

Child Sexual Exploitation Screening Tool

Introduction

The purpose of the screening tool (Appendix 1) is to enable professionals to assess a child's level of risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE) in a quick and consistent manner. The screening tool can be applied to all children (male and female) under the age of 18 years.

Who is this the screening toolkit for?

This Screening toolkit is to be used by anyone who has a concern that a child may be being sexually exploited. The screening toolkit has been adopted by all the LSCB areas in the West Midlands that work within the West Midlands Police Force area.

Important points to remember when considering CSE;

- Both girls and boys can be victims of child sexual exploitation and are equally vulnerable.
- The coercer(s) and perpetrator(s) are usually an adult(s), but children and young people can also act in a sexually abusive way towards other young people or exert power e.g. group/gang members of either gender.
- Children and young people may exchange or sell sex as a result of constrained choices such as poverty, isolation and historic abuse.
- Although it is rare, parents/carers may be involved in the sexual exploitation of their children.
- Groups of children and multiple perpetrators may be involved (organised abuse).
- No child under 13 years should be assessed as Low Risk if behaviours indicate a risk of CSE.
- Children with additional needs require special consideration up to the age of 21 years.
- No child with a learning disability should be assessed as Low Risk if behaviours indicate involvement in or risk of CSE.
- Be aware: disclosure of information by the child may take time and evident risks may only emerge during ongoing assessment, support and interventions with the child and/or family.

Guidance on the use of the screening tool

1. Completion of the Screening Tool: (Appendix 1) by the professional identifying the concerns should involve liaison with other agencies to ensure that there is multi-agency information sharing and support.
2. The screening tool is intended to assist the exercise of professional judgment by assisting professionals to consider the risk of harm to a child. Professionals are encouraged to go beyond the child's presenting behaviour e.g. missing episodes and to explore what else might be going on for this child/young person.
3. If a child presents with one indicator, action is required. Early intervention improves the chances of positive outcomes. One indicator is unlikely to require Children's Social Work Services or specialist services intervention unless it is a Significant Risk category.
4. Assessing or screening for child sexual exploitation should not be seen as a one off event. Young people can move very quickly between the risk categories, therefore regular assessment should be undertaken using the Screening Tool (Appendix 1). Any escalation of risk should be dealt with in accordance with LSCB procedures. <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/staysafe/>
5. Where risk is assessed as 'medium' or 'significant', then a referral must be made to Children's Social Work Services (DART) or the allocated Social Worker where the Child is already known.
6. The level of intervention required depends on the assessed level of risk. Solihull LSCB procedures set out the pathways to be followed dependent on the level of assessed risk including how to ensure information about the young person is recorded by the LSCB at a local level. A summary can be found at Appendix 1a.
7. Disruption and prosecution of perpetrator/s is also of significant importance therefore, any information which comes to light about the victim/s or perpetrator/s (however insignificant this may seem) should be passed on to the Police via Information Report Forms (Appendix 2).
8. The LSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Officer (CSE) should be informed of any young person who is assessed as at risk of CSE.

APPENDIX 1**Sexual exploitation screening tool**

Name:		Also known as:	
Date of Birth:		Gender:	
Ethnicity:		Disability:	

Address:	
Contact number:	
Lives with:	
Parental Responsibility:	
Relationship to young person:	

Referrer's details

Name:
Agency:
Telephone:
Email:
Address:

Reason for completing screening tool:

Child Sexual Exploitation Screening Tool

Child sexual exploitation is a form of abuse. It involves children being forced or manipulated into sexual activity in exchange for something- money, gifts or accommodation, or less tangible goods such as affection or status. The sexual activity and exchange may be seen as consensual, but is based on an imbalance of power which severely limits victims' options. This Tool has been developed to enable the identification of children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation.

Name of child/young person: _____

Significant Risk Indicators	Current or during the past 6 months:	Prior to 6 months ago:
Periods of absence/missing (day and/or night)		
Relationship of concern with a controlling adult (male or female) or young person, which might involve physical and/or emotional abuse and/or gang activity		
Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults (not car theft)		
Unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothes or other items		
Frequenting areas known for risky activities		
Groomed/abused via the Internet and mobile technology		
Having unexplained contact with hotels, taxi companies or fast food outlets		

