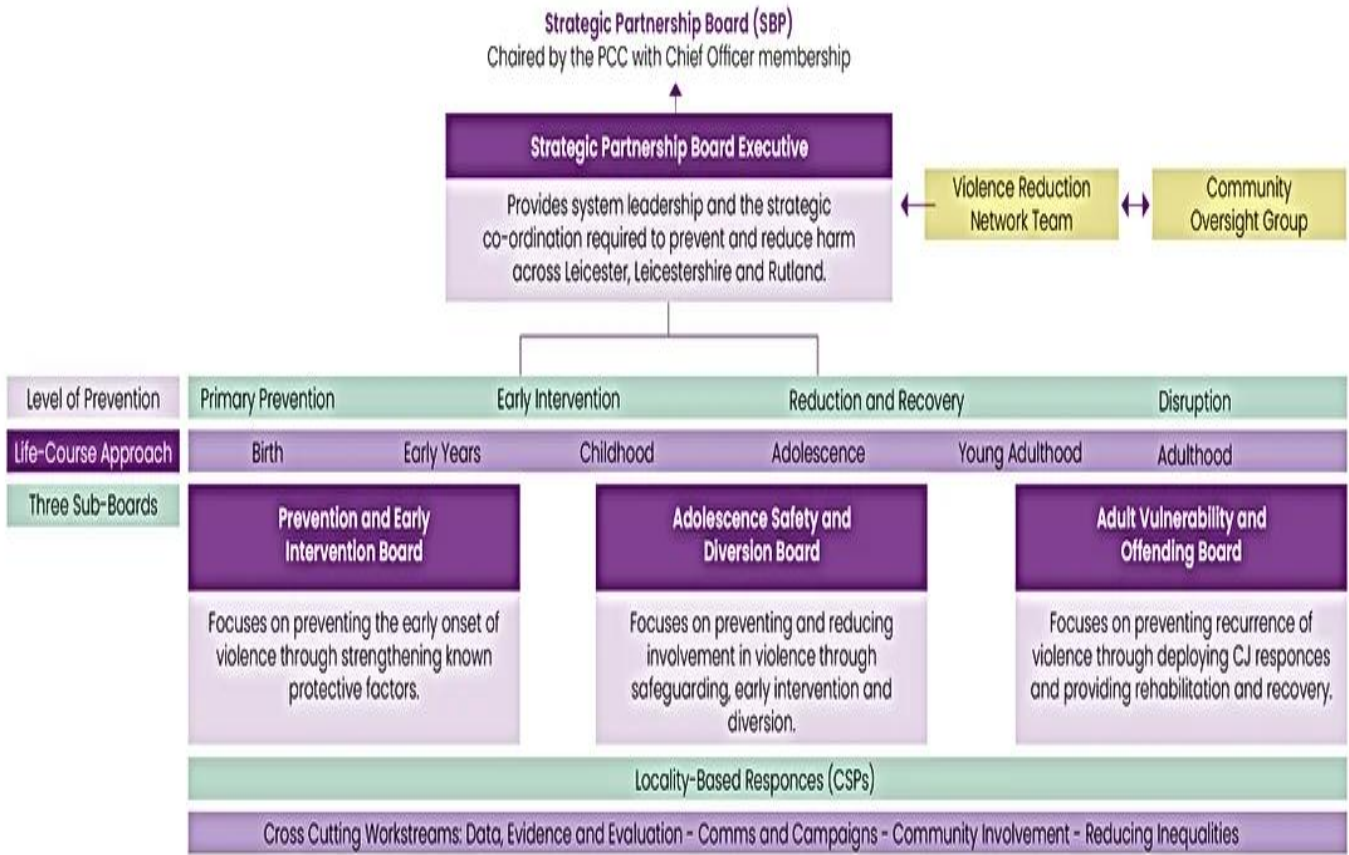
Early identification that a young person is at risk of, or experiencing, exploitation and involving their family's early can be a key step in helping them to achieve good outcomes.

