

Derby and Derbyshire Child at Risk of Exploitation (CRE) Assessment

May 2022

Please note this joint document replaces all previously published Derby or Derbyshire CSE Toolkits.					
Version	Author	Amendments	Signed off by	Date	Review date
1	DDSCP Task & Finish Group		DDSCP P & P	November 21	November 22
2	DDSCP Task & Finish Group		DDSCP P & P	May 2022	May 2023

CONTENTS

1. CRE Risk Assessment Examples

For further information on assessment and pathways for referral follow link to the [Children at Risk of Exploitation procedure](#)

2. Children at Risk of Exploitation Risk Assessment

- Section 1 What are you worried about, why is this child at risk of exploitation?
- Section 2 Cultural, Identity and Additional Vulnerability Factors
- Section 3 Risk Assessment Indicators
 - CSE
 - CCE
 - Other
- Section 4 Risk Assessment Analysis and Summary

Link to [Guidance on Completing the Operation Liberty Information Sharing Form for Professionals](#) in the DDSCP document Library

Link to [Home Office Guidance Disruption Tool](#)

3. Key Contacts

1. CRE Risk Assessment Examples

The CRE Risk Assessment asks the referrer to review the level of risk in context of Low, Medium, or High risk to further exploitation. Below some examples of CRE are provided to assist the risk analysis.

Risk Level	Examples
	Coming home late or going missing
Low	Occasional, short episodes with a plausible explanation of what has occurred.
Medium	Child is missing but unreported or whereabouts unknown or Persistent short missing episodes. Particularly if there is no explanation of where the child has been and / or if the child returns from an episode with new belongings or clothing.
High	Lengthy missing episodes including overnight. May be unable to discuss where they have been and returning disheveled. Often under the influence of drugs and alcohol or have bruising or injuries etc.
	Concern re: online activity
Low	Increased secrecy around the use of mobile devices, especially if the child is a teenager, beyond usual or expected behaviours. Or one-off contact and risk is mitigated.
Medium	Evidence of sexualised language and images being used or sent by child or to the child. Repeated contact with unknown people online and possible use of language and culture that relates to gang culture etc.
High	More than one phone or sim card. A dramatic and extreme increase in secrecy around the use of mobile devices, possibility of hidden applications on devices. Evidence of planning or arranging to meet in relation to criminal, sexual activity.
	Being abused or coerced on or offline by an adult or other young person
Low	Isolated incident of contact that is dealt with and risk removed.
Medium	Repeated abusive or coercive contact by adult or other young person but risk is unsubstantiated and any form of hate crime that could be exploited.

Risk Level	Examples
High	Evidence of actual abuse taking place by an adult or young person, with intent to isolate, control, coerce into sexual or criminal acts
<p>Low</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>High</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Child on child abuse</p> <p>Distribution of indecent images to a person of similar age (or similar developmental age) or bullying by age-appropriate peers or hate crime.</p> <p>Distribution of sexualised or indecent images or having sexual contact with a peer where there is an element of coercion or aggression. Association with a network of peers and concern about gang membership and/or assaults by peers or being coerced into criminal, sexual or antisocial behaviours.</p> <p>Prolonged child on child abuse or one or more serious incidents particularly if there is a power imbalance, or significant consequences for the child or their family. This might be criminal damage, serious injuries to child or family or sexual offences.</p>
<p>Low</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>High</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Involved in or Exposure to Criminality</p> <p>Low level acquisitive crime (theft) or personal drug possession/use and present or involved in incidents of crime. In a group where people are carrying weapons</p> <p>Multiple instances of offending or more serious offending, such as violence towards others and possession of a weapon and use of drugs. Regularly seen in places where there are known drug dealers/places of concern or family criminality, including current or historic sibling involvement in gangs.</p> <p>Supplying of drugs, and criminal acts to fund their drugs activity, use of weapons and association with others linked to organised crime.</p>
<p>Low</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>High</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Extremism</p> <p>Online space-based risks, curiosity about viewing extremist materials</p> <p>Child or family viewing extremist materials and active interest in extremism but no person identified as grooming or indoctrinating them.</p> <p>Groomed to view or engage in extremist material, exposed to and presenting with extremist views and joining activities or attending groups of concern.</p>
<p>Low</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Risk of sexual abuse</p> <p>New use of sexualised language and concern that indicate the child is knowledgeable beyond their development and age /ability.</p> <p>Indicators of grooming and coercion by any person where there concern about lack of consent and power imbalance. An increased risk of association with</p>

