

## 1. Background and Concerns

A line of sight meeting was held in relation to a young person who was subject to a child Protection Plan due to the risk of harm outside of the family home and the concern of child criminal exploitation (CCE).

There is a history of anti-social behaviour and youth offending, which had continued to escalate in frequency and severity, which not only increased their risk of harm but also the risk to the public through risk taking behaviours. There were also concerns of adult associates and worries in relation to the exploitative activity which raised concern of the recruitment of other younger children in the community to engage in criminal behaviours.

Additional factors highlighted in the review was the number of missing episodes from the family home and the breakdown in family relationships, despite their efforts to protect and safeguard this young person from harm.

## 2. Purpose of the Review?

Contextual safeguarding continues to be a priority for the HSCP; to identify and reduce the number of children affected by exploitation. The focus is to ensure that there is a good understanding across the partnership of the complex and interrelated risks associated with child exploitation to enable support and intervention to take place at the earliest opportunity to reduce this.

## 3. Key Lines of Enquiry

Consideration was given to multiagency working and whether intervention strategies and effective risk management around child exploitation was utilised to ensure the safety and welfare of young people who are identified as at risk of exploitation.

## 7. Further information – links

- ❖ The Children's Society has published a Slang Dictionary defining some of the words young people use in relation to drugs, crime, and violence [Child Exploitation Language Guide | The Children's Society \(childrensociety.org.uk\)](#)
- ❖ [Contextual Safeguarding Strategy 2023 - 2026](#)
- ❖ [Partnership key areas of focus – Hull Collaborative Partnership](#)
- ❖ Practice Principles to support professionals [Tackling child exploitation and extra-familial harm | Research in Practice](#)
- ❖ Resources for intervention [Not in Our Community – Protection against exploitation](#)
- ❖ [Adolescent to parent violence – Domestic Abuse \(domesticabuseservices.org.uk\)](#)
- ❖ [Whos In Charge - Working with: Child to Parent Violence & Abuse](#)
- ❖ HSCP Policy and Procedure [Child Sexual Exploitation \(CSE\) and Child Criminal Exploitation \(CCE\) \(proceduresonline.com\)](#)
- ❖ [HSCP-Learning-Programme-2023-24.pdf \(hullscp.co.uk\)](#)
- ❖ [Child exploitation disruption toolkit - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- ❖ [NWG-CSE-Spot-the-Signs-Poster.pdf](#)
- ❖ [Guide-for-parents-worried-about-child-being-criminally-exploited.pdf \(childrensociety.org.uk\)](#)
- ❖ [Violence and Vulnerability | Crest Advisory](#)
- ❖ [Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners - GOV.UK](#)
- ❖ [Child exploitation disruption toolkit - GOV.UK](#)



## 4. Key Learning

**Early intervention** – There is a need for early intervention and understanding what diversionary provisions are in place to deter young people from engaging in crime but also to prevent exploitative activity. Where appropriate, agencies should avoid the criminalisation of young people and consider how any presenting risks can be managed through diversionary means prior to any escalation through the criminal justice process.

**Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)** - The review highlighted the complexities in managing the risks and vulnerabilities associated with exploitation. Young people can often be seen or labelled as either victims, perpetrators, or both. This requires a balanced approach when working with young people who are victims or at risk of CCE and balancing their needs and vulnerabilities as victims whilst considering the potential risk of harm to others i.e. encouraging other young people engage in crime. Consideration should be given to a VEMT (vulnerable, exploited, missing & trafficked) consultation, the completion of a RIT (Risk Indicator tool) for the MAYVE (multi-agency youth violence and exploitation) process and the potential for a NRM (National Referral Mechanism) referral, which evidences multi-agency concerns of exploitation.

**Information sharing** amongst professionals is crucial and needs to be triangulated and considered alongside historical information to have a holistic picture of the presenting risks. The review highlighted that a multi-agency chronology would allow for greater understanding of the risks and gaps in intervention. There is a need to ensure that all agencies hold the same information, and this is reflected across all systems to ensure the child's plan is reflective of all known risks, this includes ensuring relevant professionals are invited to multi-agency meetings and minutes and actions are circulated in a timely manner.

**Transition into adulthood**- thought should be given to the needs of young people as they approach a transitioning age and what professional support and intervention can be offered to them during this transition and into adulthood. This is crucial especially when concerns of exploitation are present and these risks continue into adulthood, given how many services and professionals are involved pre-adulthood and how we prepare young people for those changes in service provision and intervention.

**Multi agency risk management**- is required to ensure that safety planning is robust and coordinated between all agencies. Practitioners should consider utilising resources that are available as a preventative measure to risk manage high-risk young people, such as the use of voluntary tags. However, it is also imperative that we consider what measures can be utilised for disrupting adults who are exploiting young people - please see resources sections for disruption toolkit.

When children are missing there is a need to ensure that once returned, this is to a place of safety, or into the care of an appropriate adult. Missing Person Philomena forms need to be updated and shared and include current information regarding associates, risks, and any relevant information as to possible whereabouts.

**Relationship based practice**- the review highlighted there were challenges in changes in workers which had impacted on engagement and intervention, and the challenges this presents when young people need to rebuild relationships and re-tell their experiences. This subsequently can impact upon a practitioners' understanding of presenting risks in line with historical context. Where possible it is crucial to have strong handover arrangements in place and exit strategies to allow interim safety planning and closure for young people, this should also be inclusive of family networks.

## 6. Next Steps

- ❖ This 7-minute guide will be shared across the partnership to compliment discussions, training and learning in relation to identify and responding to contextual safeguarding.
- ❖ Training to support practitioners with key learning points is available through the HSCP Learning Programme [Contextual Safeguarding – Hull Collaborative Partnership](#)
- ❖ The HSCP Contextual Safeguarding Strategic and Operations Groups meet quarterly and report into the HSCP Executive Board. These groups will continue to drive forward our response to tackling child exploitation.
- ❖ The HSCP annual report provides insight into the activity driven forward between 2023/24 [hull-safeguarding-children-partnership-annual-report-2023-to-2024](#)
- ❖ There is a collaborative exploitation group across the partnership to understand the safeguarding arrangements for all age exploitation.

## 5. Good Practice

- ❖ Multi agency risk management meetings were taking place on a weekly basis to ensure the safety and welfare of the young person.
- ❖ Despite several changes in workers, it was evident that robust attempts to build positive relationships were made.
- ❖ Strong family engagement and involvement with professionals and safety planning.