



Wandsworth MARVE (pre-MACE) and MACE Terms of Reference ToR

Background

1. Wandsworth adheres to the London-Child-Exploitation-Operating-Protocol-2021, which sets out clearly the multi-agency responsibilities with respect to a pre-MACE (MARVE Operational panel) and a strategic MACE. The MARVE operational panel is a multi-agency partnership that will review and have oversight of risk assessments and plans. The responsibility and accountability in managing these risks require a multi-agency response. While this is a specialist area of practice, it is important that all practitioners, supervisors, and senior leaders are diligent in ensuring that young people are kept safe, with early identification of needs, up to date risk assessments and robust plans, that are continuously reviewed to demonstrate impact.

MARVE Operational Panel (pre-MACE)

2. The decision to attend the MARVE operational panel should be made following a strategy discussion, where there are clear concerns regarding contextual safeguarding matters. Following this the social worker must complete or update a risk assessment and have a clear safety plan, which should be collaboratively undertaken with a young person. When attending the MARVE operational panel the social worker and manager must attend, clearly setting out the risks and safety plans. Multi-agency stakeholders will contribute with intelligence and resources to enhance safety and protective measures. When a decision has been made that a child or young people should be discussed the allocated social worker and supervisor will be invited to attend a ten-minute slot. Stakeholders will consider the following when children and young people are presented:

V – Victim(s)

O - Offender(s)/perpetrators/persons of concern

L – Location(s)

T – Theme(s)

MARVE Operational Action Tracking Meeting

3. Decisions made at the MARVE operational panel, must be actioned within two weeks. An action log will be cascaded to relevant professionals, with a clear expectation that action updates must be sent to the minute taker. The week that the MARVE operational action tracking meeting takes place, a reminder for updates will be sent on the Monday, with an expectation that information is received by Wednesday. Any actions outstanding, the chairs (Nana Bonsu and Police) will email professionals to be clear that the action is outstanding and must be completed. This quality assurance will minimise the potential for drift.

4. Where plans are clearly having an impact, then there will be no need for social workers and managers to attend the MARVE operational panel. It is not resource minded for a presentation to take place when the desired impact is clearly being evidenced. Focus instead will be on children and young people where there are blockages to plans; no impact, risk increasing, intelligence regarding persons of interest, locations, and themes. Attendance will also be required if there is drift with regards to actions being completed.

Strategic MACE

5. The strategic MACE panel is a multi-agency partnership that considers strategic matters that are fed through from the MARVE operational panel. The objective of this panel is a strategic oversight, accountability and ensuring the tracking of impact. Where there are blockages to plans, themes, locations, and persons of interest; these will be discussed here with a view to early identification, planning, and disruption.

Strategy discussion

6. Whenever there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, there should be a strategy discussion involving Children's Social Care (CSC) (including the residential or fostering service if the child is looked-after), the police, health, and other bodies such as the referring agency. If feasible or within 24 hours a strategy discussion should also be held when a child is in police custody or about to be released from custody. The strategy discussion might take the form of a multi-agency meeting or phone calls and more than one discussion may be necessary. A strategy discussion can take place following a referral. Key stakeholders should be in attendance, including the police. It is within these forums a decision is made whether to pursue the matter as a joint or single agency. There must be a clear summary of risk and plan following this meeting and a decision made whether to refer to the MARVE operational panel. In making this decision, social workers and managers should refer to the threshold document contained within the 87a document, figure 1.

Risk Levels (RAG)

Emerging Risk	Some evidence that the child or young person is at risk of exploitation and / or places him/herself at risk. Some concerns that the child/ young person is at risk of being targeted or groomed, but there are positive protective factors in the child's life. The child / young person may require a referral to targeted early intervention services for education / intervention.
Moderate Risk	Child is vulnerable to being exploited / but there are not immediate/ urgent safeguarding concerns. There is evidence the child / young person may experience protective factors, but circumstances and / or behaviours place him/her at risk of exploitation.
Significant Risk	Evidence / disclosure suggests that the child is at immediate and / or continuing risk of criminal exploitation. The child / young person is engaged in high-risk situations / relationships / risk taking behaviour. Evidence / assessments suggests that the child is experiencing exploitation (they may not recognise this).

