

# MULTI AGENCY RISK VULNERABILITY EXPLOITATION

Wandsworth MARVE Protocol



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## SCOPE OF THIS POLICY AND PROTOCOL

This protocol fully explores the issues around children who are at risk, vulnerable or experiencing child exploitation and describes in some detail the process and protocols across this multi-agency area of concern. This document sets out the multi-agency arrangements for identifying and responding to children, young people and families affected by vulnerability and exploitation in the London Borough of Wandsworth. The MARVE builds on the significant work already taking place within the borough and sets out how all agencies will work together to ensure the most effective and coordinated response to exploitation of children. The MARVE procedures are informed by several current Wandsworth protocols, strategy documents, current research and National recommendations incorporating examples of best practice for Local Authorities across the United Kingdom.

In some instances, children can be sexually abused or trafficked including exposure to Modern Slavery and County Lines. It is key, therefore, that the full circumstances are known and evaluated to ensure carefully balanced decisions are made in each circumstance.

This protocol applies to all children living within the London Borough of Wandsworth (LBW) whether they are at home with their parents/carers or Looked After Children by the Council. LBW retains responsibility for Looked After Children who are placed outside the local authority area. In those cases, LBW will require the placement provider to comply with the protocols for their local area supplemented by this protocol.

The protocol contains relevant tools to support the practitioner in undertaking their safeguarding role and includes screening templates for exploitation.

## RELEVANT GUIDANCE

The London Child Protection Procedures (LCPP) provides further information in relevant chapters which may help staff to recognise and/or manage circumstances in which children may be experiencing harm or be at risk of harm through exploitation. [www.londoncp.co.uk](http://www.londoncp.co.uk) Alongside the LCPP staff should be aware and familiar with the following:

- HM Government (2015) Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- DfE, Care of Unaccompanied and Trafficked Children (2014)
- HM Government (2016) Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation
- DfE, Child sexual exploitation: definition and guide for practitioners (2017)
- London Safeguarding Trafficked Children Toolkit (2011)
- OCC, Keeping Kids Safe (2019)
- Home Office, [County Lines Guidance](#)
- [London Child Protection Procedures: Children Missing from Care, Home and Education](#)  
[http://www.londoncp.co.uk/chapters/ch\\_miss\\_care\\_home\\_sch.html#intro](http://www.londoncp.co.uk/chapters/ch_miss_care_home_sch.html#intro)
- Gov.uk [Prevent duty guidance](#)

## RELEVANT PROTOCOLS

- Wandsworth Child Exploitation Protocol
- Wandsworth Missing Protocol
- Wandsworth Harmful Sexual Behaviour Protocol

## INTRODUCTION

The introduction of the MARVE panel in Wandsworth seeks to expand the current work of the VAMP Operational group to incorporate all forms of Adolescent Risk and Exploitation. It also aims to incorporate the work of the Missing meetings and the newly formed CSE/CE and HSB/SYV/Gangs Specialist Groups to improve operational and strategic oversight. The MARVE will not replace the Youth IOM Panel however the Youth IOM will be required to refer those young people held by the IOM automatically and report on those young people to the MARVE to support the young person's safeguarding and ensure that the young person's plan address the risk and vulnerability effectively.

The MARVE process recognises that child exploitation and adolescent risk is multi-faceted and requires a multi-agency and cross strand approach, to ensure a coordinated and effective response. The MARVE provides an opportunity to identify the clear links and patterns across all forms of Adolescent Risk and Exploitation. This process will allow the Safeguarding Partners within Wandsworth to share information for effective mapping, early identification of emerging trends and encourage an intelligence and evidence-based approach to risk management.

The MARVE will incorporate child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, harmful sexual behaviour, gangs, serious youth violence and those who are missing, or being trafficked, as well as, modern day slavery and extremism. It will also consider Persons of Concern and Locations of Interest. Care Leavers post 18 to 25 will be considered according to their vulnerability; it is recognised that exploitation does not cease based on age and many Care Leavers become vulnerable adults who remain at risk or vulnerable to exploitation. The MARVE will ensure appropriate risk management and space is provided for this population. Combining all areas will ensure a robust multi-agency response across Wandsworth Council to ensure all children who are/or vulnerable to exploitation are safeguarded.

Child Exploitation is the act of using a child for profit, labour, sexual gratification, or some other personal, criminal or financial advantage. Child exploitation often results in abusive or harmful treatment of the child, as the activities he or she may be forced to take part in can cause emotional, physical, and social harm.

Cases emerging from practice show that similar methods of grooming, coercion and threats are used by adults, peers and gang's to sexually exploit children, force children to run drugs (County Lines), traffic children and criminally exploit children. Limited support for and recognition of the exploitation is available to help children and young people to escape these abusive situations or prevent adults, peers and gangs grooming children/young people for involvement in crime. Instead these children and young people are often seen and treated as criminals or problematic rather than as vulnerable children and young people who have been exploited.

The MARVE format has already been successfully embedded in both Kingston & Richmond and Merton London Boroughs.

In January 2020 the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children's Partnership approved the MARVE Protocol and Terms of Reference.

## PURPOSE OF MARVE PANEL

The MARVE is a Multi-Agency Panel responsible for providing strategic and operational oversight for children and young people at risk of all forms of Adolescent Exploitation and Risk.

The MARVE Panel has been established to provide a comprehensive approach to tackling issues of exploitation and harm of or by children and young people within Wandsworth. The Panel Meeting is the key mechanism for agreeing how relevant organisations will co-operate and work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in effectively tackling exploitation, vulnerability and risk. Coordinating information sharing and multi-agency interventions to disrupt and respond to child sexual exploitation, high risk missing, criminal exploitation, harmful sexual behaviour and serious youth violence. The MARVE will also oversee the safeguarding elements of other forms of exploitation such as extremism and modern-day slavery to ensure that processes are appropriately followed and intelligence around all vulnerable adolescents is effectively collated in once location.

The aim is that young people will be discussed once during the panel. Where an individual presents with concerns in more than one area (e.g. harmful sexual behaviour and being exploited, criminally or sexually) they will be prioritised and discussed as a victim in the first instance and safety plans will be considered.

The panel will consider any adults who pose a risk of exploitation of children and young people who have been sexually or criminally exploited (under agenda item ‘Persons of Concern’). This can include young adult active gang nominals. The panel will also discuss locations of interest and any local trends and intelligence.

The MARVE Panel Meeting is the key mechanism for agreeing how relevant organisations will co-operate and work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in effectively tackling exploitation, vulnerability and risk. It is co-chaired by the Police and the Assistant Director of Wandsworth Children’s Social Care/Service Manager Child Exploitation. The panel is run in conjunction with weekly/monthly Missing meetings, the monthly CSE/CCE and HSB/SYV/Gangs specialist operational groups which inform the MARVE Panel agenda & discussions and assist in prioritising cases.

Referrals will be received for any child (under the age 18) and, where appropriate, Care Leavers or those on an Education, Health and Care Plan (up to age 25) where there are significant concerns, or a strategy meeting held regarding:

- Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
- High Risk Missing
- Children Missing Education (CME)
- Trafficking
- Exploitative behaviour toward others (persons of concern)
- Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB)
- Serious youth violence (SYV)
- Gangs & groups
- Substance misuse
- Youth IOM
- Extremism
- Modern Day Slavery/Forced marriage

## KEY AIMS OF THE MARVE PANEL

- To be young person focused. The panel will review the progress of cases using a child centred approach, ensuring action is taken by relevant agencies involved in individual cases. Providing advice and guidance to practitioners so that effective plans are developed, and risk is reduced.
- This panel is not and should not be used as a substitute for the safeguarding processes that exist in Wandsworth in relation to children and young people. Where a professional, person or agency has concerns in relation to the welfare of a child/ren, referrals must still be made to the MASH as a matter of urgency (or to the Police in emergency situations). The responsibility for the oversight, monitoring and implementation of any plans remains with the professional network working with the young person.
- To share information in order to prevent and minimise harm to children and vulnerable adults;
- To disrupt any of the related activities and offences and increase the number of interventions to eradicate exploitation networks;
- To ensure effective Risk Management Plans are in place for the MARVE Cohort.
- To quality assure actions taken by individual agencies to manage risk. The responsibility for the oversight, monitoring and implementation of any plans remains with the professional network working with the young person.
- To provide advice and guidance to practitioners so that effective plans are developed, and risk is reduced. Practitioners should have a clear idea of what support might be required to assist the child/young person.
- To meet in order to identify any trends in relation to persons of concern/locations of interest and ensure they are managed effectively. This includes sharing intelligence or information relating to links/patterns with any cases/locations/venues of exploitation or criminal activity, including from Licensing Teams and ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) Supports. This information should be used to inform mapping and analysing the profile of exploitation, anti-social behaviour and serious youth violence in the borough and generate intelligence for investigations.
- To take a strategic and innovative approach to contextual safeguarding issues & emerging safeguarding themes, including confronting exploitation in premises or businesses, transport hubs or other locations of interest, utilising preventative action (media) and enforcement (Police, Licensing etc.) where appropriate.
- To identify and address emerging themes impacting on the adolescent population of Wandsworth. The MARVE panel will triangulate information concerning individuals and

themes from the Children Missing Education, Missing, CSE/CCE and HSB/SYV/Gangs Specialist Operational groups, Youth IOM and PREVENT Panels.

- Consider cross border issues and ensure that there is a co-coordinated approach with other boroughs. This includes ensuring that Looked after Children placed away from the borough and at risk of exploitation are being safeguarded by the agencies where they are located.
- To identify and resolve blockages or delays, risks related to locations or individuals, on an individual or strategic level, including through a regular dip sample of closed and open cases; and where resolution is not possible, escalate internally within respective agencies and to Partnership Strategic Groups.
- Ensure effective communication across all disciplines, working to agreed processes and specifically in regard to safeguarding children/young people and vulnerable Care Leavers.
- The MARVE will operate in accordance with established statutory procedures relating to protecting children under the Wandsworth Child Exploitation Protocol January 2020, Wandsworth Missing Protocol December 2019, London Child Protection Procedures 2017, Working Together 2018 and The London CSE Operating Protocol 2017.
- MARVE will present data analysis of trends and emerging themes to the quarterly Vulnerable Adolescent Group (VAG) which reports into the WSCP. Any immediate new concerns to be reported to Wandsworth MASH CE/Missing Lead for immediate action and response plan.
- Identify any training needs of professionals and inform Wandsworth Quality Assurance and the Wandsworth Learning and Development Team for follow up and action.
- Adhere to the Data Protection laws and regulations (see **Appendix 3** for the Information Sharing Agreement of this panel).

## MARVE PANEL MEMBERSHIP

Effective and respectful inter-professional communication and teamwork is imperative to promote well-being and ensure potential high risk and vulnerable cases are managed and problem solved across the partnership. This will be best achieved with a multidisciplinary forum comprising:

### Core Membership (attending regularly)

- DI Safeguarding South West Borough Command Unit (Co-chair)
- Children Services- Assistant Director children's Services (Co-chair)
- Designated Police Exploitation Practitioner
- Designated Police YOT representative
- Head of Service/Service Manager MASH
- MASH-MET Hub Representatives for Missing/CE
- Designated Police MISPER Representative
- Evolve; gangs, CSE, RHI workers-to be decided as appropriate

- Designated Nurse Children in Local Authority Care
- Named Nurse for Safeguarding Wandsworth
- CAMHS Representative
- Schools Representative (Head Teacher PRU)
- Key Education Representative
- Red Thread
- Rescue and Response
- MASH Senior Analyst
- Adolescent Service Manager
- Edge of Care Team Manager
- Future First Team Manager
- Youth Offending Service Manager/Head of Service
- Community Safety Representative
- Adult Safeguarding Representative
- Housing Representative
- Licensing representative
- Children Looked After Service Manager/Head of Service
- IOM Panel Representative
- Probation Service Representative
- QAPD Head of Service
- Sexual health clinics

*Where those identified above cannot attend, they can send a representative with a similar level of management decision making and tasking.*

The MARVE will be quorate if Health, Children's Social Care, Police, Youth Offending and Education are represented. Any concerns regarding attendance will be raised with the Vulnerable Children Adolescents Group via the chairs.

Other guests will be invited if an expert opinion is required or if the young person has specific need, vulnerability or risk.

## DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY

The Panel uses the London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocol (2017) definition:

### Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. (Department for Education Child Sexual Exploitation Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers February 2017). Please also refer to the Wandsworth Child Exploitation Protocol for more guidance.

Child Sexual Exploitation can arise in a variety of different forms. These can be via:

- The Relationship Model
- Inappropriate relationships
- Opportunistic
- On-Line CSE
- Youth produced sexual imagery identified in schools
- Familial routes
- Organised/Networked sexual exploitation or trafficking
- Groups
- Gangs
- Peer on Peer Exploitation
- County-lines

**Relationship Model** – a child is befriended and groomed into a ‘relationship’ and then is coerced or forced to have sex with the exploiter’s friends or associates. The abuser may be significantly older than the victim, but not always.

**Inappropriate relationships** – a lone offender having inappropriate power or control over a young person, perceived by the young person to be a ‘loving relationship’ however a significant age gap is an indicator.

**Opportunistic** - This may occur quickly and without any form of grooming. Typically, older males identify vulnerable young people who may already have been groomed or sexually abused. The perpetrator will offer a young person a ‘reward’ or payment in exchange for sexual acts. The perpetrator is often linked with a network of abusive adults.

**Online CSE** – children and young people targeted via chat rooms, dating sites, online gaming and other social networking sites via the internet. Children and young people often do not see the dangers of sharing intimate images of themselves to strangers. Shared images can lead to risks of blackmail and coercion against the child. Exploitation continues through harassment and bullying via messaging, misusing ‘friends’ lists, the exchange of sexual images or pornography.

**Youth Produced Sexual imagery identified in schools** – If a young person has shared sexual imagery, particularly someone else’s imagery, without consent and with malicious, exploitative or profit-making intent.

**Familial CSE**– child or young person is individually exploited however other family members may be involved. Parents or family members control and facilitate the exploitation – the motivation being financial or can involve substance misuse.

**Organised/Networked sexual exploitation or trafficking** – children and young people are passed through and between networks possibly between towns or further where they are coerced or forced into sexual activity with multiple men in settings such as ‘parties’ and/or brothels.

**Groups** – involve people who come together in person or online for the purpose of setting up, co-ordinating and/or taking part in the sexual exploitation of children.

**Peer on Peer Exploitation** – children and young people sexually exploited by peers of a similar age and used to recruit other young people to be abused. Sexual bullying in schools and other social settings can result in the sexual exploitation of young people by their peers. In all cases of peer-on-peer exploitation, a power imbalance will still inform the relationship, but this inequality will not necessarily be the result of an age gap between the abuser and the abused

## Other forms of Child Criminal Exploitation

### Modern Day Slavery (Human Trafficking):

Trafficking is the movement of people by means such as force, fraud, coercion or deception with the aim of exploiting them. It is modern day slavery. Taking someone from one location to another to commit crimes, against their will, is a form of human trafficking (this includes taking them to another borough or county in England).

Pan-London Safeguarding Procedures: [http://www.londoncp.co.uk/chapters/sg\\_trafficked\\_ch.html6](http://www.londoncp.co.uk/chapters/sg_trafficked_ch.html6)

**Cuckooing:** Urban gangs establish a base in the market location, often by taking over the homes of local vulnerable adults by force and/or coercion, in a practice referred to as 'cuckooing'. Urban gangs then use children and vulnerable people to move drugs and money.

**Gangs:** Young people associated with gangs are at a high risk of sexual exploitation. Sexual violence is used as a means of power and control over others. 'Gangs' mainly comprise men and boys aged 13 – 25 years of age who are involved in criminal activity, engage in violence against other gangs and have identifiable markers such as territory, clothing or a name. Sexual exploitation can be used to exert control, initiate into the gang, exchange for status or protection, entrap rival gang members and inflict as a weapon.

The Government adopted the definition set out in the Centre for Social Justice's (CSJ) 2009 report, 'Dying to Belong', as its definition of a gang. A gang is defined as: 'a relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who:

- See themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group;
- Engage in criminal activity and violence;
- Lay claim over territory (not necessarily geographical but can include an illegal economy territory);
- Have some form of identifying structural feature; and
- Are in conflict with other, similar, gangs.

The Serious Crime Act 2015 widened the terminology where a "gang-related" act is when it occurs in the course of, or is otherwise related to, the activities of a group that:

- Consists of at least three people, and
- Has one or more characteristics that enable its members to be identified by others as a group.

**County-lines:** This involves a gang or organised crime network using a mobile phone line to extend their drug dealing business to new locations outside their home areas in a "trap house", which is often acquired through a tactic, known as "cuckooing" (befriending/targeting vulnerable people that live alone then taking over their home to set up shop). A county line enterprise almost always involves exploitation of vulnerable people for the purpose of couriering drugs, often "plugged" internally, and/or to sell drugs at the other end of the line. Young people are drawn in under the promise of reward, whether via cash, clothes, phones, gifts or other means. Once a young person has entered the world of county lines, they become trapped and it is very difficult for them to exit this criminal behaviour. A key indication is when a young person is located after a missing episode outside of the London area for with no apparent means /reason to have travelled there.

**Persons of Concern (POC):**

A 'person of concern' is someone who 'appears to be developing a friendship or relationship based on power over a child by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources'.

Where professionals or an agency have concerns or intelligence in relation to a possible perpetrator of sexual or criminal exploitation (or gang recruitment involving CSE/county lines), they can make a referral to MARVE, for the Persons of Concern agenda item. The referrer is expected to provide updates in writing and/or communicate the intelligence through the member of the panel who is linked to and/or representing their service. Professional judgement is required to make referrals rather than always evidence. We can sometimes see concerns from a pattern of behaviour, without any overt disclosure.

***Excluded POC cases:***

Referrals can be made when there are concerns in relation to the categories in relation to possible offenders. However, referrals to CSE/CCE Persons of Concern **should not** be made in relation to **familial** child abuse. Familial CSE Persons of Concern nominals should be tracked via the Child Protection route in conjunction with the Child Abuse Investigation team arm of the Metropolitan Police.

**Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB):**

Sexual behaviours expressed by children and young people under the age of 18 years old that are developmentally inappropriate, may be harmful towards self or others, or be abusive towards another child, young person or adult (derived from Hackett, 2014). Please also refer to *Wandsworth Harmful Sexual Behaviour protocol* for more detailed information/guidance.

This is the part of the panel where cases should be discussed where there is significant cause for concern in relation to the exhibiting of sexually harmful behaviour by a young person or groups of young people and where a multi-agency plan is required to curtail and reduce the risk that the young person poses to the wider community.

Some of these cases may overlap with the identified persons of concern but others may not be linked to CSE due to other forms of harmful sexual behaviour (e.g. towards adults or persistent sexual acts in public).

#### School exclusions for sexual misconduct (or behaviour potentially linked to exploitation)

This part of the discussion affords the opportunity for education colleagues to provide information in relation to children or young people who have been given fixed-term or permanent exclusions from school for matters which are sexual or violent in nature and which fulfil the CSE criteria.

**Serious Youth Violence:**

Serious youth violence is defined with reference to offences of the most serious in nature including murder, rape and GBH (Grievous Bodily Harm) between children and young people under-18 (London Safeguarding Children Board 2009). Such cases will be managed by the IOM, however MARVE will consider the young person's safeguarding and ensure that the young person's plan address the risk and vulnerability.

## Other Key Terminology

**Missing:** Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established and where the circumstances are out of character or the context suggests the person may be subject of crime or at risk of harm to themselves or another'.

**Absent:** A person is not at a place where they are expected or required to be' and there is no apparent risk.

The police classification of a person as 'absent' and 'missing' are based on continuous monitoring and risk assessment of the young person's situation. There may be circumstances when a child who goes missing from home/care is experiencing harm or is at risk of harm. This includes but not limited to children subjected to fabricated or induced illness, female genital mutilation, abuse by children, abduction by family or others, domestic violence, sexually exploited children, suspected involvement in criminal activity such as county-lines, trafficked children and asylum-seeking children.

**Terrorism is defined by the Terrorism Act 2006 as:** "an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes with or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause."

**Extremism:** Extremism is defined in the 2011 Prevent strategy as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

**Radicalisation:** Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

**Non-Violent Extremism:** Is defined as extremism (in those same terms) which is not accompanied by violence.

**Secondary Victimization:** Children and young people are at high risk of undergoing secondary victimization by being considered perpetrators of crime rather than victims of exploitation.

Practitioners need to be mindful that children who are criminally exploited should be seen as victims and not treated as criminals. They should also be treated through the lens of modern slavery and child safeguarding legislation and practice.

There is evidence that children and young people fear the repercussions of reporting being victims of any criminal activity. Research has found that children identify a range of risks associated with reporting crime including reputational damage, implications for their family and fears of significant physical reprisal.

Children and young people may also blame themselves for victimisation, falsely assuming responsibility for their experiences. Where children and young people feel in any way responsible for their victimisation, they are unlikely to report these experiences or seek support.

This lack of understanding can have a serious impact on children and young people. Not being equipped with this knowledge means that many have to deal with their experience alone and not

seeking necessary support available to them. Not reporting also means that they be unable to make the offending behaviour stop, or to seek justice and redress for their suffering.

To limit or avoid any risk of secondary victimization, specific counselling, support and assistance services should be available to provide appropriate support and safeguard those who are most vulnerable.

**Cross Border Issues:** The threat of organised criminality is not confined to geographical boundaries. Pathways into criminality are diverse and differ between crime types. Individuals can be coerced, corrupted, debt-bound, groomed and exploited, or even offend unwittingly. Forged identity documents (particularly EEA identity documents) and fraudulently obtained genuine documents remain a key enabler of criminal activities. Many OCGs are highly flexible and display great adaptability in the speed with which they adjust their *modus operandi* or whole business models to the changes in the environment.

People involved in gangs and OCGs exploit organisational and geographical vulnerabilities since they know there are weaknesses in the way different organisations operate both internally and externally.

The National Crime Agency highlights there are several factors that help determine why groups might embark on County Lines activity. These include the perception of ‘space’ in drug markets outside of urban areas and the anticipation of increased profits because of less capable competition. Operating outside of their own areas, where they are ‘known’ and subject to law enforcement targeting, often gives groups the perception of increased anonymity. It is important these risks and associated threats are reduced by working effectively to share intelligence in a timely manner.

There may be occasions where a child may want to live with each parent/carer (if they are not living together) during the week, especially if the child feels threatened or intimidated by others where they normally reside. This may increase the child’s vulnerabilities since relevant safeguarding parties may not be aware of the family circumstances if child is living in different parts of the West Midlands or in other parts of the UK. Similarly, there may be occasions where a child is educated outside their Local Authority area. This may also increase the child’s vulnerabilities since relevant safeguarding parties may not be aware of all the family circumstances to take appropriate safeguarding actions to reduce the risks associated to gang affiliation or criminal exploitation.

It is vital that information is shared to address any cross-border concerns. Relevant front line and back office staff need to be trained to keep abreast of any changes in family circumstances and emerging threats to support any intervention, prevention and enforcement work.

## KEY PRINCIPLES WHEN RESPONDING TO EXPLOITATION OR HARM

**A child-centred approach** - Action will be focussed on the child’s needs, including consideration of children with particular vulnerabilities or sensitivities, and the fact that children do not always acknowledge what may be an exploitative or abusive situation.

**A proactive approach** - This should be focussed on prevention, early identification and intervention, as well as disruption activity and prosecuting perpetrators.

**Parenting, family life, and services** - Action will take account of family circumstances when deciding how best to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. We will also consider the risks posed to other members of the family as a result of exploitation.

**The rights of children and young people** - Children and young people are entitled to be safeguarded from exploitation just as agencies have duties in respect of safeguarding and promoting welfare.

**Responsibility for criminal acts** – sexually exploited or trafficked children should be treated as victims of abuse, not as offenders. The responsibility for the exploitation of children lies with the abuser and the focus of police investigations should be on those who coerce, exploit and abuse children and young people.

**An integrated approach** – Tackling exploitation requires a three-pronged approach; prevention, protection and prosecution.

**A shared responsibility** – Multi-agency responsibility is underpinned by a strong commitment from managers, a shared understanding of the problem of sexual and criminal exploitation and effective coordination by the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

**Recognition** - Exploitation includes sexual, physical and emotional abuse, in some cases, neglect. Children do not make informed choices to enter or remain in exploitative situations, but do so from coercion, enticement, manipulation or desperation. Section 5 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 makes it an offence for a person intentionally to sexually penetrate a child under the age of 13. Whether or not the child consented to this act is irrelevant.

