

Newcastle Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Procedural Flow Chart January 2016

This guidance is applicable to all victims of sexual exploitation. Victims of sexual exploitation can be children, young people or adults, male or female. Perpetrators are often male but women and girls are known to be perpetrators too. Perpetrators and victims are known to come from a variety of ethnic/cultural backgrounds. Sexual exploitation can and does happen in all parts of the country, whether in large towns/cities or rural areas. Victims are groomed and exploited in many different ways e.g. online, gangs, "boyfriend", street, celebrity, religion. Perpetrators may work together in groups or alone.

<p>Vulnerabilities of the victim which may increase risk Bereavement; missing from home/care/education/work; social exclusion; poverty/deprivation; personal/family learning disability/mental ill health/substance misuse; communication difficulties; prior personal/family experience of abuse/neglect/domestic abuse; personal/family history of prostitution/sex work; breakdown of family relationships; low self-esteem; bullying; those from abroad with insecure immigration rights; Looked After Child or have children who are Looked After.</p>	<p>Signs and indicators Change in physical appearance/clothing; having money/mobile phones/other items without a plausible explanation; becoming involved in criminality; getting into cars with unknown people; increased use of drugs or alcohol; sending sexually explicit content via phone/social media; multiple miscarriages/terminations; sexually transmitted infections; unsuitable or inappropriate accommodation; developing inappropriate/unusual relationships/associations.</p>
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Encouraging people to seek help and support
 There are many reasons why victims will not, or feel they cannot, speak about their experiences or seek help and support so it is important to build trust to enable this to happen.

- Always be alert to the possibility that an individual could be experiencing sexual exploitation, regardless of their age or gender, and be prepared to offer support.
- When a victim is hard to engage with, the person with the best relationship with them should lead discussions.
- Ensure professional interpreters are used, never use family members, children or friends where sexual exploitation is known or suspected.
- Only ask questions about sexual exploitation when victims are on their own and in a private place.

Deal with any immediate risks, including risks to others and yourself. Check records for risk information or warnings. Contact emergency services if required.

Use the **Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Checklist** to help you assess risk and determine the next steps

Never assume that someone else will take care of the sexual exploitation issues. You should seek confirmation that other professionals/agencies have acted in a way which you would expect. You may be the victim's first and only contact. Remember that victims can deny sexual exploitation is happening and minimise the risk and/or harm. Discuss with your line manager, assess the risk level and act accordingly.