Figure 1

7. The risk assessment on Mosaic must be updated, which is embedded within the children and family's assessment. This updated risk assessment will result in an updated plan, which must be collaboratively completed with the young person. The Wandsworth ethos of one plan is key. There is no need to have several iterations of risk assessments or plans, as this causes confusion and leads to challenges when tracking evidence of impact. The local authority will ensure through several internal panels that these risks assessments and plans are robust and demonstrate impact. These internal infrastructures include the Care Panel, Daily Intelligence Briefing, the weekly meeting for missing children, learning from experience audits and quality assurance activity. In all instances where child exploitation is a concern (new and open children and young people) the updated risk assessment must be sent to the MARVE in box for review by the MARVE operational chairs. Following this review the social worker and team manager for the children and young people may be invited to attend the MARVE operational panel.

Organised and complex meetings

8. When exploitation has been identified and there are concerns that the abuse involves one or more abuser, multiple victims, a group, or location where additional focus is required to monitor peer networks and activity; consideration should be given as to whether this falls within the Organised and Complex Abuse procedures as outlined in chapter 8 of the London Child Protection procedures. There will be an expectation that intelligence from complex meetings will be shared at the strategic MACE panel, for oversight and to ascertain what resources can be galvanised from the partnership to assist with safety.

Practice

9. The MACE panel is not there to manage the 'safe uncertainty' (Mason, 1993), that can arise in this specialist area of practice. The MACE panel is not there to repeat conversations regarding risks and plans that have already taken place in strategy and complex meetings. Doing so is time consuming and detracts from resources that are needed to support and protect those children and young people we are most concerned about. In all discussions/supervision where exploitation has been evidenced, the following questions should be considered, explored, and evidenced on the child's file.

Is there an up-to-date risk assessment/plan?

Is it having impact/new risks emerging?

If there are blockages/increased/new risk or themes-have you referred to the MARVE operational panel?

Children in our care-is there a up to date trigger plan?

Has an NRM been completed, and the outcome noted on the young person's file, with the reference number?

Wider Context

10. Both operational (MARVE) and strategic (MACE) panel's report to the Vulnerable Adolescent Group, a sub-group of the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP).

Missing

11. A daily intelligence briefing (DIB) captures data regarding all missing children from the preceding day. Once a week, an extended meeting takes place, with missing police in attendance. This meeting is led by a team manager in the assessment service. The highest proportion of children who are reported missing are children in our care, placed out of borough. This impacts the scope of the police in Wandsworth to be able to undertake interventions and actions. There is however a strong commitment to ensuring collaborative practice. The service manager in our children in care service, will be the strategic lead for children and young people who are missing.

Operation Philomena

12. Philomena Protocol as an important tactic to increase partnership and supportive engagement with Children's Social Care (CSC) placements across London, and to highlight the importance of information sharing. At the point of placement for a child/young person in local authority care, a Trigger Plan should be collaboratively completed. This will set out very clearly expectations regarding times to return to the place of residence and what actions to take if this does not happen. It is important that adults placed in a position to care for children and young people, are curious in their actions and seek information as to the location of the young person. By having a clear plan with contact numbers of family/friends and networks, this will be the starting point for enquiries to take place. It is important to appreciate that each child and young person is risk assessed on merit and the appropriate police and partner action taken. In 2016, the College of Policing issued new Authorised Professional Practice, and this altered the definition of 'missing'. The definition of missing is 'Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established will be considered as missing until located, and their well-being or otherwise confirmed'.

Wandsworth Young People Placed Out of Borough

13. For young people placed out of borough, who do not reside in neighboring boroughs; the initial concerns will be heard at the Wandsworth MARVE operational panel. Subsequently a referral will be made to the MARVE operational panel equivalent that the child and young person resides in.

14. Transition Panel

This is a panel for 18–25-year old's where there is a cause of concern with regards to any form of exploitation or criminality. These young adults will be added to the current MARVE operational panel. The objective is to ensure oversight where there are concerns of ongoing exploitation, whether as victims or perpetrators.