## REFERRAL PATHWAY AND PROCESSES

### Cases not open to Social Care

If the case is not open to Social Care then MASH will review the referral information, the Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Tool and MARF Referral, make necessary MASH enquiries and send an 87a to request a strategy meeting. As part of the 87a MASH will advise the rag rating from the **Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Screening Tool** (see **Appendix 5** for referral form) and the preliminary recommendation for a MARVE referral (green, amber or red). This will ensure that the CAIT referral desk is able to appropriately flag the exploitation risk and ensure the appropriate Police Team is invited to the strategy meeting from the start of the process. The Assessment Service will also review the risks alongside undertaking the S47 or Child and Family assessments. Complex strategy meetings are arranged depending on need and the risks identified, and mapping of links and associations should occur at all types of strategy meetings with clear understanding that the exploitation risks be clearly identified and explored, including tasking and disruption. If the outcome of the MASH enquiry is that the child/young person requires Early Help/Universal Services intervention, it is expected that the lead professional will ensure that any Risk Assessment Tool is updated or completed and re-refer to MASH if risks are identified to have increased.

### Cases open to Social Care

If the child or young person is open to Social Care, the information will be passed through to the relevant team for safeguarding action to be taken. **The Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Tool** will be completed in full or updated, ensuring that all involved agencies, the family and child/young person

contribute. This CE Risk Assessment Tool should be sent to the relevant Team Manager. The Team Manager should review the CE Risk Screening Tool and as appropriate based on the rag rating an 87a should be completed and sent to the CAIT referrals desk with the preliminary recommendation for a MARVE referral (green, amber or red) This will ensure that the CAIT referral desk is able to appropriately flag the exploitation risk and ensure the appropriate Police Team is invited to the strategy meeting from the start of the process. The CE Screening Tool should also inform the continued or review of the plan for the child/young person to protect and reduce risks for the child/young person. The CE Risk Screening Tool (See **Appendix 5**) acts as the MARVE referral for all cases rag rated (green, amber, red) and should be sent to the MASH [mash@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:mash@wandsworth.gov.uk) at the same time as the 87a is sent to the CAIT referrals desk. Referrals for the MARVE Panel will be reviewed between the monthly MARVE at the CSE/CCE and HSB/SYV/Gangs Specialist Operational Groups held prior to MARVE each month. These Operational Groups will review all cases and support the prioritisation and agenda for the MARVE Panel and ensure that effective oversight of children and young people are held.

Procedure to respond When responding to exploitation and/or harmful behaviour there are two elements that often intertwine and overlap:

- Safeguarding
- Enforcement

Safeguarding If you believe that urgent action is needed because, for example, a child is in immediate danger contact the police on 999 and give as much information as you can.

If you have a Child Protection concern but urgent and immediate action is not needed, you must complete a Multi-Agency referral Form (MARF) in as much detail as possible (this should include a completed CE Risk Screening Tool ) and send it to the MASH [mash@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:mash@wandsworth.gov.uk)

### **Safeguarding Response to a Missing Child**

Please refer to the Missing Protocol developed by Wandsworth Children's Social Care. Missing incidents will increase the risk of exploitation but each episode of missing or absent, depending on the length and risks/vulnerabilities present will be dealt with. Missing children are monitored through the weekly Missing Panel which is chaired by the MASH manager. A monthly Missing meeting is held to review themes, patterns, trends and intelligence and shared with the MARVE.

### **Reporting Suspicions of Exploitation - Multi Agency Responsibilities**

Professionals in all agencies should be alert to the possibility that a child/young person they are working with may be exploited, whether sexually or criminally (including forced labour or county lines). The professional may already have concerns about the child/young person e.g. missing school, missing from home, self-harming, peer groups.

Exploitation is a form of abuse, whether sexually, physically or emotionally. Child protection procedures should be followed when there are concerns that a child or young person is at risk of sexual or criminal exploitation or trafficking (or is already the victim of such).

If you are concerned about potential child sexual or criminal exploitation you will need to complete the referral process as outlined above following the open and closed cases processes to ensure that the MASH can make the necessary enquiries. (submitting a CE Risk Screening Tool and MARF on unallocated cases) These tools will help you to clarify the nature of your concerns and provide an evidence-base to support your referral. The forms will be available online or by contacting the MASH.

When you have completed the MARVE referral form you should send them to [mash@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:mash@wandsworth.gov.uk) (please ensure you follow secure processes if you are sending this from outside of the council). If the child/young person in question already has an allocated Social Worker, they are the point of contact for concerns and upon notification of concerns will become the person responsible for completing the referral to MARVE (the allocated Social Worker should send a copy of the completed forms to [mash@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:mash@wandsworth.gov.uk) so that all cases of exploitation have a single point of referral and can be tracked).

The screening and referral to MARVE are to be completed by a professional. While it may be appropriate to complete the checklist with the child/family of the child, consideration should be made of whether engaging the child and family and alerting them to the risks may compound risk or further alienate the child. Please be aware that all cases being referred to MARVE should have had a strategy meeting or a Multi-agency professionals meeting (for those young people over 18+ and for those young people rated green but worked within an Early Help Process)

### **Responding to a risk of serious youth violence**

If a young person states, they are under threat they should be encouraged to call the police. If immediate danger is identified call 999, otherwise call 101 for you or the young person to make a statement. These should trigger a Police Risk Assessment, which will also assist Safeguarding teams in their response. Social Care MASH should also seek a MOPAC gang worker's assessment when notified about a young person at threat of harm due to gang involvement, drug debt or drug dealing. Workers can use the Child Exploitation Risk Screening Tool to consider concerns for serious youth violence alongside vulnerabilities. It is also important to consider the need to make a referral to Rescue and Response when there are concerns about County Lines. This includes children and young people linked (arrested, found or linked via intelligence) to County lines and suspected (indicator behaviours) of County Lines activity. [To make an intervention or intelligence referral to the Rescue and Response project, click here.](#) (open hyperlink for link to work)

In order to ensure that open and safe information sharing can occur between multi-agency partners there must be a firm commitment to not jump to conclusions and do not disclose to young people where 'intelligence' has come from. A picture can take time to unfold and if a professional or individual is perceived to be a "snitch" this can shut down working relationships, but most importantly jeopardise the safety of individuals (including staff).

### **Responding to young people who cause harmful sexual behaviour**

Anyone who has a concern that a child or young person under 18 has displayed or committed problematic or harmful sexual behaviour should have a Consultation with the MET Hub in MASH. Any professional who is unsure of the need for such a consultation must seek advice from the Safeguarding Lead within their agency. Anyone who has a concern that a child or an adult might have been a victim of harmful sexual behaviour should refer their concerns to the Police.

Whenever a child may have harmed another child, all agencies must be aware of their responsibilities to both children and multi-agency management of both cases must reflect this. The Child Exploitation Screening Tool which is the referral into MARVE is designed to assist in determining concerns around harmful sexual behaviour this should be completed to inform decision making and must be completed when making a referral to MASH for MARVE Panel.

In all cases where a child has sexually harmed or is alleged to have sexually harmed another child or young person then a referral must be made in writing to the MASH on both the alleged victim (if a

child) and the child alleged to have caused the sexual harm. Both children/young people are required to have a Child and Family Assessment completed. This would also apply to any peer group sexual harm. It is important to remember threshold decisions and the need for s47 and assessments on all children involved in sexually harmful behaviour to ensure service needs are appropriately met.

**The interests of the identified victim must always be the paramount consideration.**

It is possible that the child with harmful behaviours may pose a significant risk of harm to their own siblings, other children and/or adults. The child will have considerable needs themselves and may also be or have been the victim of abuse. The following key principles should underpin all work with children who display problematic or harmful sexual behaviour:

- There should be a coordinated response between the agencies within the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership;
- Incidents of harmful sexual behaviour should be dealt with under Child Protection procedures which recognise the Child Protection and potentially criminal element to the behaviour.
- Professionals should consider the needs of the children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour separately from the needs of their victims;
- An assessment should be carried out in each case of problematic/harmful sexual behaviour, appreciating that children who display problematic/harmful sexual behaviour may have unmet developmental needs and may have suffered considerable disruption in their lives, been exposed to violence within the family, may have witnessed or been subject to Physical Abuse or Sexual Abuse, have problems in their educational development and may have committed other offences. Such children/young people are likely therefore to be Children in Need; some will / may have suffered Significant Harm and be in need of protection themselves.
- Children who display problematic / harmful sexual behaviour should be held responsible for their abusive behaviour while being identified and responded to in a way which meets their needs as well as protecting others;
- Early and effective, intervention with children and young people who display problematic or harmful sexual behaviour can play an important part in protecting children, by preventing the continuation or escalation of abusive behaviour.

## **Radicalisation**

The harm children and young people can experience from radicalisation ranges from a child adopting or complying with extreme views which limits their social interaction and full engagement with their education, to young children being taken to war zones and older children being groomed for involvement in violence.

If there are concerns that a child who is missing has been radicalised, or a child is likely to go missing where there are concerns of radicalisation, then the London Child Protection Procedures need to be followed, see London Child Protection Procedures, Safeguarding Children Exposed to Extremist Ideology. Alongside the London Child Protection Procedures, local procedures around PREVENT and Channel Panel also need to be followed to ensure adequate and appropriate safeguarding measures are in place. When there are concerns around radicalisation or extremism a referral must be made to MASH. MASH will then assess the referral information and consult the PREVENT Lead or the Community Safety Team Vulnerabilities Manager for consideration about the need for a referral into

Channel Panel. If Channel Panel intervention is required, the panel will develop a multi-agency individualised package of support.

MASH will also refer the individual into Wandsworth's MARVE (Multi-Agency Risk Vulnerability Exploitation Panel) for oversight of the safeguarding and risk for the young person. The MARVE will not replace the Channel Panel however the MASH will be required to refer those young people referred for concerns about extremism/radicalisation and report on those young people to the MARVE to support the young person's safeguarding and ensure that the young person's plan address the risk and vulnerability effectively. The MARVE will be expected to contribute to the counter terrorism local profile via intelligence and data and will provide additional multi-agency oversite as required.

## Modern Day Slavery

Modern Day Slavery (MDS) is an often-hidden crime that affects children and young people as well as adults throughout the United Kingdom. MDS involves slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking and across all elements of MDS is the exploitation of another usually for the benefit of someone else, often financial gain. Modern Day Slavery often involves the use of coercion, including threats, the use of force, deception or the abuse of power. It is important to remember that children/young people and vulnerable adults who are victims of MDS are unable to give informed consent and are experiencing exploitation even if there are no elements of coercion.

The United Kingdom recognises 4 main types of exploitation under Modern Day Slavery. Each of the 4 types have subcategories and all involve trafficking either from another country or within the UK. The 4 types of MDS are:

- Labour Exploitation
- Domestic Servitude
- Sexual Exploitation
- Criminal Exploitation

If there are concerns that a child who is missing is experiencing Modern Day Slavery or has been trafficked, or a child is likely to go missing where there are concerns around MDS, then the London Child Protection Procedures need to be followed, see London Child Protection Procedures, [Safeguarding Trafficked and Exploited Children](#). Alongside the London Child Protection Procedures, local procedures around MDS and Exploitation also need to be followed to ensure adequate and appropriate safeguarding measures are in place. If there is an urgent safeguarding concern around immediate risk of harm phone Police on 999 otherwise contact the Modern Day Slavery helpline on 08000 121 700 or Police on 101.

When there are concerns around Modern Day Slavery a referral must be made to MASH and process for open and closed cases as outlined earlier in the protocol followed. MASH will then assess the referral information and consult the MDS Lead or the Community Safety Team Vulnerabilities Manager to assist with a co-ordinated multi-agency response. MASH will also refer the individual into Wandsworth's MARVE (Multi-Agency Risk Vulnerability Exploitation Panel) for oversight of the safeguarding and risk for the young person. All young people where there is a belief that they have been trafficked (full evidence is not required) need to be referred to The National Referral Mechanism and this process followed to completion. The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) provides a dedicated process for referrals: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms>

The MARVE will be expected to contribute to the tracking of the number of children/young people referred to the NRM and Rescue and Response in order to support the local profile via intelligence and data and will provide additional multi-agency oversite as required.