Cases where children are involved (people aged under 18)	Case meets safeguarding adults criteria	Case meets MARAC Criteria (People aged 16 or over)	Case does not meet safeguarding/MARAC criteria
<p>A child is classed as a male or female between 0 - 18 years of age. Sexual exploitation of children is a form of abuse that is covered by legislation and multi-agency procedural guidance.</p> <p>Where a child is a victim of, or potentially a victim of sexual exploitation, he or she is either at risk of, or suffering significant harm.</p> <p>'Harm' as defined by Under sections 31(9) and (10) of the Children Act 1989 as amended by the Adoption and Children Act 2002.</p> <p>If you have a concern that a child has been sexually exploited, you should -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Telephone Children's Social Care Initial Response Service (0191 277 2500). 2. Complete referral and initial information record. 3. All CSE referrals are considered by the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). <p>If the concern is immediate and you feel the child is at immediate risk of harm due to exploitation, you should contact Police to inform them of the incident that is ongoing to ensure immediate protection of the child or young person.</p>	<p>Sexual exploitation is a form of abuse covered by multi-agency safeguarding adults policy and procedures.</p> <p>Where the victim of sexual exploitation is an adult at risk as defined by the Care Act 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aged 18 or over; and • has needs for care and support (whether or not those needs are being met); and • as a result of those needs is unable to protect him or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it. <p>A safeguarding adults referral must be made.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Telephone Social Care Direct (0191 278 8377) or contact allocated Social Worker. 2. Complete a written referral (Safeguarding Adults Initial Enquiry Form, Adult Concern, IR3 etc) or Stage 1 and Stage 2 forms directly on CareFirst. 3. Decision made whether Safeguarding Adults Enquiry needs to progress and a Safeguarding Adults Plan developed. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be clear with the victim about confidentiality and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) procedures. 2. Complete the Safer Lives DASH with the victim where possible. 3. Complete MARAC referral form. 4. Contact your agency's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for MARAC. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Your agency SPOC:</p> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Make referral to Victim Support for an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) or Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA). 6. Agency SPOC sends referral to MARAC Coordinator. 7. IDVA or ISVA will contact the victim. 8. MARAC meeting takes place and victim's views are presented by IDVA/ISVA. 9. Action plan is developed. <p>Where the case is visible high risk (14 ticks); or based on your professional judgement you have serious concerns about a victim's situation you must make a referral into MARAC.</p>	<p>You still need to take action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider immediate and long term risks. • Signpost/refer the victim to relevant support/specialist services (see over). • Share information with other relevant agencies. • Regularly revisit level of risk in terms of MARAC and safeguarding action. <p>If no victim is identified but you have information that suggests sexual exploitation may be occurring you can inform the Police by e-mailing: forceintelligence@northumbria.pnn.police.uk</p> <p>In all circumstances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document decision-making, actions taken to manage risk and rationale for sharing or not sharing information. • Be aware of your professional role and consult with other partners to: clarify their roles and responsibilities, share information and seek advice. • Follow up any referrals. • When signposting to other agencies always consider risks associated with the perpetrator finding leaflets/letters etc.