14.3 Parents and carers are the primary safeguard of a child, with 90% of exploited children living at home. They are providing the 24/7 support when others are no longer there. Parents and carers are best placed to understand the child, to identify changes in behaviour and to intervene early when risks are identified. Recognition that as part of our framework it is important to:

- Support parents so that they can explore their own feelings in a safe and non-judgemental environment. Parents who are informed about CE and grooming can begin to see why their child has become a changed person since the abuse started.
- Ensure a Trauma informed and Trauma responsive approach that is collaborative in nature when working with parents, carers, and their Networks
- Focus on the young person's needs and recognise the fact that they are not always aware, recognise or acknowledge that they may be in an exploited situation.
- Ensure a need led assessment and a child and family centred approach is needed, where we will build on the young persons and family Network and build a tailored community safety plan to meet the individual needs of young people and their family/carers.
- Know that Children in Care are particularly vulnerable to CE and going missing from care.
- All care plans will consider the risks in relation to individual children and their carers will be informed and supported to manage their own feelings and anxieties.
- Effective interagency planning for all Children in Care needs to consider risk and resilience and the use of worry statements and safety planning with the young person to consider how they are best kept safe. A key strength of the regional group in the Midlands is a joint agreement to the commitment of locating children when they go missing.
- Recognise the vulnerability of young people leaving care can increase due to the reduction in services immediately around them. Living alone could make them possible targets for cuckooing. Ensuring good planning continues and that young people have a routine will increase their resilience.
- Provide children and young people with preventative education at the earliest opportunity providing them with critical thinking skills and knowledge in relation to safe and healthy relationships this will help them to avoid situations that put them at risk of child exploitation and know who to turn to if they need advice and support without fear of reprisal.

14.4 Their full involvement is vital if children and young people are to be effectively supported and action is to be taken against persons of concern of CE.

15. Child Exploitation in Leicestershire, its Governance, and our work with Partner Agencies



- 15.1 Our position within the MACE Hub has continued to strengthen with further partnership work across LLR, this has included aligning our LLR CE operational partnership group to consider Serious Youth Violence and the work of the Violence Reduction network. The group is now known as 'The Preventing Child Exploitation and Youth Violence Delivery Group', this is a sub-group of the Adolescence Safety and Diversion Board which sits below the Strategic Partnership Board (SPB). Its purpose is to co-ordinate and oversee the local response to preventing, safeguarding, and protecting children and young people from exploitation and violence. Importantly, as this is the statutory responsibility of the local safeguarding partnerships, the group will also provide updates and assurance to these Boards on the development and delivery of local responses.
- 15.2 The Preventing Child Exploitation and Youth Violence Delivery Group' has core members from across LLR CSC, ICB, Police, Violence Reduction Network, Education links and LSCP. Sitting underneath this group is the Child Exploitation 'monthly' Meeting, representatives from LLR, Educ, Police and Health attend this and will consider Quality assurance across the partnership in relation to CE, themes from DRMM and FORM (daily risk management mtg and fortnightly operational review meeting) and feed actions and outcomes directly into the Delivery Group.

16. The role of partner agencies in Safety and Support

Children's social care (CSC)

- 16.1 Children social care has the lead responsibility for responding to children and young people at high risk of criminal exploitation and act in accordance with their responsibilities under the children act. Following a referral children social care have a duty under section 17 of the children act 1989 to ensure that the needs of all children and young people who are involved in, or at risk of, being exploited are assessed and that appropriate multi agency engagement and appropriate interventions are taken.
- 16.2 Social workers will ensure that for all cases open to children social care that children and young people's needs are met, employing a multiagency approach. The risk of harm to the child or young person will be reassessed considering any emerging information relating to exploitation and any existing plans amended accordingly.
- 16.3 CSC professionals will ensure guidance and procedures are followed when children go missing from home or care and understand the crucial risks linked to vulnerable young people going missing and Child Exploitation. Missing Return interviews will seek to understand missing episodes, themes and escalating risks and a Multi-agency Strategy discussion will take place in line with the guidance. A senior manager in the CE team is responsible for collating Missing data and understanding themes and emerging risks and sharing this with the Assistant Director and Lead Member for CSC.
- 16.4 The Child Exploitation Team provide direct or consultation services to children/young in 2024 we are working towards each child open solely to the Child Exploitation team having a

Community Safety Plan. This plan will address the contextual safeguarding concerns for the child/young person within their community and home and specify the actions to safeguard them. This plan will sit alongside any statutory plan (i.e. Child in Need, Child Protection Plan or Child in Care Plan). In addition to the Community Safety plan, every child open to the CE Team will have a personal safety plan, written with them to identify immediate safeguarding needs and ways that they can keep themselves safe.