## Enforcement

This requires a targeted criminal justice system approach which delivers swift appropriate justice to deter and put a stop to the criminal behaviour of the most harmful individuals influencing or exploiting others into serious or organised crime. Through transparent partnership working between police, Community Safety, the Youth Justice Team and Wandsworth gangs' workers the aim is to keep both gang affiliated young people and the community safe.

### There are various legal measures that can deter and disrupt activity

- Child Abduction Warning Notices
- Antisocial behaviour legislation (Criminal Behaviour Orders)
- Civil and Gang injunctions
- Tenancy and Enforcement and Licencing Assessments
- Court Order requirements and enforcement of breach

These will involve various restrictions and requirements before being applied but should be considered whenever risk of significant harm to potential victims is evident.

### Persons of Concern and Locations of interest

A separate referral form is available for professionals to refer a Person of Concern or Location of Interest to the MARVE Panel (see **Panel Terms of Reference, Appendix 2**). The MARVE referral form for all children and young people at risk of all types of exploitation also asks you to provide information about concerns in regard to peers/adults/locations and known associations.

- A 'person of concern' is someone who 'appears to be developing a friendship or relationship based on power over a child by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources'.
- Locations of interest may be varied but could include fast food outlets, parks and taxi ranks.

## STRATEGY MEETINGS

All cases that meet the threshold will have a strategy discussion or meeting, following the London Child Protection Procedures. **Dependant on the level of assessed risk, it may be necessary to convene an immediate strategy meeting where the circumstances give rise to concern of significant harm.** The first Strategy Discussion/Meeting should always be chaired by the London Borough of Wandsworth's allocated Team Manager (or MASH manager if not yet allocated).

Attendees need to include appropriate Police Team, relevant lead (e.g. CE Lead, Criminal Exploitation worker and/or Youth Justice lead for HSB), Education and Health representatives and should include mapping of any known associates and locations of interest.

Multi-agency information checks should be undertaken in advance of the meeting.

The Chair should always inform the lead professional that a meeting is taking place.

Young People and families should be invited to attend/contribute if this is assessed as appropriate and will not increase the risk.

The purpose of the meeting is to decide if the child is at risk of significant harm and whether a section 47 enquiry should be carried out. If the child/young person is not assessed as at risk of significant harm, the meeting should decide if the child/young person meets the threshold for services as a child in need or whether the child/young person should be referred to early help with an allocated lead professional developing and reviewing a support plan.

**Regardless of the level of need the strategy meeting must consider a referral to the MARVE** to ensure effective multi-agency oversight of all children/young people considered vulnerable or at risk of exploitation. If a decision is taken that a child/young person should be referred for early help services, then ongoing multi-agency professionals' meetings with a designated lead professional who can feedback to MARVE will be important to ensure effectiveness in monitoring and progressing plans.

For Care Leavers who are 18+ where there are concerns around vulnerability to exploitation or that a young person may be moving toward becoming a 'person of concern,' the case holder and manager should call a multi-agency professionals meeting to determine the appropriateness for a referral to the MARVE. MARVE will consider any Care Leaver 18+ based on individual vulnerability. The MARVE referral should be sent to the [mash@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:mash@wandsworth.gov.uk)

**A need - to - know form should be completed by the relevant Service Manager as soon as the referral is received in respect of Complex Abuse and then updated following the initial strategy meeting**

## OPERATIONAL PROCESS

The panel has multi-agency involvement and delegates are responsible for ensuring that their agency is appropriately represented (see membership list). The MARVE panel will sit on a monthly basis on the last Tuesday of each Month and will sit for a full day from 9:30-4:30.

Referrals to the MARVE Panel will be taken until 2pm (Monday) 9 working days before the panel meets. All referrals to be sent via the Wandsworth CSC Front Door [mash@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:mash@wandsworth.gov.uk)

Subject to the agreement of the joint chairs any urgent matters arising can be tabled the day of the meeting if the appropriate processes (e.g. a strategy meeting and MARVE referral have been made)

Agencies can complete a referral for a child, young person or care leaver according to the MARVE criteria. Professional judgement is required to make referrals regarding young people, locations of interest, or persons of concern. In some cases, the concerns may be identified through a pattern of behaviour, without any overt disclosure.

Prior to the MARVE each month the following Operational Groups will be held in order to ensure appropriate rag rating and review of referrals and cases to the MARVE: Monthly Missing, CSE/CCE and HSB/SYV/Gangs Groups. The Operational Groups will oversee the referral process and continue to oversee lower priority cases that are not discussed at the MARVE. The Operational Groups will follow the same processes in terms of reviewing and 'Icing' cases as the MARVE. Themes, patterns and trends from each operational group will be reported into MARVE along with numbers of cases being maintained and those 'ICED.' MARVE at any point can direct cases from Operational Groups to be brought to MARVE Panel and should be reviewing all cases that have been put on 'ICE' at the 3-month mark to ensure plans are still effectively safeguarding the child/young person.

## **Multiagency responsibilities**

The MARVE agenda and list of children/young people to be discussed for the meeting will be sent out 5 working days before the panel date. Names and details of new referrals need to be checked by all agencies in advance of the meeting so that any relevant contributions can be made at the panel.

Those representing teams responsible for offender management should attend from the agenda items relating to persons of concern onwards.

All agencies are to:

- Record the relevant details of the case on their systems to ensure that the oversight and actions from the panel is recorded.
- Adhere to and comply with Data Protection laws and regulations, understanding that the purpose of information sharing is to safeguard vulnerable children/young people and/or to detect and prevent crime.
- Review the information sharing agreement (**Appendix 3**) and agree to this when signing into the panel.

Minutes will be taken by the MARVE Business Support Lead and will include information taken from the referral form, a brief summary of the discussion and actions. The actions will be distributed within 48 hours of the meeting and the full minutes within 7 working days of the meeting. Meeting minutes will be quality assured by the Panel Chairs prior to being sent out to the wider panel membership. **Attendees at the meeting are all responsible for ensuring actions are completed by agreed deadlines.**

## **Case presentation**

Cases accepted as appropriate to MARVE require the lead professional to attend the first panel as per the allocated time for the case (schedule will be sent out in advance). For High Risk cases the team manager should also attend.

The allocated worker and/or team manager are to provide information on the following:

- Summary – significant incidents and facts to support referral/risk grading
- Completed update form if returning to panel
- Child Protection Concerns
- The effectiveness of the multi-agency team around the child
- The types of interventions and their effectiveness
- Cases will be discussed using a child centred approach.

Any intelligence and actions obtained from the panel should form part of the child/young person's risk assessment and appropriate professional judgement applied by the social worker when determining how best to share information with parents/carers as required for safety planning.

## **Agenda**

The agenda will follow a general format and may change from meeting to meeting depending on the number of young people to be discussed. CSE/CCE cases will be presented and discussed first followed by any children or young people that are believed to be involved or associating with gangs. Persons of Concern and locations of Interest will follow. There is an agenda in the appendix which outlines the areas to be covered but the specific agenda with timings will be sent out each month at least 5 days in advance of the meeting.

## GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

The MARVE panel chairs will report to the Vulnerable Adolescent Group sub-group (VAG) of the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP). The VAG sub-group will meet quarterly and provide a report into the WSCP on the strategic decisions on the allocation of resources on prevent, protect, and disrupt work that is occurring in Wandsworth through the MARVE and VAG for vulnerable adolescents. The report will also highlight how the work being undertaken falls within the Wandsworth Vulnerable Adolescent Strategy and it is the responsibility of VAG to update the strategy and oversee/undertake the workplan.

The MARVE meeting will provide the VAG information on the following:

- Volume of cases.
- Communities affected, to allow awareness raising and targeted intervention.
- Patterns of exploitation and harm identified.
- Action taken in response to perpetrators, including disruption activity.
- Performance of individual agencies.
- Number and type of disruptions e.g. civil orders, charging of offenders, closure of premises, CAWN, etc.
- Attendance at panel meetings by partner agencies

Analysis of the following will also be provided on an annual basis:

- Profiles of those who are perpetrating sexual or criminal exploitation;
- Information about effective interventions;
- Issues, themes and patterns emerging from analysis of current cases.
- Comprehensive borough profile

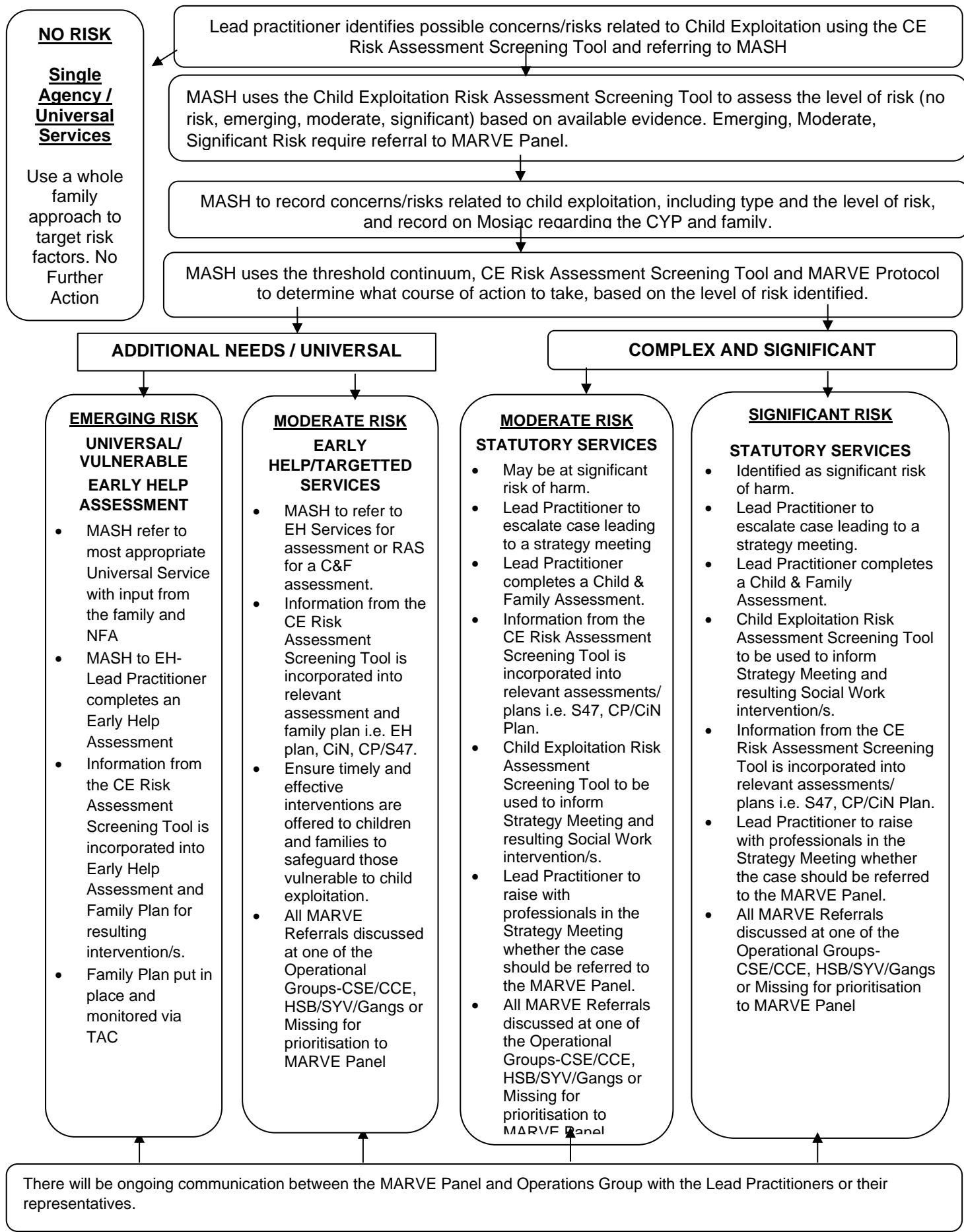
### **Escalation/Disagreement**

If any member of the panel wishes to register dissent from the panel decision, the panel decision will be reviewed by an independent senior-manager & the co-chairs of MARVE. This will take place within 7 days.

