



<b>Policy No:</b> SJD/HS/05	<b>Authorised by:</b> Davina Powell	<b>Review Date:</b> 20th October 2023
<b>Policy Date:</b> 4th April 2021		<b>Date of Next Review:</b> 19th October 2024
<b>CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION SCREENING</b>		

## Risk Assessment Toolkit & Guidance

### Step 1: Identify the Risk Indicators

#### Low Level Risk Indicators

- Regularly coming home late or going missing
- Overt sexualised dress
- Sexualised risk taking, including on the internet
- Unaccounted for monies or goods
- Associating with unknown adults
- Association with other young people at risk of sexual exploitation or who are being sexually exploited
- Reduced contact with family and friends and other support networks
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Experimenting with drugs and/or alcohol
- Poor self-image
- Eating disorders
- Superficial self-harm.

#### Medium Level Indicators- any of the above and ONE or more of these indicators

- Getting into cars with unknown adults
- Associating with known CSE adults or Sexual Offenders
- Being groomed on the internet
- Clipping i.e. offering to have sex for money or other payment and then running before sex takes place
- Disclosure of a physical/sexual assault with no substantiating evidence to warrant a S47 enquiry, then refusing to make a statement or withdrawing a complaint
- Being involved in CSE through being seen in hotspots i.e. known houses or recruiting grounds
- Having an older boyfriend/girlfriend
- Non school attendance or excluded
- Staying out overnight with no explanation
- Breakdown of residential placements due to behaviour
- Unaccounted for money or goods including mobile phones, drugs and alcohol
- Multiple sexually transmitted infections
- Self-harming that requires medical treatment
- Repeat offending
- Gang member or association with gangs.
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## High Level Indicators- any of the above and ONE or more of these indicators

- Child under 13 engaging in sexual activity
- Pattern of street homelessness and staying with an adult believed to be sexually exploiting them
- Child under 16 meeting different adults and exchanging or selling sexual activity
- Being taken to clubs and hotels by adults and engaging in sexual activity
- Disclosure of serious sexual assault and then withdrawal of statement
- Abduction and forced imprisonment
- Being moved around for sexual activity
- Disappearing from the 'system' with no contact or support
- Being bought/sold/trafficked
- Multiple miscarriages or terminations
- Indicators of CSE in conjunction with chronic alcohol and drug use
- Indicators of CSE alongside serious self-harming
- Receiving rewards of money or goods for recruiting peers into CSE.

Underlying Vulnerability Factors	Comment
Witnessing/experiencing domestic violence	
Children and young people 'Looked After'	
Patterns of abuse and/or neglect in family	
Homelessness/sofa surfing	
Substance misuse by parents/carers/child	
Learning disabilities, special needs or mental health issues	
Homophobia	
Breaks in adult relationships	
Death, loss or illness of a significant person in the child's life	
Financially unsupported	
Some form of family conflict	
Lack of love and security	
Adult soliciting (prostitution)	
Migrant/refugee/asylum seeker	
Other, please specify	

### STEP 3: Complete the Risk Factors Matrix

RISK LEVEL	NUMBER OF INDICATORS	BEHAVIOURS	✓	REQUIRED ACTION (BRIEF POINTS) CONSIDERATIONS
<p><b>Low Risk</b></p> <p>Low risk cases do not usually meet the threshold for Social Care intervention.</p> <p><b>No child under 13 can be categorised as LOW.</b></p> <p><b>No child with a learning disability can be categorised as LOW.</b></p>	<p><b>ONE OR MORE INDICATORS IDENTIFIED</b></p>	Regularly coming home late or going missing		<p><b>Discussion with Child or Young Person. – Any staff member can do this.</b></p>
		Overt sexualised dress		<p>Notify MISPER police / 101 / if the child or young person is going missing. – <b>Any staff member can do this.</b></p>
		Sexualised risk taking, including on the internet		<p><b>Inform SJD Management – the following action will be taken:</b></p>
		Unaccounted for monies or goods		<p>Notify CSC DUTY / Child or Young Person Social Worker in writing for advice and resources if risk escalates.</p>
		Associating with unknown adults		<p><b>Ensure information is recorded on Child / Young Person’s file.</b></p>
		Associating with other young people who are at risk of CSE or who are being sexually exploited		
		Reduced contact with family/friends		
		Sexually transmitted infections		
		Experimenting with drugs/alcohol		