Risk Indicators	Please tick
Whereabouts unclear or unknown – day and/or night	
Absences/exclusion from school or not engaged in school/college/ training/work	
Regular/Multiple contacts from unknown adults/young people	
Physical injuries without plausible explanation	
Sexually transmitted infections/ Pregnancies / termination of pregnancies	
Drugs Misuse	
Alcohol Misuse	
Self-harming/challenging behaviours/suicide attempts/ eating disorders/aggression	
Use of a mobile phone which causes concern – including sexting/multiple phones/sims	
Unsafe use of internet	
Has been sexually assaulted	
Disclosure of sexual/physical assault followed by withdrawal of allegation	
Risky/inappropriate sexual behaviour	
Lack of awareness/understanding of being safe	
Peers involved in sexual exploitation/risky or concerning behaviours	
Living independently and failing to respond to attempts by workers to keep in touch	
A&E attendance because of alcohol/drug misuse	
Being accompanied to appointments by an unknown person that causes concern	
Association with gang members that suggests sexual exploitation is a possibility	

Vulnerability Factors	Please tick
Unsuitable/inappropriate accommodation/sofa surfing/financially unsupported/migrant/refugee	
Isolated from peers/family/social networks	
Learning disabilities/special needs or mental health issues	
History of Local Authority Care	
Involvement in criminal activities and/or at risk of gang involvement	
Family conflict/ breakdown, lack of love/security, death, loss, illness of a significant person in child's life	
History of Child Protection involvement in relation to neglect, physical sexual or emotional abuse	
Family history of domestic abuse and/or substance misuse and/or mental health difficulties	

The framework includes three categories of risk and is intended to inform appropriate responses in relation to children and young people's safeguarding needs. The presence of one significant risk indicator will necessitate action as set out in LSCB procedures. Please use your professional judgement to reflect upon the indicators you have ticked above and consider the health, welfare and safety of the child in question. (NB: A 'child' is any person under the age of 18, male and female, and older children can be equally as vulnerable)

	Description	Associated actions
	<p>Low risk A child who is at risk of being groomed for sexual exploitation.</p>	<p>Liaise with Agency Designated Safeguarding Advisor for any advice/guidance. Inform LSCB CSE Officer of young person considered at risk of CSE (so information about the extent and profile of CSE is captured by LSCB).</p> <p>Work with child, young person and family to develop an awareness of the risks that can lead to a situation in which they may be exposed to sexual exploitation - delivered on a single agency basis or integrated into existing multi-agency plan. . Ongoing review of risk required particularly if there are any changes in circumstances.</p>
	<p>Medium risk A child who is targeted for abuse through exchange of sex for affection, drugs, accommodation and goods etc. The likelihood of coercion and control is significant</p>	<p>(1) A multi-agency approach will be needed to promote child's safety and well-being. (2) Follow local procedures including referral to Children's Social Work Services who will lead the completion of a specialist CSE Risk Assessment on a multi-agency basis. A multi-agency child sexual exploitation meeting should be held to devise a safeguarding and support plan or such activity should be integrated into an existing multi-agency plan. The plan should include actions in relation to disrupting, investigating and prosecuting perpetrators. Risk should be closely monitored and regularly assessed as part of the risk management process. (3) Inform LSCB CSE Coordinator of young person considered at risk of CSE (so information about the extent and profile of CSE is captured by LSCB).</p>
	<p>Significant risk A child who is entrenched in sexual exploitation, but often does not recognise or self denies the nature of their abuse often in denial, and where coercion/control is implicit.</p>	<p>(1) A multi-agency approach will be needed to promote child's safety and well-being. (2) Follow local procedures including referral to Children's Social Work Services who will lead the completion of a specialist CSE Risk Assessment on a multi-agency basis. A multi-agency child sexual exploitation meeting should be held to devise a safeguarding and support plan or such activity should be integrated into an existing multi-agency plan. The plan should include actions in relation to disrupting, investigating and prosecuting perpetrators. Risk should be closely monitored and regularly assessed as part of the risk management process. (3) Inform LSCB CSE Coordinator of young person considered at risk of CSE (so information about the extent and profile of CSE is captured by LSCB).</p>

Where to refer or discuss your concerns:

Anyone who completes a CSE screening tool, or is considering the need to do so, can seek advice from the Designated Safeguarding Advisor in their agency/service/setting

Advice can also be sought from the LSCB CSE Officer, Rachel Hopper, tel. 0121 788 4336

If the screening tool indicates that the child/young person is likely to be at medium or significant risk of sexual exploitation you should contact Children's Social Care or the Police:

Children's Social Work Services:	Duty Assessment & Referral Team (DART)	0121 788 4333
	Emergency Duty Team (EDT) (out of hours)	0121 605 6060
Police:	Central Referral Unit	03451135000
	Emergency	999

Where to get more information:

Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) www.thinkuknow.co.uk

PACE – Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation. www.paceuk.info

UKHTC – UK Human Trafficking Centre. www.soca.gov.uk/about-soca/about-the-ukhtc

Solihull LSCB CSE Procedures: www.solihull.gov.uk/staysafe

Where there are concerns about the possibility of a child being at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation, complete the **CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION SCREENING TOOL** and seek support from your safeguarding lead and/ or LSCB CSE Officer

Screening: Low Risk

Case management may not be with children's social care .