Risk Level	Examples
High	<p>persons who pose a risk or young people who might be at risk of exploitation too</p> <p>Evidence of sexual abuse by an adult, young person, or group, may be organised by friends or offender.</p>
Low Medium High	<p style="text-align: center;">Evidence of grooming</p> <p>Contacted by a person who is attempting to groom children for sexual or criminal purposes</p> <p>Multiple contact with a person who may groom and exploit the child or arranging to meet a person having been groomed.</p> <p>Professionals have strong indicators or evidence that this child has been groomed and exploited sexually or criminally. Returns disheveled and has possibly has new or unexplained items.</p>
Low Medium High	<p style="text-align: center;">Indicators of Modern Slavery/Trafficking</p> <p>Concern about use of transport/movement or links to persons of concern</p> <p>Enticed to leave school or home and found in other areas of the city or county/across borders they have no previous links to, and this is a clear change in habit and routines.</p> <p>Evidence of a child's movement being controlled for criminal or sexual exploitation. This may involve threats, coercion, or deception of the child to exploit them.</p>
Low Medium High	<p style="text-align: center;">Sexual Health</p> <p>An example of a low concern might be attendance for pregnancy testing. Is the young person open or secretive about their sexual health? Concerns about use of contraception. Is there an increased used of sexual health services, who are they attending with, is this of concern?</p> <p>An example of a medium concern might be, Recurring or more than one sexually transmitted disease. Miscarriage(s), concerns about untreated STI's. Repeated symptoms of urinary infections. Plus, the low concerns</p> <p>An example of a high concern might be repeated testing for sexually transmitted diseases or pregnancy. Recurring or, multiple sexually transmitted diseases. Miscarriage(s), concerns about untreated STI's. Terminations of pregnancy. Pelvic-inflammatory disease. Evidence of forced sexual activity. Plus, the medium and low concerns.</p>

Risk Level	Examples
	Travel out of Area
Low	Talking about locations that are out of area despite no known experience of that area.
Medium	Travelling to other areas with no prior arrangements and no explanation why and not disclosing why they were there. Suspected of meeting others including taken to parties in houses or hotels/apartments.
High	Repeatedly returning to a specific area despite no known links to that area or being found living/staying in a dwelling they have no links to.

2. Children at Risk of Exploitation - Risk Assessment

Section 1. What are you worried about, why is this child at risk of exploitation?

Name of Child:		Age:
Address:		

SEND	Medical Diagnosis	Identity or other Capacity concerns:
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Which Local Authority has responsibility for this Child?

Name and contact details of allocated Social Worker/Early Help Worker if known	
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Has this child previously been assessed for exploitation and when did this start?	Date	Type of Risk	Level of Risk
Do you consider this child to be at risk ?			

Is this child being harmed now?		Note: has a s47 strategy meeting been arranged and/or immediate safety measures put in place?
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Why do you think this child is at risk of exploitation?

What are you worried about, please give the context of your concerns?

Section 2. Cultural, Identity or Additional Vulnerability Factors
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In this section, please note the current concerns and consider in your commentary whether the child is at risk now as a result of these factors.

Factors	Historic	Current
Child in care, leaving care, privately fostered or fostered and multiple placements moves.		
Family conflict / break down of relationships with supportive people		
Harms or neglect in the family home		
Young carer		
Homelessness / sofa surfing		
Emotional or mental health issues of child, parent or carer		
Substance or alcohol misuse by parents / carers / wider family or peers		

Capacity issue, special education or learning needs or subject to DOLS		
Subjected or exposed to discrimination i.e., homophobia / Racism/Sexism/Gender/exploring sexuality unsafely		
Criminality within family, peers and identified place-based risk		
Criminality or Anti-Social Behaviour within family or peer group or from this child		
Death, loss or illness of a significant person		
Financially unsupported, poverty and accommodation issues, such as, living in semi-independent accommodation		
Lack of security and supportive networks or feeling unsafe.		
New arrival / refugee / asylum seeker		
Social exclusion / isolation/ unable to engage with services for support.		
Previous history of exploitation or abuse of child or family members i.e., trafficked		
Transition to adulthood /adultification of a child		
Diagnosed and undiagnosed conditions that may impact on the child's vulnerability such as ASD or conditions or communication issues and significant delay due to missed education or EHE.		
Child from out of authority or transferred to Derby/Shire with previous history of exploitation.		

Obsessive traits that can lead to exploitation such as online pornography, violent or financial gaming, interest in extremist ideologies or faith based beliefs, fixation as a result of learning needs or diagnosed medical conditions.		
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Other Important Information
ANALYSIS OF VULNERABILITY (Narrative in context of Exploitation)

Section 3. Risk Assessment Indicators

Remember: if indicators suggest they are at risk of exploitation, that **no child under 13 years or with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) issues** can immediately be assessed as Low Risk.

If a child presents with 1 low level indicator, they still require support to reduce that risk. This may not necessarily result in a referral to statutory services.

Indicators of CCE

CCE = child criminally exploited, CSE = child sexually exploited. Risk = Low (L), Medium (M) or High (H).

	Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) Indicators One or more indicators identified requires input	Level of Concern L/M/H
1	Concern re: online activity Evidence of grooming/Tracking online e.g., more than one phone, contacted at all hours and must leave the home immediately, secrecy etc.	
2	Regularly missing from home, care, or education – e.g., responsible adult has no understanding of where the child is or who they are with.	

	Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) Indicators One or more indicators identified requires input	Level of Concern L/M/H
3	Being controlled or coerced on or offline by an adult or peer, and child fears consequences if they do not respond.	
4	Increase worry of contact with individuals who may expose them to serious violence and criminality	
5	Reduced or conflicted contact with positive or supportive people in their lives, i.e. family and friends and other support networks	
6	Use or exposure to drugs and/or alcohol and legal highs	
7	Noticeable change of self-image/appearance and dress	
8	Increased use of public transport or being transported by any means to move within cities or across borders or out of the UK i.e., located out of area, with no legitimate links to that area	
9	Carrying weapons to increase perceived status or due to feeling the need for protection and associating with others who also carry weapons or idolizing the carrying or use of weapons	
10	Being found with a vulnerable adult or peer with a known risk of exploitation	
11	Sexual violence including threat of sexual assault, harassment, taking indecent images and exploiters using them to control, initiate, extort or punish a child	
12	Making and then withdrawing a disclosure	
13	Injuries or a pattern of concern re injury and explanations do not often fit with the account given or account given would raise professional concerns	
14	Child linked to place-based risk i.e., known houses or places identified as a risk to any child or vulnerable adult	
15	Online (space-based risk) child uses or views content or applications that exploiters use to exploit or radicalise children.	
16	Increased interest in making money or need for money may be a result of debt bondage.	
17	Offending, whether coerced or otherwise. E.g., violence or sexual violence, theft, and drug dealing or association through partner, sibling or friend involved in criminal and gang cultures.	
18	Seemingly disproportionate reaction to having activities stopped or monitored or family fear reprisals due to their child being exploited	
19	Knowledge or glorification of gang culture or extremist thinking, or group offending. Consideration to be given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graffiti style 'tags' on possessions • Adopting certain types of behaviours and language • New nicknames 	
20	Single or repeated A&E attendance for injury or other symptoms	

	Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) Indicators One or more indicators identified requires input	Level of Concern L/M/H
21	Families fear reprisal or repercussions due to their child's exploitation	
22	Disengaging from education and positive age-appropriate activities as a result of exploitation or grooming	
23	Organised groups or networks of peers or adults exploiting child/ren	
Commentary in context of criminal exploitation and risk external to the family home		

Indicators of CSE

	Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Indicators One or more indicators identified requires input	Level of Concern L/M/H
1	Online Risk - coerced or encouraged to share indecent or inappropriate images and tricked or forced to engage in sexual acts virtually.	
2	Being offered payment for virtual images	
3	Being exploited online, which progresses to face to face abuse, coerced into sexual activity or forced into sexually harming others	
4	Knowledge of, interest in or exposure to adult websites where adults sell, or exchange sex and children can be exploited by posting or showing interest in those posts	
5	Regularly missing from home, care, or education – e.g., responsible adult has no understanding of where the child is or who they are with.	
6	Increase worry of contact with individuals who may expose the child to serious violence and sexual harm	
7	Reduced or conflicted contact with positive supportive networks and people in their lives, i.e. family and friends considered to be safe.	
8	Use of, or exposure to drugs and/or alcohol and legal highs to groom and sexually exploit the child	
9	Noticeable change of self-image/appearance and dress	
10	Child on child abuse, including sexualised bullying and revenge pornography	
11	Getting into cars with adult(s) or peers who may exploit them and associating with peers or a vulnerable adult with a known risk of exploitation	
12	Making and then withdrawing disclosures	
13	Unexplained injuries, coerced into unsafe sexual acts, having miscarriages, or terminations/presenting for pregnancy tests regularly or for concerns re sexually transmitted infection (STI) and repeat attendance at A&E	

	Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Indicators One or more indicators identified requires input	Level of Concern L/M/H
1 4	Child linked to place-based risk i.e., known houses or places identified as a risk to any child or vulnerable adult	
1 5	Previous history of familial abuse, and /or harmful sexual behaviours by adults responsible or the child's care.	
1 6	Knowledge of other areas or located out of area, with no legitimate links to that area	
1 7	Unaccounted for money or goods including mobile phones, drugs and alcohol, clothing, makeup,	
1 8	Increased interest in making money by legitimate or illegitimate means which could be linked to debt bondage	
1 9	Self-harming, cutting, punching walls, starting fights etc. and use of substances or alcohol as a coping mechanism	
2 0	Suspected Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or known culture of this within the family	
2 1	Forced marriage or marriage of convenience or preparations for such.	
2 2	Child or family have or show an interest in radicalisation or extremism	
2 3	Seemingly disproportionate reaction to having activities stopped or monitored i.e., devices checked and parental boundaries.	
2 4	Use of sexualised language and behaviours that indicate the child is knowledgeable beyond their age and stage of development.	
2 5	Association through partner, sibling or friend involved in criminal and gang/drugs cultures.	
2 6	Increased use of public transport or being transported by any means to move within cities or across borders or out of the UK i.e., located out of area, with no legitimate links to that area – i.e., child may talk about attending parties in hotels and homes etc.	
2 7	Organised groups or networks of peers or adults exploiting child/ren	
Commentary in context of the sexual exploitation.		

