

**COMPLEX SAFEGUARDING**

**Transition to Adult Services Procedure**

**Children and Families Service**

**June 2019**

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| **POLICY INFORMATION SHEET** |
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| **Service Area** | Children and Families |
| **Date effective from** | June 2019 |
| **Responsible Officer** | Kate Press |
| **Date of Reviews** |  |
| **Status** **Optional (Procedures and practice can vary between teams** |  |
| **Target Audience** | All Children and Families Social Care Staffand all Adult Social Care Staff |
| **Date of CSMT Decision** |  |
| **Related Document (s)** | Transition to Adults Policy |
| **Superseded Documents** |  |
| **Equality Impact Assessment** | Considered |

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**1 Introduction**

1.1 This protocol is intended to set out the agreed pathway in Trafford between Children’s and Adult Services for recognising, responding and reducing risk for people where Complex Safeguarding has been a significant issue in their lives.

1.2 In Trafford Council we are aware of a number of children in the older age group (16-18) who have been victims of Child Sexual Exploitation or Child Criminal Exploitation.. This often relates to a number of children who have been subject to Child Protection Plans, Child in Need Plans or have been in the care of the Local Authority. Current research and enquiries clearly state that the only way to tackle Complex Safeguarding is through “joined up working and information sharing”. The Trafford Complex Safeguarding Strategy states that “***Complex Safeguarding*** *is used to describe Criminal activity (often organised), or behaviour associated to criminality, involving vulnerable children / young people, where there is exploitation and / or a clear or implied safeguarding concern”.* RiP highlight that *“Put very simply, Complex Safeguarding is a different way of working with children and families to address non-traditional safeguarding issues, whilst Contextual Safeguarding offers an approach for working with contexts and communities. Recognising the importance of working to safeguard young people across transitions is a feature of both Complex Safeguarding and Contextual Safeguarding.”*

1.3 There are additional risks to young adults who have experienced Complex Safeguarding which include: mental health difficulties, criminal behaviours, alcohol and drug misuse, domestic abuse and having social care involvement with their own children. There has been a clear link made between domestic abuse and sexual exploitation and the way in which young people can be both victims and perpetrators of exploitation. Therefore, demonstrating a need for there to be ongoing support and services available to those young people who have been victims of Complex Safeguarding, but are now 18 years or older.

1.4 Enquiries have identified that services have failed to provide long term therapeutic work for survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation (The following Reports provide demonstrable evidence of this, “*If it’s not better it’s not the end: Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation and Gangs and Groups: one year on*” – Sue Berelowitz et al; “*Real Voices: Child Sexual Exploitation in Greater Manchester: An Independent Review”* by Ann Coffey MP; *Report of Inspection of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council*” – Louise Casey).

1.5 It is therefore critical that the transition for these children to adulthood does not result in them failing to receive the support and protection they may still need.

1.6 It is recognised that these young adults may decline further intervention from services, and this should be recorded on the Young Person’s Record. Where support is accepted, this may comprise of signposting to additional services (for issues as described above), advising and assistance with access to support, treatment and/or therapeutic services (e.g. SARC (Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service), the IDVA (Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors) Service and Barnardos) and on rare occasions co-ordinating a care package of support provided by the Local Authority.

Adult Services have responsibility for the following cohorts under S42 of the Care Act 2014 who:-

(a) has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),

(b) is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and

(c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

The local authority must make (or cause to be made) whatever enquiries it thinks necessary to enable it to decide whether any action should be taken in the adult’s case (whether under this Part or otherwise) and, if so, what and by whom.

 **2. Children open to Children’s Social Care with Safety or Child Protection Plans**

2.1 The above plans can all continue until the child’s 18th birthday and then will cease. It is expected that where the allocated Social Worker has assessed (through the completion of a Children and Families Assessment) and with the agreement of the child, parent and the Core Group/CiN Group that there is a need for ongoing intervention and support from Adult.

