

Child Exploitation Risk Threshold Indicator

EXPLOITATION RISK CATEGORIES

1. Running Away / Going Missing	VULNERABLE	Regularly coming home later than their agreed time / Absent without permission / Returning late to care home / Absent from school / Whereabouts often unknown.
	COMPLEX	Frequently staying out overnight without permission / Episodes of running away, MFH, missing from placement / Looking well cared for despite having no known base? / Regular breakdowns of placement due to behavioural problems.
	ACUTE	Persistently running away, going MFH or placement / Pattern of street homelessness / Whereabouts often unknown or of significant concern, talks about and/or known to travel to different areas or cities.
2. Coercion / Control	VULNERABLE	Recent change in peer group / Reduced contact with family/friends / Late night phone/internet contact
	COMPLEX	Secretive about having a mobile phone or more than one / Extensive use of mobile phone/internet / Late night phone/internet contact / Limited contact with family/friends. A sense of urgency about needing to be elsewhere.
	ACUTE	Secretive about having a mobile phone/more than one / Disclosure of or police intelligence regard physical/sexual assault followed by withdrawn allegation/reluctant to report / No contact with family/friends / Disappear from system (no contact with support systems)/ Disclosure of or police intelligence relating to county lines/gang activity involvement or links, talks about having drug debts and an urgent need for money. Family report hostile acquaintances coming to the door or telephoning/messaging and making threats. A significant sense of urgency about needing to be elsewhere. Evidence of grooming / coercion / exploitation/victim of trafficking
3. Contact with Abusive Persons and/or Risky Environments	VULNERABLE	Some association with unknown adults and/or other exploited children and/or missing children / Some association with gang and county lines involved adults or peers.
	COMPLEX	Associating with unknown adults and/or other exploited children/young people and/or missing children / Information and Police Intelligence suggesting involvement in exploitation / Spending time in areas where exploitation has taken place / Associating with possible county lines or gang members/ Getting into cars with unknown adults or suspected perpetrators of CCE/CSE / New or expensive possessions which cannot be accounted for / Access to cash/money, spending time in areas where drug activity known to take place or fearful of going to certain areas.
	ACUTE	Identifying as a county lines or gang member / Found in areas/properties known for drug activity/ Evidence or Police Intelligence to suggest being moved around for criminal activity / Abducted and forced imprisonment (described by young person as "locked in").
4. Substance Misuse	VULNERABLE	Experimenting with alcohol/cannabis / Associating with young people known to use substances regularly.
	COMPLEX **	Regular use of or recent increase in use of substances / Use of drugs in addition to alcohol/cannabis (e.g. MDMA, cocaine) / Concerns for drug dependency / Associating with known drug dealers / Seen in known areas for selling drugs/ Seen associating with young people who are running and believed to be being exploited and involved in drug lines. Being given substances as part of grooming process.
	ACUTE	Evidence of dependency on alcohol/drugs / Using opiates (e.g. heroin, codeine, methadone) / Injecting of any substance / Dealing of substances / Found in areas/properties known for drug activity/ Supply of substances to others / CE activity for paying off of debts e.g. drug debt/ known to be actively involved in networks that run drug lines. Being given substances as part of exploitation.
5. Education	VULNERABLE	Mainly engaged in education, employment or training/ Some attendance/behaviour issues/ Poor educational achievement. Some periods of exclusion.
	COMPLEX	Irregular/poor attendance / Truanting from school / Losing interest in education / Periods of exclusion(s) / modified time table. Whereabouts during school hours unknown/ Poor educational achievement / Attending alternative provisions.