If the Panel Chairs have serious concerns about the immediate safety of a child or young person and they do not believe that the current plan is sufficiently robust to manage the risk, the panel chairs will escalate to the appropriate Assistant Director or Director responsible for the service working with the child or young perso

## APPENDIX 1 REFERRAL PATHWAY

### Child Exploitation and MARVE Pathway ALL CASES



## APPENDIX 2 THE MARVE PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE

The meetings will be held monthly, and minutes circulated with actions to be completed and reported back to the business administrator in a timely manner. Ensure, above all else, agencies are working together to make a positive difference.

### **The meeting will:**

- Review the progress of work but not undertake a full case discussion – focusing to identify good practice and resolve barriers to effective harm reduction;
- Maintain a child-centred approach when making decisions and taking action; ensuring a focus on the child's needs
- Ensure all possible options are being effectively and efficiently utilised to protect the victim and disrupt the offenders;
- Provide strategic oversight to teams supporting young people identified as being at risk of exploitation or harm to others;
- Ensure excellent communication across all disciplines, working to agreed processes and specifically regarding safeguarding children and vulnerable care leavers;
- Confirm the level of risk in conjunction with the lead professional or allocated Social Worker;
- Identify the multiple vulnerabilities of young people if these have been missed to ensure effective risk planning;
- Identify links, patterns and emerging themes with any cases/locations/venues identified and managed. Work in conjunction with other multi-agency panels including MISPER, MARAC, MAPPA, IOM, CME and Prevent;
- Decide on whether to have the case return to Panel or maintain on file, as open but not for review on panel, and the reason for this.
- Ensure the MARVE and related protocols are appropriately followed;
- To identify any training needs of professionals and inform the VAG subgroup.

The MARVE panel is intended to act as a multi-agency safety network to ensure all vulnerable young people are being worked with appropriately. You should not wait for the MARVE panel to report safeguarding concerns for a child or to arrange a strategy meeting.

## APPENDIX 3-MARVE INFORMATION SHARING AGREEMENT

The Multiagency Risk, Vulnerability and Exploitation (MARVE) panel is an Operational and Strategic Panel responsible for coordinating information sharing and multi-agency interventions to disrupt and respond to child sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, harmful sexual behaviour and serious youth violence. Alongside the concerns above the MARVE has responsibility to ensure the safeguarding plans for those children/young people involved with the youth IOM and Prevent safeguarding processes are sufficiently robust and appropriate protocols are followed. The MARVE Panel Meeting has been established to provide a comprehensive approach to tackling issues of exploitation and harm of or by children and young people within Wandsworth.

The MARVE Panel Meeting is the key mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations identified in the protocol will co-operate and work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable care leavers in effectively tackling exploitation, vulnerability and risk. This includes sharing intelligence, developing interventions, focusing resources on serious criminality, preventing and disrupting exploitation activity and raising awareness across the partnership and in the community to be better equipped to identify and report concerns of child exploitation.

### **The purpose of sharing information is to:**

- Increase the safety, health and wellbeing of vulnerable children;
- Improve outcomes and evidence of impact on children, young people and families;
- Determine whether any perpetrators pose a significant risk to any vulnerable child or other children.
- Work together to identify and disrupt exploitation activity;
- Ensure the effective use of intelligence and information across the partnership to inform protection, prevention, and pursue activity and a co-ordinated safeguarding response for exploited children/young people in those areas;
- Construct jointly and implement risk management plans that provide professional support to all those at risk and that reduces the risk of harm;
- Improve agency accountability

**Information presented should make a clear distinction between fact and opinion.** All individuals who are discussed at these meetings should be treated fairly, with respect and without improper discrimination. All work undertaken at the meetings will be informed by a commitment to equal opportunities and effective practice issues in relation to age, disability, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation, gender and gender identity. However, the panel will consider how any diversity issues impact on safety and the needs of the young person.

### **Recording of information:**

- Minutes will be taken throughout the panel and typed directly into a secure laptop
- These will be sent securely to panel members
- **All agencies must ensure that minutes are retained in a confidential and appropriately restricted manner.**

### **Sharing of information:**

- Information discussed by the agency representative, within the ambit of the panel meeting is strictly confidential and must not be disclosed to third parties without the agreement of the partners at the meeting.
- The individual discussed can be made aware of the discussion and actions – unless this increases the risk of significant harm to/from them. This should be a Team Manager decision and if there is any doubt then clarify the sharing of information with the chairs.

- Safeguarding concerns can be shared without consent under the Children Act 2004 and section 17 however it is good practice for the Lead Practitioner to advise the family about the MARVE process unless there are significant worries that this could compromise information and intelligence.
- All Multi-Agency partners are reminded of the following pieces of legislation when sharing information: the Data Protection Act (2018), the Access to Health Records Act (1990) the Caldicott Report (1997), the Human Rights Act (1998), Working Together (2015) and revised (2018), the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and the Common Law Duty of Confidentiality.

## APPENDIX 4-MARVE - AGENDA

**Agenda-Sample: Actual agenda sent each month****Meeting: MARVE – Multi-agency Risk, Vulnerability and Exploitation Panel**

No	Subject	Time
1.	<b>Introductions and apologies</b> <i>(reminder - Confidentiality and information sharing protocol)</i>	<b>Chair</b> <b>10mins</b>
2.	<b>Minutes and outstanding actions</b> <i>(Please advise admin prior to panel of completed actions)</i>	<b>Chair</b> <b>15 mins</b>
3.	<b>Identification of emerging themes / learning points</b> <i>Review of a sample CSE &amp; CCE low level cases that did not meet the threshold for MARVE panel. Information to be gathered via audit process</i> <i>Feedback from Phoenix Project</i> <i>Prevent/Radicalisation Panel-are here any common children.</i> <b>Any other information for other agencies or community groups. Housing for example.</b>  <b>Missing &amp; Children Missing Education</b> (including children who have been excluded from school for sexually harmful behaviour) <i>Overview of medium risk &amp; recidivist missing children and for those who are not included elsewhere on the agenda a brief summary of the safety plan</i>	<b>1 hour</b>  <b>30-45 min</b>
4.	<b>Criminal Exploitation</b> <i>Overview of new cases &amp; cases returning to panel</i>	<b>Police</b> <b>45 min</b>
	<b>BREAK</b>	<b>45 mins</b>
5.	<b>Persons of Concern</b>	<b>All</b> <b>30 mins</b>
6.	<b>Places of Concern</b>	<b>All</b> <b>30 mins</b>
7.	<b>Sexual Exploitation cases- existing &amp; new</b> <i>To include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>children placed out of borough</i></li> <li>• <i>Out of borough children placed in Wandsworth</i></li> </ul> <i>New cases to be presented by Manager &amp; Social Worker: overview of risk factors and support required</i>	<b>All</b> <b>2 hours</b>
8.	<b>Gangs, Groups &amp; any young person posing risk to others</b> (including knife crime & moped/scooter enabled crime nominals)	<b>All</b> <b>30 mins</b>
9.	<b>Any other business, Next Meeting, Venue</b>	<b>All</b> <b>15 mins</b>

**APPENDIX 5-MARVE RISK ASSESSMENT and REFERRAL**  
**Wandsworth's Child/Young Person Exploitation Risk Assessment**

**A MARF will need completing for submitting with this assessment.**

Please read the child exploitation protocol prior to completing this form.

All the following information is required when there are concerns regarding a child/young person being at risk of/or experiencing child exploitation. Where possible this assessment should be completed within **5 working days**.

Child/Young Person's Full Name:				Alias	
DOB:				Mosaic ID:	

**Professional Completing the Child/Young Person Exploitation Risk Assessment**

Name					
Job Title/Role					
Agency					
Address & Contact Details					
Date Assessment commenced		Date assessment completed		Initial/Review Assessment?	

**Reason for completing this risk assessment:**

**Details of any known or suspected perpetrators:**

Children/Young People can experience more than one type of exploitation; please check all that apply but indicate the type of exploitation you assess to be the primary concern.

<u>What are we worried about:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Child Sexual Exploitation		
Criminal Exploitation/County Lines		
Trafficking /Modern Day Slavery		
Serious Youth Violence and Gangs		
Harmful Sexual Behaviour		
Missing		
Radicalisation	<b>Follow Prevent Pathway</b>	

1. Are you aware if a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) form that has been completed for this child? YES / NO
  - If applicable, please provide date of referral to NRM:
  
2. Are you aware if a MARAC or MAPPA referral has been completed for this child/family? YES/NO
  - If applicable, please provide date of referral to MARAC or MAPPA:
  
3. Are you aware if a referral has been made to PREVENT for this child? YES/NO
  - If applicable, please provide date of referral to PREVENT and Channel Panel:
  
4. Are you aware whether the child has an EHCP Plan? YES/NO
  - If applicable, please provide the date the EHCP Plan was completed:

## Professional Assessment of Risk Indicators

- The purpose of the Child/Young Person Exploitation Screening Tool is to support people to consider the risks and vulnerabilities that a professional may be observing in relation to a child/young person that may indicate that they are vulnerable or experiencing exploitation. Children/young people may be vulnerable to or experiencing more than one form of exploitation and the screening tool is designed to help professionals think across all child exploitation categories.
  
- It should be completed by any professional who has a concern that a child or young person is vulnerable too or may be experiencing child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, harmful sexual behaviour, gangs, serious youth violence, extremism, modern day slavery and those who are missing or being trafficked.
  
- **For those children and young people already open to children's social care this CE Screening Tool will act as the referral mechanism into the MARVE Panel and should be emailed to [mash@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:mash@wandsworth.gov.uk)** For children and young people already open to children's social care a MARF is not required.

- In order to identify children/young people at risk of/or experiencing child exploitation it is imperative to complete a clear and concise assessment which includes the views of the child/young person, the family, and other professionals who are involved.
- The main heading risk indicators are not exhaustive; they are simply those most commonly recognised which may indicate a risk of exploitation; there may be other relevant factors present which require consideration and analysis. **One** tick in a high-risk box, or several in low risk may indicate a serious risk of exploitation, alternatively this might be an indication of other concerns that require addressing via the child's overall plan, or by accessing other appropriate services.
- When assessing a child/young person's risk of exploitation, it is essential to highlight if the concerns and the information being provided is **current or historic**. If the concern or information is historic but relevant, it is necessary to evidence how this relates to the current assessed risk.
- When completing this risk assessment, it is crucial that the child/young person's use of **social media** is considered throughout.
- Young people aged 16 or over can still be at risk of/experiencing child exploitation and should not be viewed as lower risk due to their age.
- As MARVE also considers Care Leavers who are vulnerable up to 25 years this form should also be utilised for those young vulnerable adults who require a referral into the MARVE where there are risks of exploitation.
- Males can be at risk/experience child sexual exploitation and should not be viewed as lower risk due to their gender.
- Once a screening tool has been completed, local referral pathways need to be followed to ensure that where necessary a strategy meeting, multi-agency professionals meeting, child and family assessment and MARVE referral occurs to ensure appropriate risk assessment/planning is undertaken.
- Children and Young People with SEND may be at additional risk out of the family home or professional settings due to their specific needs and abilities. SEND may increase risk of marginalisation or be the focus of peer-on-peer abuse, being taken advantage of and being asked to undertake unsafe or exploitative activities. It is therefore important to ensure that this is carefully considered during assessment, planning and when completing the CE screening tool.
- If the child/young person has a lead professional via a Team Around the Child process, then the CE Screening tool should be completed within the TAC process including the parent. There should be an opportunity for the child/young person to contribute and parental consent is to be sought.
- Please send completed CE screening tool and completed MARF to [mash@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:mash@wandsworth.gov.uk) for [those cases not already open to children's social care.](#)

**For consideration:** Children/young people at risk of/experiencing abuse may present with challenging behaviour. If you have identified that a child/young person is at risk, it is important to consider the impact any reduction in their school attendance via exclusions and reduced timetables may have upon their risk of harm. Any consideration of reducing school attendance for a child with identified Child

**Exploitation risk should be discussed with Children's Services and Partner Agencies to plan the most appropriate way forward to safeguard.**

**A TAC meeting must be held before exclusion is considered.**

\*Please indicate a level of risk and analysis against **ALL** the following risk indicators, ensure that as part of this we are clear what behaviours we are worried about & what is the evidence

<b>1.</b> <b>Family Relationships</b>		<b>Risk Indicator</b>	
No known risk	No concerns identified.		
Emerging	No concerns regarding parenting, rules and boundaries not always adhered to by the child/young person, some recent change in behaviour.		
Moderate	Some concerns regarding parenting capacity (this may include mental illness, substance misuse, capacity issues), poorstrained relationships, lack of communication and reduced contact or engagement.		
Significant	Suspected or confirmed experience of physical, sexual or emotional neglect/abuse in family. Relationship breakdown/no contact. Lack of family support.		
<b>Analysis</b>	<u><i>Who are the significant adults in the child/young person's life, quality of relationships including attachment experiences, protective factors/risk factors? History of trauma including analysing impact of any intervention that has been undertaken on outcomes.</i></u>		
<b>2.</b> <b>Peer Relationships</b>		<b>Risk Indicator</b>	
No known risk	No concerns identified.		
Emerging	Some concerns regarding risky friendships/negative influence.		
Moderate	Change in child/young person's friends/associates with no contact with old friends, concerns regarding negative influence, some friends considered at risk of exploitation. Child/young person is being attracted to Gang related indicators/activities. Has relationships with a perceived negative imbalance of power. Believed to be spending time with local gangs.		