Services, then a referral is immediately made to the Adult Social Care using the email below.

IAT@trafford.gov.uk

2.2 The referral to Adult Social Care should happen before the child reaches the age of 17 years (ideally no later than 17 and a half). The referral should consist of the relevant referral form, Children and Families Assessment and an updated Complex Safeguarding Screening Tool. The allocated adult social worker will also be required to make a referral to Adult Safeguarding. The allocated Adult Social Worker will then be responsible for completing any relevant assessments prior to the young person reaching the age of 18.

2.3 Where a child is subject to a My Safety Plan or Child Protection Plan, the need for involvement by Adult Social Care will be considered at the first Conference Review after the child’s 17th birthday, and if required a recommendation will be made in the Safety Plan/Child Protection Plan for a referral as described above within appropriate timescales, and the identified worker from Adult Social Care must be included and invited to the Core Group and Review Conference Meetings.

2.4 If this referral is accepted by Adult Social Care, it would be expected that the Adult Social Worker will become part of the Core Group/CiN Group as the child’s 18th birthday approaches. It must be recorded on the child’s record that a request has been made to Adult Social Care for ongoing support.

2.5 It is suggested that where appropriate the Adult Social Worker will be actively involved with the child and the plan at least 3 months priors to the child becoming 18.

2.6 If through the referral for assessment there are continuing safeguarding concerns then a safeguarding referral will need to be made by Adult Social Care. Some young people will not fit Care Act 2014 section 42 safeguarding criteria. However, as a Local Authority we have the power to undertake other safeguarding enquiries where it would support the young person’s well-being and to prevent further abuse.

2.7 There is an expectation where Children’s Services have been involved that they continue to be involved as well as any other relevant partners in order to fully support the young person after their 18th birthday if required.

2.8 It is acknowledged that there may be a number of young people who may have been referred to Adult Social Care for further support under the Complex Safeguarding Transition Procedure who will subsequently decline the involvement of Adult Social Care. 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 assessment by Adult Services the most appropriate support will be an onward referral to SARC, IDVA Service or Barnardos for further therapeutic support.

2.9 There will be some children who have been referred to the Home Office as victims of modern slavery and have been given positive National Referral Mechanism (NRM) status. This status ends at the age of 18, therefore the Adult Social Worker will need to consider if a subsequent referral for post 18 NRM status needs to be made to the Home Office.

**3. Care Leavers**

3.1 Children who have been in the care of the Local Authority will have an allocated Personal Advisor until at least the age of at least 21 (or 25 if they continue to be in full-time education). It is suggested that they retain “key worker” responsibility. However, a referral to Adult Social Care should still be made when the young person reaches the age of 17 as per the process above.

4.  **Young People who are “Persons of Interest”**

4.1 There are young people and adults who are identified at Complex Safeguarding locality Panel to be a risk to children through harmful sexual behavior (HSB) which has been identified as exploitative or as engaging in sexual or criminal exploitation. A decision is made at Complex Safeguarding Panel as to whether they meet the criteria for support under the Care Act 2014. The details of these individuals will be sent to Adult Social Care (see above) for them to check their records and record on their systems.

**COMPLEX SAFEGUARDING Transition Policy Flowchart**

 CP Conference, SPM, Cared for Review or CiN Meeting to consider the need for ongoing involvement post 18 at the Meeting which falls between the child’s 17th birthday and becoming 17 and a half. The SW will determine if S42 of the Care Act 2014 may be engaged at 18

Children’s Social Worker (CSW) to update Children and Families Assessment (C and F Assessment) and make a safeguarding referral to adult services

Referral to Adult Services sent to the email address iat@trafford.gov.uk

Adult SW to become part of Core Group/CiN Group by the time child is 17 and three quarters

Adult SW to consult with the young person regarding Adult Services involvement, (and consider/assess need for further involvement with Adult Services, onward referral to alternative resource or provision or details of how to self-refer in the future).