



Child Exploitation Triage

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of exploitation triage is to screen, share relevant information and formulate a joint agreement/response in relation to concerns about children/young people in relation to exploitation. This may include all new CE Initial Assessments, Review Initial Assessments and/or police intelligence. The group will share data and information to help better understand the nature and prevalence of risk and to ensure appropriate recommendations are made in order to respond to the concern and reduce risk.

The group will:

- Prepare for the triage meeting by reading all papers beforehand, gaining a good understanding of the concerns and risks;
- Share both before the meeting (via the attached template) and during the meeting any relevant information about the child or any other factor of relevance i.e. person of concern/location of concern etc;
- The law permits the sharing of information that is necessary to safeguard the child, therefore information sharing including verbal presentations need to be focused and relevant to issue of exploitation;
- Should any member of triage not be able to attend the meeting, the attached form will still be required for each child/young person to be discussed on the agenda, as this is necessary in formulating a decision in regard to next steps and action;
- Form a strong local multi-agency partnership to reduce demand, harm, risk and vulnerability.

Membership

Children's Social Care – Clare Jervis, CE and Missing Operational Lead, Shropshire Council – CHAIR

Targeted Early Help - Stafford Mason, Early Help Child Exploitation Lead Practitioner, Shropshire Council

YJS – Jason Steventon, Senior Practitioner, West Mercia Youth Justice Service

Education – Jo Smith, Education Access Service Team Leader

West Mercia Police – Detective Sergeant Annie Waylett, CE Team Lead

We Are With You – Sonya Jones, Team Manager and Safeguarding Lead

Branch Project – Carrie O'Keefe & Kelly Outram

Climb – Representative from Children's Society Climb service

Health – Representative from Public Health Nursing Service 0-19 Team

Structure

- The Group will meet twice weekly and will be chaired by the CE and Missing Lead for Shropshire Council
- Previous minutes and agenda will be circulated one working day before the planned meeting.
- Administrative support will be provided by Children's Social Care.
- The meeting will be held at Mount McKinley, Shrewsbury Business Park.
- Any apologies to the meeting will need to be received timely and an update provided in written format for circulation at the meeting (using the template attached).
- Any requests for AOB need to be emailed to the chair at ahead of the meeting.

Disputes

It is hoped that disputes will be resolved by the group, however should anyone wish to access the formal dispute resolution process, the procedure can be found at:

<https://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/local-content/4qjN/escalation-policy-resolution-of-professional-disagreements/?b=Shropshire>

Exploitation Definition

Exploitation is a form of abuse, it occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child, young person or adult (including those with care and support needs) into: any activity that results in financial or other advantage for the perpetrator or facilitator. Activity includes arranging or facilitating the involvement or travel (trafficking) of a child, young person or adult (including those with care and support needs). Specific types of Exploitation include:

- Modern Slavery (including human trafficking)
- Sexual Exploitation
- Criminal Exploitation
- Financial Exploitation
- Any other Exploitation that enables benefits of any kind (eg. removal of organs, forced marriage, illegal adoption)

The victim may still be exploited even if the activities that they are engaging in appear consensual. Multiple types of Exploitation can occur alongside or as part of other forms of abuse.

Confidentiality Agreement

There is an expectation that Child Exploitation Triage attendees, as representatives of their agency, will attend prepared to share information about children, young people and their families in order to work together to protect children and to identify and disrupt perpetrators of Child Exploitation. All information discussed, and documents shared at the meeting are strictly confidential and matters discussed should only be disclosed to professional colleagues on a strictly need to know basis in line with existing arrangements for safeguarding children consistent with the Children Act 2004 and Working Together 2018.

All partner agencies contributing are required to ensure that their own procedures for information sharing and confidentiality support the ethos of Working Together 2018 and Shropshire Safeguarding Board's commitment to that. All Agencies in attendance are responsible for securely filing documentation received.

Risk Levels

Indicators that the child/young person is vulnerable to child exploitation (Low risk)	<u>If open to social care:</u> Recommendations provided to social worker <u>If not open to social care:</u> Doesn't trigger assessment or strategy meeting; recommendations provided to referrer
Indicators that the child/young person is being groomed or targeted for the purposes of child exploitation (Medium risk)	<u>If open to social care:</u> Recommendations provided to social worker <u>If not open to social care:</u> SWA may be considered
Indicators that the child/young person is being exploited (High risk)	<u>If open to social care:</u> Recommendations provided to social worker <u>If not open to social care:</u> Strategy Meeting to be convened to assess whether threshold is met for S47 investigation

Agenda

1. New referrals, re-referrals, and reviews

- Chair (or Early Help Exploitation Lead, where relevant) to provide summary of risk factors and protective factors
- Each professional to individually provide an overview of what they know of the young person on behalf of their agency
- Risk level to be decided based on evidence and agreed by each professional in attendance
- Actions and recommendations to be agreed

2. Intelligence and crime reports

- Chair to provide summary of concerns
- Each professional to individually provide an overview of what they know of the young person on behalf of their agency
- Actions to be agreed. These can include:
 - o Discussion with parents/school/SW to seek consent for exploitation risk assessment, checks or SWA
 - o Strategy meeting
 - o Police investigations

3. AOB

Agency Information Sharing Form

Date of triage:

Agency:

Name of representative:

[illegible]