	<b>Significant</b>	Known association with gangs, peers involved in criminal/sexual exploitation. Concerns child/young person is being groomed in gang related activities or indicative activities. Loose association with pro-criminal peers and/or in the company of non-related adults. (often insist on remaining with the child/young person)															
<b>Analysis</b>	<u><i>Detail the child/young person's friends/associates, ability to form and maintain friendships, positive or negative influences, how and where they socialise/spend time, any indicators relevant to gang association including online activities? What information is known about the non-related adults e.g. involved in drug dealing, exploitation etc,</i></u>																
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<b>Analysis</b>	<u><i>Who does the child/young person live with, detail the property and its condition, describe the local area and any concerns? Is the child/young person reporting they are staying with 'friends' but unable/unwilling to provide details or if details provided the 'friends' are known to agencies and there are concerns? Need to be curious about modern slavery, servitude etc.</i></u>																
<b>4. Education</b> <i>(When does attendance become a concern as a standalone issue)</i>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"><b>Risk Indicator</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No known risk</td> <td>No concerns identified.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Emerging</td> <td>Mainly engaged, some limited concerns i.e. truanting/behaviour, decline in attendance or loss of interest in school.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moderate</td> <td>Irregular or low attendance, whereabouts often unknown, breakdown in school placements/fixed term exclusions. Noticeable change in child/young person's presentation in school.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Significant</td> <td>Significant absence from school or no school placement/ permanent exclusion or NEET. Whereabouts unknown when absent/missing from school.</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			<b>Risk Indicator</b>		No known risk	No concerns identified.		Emerging	Mainly engaged, some limited concerns i.e. truanting/behaviour, decline in attendance or loss of interest in school.		Moderate	Irregular or low attendance, whereabouts often unknown, breakdown in school placements/fixed term exclusions. Noticeable change in child/young person's presentation in school.		Significant	Significant absence from school or no school placement/ permanent exclusion or NEET. Whereabouts unknown when absent/missing from school.	
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<b>Analysis</b>	<u><i>Detail attendance, attainment, support offered in School and any concerns raised. If missing/absent from education what is the pattern? This should include analysis around internal exclusions, the time travelling to and from school.</i></u>				
<b>5. Emotional Health/ behaviour</b>	<b>Risk Indicator</b>				
	No known risk	No concerns identified.			
	Emerging	Low self-esteem, confidence, struggles to verbalise feelings. Some signs of anger. Seeking a sense of belonging and acceptance. Some psychological trauma.			
	Moderate	Significant low self-esteem, self-confidence, self-harm, overdosing, eating disorder, noticeable change/decline in emotional health. Child/young person is aggressive at home. Experience of bullying			
	Significant	Recognised or suspected mental health needs. Regular self-harming, overdosing, suicidal attempts/ideation. Child/young person causing physical/emotional harm to others.			
<b>Analysis</b>	<u><i>Describe how the child/young person presents emotionally, any identified triggers, support already in place? What has the child/young person found helpful/what exasperates the child/young person's emotional wellbeing? Add dates/details of any concerning incidents i.e. self-harm / overdose etc.</i></u>				
<b>6. Experience of Violence (Relationship with pets/animals- violence/harm)</b>	<b>Risk Indicator</b>				
	No known risk	No concerns identified.			
	Emerging	Some concerns child/young person is experiencing/exposed to violence at home or in the community.			
	Moderate	Reported concerns of violence at home or in the community. Evidence of injuries. Disclosures followed by withdrawal. Carrying weapons. Indicators of harm toward family pets with little remorse/empathy shown. Fire starting.			
	Significant	Significant concerns child/young person is experiencing violence at home or in the community. Injuries, often unexplained or inappropriate explanation of presenting symptoms/injuries. Fear or refusal of accessing medical treatment. Reluctant to disclose. Intentional harm of an animal through wilful neglect, inflicting injury, pain, or distress or malicious killing.			

<b>Analysis</b>	<u>Detail all known incidents, who is the victim/perpetrator, nature of injuries and treatment accessed or not accessed? Links between sexually harmful behaviour and harming animals.</u>		
<b>7. Running away/ going missing <i>(Remember to consider patterns of missing and absence episodes)</i></b>	<b>Risk Indicator</b>		
	No known risk	No concerns identified.	
	Emerging	Stays out late, no missing episodes. Being on a part time timetable at school.	
	Moderate	Occasional goes missing for short or prolonged periods. Periods of absent from home/care or school. Non or poor school attendance/exclusions. Child/young person returns looking well cared for despite no known base while missing.	
	Significant	Frequently goes missing for short or prolonged periods. Tiredness and sleep deprivation, running away from home/care and going missing/sofa surfing/street homeless, not in school or NEET.	
<b>Analysis</b>	<u>Detail missing episodes – times, whereabouts, associates, where located, was they reported missing? Detail any information around missing education or issues with attendance/absences. Observations on missed curfew times and authorised absences.</u>		
<b>8. Contact with abusive adults and/or unsafe environments <i>(think prevent conversations)</i></b>	<b>Risk Indicator</b>		
	No known risk	No concerns identified.	
	Emerging	Some concerns child/young person is associating with adults/unsafe environments; this is a change in behaviour. Preoccupation with ideologies, groups.	
	Moderate	Child/young person is occasionally associating with adults/unsafe environments. Concerns regarding phone/social media use. Child/young person is in a 'relationship' with an older male or female.	
	Significant	Child/young person is frequency associating with adults/unsafe environments, secretive with phone, high volume of calls/texts being received. Getting in and out of cars/unknown premises. Significant concerns regarding Gangs. Debt bondage as a use of control,	

		accompanied by adult who may not be legal guardian who insists on remaining with the child.	
<b>Analysis</b>	<u>Who are the adults, how are they known to the child, where is the child spending time and frequency of association? Change of views, possibly in dress, secretive-what does this look like?</u>		
<b>9. Alcohol / substance misuse</b>	<b>Risk Indicator</b>		
	No known risk	No concerns identified.	
	Emerging	Occasional Use of alcohol and substances.	
	Moderate	Evidence of increasing or regular alcohol/substance misuse. Beginning to impair daily life and relationships.	
	Significant	Evidence of frequent / dependant alcohol/substance misuse-particularly Class A. Impairing daily life and relationships, has impacted school and home.	
<b>Analysis</b>	<u>Detail nature of alcohol / substance misuse? Has the child been found in possession but not believed to be misusing?</u>		
<b>10. County Lines (consider other types of criminal exploitation)</b>	<b>Risk Indicator</b>		
	No known risk	No concerns identified.	
	Emerging	Youth justice interventions or any offences (whether convicted or arrested)	
	Moderate	Child/young person identifies with urban street gang or county line including appearing to look up to or respect those involved or being friends/claiming friendship with those involved. Concerned by the presence of unknown youth in their neighbourhood. Increase in aggressive behaviour, intimidation or threats, suspected possession of knife or other weapons.	
	Significant	Arrested/charged/convicted of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs (particularly heroin and crack cocaine) or with large amounts of drugs. Child/young person arrested or found at an address which appears to be 'cuckooed.' Close association with pro-criminal peers who are involved in county lines activity and/or associating with known dealers/adults involved in county lines or urban street gangs. Multiple mobiles/changing phones frequently/increase in phone calls/texts from unknown numbers. Goes missing from home/placement/school for	

		prolonged periods. Internally inserting drugs. Agencies unable to engage child/young person																
<b>Analysis</b>	<i>Detail the nature of the child/young person's arrests/charges or be specific about any concerns around possible drug supply/county line drug dealing. If there is a belief that the child/young person is linked to an urban street gang, detail the name of the gang, the young person's nickname/street name and any known associates. What are the area's where the child/young person is believed to be going or has been found?</i>																	
<b>11. Coercion / control</b> <small>(Consider any concerns about extremism/radicalisation)</small>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th><b>Risk Indicator</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No known risk</td><td colspan="2">No concerns identified</td></tr> <tr> <td>Emerging</td><td colspan="2">Some concerns the child/young person is vulnerable to coercion or control / negative influences. Anxiety about attendance at college/education sites/or in certain areas. Speech, language, social, emotional and communication difficulties may leave a child/young person more susceptible to coercion. Shows an emerging interest in ideologies. Changing online identity.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Moderate</td><td colspan="2">Concerns child/young person presents coerced or controlled by others and displays signs of fear. Learning disabilities (diagnosed/undiagnosed) and intellectual vulnerabilities can leave some young people open to being taken advantage of by peers. Having more than one online identity. Changing friends and appearance. Accessing extremist online content</td></tr> <tr> <td>Significant</td><td colspan="2">Significant concerns child/young person is being coerced, controlled, in fear of others. Has prepared story very similar to others/stories appear rehearsed-perhaps hinting they may have been coached. Being sympathetic to extremist ideologies/groups. Secretive and reluctant to discuss their whereabouts. Joining or trying to join an extremist organisation.</td></tr> </tbody> </table>					<b>Risk Indicator</b>	No known risk	No concerns identified		Emerging	Some concerns the child/young person is vulnerable to coercion or control / negative influences. Anxiety about attendance at college/education sites/or in certain areas. Speech, language, social, emotional and communication difficulties may leave a child/young person more susceptible to coercion. Shows an emerging interest in ideologies. Changing online identity.		Moderate	Concerns child/young person presents coerced or controlled by others and displays signs of fear. Learning disabilities (diagnosed/undiagnosed) and intellectual vulnerabilities can leave some young people open to being taken advantage of by peers. Having more than one online identity. Changing friends and appearance. Accessing extremist online content		Significant	Significant concerns child/young person is being coerced, controlled, in fear of others. Has prepared story very similar to others/stories appear rehearsed-perhaps hinting they may have been coached. Being sympathetic to extremist ideologies/groups. Secretive and reluctant to discuss their whereabouts. Joining or trying to join an extremist organisation.	
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<b>Analysis</b>	<i>Describe how the child presents? Detail the perpetrators and their behaviours? What are the concerns around extremism/radicalisation if any-be specific?</i>																	
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	<b>Significant</b>	Child/Young Person is in possession of significant unexplained items, no finances to purchase. More than one mobile phone and or sim card. Funding drugs/alcohol/tobacco through unknown sources. Debt bondage-where the young person is in debt and is used to control and punish the young person.															
<b>Analysis</b>	<u>What is the child in possession of? what moneys do they get from family? what is unexplained? Are there large amounts of money that do not match what is known about the child/young person? E.g. money, taxis, takeaways, drugs.</u>																
<b>13. Sexual abuse concerns (not dependant on disclosure if the referrer has reason to believe that a physical or sexual assault has occurred this should still be referred)</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"><b>Risk Indicator</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No known risk</td><td>No concerns identified</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Emerging</td><td>Concerns child/young person may be at risk of coercion into unhealthy relationships. Inappropriate sexual boundaries in the home, child/YP may have inadvertently accessed adult materials or seen adults naked etc. Siblings involved in sexual exploitation</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Moderate</td><td>Suspicion child is being coerced into unhealthy relationships.  Suspicion that the child is being coerced into sexual acts/at risk of sexual abuse, are not considered safe or child/young person is feeling pressured. Exposure to indecent images or is being encouraged into sexualised behaviour.</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Significant</td><td>Evidence of sexual coercion, sexual assaults or rapes. Recurring or multiple STI's/signs of genital or anal injuries consistent with sexual assaults or violence, pregnancies – treated or untreated. Concerns child/young person is made to watch sexual assault / rape on others (consider boys/young men here too). Extreme sexualised or abusive behaviour towards animals can be an indicator of future harm including sexual toward children/adults.</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>			<b>Risk Indicator</b>		No known risk	No concerns identified		Emerging	Concerns child/young person may be at risk of coercion into unhealthy relationships. Inappropriate sexual boundaries in the home, child/YP may have inadvertently accessed adult materials or seen adults naked etc. Siblings involved in sexual exploitation		Moderate	Suspicion child is being coerced into unhealthy relationships.  Suspicion that the child is being coerced into sexual acts/at risk of sexual abuse, are not considered safe or child/young person is feeling pressured. Exposure to indecent images or is being encouraged into sexualised behaviour.		Significant	Evidence of sexual coercion, sexual assaults or rapes. Recurring or multiple STI's/signs of genital or anal injuries consistent with sexual assaults or violence, pregnancies – treated or untreated. Concerns child/young person is made to watch sexual assault / rape on others (consider boys/young men here too). Extreme sexualised or abusive behaviour towards animals can be an indicator of future harm including sexual toward children/adults.	
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<b>Analysis</b>	<u>Detail nature of sexual health needs and any concerns? List any concerning people? Are Police involved and has child accessed sexual health services-still in window for forensic? Detail any injuries? Penetrative sexual contact with a Child under 13 will always constitute rape.</u> <u>Consideration should be given to the age of alleged perpetrators. May include familial sexual abuse not just exploitation or peer-on-peer.</u>																
<b>14. Modern Slavery/Forced Marriage (this may</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"><b>Risk Indicator</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No known risk</td><td>No concerns identified</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>			<b>Risk Indicator</b>		No known risk	No concerns identified										
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<i>apply to vulnerable adults, children/young people)</i>	Emerging	Child/young person may not be attending school or education may be sporadic, unexplained moves or may not be able to provide explanation for moves. May not have learnt the language despite claims to have resided in the UK for years. The child/young person may talk about a family holiday abroad and seem anxious about this. Child/young person is removed from education, preventing further education or extra curricular activities.	
	Moderate	Registered at multiple addresses. There may be indicators of domestic servitude-appear to be under the control of someone else, child/young person has few personal belongings, may wear the same clothes (uniform and day clothes) each day. Child/young person may fail to return home from a visit to the family's country of origin. Early and/or unwanted pregnancy. Announcement of engagement to a stranger not previously mentioned.	
	Significant	Entered the country illegally/unable to confirm how they arrived/no passport. Dropped off and collected from work always in the same way and at unusual times. Child/young person may go missing following placement. Appear frightened or withdrawn and may show signs of physical/psychological abuse. Domestic incidents or crimes at the family home-forced marriage may only become known years after the marriage has taken place. No access to internet, mobile phone, money.	
<b>Analysis</b>			
<b>15.</b> <b>Risk to others</b>	<b>Risk Indicator</b>		
	No known risk	No concerns identified	
	Emerging	Some concerns child/young person influences others into risky situations.	
	Moderate	Concerns child/young person is influencing other children/young people into risky situations and introducing to adults who pose a risk. Some bullying / threatening behaviour displayed.	
	Significant	Significant concerns child/young person is causing harm to other children/young people, introducing to adults or environments that pose a potential risk.	
<b>Analysis</b>	<u><i>Detail the behaviours displayed by the child/young person and to whom? Are any weapons involved? This includes sexually harmful behaviours.</i></u>		
<b>16.</b> <b>Ability to identify exploitative behaviours</b>	<b>Risk Indicator</b>		
	No Known risk	No concerns identified	
	Emerging	Some understanding and ability to recognise exploitative behaviours and safeguard themselves, including online. Significant numbers of followers on social media.	