		Poor self-image			
		Eating disorder			
		Superficial self-harm			

RISK LEVEL	NUMBER OF INDICATORS	BEHAVIOURS	✓	REQUIRED ACTION (BRIEF POINTS) CONSIDERATIONS
<b>Medium Risk</b>  As indicated above, the indicators are a guide to assisting the exercise of professional judgement. In relation to the medium level indicators, should professional judgement determine that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm requiring investigation under S47 of the Children Act, then the procedures	<b>Any of the above AND ONE OR MORE INDICATORS IDENTIFIED</b>	Getting into cars with unknown		<b>Discussion with Child or Young Person. – Any staff member can do this.</b>  Gather as much information as possible:  <b>Location's</b>  <b>Names</b>  <b>Car Registrations</b>  <b>Telephone Numbers called on office phone</b>  <b>Description of individuals</b>  Notify MISPER police / 101 / if the child or young person is going missing. – <b>Any staff member can do this.</b>  <b>Inform SJD Management – the following action will be taken:</b>  Contact CSE Lead or CSC Duty or Child or Young Person's to discuss.
		Associating with known CSE adults		
		Being groomed on internet		
		Clipping i.e. offering to have sex for money or other payment and then running before sex takes place		
		Disclosure of physical assault with no substantiating evidence to warrant a S47 enquiry, then refusing to make or withdrawing a complaint		
		Being involved in CSE through being seen in hot spots i.e. known houses or recruiting grounds		

RISK LEVEL	NUMBER OF INDICATORS	BEHAVIOURS	✓	REQUIRED ACTION (BRIEF POINTS) CONSIDERATIONS
detailed under the higher level of risk should be followed.		Older boy/girlfriend		<p>Identify and refer to appropriate support services in the community</p> <p>Employ immediate disruption tactics (police).</p> <p>Consider if the offending is symptomatic, coerced or criminal.</p> <p>Liase with CSC to make referral to Gangs Team. Share screening information gathered and include risk assessments completed.</p> <p><b>Ensure information is recorded on Child or Young Person's file.</b></p>
		Non school attendance or excluded		
		Staying out overnight with no explanation		
		Breakdown of placements due to behaviour		
		Unaccounted money or goods i.e. mobiles, drugs, alcohol, clothing		
		Multiple sexually transmitted infections		
		Self-harming requiring medical assistance		
		Repeat offending		
		Gang association or membership		

HOMES

RISK LEVEL	NUMBER OF INDICATORS	BEHAVIOURS	✓	REQUIRED ACTION (BRIEF POINTS) CONSIDERATIONS
<p><b>High Risk</b></p> <p>Where the child/young person is assessed as High Risk a consultation needs to take place with the CSC social worker / DUTY team.</p> <p>The same threshold is to be applied to all children when considering harm and the need for a safety plan.</p>	<p><b>Any of the above and ONE OR MORE OF THESE INDICATORS</b></p>	Child under 13 engaging in sexual activity		<p><b>Discussion with Child or Young Person. – Any staff member can do this.</b></p>
		Pattern of street homelessness and staying with an adult believed to be sexually exploiting them		<p>Gather as much information as possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location's</b></li> <li>• <b>Names</b></li> <li>• <b>Car Registrations</b></li> <li>• <b>Telephone Numbers called on office phone</b></li> <li>• <b>Description of individuals</b></li> </ul>
		Child under 16 meeting different adults and exchanging or selling sexual activity		<p>Notify MISPER police / 101 / if the child or young person is going missing. – <b>Any staff member can do this.</b></p>
		Being taken to clubs/hotels for sexual activity with adults		<p><b>Inform SJD Management – the following action will be taken:</b></p>
		Disclosure of sexual assault and then withdrawal of statement		<p>Joint working with the Police and CSC, to ensure concerns are investigated and appropriate action taken; such as:</p>
		Abduction and forced imprisonment		<p>Update assessment / care plan and use the risk assessment toolkit to guide or update assessments –</p>
		Being moved around for sexual activity		<p>Keyworker /</p>
		Disappearing from the 'system' with no contact with support		

RISK LEVEL	NUMBER OF INDICATORS	BEHAVIOURS	✓	REQUIRED ACTION (BRIEF POINTS) CONSIDERATIONS
		Being bought/sold/ trafficked		Management oversight.
		Under 16 with multiple miscarriages or terminations		Use key disruption tactics (police)  Abduction Order (police).
		Indicators of CSE in conjunction with chronic alcohol and drug use		Alerts/liaison with Health, Education, Police and CSC.  Cross reference with Teenage Pregnancy and Domestic Violence strategies.
		Indicators of CSE alongside serious self-harming		Harm reduction/detox programmes.
		Receiving rewards of money or goods for recruiting o peers into CSE		Psychiatric assessment/intensive support.  Reinforce criminality of offender; gather information for Police and Social Care.  <b>Ensure information is recorded.</b>





## Thresholds and Appropriate Intervention

### **Low Risk: Child or Young Person presenting with 1 to 4 indicators**

This child or young person requires intervention by any professional, parent or carer who has a good relationship with them to carry out healthy relationships and personal rights work. Depending on the indicators they present with, they will also likely benefit from some basic awareness raising work on CSE, sexual health, risk taking behaviours and consequences. If there is a person/s posing a risk to them, ensure they are disrupted and information about them recorded and passed to the appropriate persons (including police where appropriate).

