******Children and young people at risk of criminal exploitation**

**Risk assessment tool**

This tool is to be used to notify Local Authorities in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland of concerns about children relating to any form of Child Exploitation, for example including Criminal Exploitation and Modern Slavery. Please complete the child and referrer information and then from the guidance included complete the checklist and final risk assessment and send to the relevant local authority as follows:

**Leicester** – If you have concerns about Child Criminal Exploitation  impacting on the wellbeing of a child and your family , contact the Duty and Advice Service on [0116 454 1004](tel:01164541004). Or [das.team@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:das.team@leicester.gov.uk)   [CSE-team@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:CSE-team@leicester.gov.uk) before sending the completed risk assessment tool along with the completed MARF

**Leicestershire** - First Response Children’s Duty (immediate safeguarding concerns) on 0116 305 0005. [Childrensduty@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Childrensduty@leics.gov.uk)

**Rutland** - If you have concerns about Child Criminal Exploitation, in the first instance call the ‘Single Front Door’ on 01572 758407 to discuss the concern, before sending the completed risk assessment form along with the completed MARF to [childrensreferrals@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:childrensreferrals@rutland.gov.uk)

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| Child’s Details | | | | | |
| Childs Name: |  | | **Address:** | | |
| Alternative Names: |  | |
| Parents/Carers details: |  | | **School/College:**  **Include details of any alternative provision**. |  | |
| Date of Birth: |  | |
| Children’s Services database no: |  | | **NHS no:** |  | |
| Gender: |  | | **Religion:** |  | |
| Ethnicity: |  | | **Language:** |  | |
| Sexuality: | **Bisexual** |  | **Disability:** | **Learning disability or difficulty** |  |
| **Gay or Lesbian** |  | **LD and other disability** |  |
| **Heterosexual** |  | **Other disability** |  |
| **Questioning** |  | **None** |  |
| **Not known** |  | **Not known** |  |
| Local Authority: |  | | **Legal Status:** | **LAC** |  |
| **Out of County LAC** |  |
| **Living with family** |  |
| Open to YOS (Previous or current Involvement). Please give details of worker. |  | | | | |
| Details of other agency involvement. Other Relevant Information. |  | | | | |

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| **Referrer’s Details** | | | | |
| Name: |  | Agency: |  |
| Contact number/email: |  | Date of Risk Assessment: |  |

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**Risk assessment tool**

**Guidance**

In identifying children and young people who have become involved in gang activities, there are a number of behavioural factors that might be indicative of involvement. Parents or other practitioners with a longer-term knowledge of the young person will be particularly well-placed to identify changes in behaviour, and to assist in judging their significance to each young person. Many of these behavioural factors may be part of normal adolescent behaviour and many elements of gang culture have been widely adopted by young people who are not in gangs.

1. The behavioural factors may include (but note not an exhaustive list):

* child withdrawing from family
* sudden loss of interest in school, and decline in attendance or achievement
* using new or unknown slang words
* unexplained possession of money or property
* staying out unusually late without reason
* sudden changes in appearance, and in particular wearing similar clothing to others
* they spend time with often including a particular colour or pattern
* Dropping out of positive activities that they have previously been keen on
* acquiring a new street or nick-name
* unexplained physical injuries
* graffiti style ‘tags’ on possessions, school books, walls
* constantly talking about another young person who seems to have a lot of influence
* over them
* breaking off with old friends and spending time with a particular new group of
* young people
* increasing use of social networking sites
* adopting codes of group behaviour, such as patterns of speech or hand signs
* expressing aggressive or intimidating views towards other groups of young people,
* some of whom may have been friends in the past
* showing fear when entering certain areas or concern about the presence of
* unknown youths in their neighbourhoods
* Frequent missing episodes and been found out of area
* Found with large quantities of drugs or weapons
* Found with drugs inside rectum or vagina
* Unexplained amounts of money, mobiles, credit, clothing, jewellery, new hair cut or other items/gifts
* Returned from missing episodes with injuries, or dishevelled
* Change in behaviour; more secretive / withdrawn/isolated from peers or not mixing with usual friends
* Unexplained absences from, or not engaged in school/ college/ training/ work
* Increasingly disruptive, hostile or physically aggressive at home or school Including use of sexualised language and language in relation to drug dealing and/or violence
* Expressions around invincibility or not caring about what happens to them
* Increased interest in making money
* Reports being taken to parties, people’s houses, unknown areas, hotels, nightclubs, takeaways or out of area by unknown adults
* Increasing use of drugs or alcohol
* Fear of reprisal from „gang‟ members or violence from young people or adults
* Having multiple mobile phones, sim cards or use of a phone that causes concern - multiple callers or more texts /pings than usual
* Possession of hotel keys/cards or keys to unknown premises.