	Moderate	Some understanding, cannot recognise exploitative behaviours and unable to apply knowledge to safeguard themselves, including online.	
	Significant	No recognition of exploitative behaviours and unable to safeguard themselves, including online. Including the sending and receiving of indecent images	
<b>Analysis</b>	<u>What is the child's understanding of exploitation, how are they able to safeguard themselves, what social media are they using and how are they keeping themselves safe online / identified risks?</u>		

### **Identify Underlying Vulnerability Factors**

Below is a list of vulnerability factors which have been linked to risk of child sexual exploitation through research and evidence. This table should assist practitioners' in considering vulnerability factors that increase risk for children and young people.

<b><u>Additional Vulnerability Factors:</u></b>			
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Details:</u>
Lack of safe/stable home environment, now or in the past (domestic abuse and/ or substance misuse and/ or mental health difficulties for example)			
Risk of forced marriage or honour based violence			
Absence of safe environment to explore sexuality.			
Learning disabilities/ special needs or mental health issues (child or parent)			
Homelessness or insecure accommodation status			
History of Local Authority care (parent or child)			
Prior experience of neglect, emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse in the family			
Parental history of non-engagement with support services/parental history of minimising, lack of understanding of risk.			

Criminality in family/Anti-Social Behaviour/Imprisonment (parents/relatives or child)			
Reduced capacity (due to age, education, experiences, mental health)			
Economic Vulnerability			
Social isolation or social difficulties			
Family conflict/breakdown, lack of love/security, bereavement through death, loss or illness of a significant person in the child's life			
Migrant/refugee/asylum seeker			
<b>Views of the child/young person:</b> (regarding any identified/ potential risks and any support they would want/need, regarding existing strengths and protective factors- <u>this should also include the child/young person's views and how they differ from professionals</u> )			
<b>Has the child/young person contributed to this assessment</b> (Yes/No and if no please explain why?)			
<b>Views of the parent/carer:</b> (regarding any identified/ potential risks and any support they would want/need-any views that differ)			
<b>Views of other professionals:</b> (regarding risk of exploitation)			

<b>Overall analysis</b>	<i>Detail date referral was received / by who / and initial concerns. Analysis the information you have gathered during this assessment and what this is telling you about the child/young person, their life, and the current risk and protective factors. Consider: is this a repeat referral, any information that is missing from agencies, any grey areas and any other information which may be relevant and indicate a risk. Provide an overall views/risk level in respect of exploitation.</i>

## **Wandsworth's Child/Young Person Exploitation Risk Assessment Decisions and Further Action**

- On completion of this risk identification tool, please make an initial judgement about the level of risk of Exploitation for the child/young person.
- Please **tick** against your assessed level of risk and formulate a **robust safeguarding plan** in conjunction with the child, family, and other professional involved, in accordance with the Local Authority/WSCP procedures.

### **Overall Assessed Level of Risk**

<b>No risk</b>	<p>No identified risk of exploitation.</p> <p>Other identified concerns which may require alternative provision.</p> <p><b>(Consider Universal Services or an Early Help Assessment and additional support services if required)</b></p>	
<b>Emerging</b>	<p>Some concerns that the child/young person is vulnerable of exploitation.</p> <p><b>(MASH to consider if child/young person needs to be referred to MARVE. Consider Early Help Assessment which provides the child/young person with multi-agency support)</b></p>	
<b>Moderate</b>	<p>Child/young person is at risk of exploitation, concerns not immediate/urgent safeguarding.</p> <p>Child/young person may be a risk of opportunistic abuse or is being targeted/ groomed.</p> <p><b>(MASH to consider if child/young person needs to be referred to MARVE and held within multi-agency process for risk monitoring and support. Consider Social Work Assessment and plan – Social Work Lead)</b></p>	
<b>Significant</b>	<p>Child/young person is at risk of exploitation or being exploited.</p> <p><b>(MASH to consider if child/young person needs to be referred to the MARVE and held within multi-agency process for risk monitoring and support. Consider Social Work Assessment/Strategy Meeting for Child in Need/Child Protection Plan – Social Work Lead)</b></p>	

**Generally, all Green, Amber and Red would be referred to MARVE and be triaged at the Operational Groups for final determination to MARVE Panel.**

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE MASH ONLY:**

Date risk assessment received into the MASH		Date risk assessment discussed by the MASH	
Which worker/agency will follow up consultation/joint visit		Date contact made with the referrer	
Advice or action taken			
Assessed Level of Risk		Is this the same level as above Yes/No?	
If level has changed please highlight what the lower or higher risks are			
Is the plan for the child/young person's name to be placed on the MARVE Yes/No?		Date of MARVE Meeting	Level of Risk on MARVE

**Review timescales**

For those children/young people who are judged to be at emerging, moderate or significant risk of Exploitation, the level of risk must be reviewed with an updated risk assessment at the following frequency unless additional concerns are raised which require an immediate updated risk assessment.

**Emerging – every 90 DAYS**

**Moderate – every 60 DAYS**

**Significant - every 30 DAYS**

**APPENDIX 6-PERSON of CONCERN/LOCATION of INTEREST  
MARVE**

**Person of Concern and Locations of Interest  
Referral Form**

Please use this form to refer in either a **Person of Concern**: ‘someone who appears to be developing a relationship or friendship based on power over a child by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and or economic resources.’

**Location of Interest:** may be varied but could include fast food outlets, parks, taxi ranks, shopping centres, a location where concerning activity may be taking place.

It is recognized that you may not have all the information but as much detail as you are able to provide will assist in decision making and disruption. Once complete please send the referral to [mash@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:mash@wandsworth.gov.uk) for discussion at MARVE Panel.

<b>Date of referral:</b>	<b>Name of Person / Location of Concern:</b>	
<b>Name of Referrer:</b>	<b>Date of Birth:</b>	
<b>Organisation:</b>	<b>Ethnicity:</b>	<b>Language Spoken:</b>
<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	<b>Home / Location Address:</b>	
<b>Summary of Concerns (include dates and how you know this information)</b>		
<b>MARVE DATE</b>		
MARVE Minutes		
<b>MARVE ACTION</b>	<b>by</b>	<b>Completion date</b>

**APPENDIX 7-MARVE MINUTE RECORDING TEMPLATE**

# **MARVE Minutes**

<b>MARVE DATE</b>		
MARVE Minutes		
<b>MARVE ACTIONS</b>	<b>by</b>	<b>Completion date</b>
<b>MARVE Review DATE</b>		
MARVE Review Minutes		
<b>MARVE ACTIONS</b>	<b>by</b>	<b>Completion date</b>

## APPENDIX 8 MARVE - RISK RAG RATING

The risks of children missing from home, placement or school are significant for every indicator below and must be considered on a case by case basis, considering the context, age of child and their needs.

This risk rag-tool is for discussing and making referrals, and for the MARVE Panel itself to consider. It is only a tool and professional discretion is required on a case by case basis, considering the specific context. By virtue of the Panel, all children considered are at risk of significant harm in any case. Professionals are requested to be particularly aware of gender bias when evaluating risk and need. Ragging examples are only an example and not exact.

Ideally a referral and its outcome would be shared in most circumstances with the child involved. Consent from the child is not required as the child protection threshold has been reached. At times sharing information and safety plans may place the child at further risk and so a multi-agency decision should be made, recorded and communicated in writing and the best person identified to share information with the child.

MARVE considers Care Leavers post their 18th birthday, according to vulnerability.