Appendix 1

Recommended MACE attendees

Attendees must be in a position of managerial responsibility or have strategic oversight of their area of business.

- James (Bas) Dickson-Leach-Police – Local Borough Detective Chief Inspector or Detective Inspector (co-Chair).
- Nana Bonsu-LA senior manager (co-Chair).
- Police – Local borough child exploitation SPOC.
- Police – Children’s Social Care (CSC) SPOC (when requested by chair).
- Beth Kelly-LA child exploitation co-coordinator.
- Health – Identified child exploitation lead(s).
- Education –Identified child exploitation lead(s).
- Mental health lead.
- Elisha Myton-Senior Intelligence Analyst.

Other key partners as identified such as

- Paulette Edwards-Youth offending service manager.
- Rescue and response.
- Child sexual exploitation partnership teams (county line experts).
- Child exploitation charity/Commissioned service, e.g., National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children/Barnardo’s/Children’s Society/Safer London.
- Police– CSC gangs partnership/BCU Safeguarding Hub representatives/schools officer/supervisor/TFL/BTP.
- Drugs/Alcohol teams.
- Key business leads.
- Borough media communications team representative.
- LA specialist services e.g., Housing/Licensing etc.
- Other (as identified).

CHILD EXPLOITATION & MACE PATHWAY

Lead practitioner identifies possible concerns/risks related to Child Exploitation using the **CE Risk Assessment Screening Tool** and referring to **MASH**.

NO RISK
Single Agency / Universal Services
 Use a whole family approach to target risk factors.
No Further Action

MASH uses the **Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Screening Tool** to assess the level of risk (no risk, emerging, moderate, significant) based on available evidence. Moderate and Significant Risk require referral to **MARVE Panel**.

MASH to record **concerns/risks** related to child exploitation, including type and the level of risk, and record on Mosaic regarding the CYP and family.

MASH uses the threshold continuum, CE Risk Assessment Screening Tool and MARVE Protocol to determine what course of action to take, based on the level of risk identified.

ADDITIONAL NEEDS / UNIVERSAL

COMPLEX & SIGNIFICANT

EMERGING RISK
UNIVERSAL/ VULNERABLE
EARLY HELP ASSESSMENT

- MASH refer to most appropriate Universal Service with input from the family and NFA.
- MASH to EH Lead Practitioner completes an Early Help Assessment.
- Information from the CE Risk Assessment Screening Tool is incorporated into Early Help Assessment and Family Plan for resulting intervention/s.
- Family Plan put in place and monitored via TAC.

MODERATE RISK
EARLY HELP/ TARGETTED SERVICES

- MASH to refer to EH Services for assessment or RAS for a C&F assessment.
- Information from the CE Risk Assessment Screening Tool is incorporated into relevant assessment and family plan i.e., EH plan, CiN, CP/S47.
- Ensure timely and effective interventions are offered to children and families to safeguard those vulnerable to child exploitation.

Moderate Risk
STATUTORY SERVICES

- May be at significant risk of harm.
- Lead Practitioner to escalate children and young people leading to a strategy meeting.
- Lead Practitioner completes a Child & Family Assessment.
- Information from the CE Risk Assessment Screening Tool is incorporated into relevant assessments/plans i.e., S47, CP/CiN Plan.
- Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Screening Tool to be used to inform Strategy Meeting and resulting Social Work intervention/s.
- Lead Practitioner to raise with professionals in the Strategy Meeting whether the children and young people should be referred to the **MARVE** Plan.

SIGNIFICANT RISK
STATUTORY SERVICES

- Identified as significant risk of harm. • Lead Practitioner to escalate children and young people leading to a strategy meeting.
- Lead Practitioner completes a Child & Family Assessment.
- Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Screening Tool to be used to inform Strategy Meeting and resulting Social Work intervention/s.
- Information from the CE Risk Assessment Screening Tool is incorporated into relevant assessments/plans i.e., S47, CP/CiN Plan.
- Lead Practitioner to raise with professionals in the Strategy Meeting whether the children and young people should be referred to the **MARVE** Plan.

There will be ongoing communication between the **MARVE panel** and **PRE-MACE** with the Lead Practitioners or their representatives.