- 16.5 Children's social care continues to work in partnership with the police and the local safeguarding children's partnership board, coordinating, chairing, and attending multiagency child exploitation meetings, promoting the sharing of intelligence across agencies to reduce the risk of CE to vulnerable young people across the authority.

Police

Leicestershire Police have a responsibility to recognise and be able to identify children at risk of CE and to make appropriate risk assessments and referrals to safeguard that child from any further danger/exploitation. Alongside this it is paramount that Leicestershire police provide the necessary training and guidance to all officers regarding CE and the risk factors to look out for to identify and effectively deal with a child potentially in need. This training needs to be in line with the Home Office standards and in keeping with partner agency protocols and guidance. Similarly training and guidance will be provided on how officers can deal with offenders identified to be linked to CE.

Youth Justice Service

A primary objective of the YJS is to prevent offending by children and young people by supporting young people to consider the consequences of their offending and helping them to develop a sense of understanding and personal responsibility, alongside understanding their vulnerability, trauma with a Child First approach in all their work. This is a key service in the early identification and prevention of CE and the principles that underpin the approach that will support the CE framework include:

- Intervention which tackles the risk factors associated with offending-personal, family, social, educational, health, drugs, accommodation, peer group pressure, low self-esteem, poor academic achievement etc.
- Ensuring punishment proportionate to seriousness and persistence of offending, with range of penalties available to the Courts (referral orders, youth rehabilitation Orders and Custody).
- Encourage reparation to victims or to the community by young offenders.
- Reinforcing and supporting the resilience and responsibility of parents.
- Working in partnership with a range of criminal justice agencies.
- Ensure intelligence is shared in a timely way.

Health

The Child Exploitation team have strong links with several areas of the health service. We have a specialist Child Exploitation Nurse who attends our Daily Risk Management Meeting, the Fortnightly Operational Review Meeting, High Risk Child Exploitation Meeting, and selected strategy discussions.

We have also developed links with the sexual health clinics in the area and created dedicated weekly sessions in two clinics for young people open the Child Exploitation team to receive a service.

Education

Education settings are important to the delivery of the CE framework. All education services should provide:

- A conduit to expert advice and guidance available to schools and academies in relation to the identification of those students at risk of CE.
- Offer appropriate support to students whose education is impacted by CE.
- Support mechanisms to give due consideration to the antecedent that CE places on students in relation to their behaviour, attendance, and engagement.
- Support the development of bespoke training education/school/academy staff that aims to identify and support those students within local schools/academies that are at risk of or subject to CE.
- Actively support the development of a wider level of understanding of CE across and with the local authority and facilitate this process through key services including student focused forums, head teacher forums, child protection coordinators forums, governors' forums, special educational needs, and all educational structures within and involving the local authority.

