**Team remit: Central Locality Team**

The team will consist of 4 specialist exploitation social workers, an assistant social worker and a senior practitioner who will supervise the assistant social worker. All staff will be overseen by the team manager.

The team will work to support a known cohort of young people who are believed to have been exploited through sexual, criminal, trafficking or radicalisation activity. (extrafamilial)

**Criteria**

Children and young people that present to Access and Response Team (ART) will be subject to the usual checks and assessments in the front door.

If a strategy meeting is required because the presenting circumstances suggest they may be at high risk of exploitation ART will make decisions within the statutory timeframes to convene a strategy meeting/discussion.

All strategy meetings, where children and young people’s circumstances suggest they may be high risk victims at risk of exploitation, should be chaired by the ART team manager and include the lead consultant social workers (Emma Collings and/or Helen Moore) and the exploitation team manager (Jude Adams)

The exploitation team manager and/or senior practitioner will attend the initial strategy meeting/discussion to evaluate all risk indicators, (evidenced in the Exploitation Identification Tool) protective factors and agree if children and young people should be allocated to the exploitation team

• If the strategy meeting establishes that parental issues are contributing to the vulnerability of the child/young person and the primary concern does not evidence exploitation, the following assessment, whether sec47 enquiry or sec 17 assessment will be completed by ART and transferred to locality, if necessary, in the usual way.

• If the strategy meeting identifies parental issues are contributing to the vulnerability and exploitation of the child/young person and the primary concern is parental neglect of any form, then ART will make contact with BASE for an initial consultation and proceed to refer the case to Locality.

• If the strategy meeting identifies that the primary concerns are that of exploitation and parents are doing all they can to keep their young person safe, then depending on the level of risks, the case will either be presented at an ICPC, Risk Management meeting or CIN meeting and transfer at this point to the exploitation team. There will be consultation with the Exploitation Team throughout intervention

Working Model

The process of Risk Management meetings will be developed in MOSAIC, in the future. In the interim the minutes of such meetings will be recorded in a word document and attached to the child’s file in MOSAIC.

A BASE service will not usually be provided to a young person who has an allocated specialist exploitation social worker as this will likely lead to duplication of work.

The ASW will develop a programme of work alongside the parents of the children and young people identified as being at high risk or subject to exploitation. The ASW will work with them and support them in developing strategies they can implement at home and alongside the multi-agency partnership as preventative work to support and educate them in respect of the risks associated with exploitation.

• For children and young people currently open to the other social work teams if specialist exploitation work is required a referral will be made to BASE. For advice and support the social worker/ TM can contact BASE and/or the exploitation team manager, senior practitioner and/or CSW for consultation, particularly when reviewing the Exploitation Identification Tool as required

Model of Practice

Partnership work commitments

• To engage the professional network, including YOT, health education, sexual health, BASE (if appropriate) police and VRU unit.

**Team Principles**

• Services need to embed a child-cantered approach where children at risk of exploitation are viewed as vulnerable children in need of protection.

• Children need to be listened to and their experiences accepted, so trust can develop and young people can feel supported and able to disclose their experiences.

• Young people can move very quickly between the risk categories; therefore regular assessment should be undertaken using the Exploitation Identification Tool at least 3 monthly intervals.

• It takes time for workers to get to know the children well enough to understand their experiences and patterns of behaviour so that they can respond to the child in a way that enables a child to feel safe and comfortable enough to explore their feelings and concerns, possibly even to disclose risky situations.

• SW’s to engage with the young people, visits anticipated to be at least 1 x weekly, venue of young person’s choice which is further assessed as being a safe environment. CP visits will remain a statutory requirement, visited within the home environment.

• SW’s need perseverance and patience to help disengaged young people engage with, and remain involved, with services aimed at protecting and supporting them.

• Even though young people may not be ready to engage with risk-focused interventions initially, when a window opens that suggests a young person does want to change their life, there is already a worker in place they trust to turn to.

• Young People are more likely to recognise they are being abused or neglected, and to talk about it, within the context of a close and trusting relationship of duration, with a professional, where they feel listened to and believed rather than judged or patronised.

• SWA to be assigned to work with parents re support and guidance, empowering parents to understand risks of exploitation – how to engage meaningfully and appropriately with their children in times of need – educate and support parents on an individual case by case basis

• SW’s to support young people to attend health, education and identified support services.

• SW’s to provide young people with work mobiles 9am-5pm, and out of hours contact details

• SW’s to ensure case overseen by colleagues in their absence. (discussed at weekly team meetings)

• SW’s to update Exploitation Identification Tools within strict timescales, minimum 12 weekly.

**CSW (Emma Collings) Strategic Oversight on Exploitation cases**

Emma’s role includes the following:-

• Writing Exploitation Identification Tool reports which go to the senior management team within Children’s Services.  This report will pick up on any individual case issues and will report on general issues e.g. outstanding Exploitation Identification Tools.

• Completing quarterly reports to Senior Leadership Team (SLT) regarding the use of the Exploitation Identification Tool and children at risk of exploitation.

• Provide briefing sessions to staff re. Child exploitation, Exploitation Identification Tool etc

• Attend Topaz fortnightly meeting and feedback relevant information to staff within Children’s Services.

• Invited to strategy discussion where the main concern is child exploitation

• Available for case discussions.

• Contributing to the PIMMs

• Challenge around practice issues which arise regarding child exploitation etc e.g. need for strategy discussion, the language used to describe children and young people and recommendation re complex strategy.

• Multi agency – attendance at PIMM and Best Start for Vulnerable Children workstream of the Children’s Partnership.  The completion of quarterly reports in respect of children at risk of exploitation in South Glos.

• Member of the multi-agency exploitation audit and report writer.