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Sexual exploitation support services In an emergency always call 999	Good practice guidance when responding to a victim of sexual exploitation	Particular considerations if the victim is a child/young person (aged under 18)
<p>SCARPA Support for children/young people at risk of sexual exploitation 0191 221 0836 0808 178 9185</p> <p>Changing Lives – GAP/MAP Projects Working with adults (male and female) vulnerable to sexual exploitation. 07855229518</p> <p>Housing Advice Centre (HAC) Emergency/temporary accommodation. 0191 277 1711 0191 278 7878 (out of hours)</p> <p>Sexual Assault Referral Centre Medical and counselling service following a sexual assault. For people aged over 16. Do not have to report to Police. 0191 221 9222</p> <p>Rape Crisis Information, support and counselling for women aged 16 and over who have been raped or sexually abused 0191 222 0272</p> <p>Ending Domestic Abuse in Newcastle (EDAN) Outreach Service for women who are victims of domestic abuse. 07501 227 780 07501 227 820</p> <p>Angelou Centre Outreach, advice/support for Black, Minority, Ethnic women and children, women with no recourse to public funds 0191 226 0394</p> <p>New Croft Centre Contraception and sexual health services. 0191 229 2999</p> <p>Victim Support Working with high risk victims for IDVA/ISVA Service Advice and Support 0191 281 3791</p> <p>The Safe Project Advice and support including specialist forced marriage and honour based abuse. 0191 273 4942</p> <p>NECA Advice, support and counselling for people experiencing difficulties related to addictions. 0191 414 6446</p> <p>Newcastle Talking Therapies Range of talking therapies, advice, information and support. 0300 555 1115</p> <p>Children and Young People's Service Provides a service for 0-18 year olds with mental health difficulties. 0191 246 6913</p> <p>MESMAC Advice and support services for gay and bisexual men. Provides services for people aged 13+. 0191 233 1333</p> <p>SHINE Provide support related to sexual health for all women from 16 years. Also offer an outreach service. 0191 277 2050</p> <p>Streetwise Confidential advice, counselling, sexual health and support services for young people aged 13-25 0191 230 5400</p> <p>Other support services to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General health or social care services • Benefits/citizens advice 	<p>If you suspect that sexual exploitation is happening but it is not directly reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important that you act on your suspicions. You could provide the only opportunity for the victim to tell someone. • Ensure privacy – you are unlikely to receive a report from a victim if someone might overhear. • Show the person you have time to listen – if you appear rushed or uninterested you are less likely to receive a report. • Reassure about confidentiality and explain the limits of this, e.g. “I want you to know that whatever you tell me will go no further without your permission, unless I believe there are risks to others or a serious crime has or may be committed.” • Begin with open questions, e.g. “tell me how things are going”. • Follow up with direct questions, e.g. “I notice that you seem anxious/have some bruises/often miss appointments (whatever your concern is), is there anything happening that you are worried about? Is anything happening in your life that is making you feel unsafe? Is someone hurting you?” • It may be necessary to ask more than once, as many victims do not identify that they are experiencing abuse. <p>Responding to an initial report of sexual exploitation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be sensitive, respectful and listen carefully to what you are being told. • Seek to empower victims, not to take over or make decisions for them. Ask them what they want you to do. • Remain non-judgemental – never imply that the victim is to blame for the exploitation. • Validate the victim’s experience; tell them you are glad they told you. • Give key messages, e.g. you are not alone, you do not deserve to be treated like this, there is help available for you. <p>Address immediate safety issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the immediate safety of the victim and others. • Do not take any action that could place you or your colleagues at risk of harm. • Seek emergency assistance if needed. <p>If the person doesn’t want you to take any action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider mental capacity, coercion, public interest, risks of significant harm. The Mental Capacity Act applies 16 years +. • Remember that sexual exploitation is a serious crime and professionals have a duty to share information with the Police if they believe it may be occurring. Sexual activity with a child aged under 16 is a serious criminal offence. • Always leave the door open for future discussion e.g. “You can contact me in the future if you feel you need help and support”. • People will be considered most unlikely to have agreed to sexual activity if they were: subject to threats or fear of serious harm; unconscious; drugged; abducted; or were unable to communicate because of a disability. 	<p>To obtain accurate and reliable information from a child regarding sexual exploitation they may be suffering, the situation, the language and questions must be appropriate for the child's age and developmental stage. Professionals should not press a child for answers. Instead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen and believe what the child says; • Reassure the children that the abuse is not their fault, and it is not their responsibility to stop it from happening; • Explain the limits of confidentiality and your safeguarding responsibilities. • Provide information that is educative to the child, in a way he / she understands - that they are not the only person to be the victim of this and why sexual exploitation is wrong. • Ensure the child feels listened to, and that what they are saying is important. • Give information that they will be supported, and explain it is your responsibility as a professional to make sure they have the right support to meet their needs. • Ask them if they want to ask you any questions – they have told you a lot, they might have a lot to ask. • Leave them contact details for you. <p>Evidence gathering</p> <p>The Police will always be responsible for the gathering and preservation of evidence to pursue criminal allegations against people causing harm. However, other organisations and individuals can play a vital role in the preservation of evidence to ensure that vital information or forensics are not lost:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try not to disturb the scene, clothing or victim if at all possible. • Secure the scene, for example, lock the door. • Preserve all containers, documents, locations, phones etc. • Evidence may be present even if you cannot actually see anything. • If in doubt contact the Police and ask for advice. <p>Transition</p> <p>Many victims of sexual exploitation are aged between 16-21 years. It is therefore important that transition arrangements for children approaching their 18th birthday are robust. Information related to sexual exploitation must be shared with the relevant adult services.</p> <p>Where a child is subject to safeguarding children procedures aged 17.5 years, the NSAB/NSCB Safeguarding Transition Protocol must be followed and a formal handover of the safeguarding concerns considered and agreed.</p> <p>Further reading/information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Sexual Exploitation training and resources (NSCB website) • Puppet on a String, the urgent need to cut children free from sexual exploitation (Barnardos) • NWG Network: Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation • Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre – CEOP (National Crime Agency) • PACE (Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation)

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