In house provision in partnership with Barnardos

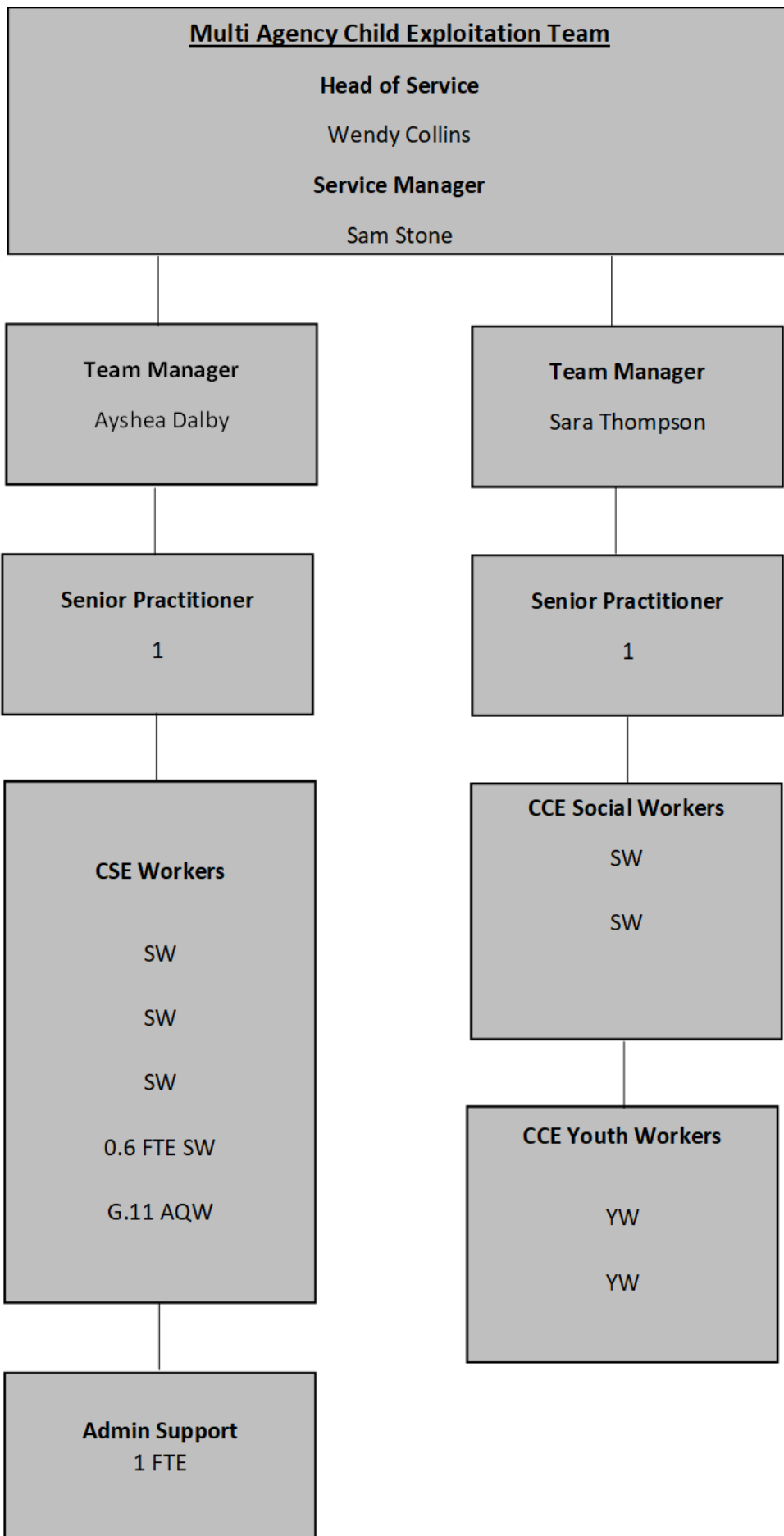
We currently have one specialist Child Exploitation Children's home and another is due to open in the county. Our senior practitioners are the conduits and consultants for these homes. If a child who is placed at these homes is reported missing, the Child Exploitation Team will complete the MRI with them.

Referrals to the national Referral Mechanism.

- National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is the framework for identifying victims of human trafficking or modern slavery and ensures they receive appropriate support. The NRM grants a minimum 45-day reflection and recovery period for victims of human trafficking and modern slavery. When a young person is from another Local Authority area, information should be passed to Children's Social Care or Youth Offending Service from the responsible area, so they can complete the NRM referral process.
- National County Lines Coordination Centre. A team of multi-agency professionals, from the NCA, police and regional organised crime units are working together to develop the national intelligence picture of the complexity and scale of the threat; crucially engaging with partners across government, health, welfare, and education spheres, to tackle the wider issues.

17. Equality Duty

The Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) requires public bodies to have a due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. As such, our approach will be to be informed by the latest available intelligence when determining key actions associated with the delivery of our framework vision.



Child Exploitation Team Pledge

The Child Exploitation Team pledge to keep you and what you need as the centre of our work. We will always listen to you and try to give you a safe place to talk.

We promise to use what you say to help us understand you and work with you in a way you can manage and even enjoy sometimes.

You will never be judged and will always be treated with respect. Sometimes things might be difficult for you, but our aim is to help you understand what is happening for you. This may mean helping you to be comfortable with other professionals, including the police.

We aim to always advocate on your behalf and to ensure that you are viewed as a victim of exploitation. We will ensure that the work we and partners complete with you, is trauma informed.

We want you continually hear that your experiences of harm do not define you as a person and we will always engage with the whole of you and we hope that our journey, however short, has a positive impact upon your life now and in the future.