1.1 Missing	1.2 Child Sexual Exploitation	1.3 Criminal Exploitation /County Lines	1.4 Modern Slavery (Human Trafficking) /Extremism	1.5 Gangs and Serious youth Violence	1.6 Harmful Sexual Behaviour
<b>Low</b> *One-off missing *Whereabouts known but not 'authorised' * Parents proactively reporting and making attempts to return	<b>Low</b> *Regularly coming home late or going missing through the day or overnight *Overt sexualised risk taking including on internet *Unaccounted for monies or goods *Associating with unknown adults or other sexually exploited children *Reduced contact with family/friends *Sexually transmitted infection *Experimenting with drugs/alcohol *Poor self-image, eating disorder, some self-harm	<b>Low</b> *Missing education – or leaving after registration. *Frequent use of phone / multiple phones / SIMs *Missing from home *Reports from home / school / peers that being coerced *Language of dealing	<b>Low</b> * history of missing links and unexplained moves *unable to give explanations for movements *fear of deportation *claims to have been in UK for years but hasn't learnt language *The child/young person may talk about a family holiday abroad and seem anxious about this. *Child/young person is removed from education, preventing further education or extra curricular activities. * Shows an emerging interest in ideologies. *Changing online identity.	<b>Low</b> *Reports from home / school / peers that involved in a named gang * Use of language in relation to drug dealing / violence / gangs * Identified in 'hot spot' areas *Substance misuse	<b>Low</b> *Single instances of inappropriate sexual behaviour *Consent issues may be unclear *children of similar age *reflective of natural curiosity / experimentation *Inappropriate sexual boundaries in the home, child/YP may have inadvertently accessed adult materials or seen adults naked etc. *Siblings involved in sexual exploitation
<b>Medium</b> *Missing for more than 48hours *Indicators of exploitation (see over)	<b>Medium (all above plus)</b> * Getting into cars with unknown adults or known adults who pose a risk to children *Being groomed on internet *Clipping (offering sex then running on payment)	<b>Medium</b> *Indicators that being coerced, dealing Class A and/or "going country" *Admits to carry a weapon for self-protection	<b>Medium</b> * Registered at number addresses * Indicators of domestic servitude * There may be indicators of domestic servitude- appear to be under	<b>Medium</b> *Admits to be affiliated to a named gang *Appeared in 'gang video' *Involved in violent incidents /	<b>Medium</b> *Problematic and concerning behaviours *May include levels of compulsion *concern in regard to age or

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Receiving a "reward" for recruiting other peers to CSE</li> <li>*Disclosure of physical/ sexual assault followed by withdrawal of complaint</li> <li>*Reports of involvement in CSE, for example known to frequent or seen in 'hot spots'</li> <li>*Older boyfriend/Girlfriend</li> <li>*Non-school attendee or excluded due to behaviour</li> <li>*Staying out overnight with no explanation</li> <li>*Unaccounted monies/goods/mobiles, drugs, alcohol</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Disclosures of 'running' drugs</li> <li>*Missing for more than 48hours</li> <li>*Found in car with unknown adult</li> <li>* States at threat of harm from due to debt owed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the control of someone else, child/young person has few personal belongings, may wear the same clothes (uniform and day clothes) each day.</li> <li>* indicators that vulnerable to forced marriage</li> <li>*Having more than one online identity.</li> <li>*Changing friends and appearance.</li> <li>*Accessing extremist online content</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>unexplained injuries</li> <li>*'Brag's' about involvement in incidents</li> <li>*In receipt of goods / money without explanation</li> <li>*Tattoos / clothes to identify differently</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>developmental differences</li> <li>*potential concern due to activity type / frequency / duration</li> <li>* Exposure to indecent images or is being encouraged into sexualised behaviour.</li> </ul>
<b>High</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Any child/ young person who presents an immediate risk to themselves or to others</li> <li>*Any child who is 12 years old or younger whose whereabouts are unknown</li> <li>*Any child deemed vulnerable due to learning &amp;/ or physical disabilities, mental, emotional or physical health problems</li> <li>*Any child/ young person who is subject to a Child Protection or Sexual Exploitation Safety Plan</li> <li>*Any child/ young person who is abducted from care</li> </ul>	<b>High</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Child under 13 years</li> <li>* Pattern of street homelessness and staying with an adult believed to be sexually exploiting them</li> <li>*Meeting different adults where sex occurs</li> <li>*Multiple miscarriages and terminations</li> <li>*Removed from red light districts by professionals due to CSE</li> <li>*Being taken to clubs/hotels/B&amp;B's for sex with adults and/or disclosure of serious physical/sexual assault and then withdrawal of allegation</li> <li>*Abduction and/or forced imprisonment</li> <li>*Missing without contact or support</li> <li>*Child known to have been bought/sold</li> <li>*Indicators of CSE in conjunction with chronic alcohol and drug use, mental health issues, self-harm</li> </ul>	<b>High</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Arrested County PWITS Class A.</li> <li>*Found in County traphouse / cuckooed house</li> <li>*Found with drugs in rectum or vagina.</li> <li>* Names individuals at threat of harm from due to debt owed</li> </ul>	<b>High</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Identified as being at risk of significant harm</li> <li>* Entered country illegally / unable to confirm how arrived / no passport</li> <li>*Evidence of being exploited into forced labour, trafficked, forced marriage or other exploitation</li> <li>*Dropped off and collected from work always in the same way and at unusual times.</li> <li>*Missing following placement due to exploitation</li> <li>*Appear frightened or withdrawn and may show signs of physical/psychological abuse.</li> <li>*Domestic incidents or crimes at the family home- forced marriage may only become known years after the marriage has taken place.</li> <li>* No access to internet, mobile phone, money.</li> <li>*Being sympathetic to extremist ideologies/groups.</li> <li>*Secretive and reluctant to discuss their whereabouts.</li> <li>*Joining or trying to join an extremist organisation.</li> </ul>	<b>High</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Identified as being at risk of significant harm</li> <li>* Recent Incident (GBH kidnap, firearm related)</li> <li>*Hospitalised due to violent incident.</li> <li>*Threat to life.</li> <li>*Identified as an 'elder'</li> <li>*Expressions of 'invincibility' or not caring what happens to them.</li> </ul>	<b>High</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Physically violent, highly intrusive.</li> <li>*Violence arousing to perpetrator</li> <li>*Excessive, secretive, compulsive, coercive, degrading or threatening</li> <li>*involving significant age, developmental or power differences</li> <li>*of concern due to activity type, frequency, duration or the context in which they occur</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX 9-GUIDE TO DISRUPTION AND PROSECUTION OF PERPETRATORS

### **Disruption Measures**

From - Child sexual exploitation: Definition and Guide for Professionals. Extended text of DfE (2017)

Child Sexual Exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers

working to protect children from child sexual exploitation February 2017 Beckett H (lead author),

Holmes D and Walker J. University of Bedfordshire and Research in Practice –

[https://www.rip.org.uk/~ftp\\_user/full/practice\\_tools\\_and\\_guides/Child\\_sexual\\_exploitation\\_Practice\\_Tool\\_full/files/assets/basic-html/index.html#1](https://www.rip.org.uk/~ftp_user/full/practice_tools_and_guides/Child_sexual_exploitation_Practice_Tool_full/files/assets/basic-html/index.html#1)

Where we do have an identifiable perpetrator, or suspicions about the same, there are numerous civil measures that can be used. These are an essential piece of the jigsaw in combating child sexual exploitation, alongside criminal processes and other child protection procedures. While they should not be viewed as a replacement for pursuit of criminal convictions which offer greater longer-term monitoring of offenders, they do offer very helpful means of disrupting perpetrator-victim contact, closing down potential locations of abuse and placing controls on suspect behaviour in the absence of a criminal prosecution.

The range of formal and informal disruption measures that can be used in cases of child sexual exploitation include: -

- obtaining orders on an identified individual (see below)
- investigation of other crime types such as drugs or theft
- increased police attention on an individual (checking car tax, road worthiness of car etc)
- increased police presence in suspected hotspots (online or offline)
- working with internet providers to address online risks
- use of licensing laws and powers to obtain guest information or close down premises associated with child sexual exploitation.

An effective disruption strategy will use a range of these methods in conjunction with one another to both address individual perpetrator behaviour and address wider contexts of concern. Though not the focus of this guide, an effective disruption strategy will also involve work with children and young people to address the issues contributing to their vulnerability, and to provide them with alternative options.

### **Civil orders and other means of controlling individual behaviour**

**Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWNs)**, formerly known as Harbourers' Warnings. These can be issued by the police and used with individuals over 18 to let them know (and record that they have been told) that they are not allowed to associate with or contact a named child (under 16, or under 18 if in care). CAWNs have no statutory basis in and of themselves but are very useful in providing evidence to support the prosecution of other offences by, for example, registering that a suspect knew the child was 15 years old, thereby taking away the age defence in criminal cases.

**Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPOs)** can be applied for by the police or the National Crime Agency. They can be used to impose restrictions on an individual who has been convicted or cautioned of a sexual or violent offence, where there is reasonable cause to believe that the imposition of such an order is necessary to protect an individual or the wider public from harm. Restrictions can include things like limiting their internet use, preventing them from approaching or being alone with a named child and prohibiting foreign travel. Breach of the order, without reasonable excuse, is an offence punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment.

**Sexual Risk Orders (SROs)** can also be applied for by the police or the National Crime Agency. These are like Sexual Harm Prevention Orders, and can include similar restrictions, but **do not require an individual to have been convicted or cautioned**. SROs can be issued when an individual has carried out an act of a sexual nature and there is reasonable cause to believe that such an order is necessary to protect an individual or the wider public from harm. As with SHPOs, breach of the order is an offence punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment. Both SHPOs and SROs may be used with children under 18, but recent Home Office guidance on part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 states that the following Principles should apply when considering this:

- The early consultation and participation of the youth offending team in the application process.
  - That 14 to 17 year olds made subject to civil injunctions in relation to harmful sexual behaviour are offered appropriate interventions to reduce their harmful behaviour.
- That the nature and extent of that support is based on a structured assessment that takes into account the needs of the young person and the imminent risk.
- That the welfare of the child or young person is the paramount consideration, in line with local safeguarding procedures.
- That the requirements of all other orders and sentences that may already be in existence are taken into account to ensure that any requirements made by these orders do not restrict a young person's ability to complete other current orders or sentences, and the combined burden of requirements is taken into account to ensure the young person has the capacity to comply.

Where there are concerns that a child has been trafficked as part of child sexual exploitation (this can include movement from one area to another within England), **Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Orders (STPOs)** and **Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders (STROs)** can also be considered. STPOs and STROs can be applied for by the police, the National Crime Agency or an immigration officer. These were introduced under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and, like the SHPOs and SROs outlined above, offer a means of placing restrictions on an individual's movements and actions. A STPO can only be made against an individual who has **been convicted** of a slavery or human trafficking offence, while a STRO can be made against an individual who has acted in a way which means that there is a risk that they will commit a slavery or human trafficking offence. Both require reasonable belief that the individual may commit a modern slavery offence in the future and that application of the order is necessary to protect an individual or the wider public from harm.

**Closure Order:** Closure notice (by police)/ order (by court) ASB guidance: This power will allow the police or council to quickly close premises which are being used, or likely to be used, to commit nuisance to the public or disorder, for up to 48 hours (notice) or, in more severe cases, up to six months (order). They could be used to deal with illegal raves or noisy parties where large numbers of people are present including addresses linked to CSE and other exploitation concerns. They can also be used on cuckoo'd addresses to limit the entry to the premises to those who are meant to be present. Being present when not permitted by the order is a criminal offence.

**Criminal Behaviour Orders** are available following a conviction for any criminal offence in the Crown Court, magistrates' court or youth court. They can impose restrictions on an offender who has engaged in behaviour that had caused, or was likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person, if making the order will help prevent them from engaging in such behaviour. If the offender is under the

age of 18 when the application is made, the prosecution must ascertain the views of the local youth offending team before applying for a Criminal Behaviour Order.

**Notification Orders** are intended to protect the public from the risks posed by sex offenders in the UK who have been convicted or cautioned for sexual offences which have been committed overseas. A Notification Order makes the offender subject to notification requirements in the same way as if they had been convicted in the UK for a sexual or violent offence.

**Non-Molestation Orders** are civil injunctions that can be issued to protect named children from abuse from an individual and any third party acting on the behalf of that individual. The order only applies to those individual(s) ‘associated’ with the child. It is an offence if the order is breached.

**Exclusion Orders** can be sought upon the application for an Interim Care Order or Emergency Protection Order. The order can be taken where there is reasonable cause to believe that if an individual is excluded from a dwelling, house or defined area in which the child lives, the child will cease to suffer, or cease to be likely to suffer, significant harm. The order cannot cover an unlimited area.

A **Wardship** is a civil injunction which can be used to prevent an ‘undesirable association’ between a child and an individual(s). A local authority can make a Wardship application to the High Court to make a named child a ward of court and to seek an injunction against a named individual(s) to prevent that person from making any contact with the child. An injunction can be used where there is reasonable cause to believe that the child is likely to suffer significant harm without the court’s intervention. An example of the use of a Wardship to disrupt child sexual exploitation is the case of *BCC v Riaz et al [2014] EWHC 4247 (Fam)*. In this case, Birmingham local authority took civil action in this way to protect girls under the age of 18 from being approached by men with whom they were not personally associated.

Resistance to communicating with parents, carers, teachers, social services, health, police and others.

Official