#### **Procedure**

- Ensure that this child or young person is listed on file as 'At risk of CSE'.
- Carry out basic intervention work as noted above, over a 4-6 week period.
- The child or young person is to be assessed for changes to risk status every 4-6 weeks using the risk matrix until the child or young person is safe or the risk is removed.
- If risk is escalating follow procedures below for Medium or High Risk cases.

### **Medium Risk: Child or young person presenting with more than 5 low indicators or low and some medium indicators**

This child or young person requires more intensive assessment and 1-1 support. If they present immediately with Medium Risk indicators the interventions outlined above for Low Risk should be completed, along with more intensive work on CSE, grooming, positive choices, safety and contingency planning. Children and Young People at SJD Homes are already open to Social Care, assessments are to be updated which will enable CSC if required to undertake a S47 enquiry.

#### **Procedure**

Take whatever steps are required to protect the child or young person.

CSC will then take the appropriate action i.e. Emergency Protection Order, Police Protection Order or relocation from the placement at SJD Homes. The following outcomes can be expected from the CSE concerns raised.

- S47 enquiries.
- Police discussion regarding investigation needs/MISPER
- Strategy meetings under Safeguarding Procedures where appropriate.
- Seek guidance/advice and refer to CSE Specialist Voluntary Sector Services,
- Collate and share information on any perpetrators, hotspots and associations involved with the young person.
- Regular network or core group meetings until child/young person is protected or desists from risk taking behaviours.



**High Risk: Child or young person presenting with several indicators from all categories and 1 or more high risk indicator.**

### **CSC will follow the below procedure**

- SW will be allocated to undertake Sec 47 investigation
- Further strategy meeting to be convened with all relevant professionals
- Initial Child Protection Conference or LAC procedures could be initiated depending on factors surrounding the child or young person.
- Regular review under Child Protection or Children in Need (CSE) until child is protected from abuse and/or there are no ongoing concerns or further risk of CSE.
- Police to liaise with Crown Prosecution Service for evidential thresholds for prosecution.

When young people have suffered abuse they often want to focus on practical things rather than the abuse. This is long term work, with no quick fixes and the intensive work should be carried out alongside positive activities to build self-esteem. The engagement of the young person is crucial to achieving the best outcome.

The effectiveness of current interventions should be assessed to determine whether they are sufficient to;

- Prevent the young person from going missing
- Protect the young person from being exposed to any further risk
- Prevent the sexual exploitation
- Change risk taking behaviour.

### **Good Practice Principles for Working with CSE**

- Intensive support around the young person, their family and peers.
- Equal focus on the three pronged governmental approach to CSE; Prevention, Protection and Prosecution.
- Awareness raising with any professional, family or community.
- Note and disrupt hot spots, houses, hotels, shopping centres being used and report to licensing bodies where appropriate.

If interventions are failing to change the behaviours or risks to the child or young person, it is not acceptable to carry on trying the same things. More radical interventions should be considered. However;

- If child is under 13 years and there is evidence to indicate that the child is sexually active (penetrative sex or involved in grooming for sexual exploitation) this is NEVER to be assessed as Low Risk. Follow London Sexual Exploitation protocol and CP Procedures and discuss with line management. Also see Sexual Offences Act (2003) which defines any kind of sexual activity in all under 13 year olds as a statutory offence.
- If the child or young person is between 13 and 16 years and is sexually active and assessed as at risk of or involved in sexual exploitation there should always be a consideration that a Section 47 enquiry is required.
- There should ALWAYS be a referral to SEMAP if the assessment identifies risk of continuing harm from CSE.

- If the child or young person is sexually active and assessed as not at risk of, or involved in sexual exploitation of any kind then follow working with Sexually Active Children and Young People Guidelines.
- If the young person is between 16 and 18 years and is sexually active and assessed as at risk of or involved in sexual exploitation, follow the Safeguarding from Sexual Exploitation Procedure.
- If the young person is between 16 and 18 years and is sexually active but assessed as not at risk of or involved in sexual exploitation, follow working with Sexually Active Children and Young People Guidelines
- Never prove capacity where it does not exist. Ensure there is assessment of consent – coercion – capacity to consent.

**Professionals need to read this guidance in conjunction with;**

- London Child Protection Procedures
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (DFE, 2015)
- Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation (DCSF 2009)
- Tackling child sexual exploitation action plan (DFE, 2011) and Tackling child sexual exploitation action plan; progress report (DFE, 2012)
- Statutory Guidance on children who run away and go missing from home or care (DSCF, 2009)
- Safeguarding children who may have been trafficked; practice guidance (DFE & HO, 2011)
- Victims of Human Trafficking – guidance for frontline staff (UKBA & HO, 2013)
- Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board CSE strategy and procedure (revised 2015)
- Pan London CSE Protocol (revised 2015)