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| **Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Risk Assessment (victims)** | |
| Assessment of risk should always include exploration and understanding of the positive factors that reduce/mitigate the risks, for example parents/carers understanding and or response to the exploitation, support networks, access to safe spaces, and relationships with professionals.  **MACE is not an emergency response mechanism, and it does not replace existing child protection procedures or individual case planning.** | |
| **Risk Level** | **Definition** |
| **Low/Minimal** | All children/ young people, by the definition of their age and associated vulnerabilities are at risk of exploitation. Presenting factors/vulnerabilities indicate the child/ young person is unlikely to be at an increased risk of exploitation. Concerns relate to behaviours associated with age-appropriate child/ young person's behaviour.  **Suggested Pre-Screening/MACE Response:** Completed CE Screening Tool's where risk is rated as low/minimal should not be submitted to CE Missing for pre-screening. Where screening tools have been submitted, and where, following information exchange and discussions, the risk remains low, these will not progress to a MACE meeting.  The Pre-Screening meeting outcome will include advice and guidance to the professional who has completed the CE Screening tool regarding next steps, including signposting to relevant support and resources. All parents/ carers and young people should understand exploitation. The provision of Information, advice and resources for young people, parents and professionals will increase understanding and confidence in identifying and responding to signs of exploitation.  The Children's Society <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk>  The NSPCC <https://www.nspcc.org.uk>  Childline <https://www.childline.org.uk>  Act on it Now <https://www.actonitnow.co.uk>  Think You Know <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>  Family Lives <https://www.familylives.org.uk>  Practitioners should remain alert to emerging risks. Where CE screening indicates the presence of minimal risk, cases should continue to be monitored by managers and be subject to regular review. |
| **Standard/Emerging** | Presenting factors indicate that the child/ young person is at increased risk of being targeted and/ or groomed for the purposes of exploitation. There are strong warning signs and multiple indicators leading to a suspicion of exploitation but there is no identified perpetrator.  There may be indications that the child/ young person has been targeted/groomed and/or previously exploited. There has been an appropriate response to the exploitation from family and/ or professionals to reduce the likelihood of further abuse.  **Suggested Pre-Screening/MACE Response:** Would **not** normally progress to MACE. There is an expectation that the level of concern/risk will be managed through current support/intervention. The Pre-Screening meeting outcome will include advice and guidance to the professional who completed the CE Screening tool regarding next steps. This may include a request for further exploration of specific concerns and/or the gathering of additional information. Any updated screening tools will be reviewed at the next Pre-Screening meeting.  Actions to reduce/manage emerging risks should continue through usual case work.  Where concerns are not CE related, agencies should use the usual referral process either to social care or early help.  Where cases are not at a level for pre-screening consider completing an Early Help Assessment to identify additional support required.  <https://professionals.lincolnshire.gov.uk/team-around-child>  Practitioners should remain alert to emerging risks. Where CE screening indicates the presence of standard/emerging risk, cases should continue to be monitored by managers and be subject to regular review. |
| **Medium** | Presenting factors indicate that the child/ young person may currently be being targeted/ groomed for the purposes of exploitation. The child/young person does not/cannot recognise the risk.  A child/young person is at risk of future exploitation and suspected to be in direct/indirect physical/sexual contact with at least one or multiple perpetrators (older adults, peers online/offline).  If a child meets the definition of medium risk and is 13 or under and/ or has additional needs and or a learning disability, they should be assessed as High risk.  **Suggested Pre-Screening/MACE Responses:** Progress to MACE unless support for the victim and targeting and disruption of perpetrators/ locations of concern is already in place and there is no role for MACE.  Where support is in place actions to reduce/manage risk should continue through usual case work.  There is a responsibility placed on all MACE core panel members to review all pre-screening decisions on notification. Additional information should be submitted if it is felt the case should progress to a MACE meeting. |
| **High/Experiencing Significant Harm** | Presenting factors indicate the child/ young person is being exploited and it is suspected that this is repeated and regular. Often the child/young person cannot recognise the risk, however the likelihood of continued exploitation remains high.  It is suspected that the child/young person is in direct/indirect physical/sexual contact with one or multiple perpetrators (older adults, peers). Coercion or control is likely to be present.  **Suggested Pre-Screening/MACE Responses:** Progress to MACE. Focus will be on the disruption of perpetrators and management of locations connected to exploitation.  If at the initial MACE meeting it is agreed that the appropriate support for the victim is in place and the targeting and disruption of perpetrators/ locations of concern is underway, then the case will be discharged from MACE.  Discharge from MACE should not be taken as proof that risk has been addressed. Cases should continue to be monitored by managers and subject to regular review. Any new information should be submitted to pre-screening for further consideration. |