Draft guidance: use of the contextual risk analysis tool

What is the tool for?

The contextual risk analysis tool has been developed to support practitioners to recognise and identify indicators of contextual harm to their young person. The tool should be used alongside practitioners' own analysis and skillset. It can be used solo by a lead professional, with a parent or with a professional network to identify indicators of contextual harm.

The tool is not intended to be used directly with a young person and caution should be taken when sharing with a young person as the language is not always going to be accessible to a young person and conversations about risk and concerns need to be managed sensitively.

The tool allows practitioners to 'check in' and mark the evidence of exportation. It is a way of capturing the risks and indicators of risk to a child at that point in time.

This process does not replace the child and family assessment or contextual risk assessment but should be used to inform this. The tool is a way of recognising risks to young people from their community and evidencing this.

The tool also offers an opportunity for management oversight on changing, increasing, and decreasing risk around contextual harm. The tool offers practitioners managers the opportunity to review the evidence of contextual harm to inform next steps to respond to and manage risk.

The tool aims to keep practitioners and managers alive to the lived experience of children who are exposed to potential contextual risks and recognise the impact this could have upon them.

When can it be used?
The tool can be used at any stage of a child's involvement with Children Services. The tool can be used at any stage in the workflow to assess their risk of exploitation.

The tool is a stand-alone document that can be triggered at any point of the child's journey.

This tool can also be used to evidence contextual risk in preparation for a referral or transfer to specialist adolescent service- should this be the case, any children scored as emerging, moderate, or significant risk should be referred to the Adolescent social work team and consultations booked with the Adolescent team manager for consideration for support from the adolescent team and/or transfer for specialist intervention.

How is it used?

The tool is broken into 12 sections:

- Sections 1-9 – These sections comprise of bullet points and a written analysis box. For each section, the social worker should highlight the bullet points that apply and in the free text section should record the evidence for this. This will then inform the overall Risk level for the young person.

For each section ensure evidence us factual and explained in the free text section. Where there is

vulnerability or indicators of harm in the section – name it and given evidence for it.

- **Section 10 – VOLT analysis – this section should explore the follow:**
  - **V – Victim (s)-** who is the victim or victims? What is the profile? What evidence do we have to identify the victim? What are their social GRACES, vulnerabilities, how have they been targeted or groomed?
  - **O - Offender (s) /Perpetrators/persons of concern-** who are the perpetrators or those of concern? What evidence do we have to identify the perpetrators? What is their profile? Think about their SOCIAL GRACES, Links to the victim, influence over the victim and how they have behaved to target or exploit others.
  - **L - Location (s)-** where are the locations of concern? – be specific -road names/ addresses / estates locations etc.
  - **T - Theme (s)- what are the themes coming out of the risk assessment?** CCE/ CSE? Patterns of behavior/ profile or victims? Profile of perps?
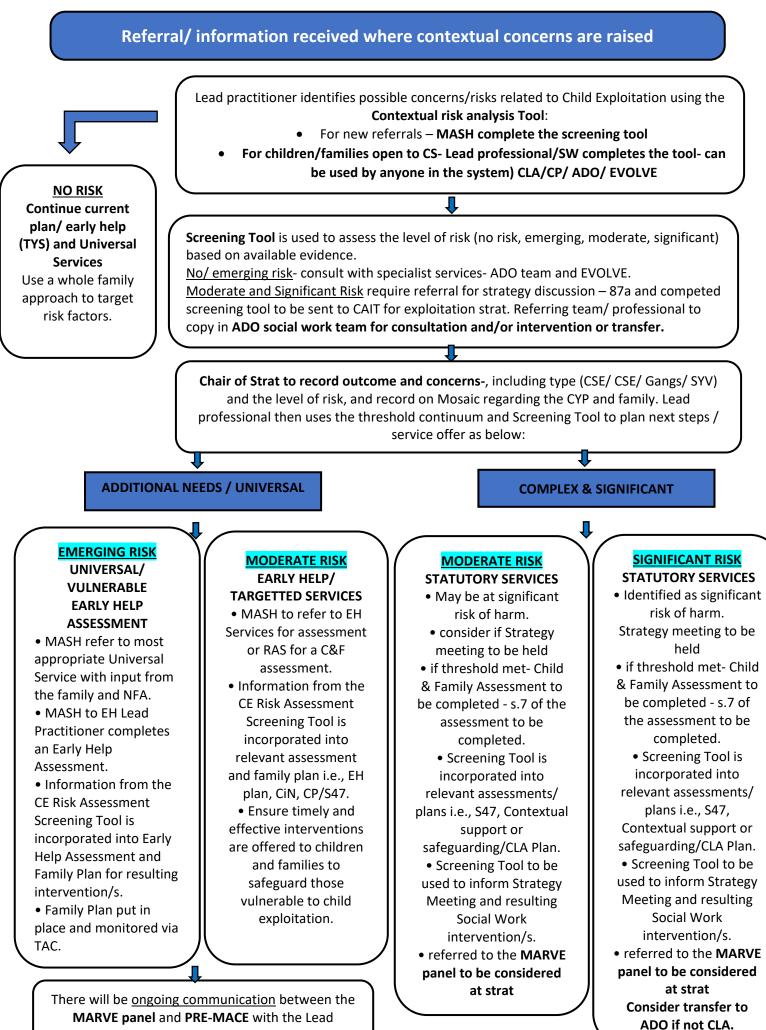
- **Section 11- RAG rating-**
This section should be completed by the worker using the tool and should be the overall grading of risk. The tool includes rating and explanations of ratings as below:

Rating	Explanation
No risk	No identified risk of exploitation. Other identified concerns which may require alternative provision. **(Consider Universal Services or an Early Help Assessment through Targeted youth services and additional support services if required)**
Emerging	Some concerns that the child/young person is vulnerable of exploitation. **(Consider if child/young person needs exploitation strategy meeting to consider s.47 and/or referral to MARVE. Consider advice/ referral to EVOLVE)**
Moderate	Child/young person is at risk of exploitation, concerns not immediate/urgent safeguarding. Child/young person may be a risk of opportunistic abuse or is being targeted/ groomed. **(Consider if child/young person needs exploitation strategy meeting to consider s.47 and/or referral to MARVE. Consider advice / referral to ADO team and/or EVOLVE. Consider Social Work Assessment and plan – Social Work Lead)**
Significant	Child/young person is at risk of exploitation or being exploited. **(Consider if child/young person needs exploitation strategy meeting to consider s.47 and/or referral to MARVE. Advice / referral to ADO team and/or EVOLVE. Consider Social Work Assessment and plan – Social Work Lead)**

- **Section 12 – manager analysis and sign off.**
This final section is for the manager to review the risk analysis tool and sign off final comments, risk, and response. The manager should make recommendations about next steps clear including:
  - Assessment of overall risk and evidence base- is the child vulnerable to risk, at risk of harm or experiencing risk and/or active exploitation.
  - If a referral to MASH for step up to statutory services is needed
  - If a request for exploitation or missing strategy meeting is required
  - If a request for consultation and or specialist services from EVOLVE is needed
  - If a request for transfer to specialist services (including the statutory adolescent team) is needed.

Referral/ information received where contextual concerns are raised

Lead practitioner identifies possible concerns/risks related to Child Exploitation using the **Contextual risk analysis Tool**:
- For new referrals – **MASH complete the screening tool**
- **For children/families open to CS- Lead professional/SW completes the tool- can be used by anyone in the system) CLA/CP/ ADO/ EVOLVE**

NO RISK
Continue current plan/ early help (TYS) and Universal Services
Use a whole family approach to target risk factors.

Screening Tool is used to assess the level of risk (no risk, emerging, moderate, significant) based on available evidence.
No/ emerging risk- consult with specialist services- ADO team and EVOLVE.
Moderate and Significant Risk require referral for strategy discussion – 87a and competed screening tool to be sent to CAIT for exploitation strat. Referring team/ professional to copy in **ADO social work team for consultation and/or intervention or transfer.**

Chair of Strat to record outcome and concerns-, including type (CSE/ CSE/ Gangs/ SYV) and the level of risk, and record on Mosaic regarding the CYP and family. Lead professional then uses the threshold continuum and Screening Tool to plan next steps / service offer as below:

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.
- consider if Strategy meeting to be held
- if threshold met- Child & Family Assessment to be completed - s.7 of the assessment to be completed.
- Screening Tool is incorporated into relevant assessments/ plans i.e., S47, Contextual support or safeguarding/CLA Plan.
- Screening Tool to be used to inform Strategy Meeting and resulting Social Work intervention/s.
- referred to the **MARVE panel to be considered at strat**

SIGNIFICANT RISK
STATUTORY SERVICES
- Identified as significant risk of harm. Strategy meeting to be held
- if threshold met- Child & Family Assessment to be completed - s.7 of the assessment to be completed.
- Screening Tool is incorporated into relevant assessments/ plans i.e., S47, Contextual support or safeguarding/CLA Plan.
- Screening Tool to be used to inform Strategy Meeting and resulting Social Work intervention/s.
- referred to the **MARVE panel to be considered at strat**
Consider transfer to ADO if not CLA.

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