Notify LSCB CSE Officer of screening outcome, including a copy of CSE Screening Tool, for inclusion on CSE database.

There should be either a single agency diversion plan to support the young person, or a professionals meeting of the agencies currently in contact with the child/ young person should be called to discuss risks, and develop a diversion plan.

The diversion plan should consider...

- Specific risk factors identified
- Awareness raising work around healthy relationships and CSE
- Education/ training/ employment support
- Family Support
- Any other relevant concerns

The meeting should be recorded, and the diversion plan recorded using LINC S action plan template

[http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Attachments/LINC_S_meeting- Actions_final_v2_1_\(3\).rtf](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Attachments/LINC_S_meeting-Actions_final_v2_1_(3).rtf)

A CSE Risk Assessment must be carried out within this meeting, or by the single agency responsible for the safeguarding and diversion plan.

The single or multi-agency plan should be in a timely way, and reviewed every 3 months minimum, or more regularly as risks change.

- Keep records of incidents/indicators
- Monitor changes in vulnerability/risk
- Use Police Information Sharing Tool for information on victim and/or perpetrator i.e. names, locations or other useful intelligence. Also inform CSE Officer of this intelligence.

Resources which could be used to support young people are...

- SMBC Healthy & Safe Relationships (<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Attachments/Adapted1to1HealthyandSafeRelationships.pdf>)
- Barnardos B Wise 2 Sexual Exploitation

Screening: Medium Risk

For cases not open to Social Care, or where you are unsure of Social Care involvement, make a referral to DART using the multi-agency referral form, stating CSE Screening Tool outcome and identified concerns. Where you are aware of current social care involvement, discuss your concerns with the allocated social worker.

Notify CSE Officer of referral or concerns, including a copy of CSE Screening Tool, for inclusion on CSE database.

Following Assessment by DART confirming concerns, a Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) meeting should be called. MASE to be chaired by social work manager.

Specialist CSE Risk Assessment to be completed within MASE, and safeguarding and diversion plan to be devised. If the case is already open to social care, this should be integrated into existing planning and review processes.

Procedures, including invitees and agenda, for MASE Meetings can be found at

http://solihulllscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_safeg_sex_exploit.html

MASE Review meetings should be held within 15 days of referral and plans reviewed every 3 months minimum, or following significant change in circumstances or information shared

The disruption and investigation of offenders is an essential component of a safeguarding and diversion plan.

Referral should be made to CSE Team for direct work as part of the safeguarding and diversion plan. In the event of a waiting list for this support, healthy relationships and keep safe work should be carried out by the most appropriate existing practitioner involved.

- Keep records of incidents/indicators
- Monitor changes in vulnerability/risk
- Use Police Information Sharing Tool for information on victim and/or perpetrator i.e. names, locations or other useful intelligence. Also inform CSE Officer of this intelligence.

Engage parents as they are likely to be a significant source of information and evidence. Guidance on involving parents can be found within LSCB CSE procedures in the link below)

Full LSCB procedures for Safeguarding Children and Young People from CSE can be found at
http://solihulllscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_safeg_sex_exploit.html

Screening: Significant Risk

For cases not open to Social Care, or where you are unsure of Social Care involvement, make a referral to DART using the multi-agency referral form., stating CSE Screening Tool outcome and identified concerns. Where you are aware of current social care involvement, discuss your concerns with the allocated social worker.

Notify CSE Officer of referral or concerns, including a copy of CSE Screening Tool, for inclusion on CSE database.

Following Assessment by DART confirming concerns, a Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) meeting should be called. MASE to be chaired by social work manager.

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- Keep records of incidents/indicators
- Monitor changes in vulnerability/risk
- Use Police Information Sharing Tool for information on victim and/or perpetrator i.e. names, locations or other useful intelligence. Also inform CSE Officer of this intelligence.
- Use key disruption tactics eg, Abduction Orders, Harboring Notices and licensing legislation.
- Consult with UK Human Trafficking Centre and/or UK Border Agency where appropriate. Refer any case of human trafficking to the NRM (National Referral Mechanism)

Engage parents as they are likely to be significant source of information and evidence. Guidance on involving parents can be found within LSCB CSE procedures in the link below)