	ACUTE	Not in Education, training or employment / Regular breakdown of school placements due to behavioural problems/ Whereabouts during school hours unknown and information suggesting links to CE / County Lines or Gangs / Poor educational achievement.
6. Use of social media/technology	VULNERABLE	Talking to/communication with unknown adults/peers via the internet / Lack of awareness of online safety (young people and parents/carers).
	COMPLEX	Use of internet to share inappropriate or sexual images / Meeting in person, adults or peers following contact via social media./Concerns young person may be being groomed / Extensive/secretive use of internet. Information on social media platforms indicating potential grooming / coercion / exploitation.
	ACUTE	Use of internet to regularly meet in person risky adults/peers / Evidence of bullying through social media/internet / Evidence of harmful material being shared online. Accessing material relating to group violence/drill music material and incorporating this into their day to day lives.
7. Emotional & Physical Health *Sexual health	VULNERABLE	Low self-esteem / Some or reduced concerns of self-harm and/or eating disorders / Difficulty in making or maintaining friendships with peers.
	COMPLEX	Low self-esteem impacting upon young person's mental health / Increased concerns of self-harm / Violent/emotional outbursts or bullying or threatening behaviour / Offending behaviour / Difficulty in making or maintaining friendships with peers/ Concerns young person may be exposed to violence. Changes to physical appearance/ presentation/ significant weight loss/gain
	ACUTE	Chronic low self-esteem / Changes or extremes in mental health / Suicidal ideation /Evidence of emotional abuse from violence, as witness or victim / Evidence of self-harm, eating disorders, previous suicide attempts or overdoses / Frequent attendance at A&E / sexual health/Physical symptoms suggestive of sexual or physical assault including Plugging/Stuffing/Bagging. Reap unplanned pregnancy or pregnancies (including ending in termination/miscarriage.) Increased sexually transmitted infections and/or increased tests. Repeat requests for emergency contraception.
8. Accommodation and family relationships	VULNERABLE	Accommodation generally meets needs of young person/ Support available from family/parent/carer / Communication within home environment is good/ known peers/older sibling involved in drug distribution/county lines/gangs.
	COMPLEX	Overcrowding / Living with other young people who are considered to be at risk of CE / Evidence of decline in relationship and/or communication with family/parent/carer, known peers/older siblings who are suspect to have county lines debts, lack of parental supervision or interest in the young person.
	ACUTE	Homeless or sofa surfing / Young person often stays elsewhere/ Lack of relationship/understanding or trust / Family/friends/peers are known or suspected perpetrators of CE/ Known, parent is unavailable to them physically or emotionally.
9. Offending/ Criminal Activity	VULNERABLE	Coming to the attention of the police/ Concerns about being involved with or witnessing offending behaviour. Association with Peers or associates who are in possession of drugs/ Talked about or considering carrying weapons.
	COMPLEX	Known to be involved in drug related offending/ Police intelligence indicating/ Arrested by the police/charged/ investigated for offences of possession of offensive weapon/ Possession of drugs/ Theft. Known to be connected with drug distribution networks and lines.
	ACUTE	Significant intelligence indicating/Charged or convicted of Robbery/Use of offensive weapon/ possessions of large quantities of drugs/ Known to be active with drug distribution networks and lines/ recruiting others to run drug lines and to organised crime/ Witness withdrawing statements and suspecting intimidation. Disclosure of criminal/sexual exploitation or assault.
10. Community/Social Isolation Factors	VULNERABLE	Is the young person vulnerable to or experiencing low levels of social isolation that may be exacerbated as a result of Deprivation (including a perceived inability or reluctance to access more mainstream support)/ their Ethnicity/ cultural background/cultural dissonance/ being a Child Looked After/ identifying/exploring as Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay or Transgender (LBGT)/ their Special Educational Needs (SEND)/ Poor educational achievement or other factors. Some protective community factors present and support evident.
	COMPLEX	Is the young person experiencing moderate levels of social isolation that may be exacerbated by Deprivation/ their Ethnicity/ cultural background/ cultural conflict, being a Child Looked After/ identifying/exploring as Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay or Transgender (LBGT)/ their Special Educational

		Needs (SEND)/ Poor educational achievement or other factors? Some community protective factors are present but the young person is reluctant to access them. Starting to socialise with or take an interest in pro-offending groups. Aspires to be part of a local gang or anti-social group.
	ACUTE	Is the young person experiencing high levels of social isolation that may be exacerbated by deprivation (including being part of a community who does not accept diversity)/ their Ethnicity/ cultural background/ cultural conflict/ being a Child Looked After/ identifying/exploring as Lesbian/ Bisexual, Gay or Transgender (LBGT)/ their Special Educational Needs (SEND)/ Poor educational achievement or other factors. Are being targeted by groups or individuals due to their vulnerability. Is seeking inclusion/recognition from pro-offending peers or communities. Lack of community protective factors or disengagement by young person. Known to be an active participant in a local gang or anti-social group.

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