**Risks to consider in terms of the frame work for assessment and risk of criminal exploitation: CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

* Early antisocial and or criminal behaviour
* Mental health problems Bullying by siblings
* Persistent offending Aggression, behavioural problems Lack of ethnic identity
* Inability to regulate own emotions and behaviour
* Depression Peer rejection
* Physical violence and aggression Truancy and unauthorised absence from school
* Lack of involvement in positive activities
* Permanent exclusion from school Bullied or bullying others Few social ties
* Friends condoning or involved in antisocial or violent behaviour
* Medical history of repeated injuries or accidents
* Exposure to violent media
* Alcohol and drug misuse
* In local authority care or leaving care

1. **PARENTING CAPACITY**

* Historically involved with or known to social care
* Lack of emotional care Failure to model positive and responsible behaviour
* Lax supervision of children Allowing child to associate with known troublemakers
* Absence or separation
* Lack of attachment to child Violent discipline Unstable family environment
* Conflict and violence in the home Lack of discipline Child left with multiple or unsuitable carers
* Parental abuse Inconsistent or minimal boundaries Inability to communicate effectively with children
* Aggressive towards or unwilling to engage with statutory agencies
* Failure to protect child from harm including contact with unsafe adults

1. **FAMILY AND ENVIRONMENT**

* Family members involved with or associated with gangs
* Availability and use of drugs Lack of positive role models in the community
* Wider family involved with gang’s and Criminal conviction of parents or siblings
* Transient families
* Community norms that tolerate crime Witness or victim of domestic violence
* Lack of age-appropriate, safe play or positive activities facilities in the area
* Local tensions between ethnic / cultural / religious gangs
* Financial difficulties affecting child and / or sustained poverty
* Known gang recruitment at school Little interaction with neighbours and community
* Presence of gangs in community High unemployment and /or limited access to conventional careers
* High level of local crime including drugs market
* Lack of reliable support from wider Family

The following map places the risk to a child into a context of adolescent safety and vulnerability:

A child is surrounded by home, family, peers, school and neighbours

1. **Child/ Individual**: Looked after, learning disabilities, substance misuse, mental health problem.
2. **Home/family**: Neglect/abuse, exposed/experience violence, parental substance misuse, mental health and domestic abuse, poverty, lack of positive relationship with a protective, nurturing adult, homelessness or insecure accommodation status.
3. **Peers:** Exposed to other young people known to be exploited, exposed to or experienced peer on peer abuse.
4. **Schools**: Exclusion from school and not in education/training or employment, exposed of experience violent crime

1. **Neighbourhoods:** Exposed or experience violent crime, deprived neighbourhood

These vulnerabilities do not mean that a young person will be exploited but are factors that could increase the vulnerability that they could be exploited by someone.

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| **Signs of Gang or County Lines Involvement Check List**  **Name of Child/Young Person**  **LL id:** | |
| **Strong Signs** | **Comments**  **Provide as much information as you can to evidence concerns in each area that you feel applicable.** |
| Arrested/Charged/Convicted of Possession with intent to supply Class A drugs (particularly heroin and crack cocaine) or with large amounts of drugs. |  |
| Arrested away from own home area. |  |
| Arrested/found at an address which appears to be `cuckooed' ) |  |
| Arrested/found with or accompanied by older non-related males and females believed to be involved in drug dealing. |  |
| Unexplained physical injuries for which reluctant/unwilling to seek/receive medical treatment. Or disclosure of assault which is then withdrawn. |  |
| Arrested /found with a weapon especially a knife. |  |
| Close Association with pro-criminal peers who are involved in CLN or USG activity and/or associating with known dealers /adults involved in CLN /USG. |  |
| Multiple mobiles/changing phones frequently and/or significant increase phone calls/texts/messages from unknown numbers which they are unwilling to explain. (CLN) |  |
| Goes missing from home or school sometimes for prolonged periods. (CLN) |  |
| Has experience abduction or forced imprisonment. (CLN) |  |
| Appears in YouTube videos with known gang members. (USG) |  |
| Frequent train or other travel / in possession of lots of train tickets or similar with no obvious explanation or means of paying for travel. (CLN) |  |
| Agencies unable to engage young person. |  |

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| **Moderate signs** | **Comments -Context**  **Provide as much information as you can to evidence concerns in each area that you feel applicable.** |
| Increase in aggressive behaviour /use of intimidation or threats |  |
| Unexplained money or possessions/increased interest in money. |  |
| Parental/carer concerns. Seems withdrawn / emotionally ‘switched off’ – from family |  |
| Increased use of drugs and or alcohol. |  |
| Expressions around invincibility and not caring. |  |
| Changed friendship groups and no contact with old friends |  |
| Concerned by the presence of unknown youths in their neighbourhoods. |  |
| Loss of interest in school, decline in attendance or achievement |  |
| Increased episodes of going missing and / or absconding. |  |
| Constantly talking about someone who seems to have a lot of influence over them |  |
| Starting to adopt codes of group behaviour e.g. ways of talking and hand signs |  |
| Suspected possession of knife or other weapon |  |
| Identification with USG or CLN. Including appearing to lookup to or respect those involved or being friends or claiming friendship with those involved. |  |
| Dropped out of positive activities. |  |
| Refuses/scared to enter certain geographical areas. |  |
| Stays out unusually late without reason or consistently breaking parental rules |  |
| Change in appearance. |  |

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| **Risk levels** | **Rationale**  **Please provide as much information/evidence as possible to support your rationale** |
| **Low risk:** None of the strong warning signs and less than 4 of the moderate warning signs are present. There are probably also few risk factors present.  A child or young person who appears to be at some risk but probably relatively low risk of becoming involved in CLN or USG at the present time. |  |
| **Medium risk:** 1- 2 of the strong warning signs are present and 5 or less of the moderate warning signs are present. There may also be a number of risk factors present.  A child or young person who is likely to be linked to others known to be involved in CLN or gang activity and may already be involved themselves. If not already involved they may be at risk of being drawn in. |  |
| **High risk:** More than 3 of the strong warning signs are present. A high number of risk factors are also probably present.   A child or young person who is likely to be already involved with CL activity. If not already involved they are at high risk of being drawn in. |  |

 Name of person completing check list……………………………………………………………………….Date………………………