Section 4. Risk Assessment Analysis and Summary

Place Based Risk (PBR) – Consider Offender/Location/Business or Online Space of Concern
- give as much information as possible about these factors in respect of the child you are referring.

[Complete Operation Liberty Form](#) if required.

Persons of Interest – Named people or descriptions of those who may pose a risk now or in the future including child on child.

Locations: geographical area, residential, schools and hotels etc.

Business of interest i.e., Taxi company, Takeaway and Sports clubs/night club etc.

Online social media platforms or applications of concern.

Other: (Phone numbers, vehicles, upcoming events, usernames or accounts of concern)

Protective Factors/ Resilience of the Child and Family?

Practitioner observations and judgement of level of risk and analysis of concerns:

Action already taken to mitigate risk

What is your opinion about the current threshold, Emerging, Considerable or Significant Risk of harm?		What type/s of exploitation are identified		What is the level of risk (Low Medium or High) for each type?	

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Immediate actions to safeguard child:

Action	Responsible	Timescale

Are the child and family aware of these concerns and referrals?	
Are there any barriers to engagement with professionals?	
Are there any risks to Professionals or wider family?	

Date Exploitation Risk Tool Completed:			
Date of referral to Children's Social Care:		Date of referral to the Police:	

Name of Professional completing exploitation Risk Assessment:		Date	
Agency and contact Details:			
Agencies already involved?	Catch 22 Safe and Sound Education Health		

	Police
	CAMHS
	Youth Offending Services
	Probation
	SARC
	Childrens' Social Care
	Early Help
	Other?

Level of Risk and Referral

Low - when there is low level of risk, the threshold for Police or Social Care involvement is unlikely to be met, where this is in isolation of other safeguarding concerns. The CRE Risk Assessment should be regularly reviewed and should concerns increase a referral should be made to Social Care

See **Derby CRE Service Offer** or **Derbyshire CRE Operational Workflow**.

Medium or High level of Risk - any case recorded with a medium or high risk the outcome should be referred immediately to a manager.

Children at Risk of Exploitation (CRE) will be safeguarded at the appropriate tier of service balancing their level of risk and protective factors. This will be determined via a robust assessment process and threshold discussions.

- All immediate risks will require an immediate telephone or online referral to both Social Care and the Police. Where there are concerns that a child is suffering or likely to suffer Significant Harm or at Risk of Exploitation, a CRE Risk Assessment should be completed within 24 hours and Children's Social Care will hold a Strategy Discussion / Meeting involving the Police, health and any relevant involved agency. See [Child Protection Section 47 Enquiries Procedure, Strategy Discussions / Meetings](#).

For new referrals not already open to Social Care – send to Childrens Social Care for consideration of a Single Assessment and Threshold discussion.

In Derby referrals should be made to the Initial Response Team. Advice and support can also be sought from a Child Protection Manager. [Derby Children's Social Care Online Referral System](#)

In Derbyshire all new cases should be referred to [Starting Point contact and referral service](#). All open cases that are considered as high risk should be referred to the Child Protection Manager for Vulnerable Children (CPM-VC).

For open cases to Social Care

- Derby – send to the Social Worker and Team Manager for a threshold discussion, inclusive of LAC.
See **Derby CRE Service Offer**
- Derbyshire - See **Derbyshire CRE Operational Workflow** (under Childrens Social Care Assessment and Planning.
- The Child Protection Manager for Vulnerable Children (CPM-VC) should be contacted immediately if the level of risk is thought to be High and will organise a CRE High Risk Meeting, if the risk level is agreed.

3. Key Contacts

- Derby Children's Social Care: Initial Response Team 01332 641172, Careline (out of hours, weekends and bank holidays) 01332 956606
- Derbyshire Children's Social Care: Starting Point 01629 533190
- Derby Child Protection Managers: 01332 642376
- Derbyshire CRE Child Protection Manager Vulnerable Young People: 01629 532834
- Police: non-urgent 101 or in an emergency 999
- Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership safeguarding children procedures, includes specific chapters on CRE and trafficking, and other safeguarding information see <https://derbyshirescbs.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>
- Prevent Team
City - 01332 643044/01332 643455 Prevent Education Officer – 01332 643397
County - prevent@derbyshire.gov.uk