

**Children’s Social Care**

**Child Exploitation Assessment of Risk and Vulnerability**

All of the following information must be considered when there are concerns relating to child/young person being at risk of/or vulnerable to/experiencing exploitation. The assessment can also be utilised for assessing vulnerability and risk related to children/young people who go missing from home or care.

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| **Child /young person’s name (include alias’s)** |  | **DOB** |  | **Age** |  |
| **ID number** |  | **Contact number** |  | **Current legal status**  |  |
| **Gender** |  | **Religion** |  | **Ethnicity** |  |
| **Current Address** |  | **Postcode** |  | **Participated in assessment?** | **Yes** | **No** |
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| **Name of primary carer** |  | **Address and contact details** |  |
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| **Name of Social Worker completing the assessment** |  | **Contact details** |  |
| **Date assessment was completed** |  | **Signed** |  | **Type of assessment?** | **Initial** | **Review** |
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In order to identify children/young people at risk of/vulnerable to exploitation; and/or those who may be experiencing exploitation; and allow for a clear plan of effective inter-agency action; **ALL** of the risk and vulnerability indicators below must be considered and professional analysis provided for each one, before reaching an overall assessment of risk and vulnerability.

* The risk and vulnerability indicators headings are not exhaustive; they are simply those mostly commonly recognised which may indicate a risk of sexual or criminal exploitation.
* The wording against each indicator is provided to prompt assessment and analysis and again is not exhaustive of all factors which may require consideration.
* When assessing a child or young person’s risk of/vulnerability to criminal or sexual exploitation, it is essential to highlight if concern and information is current or historic. If either are historic but relevant, it is necessary to evidence how this relates to the current concern.
* When completing this assessment, it is crucial that the child or young person’s use of social media is considered throughout.
* As well as providing evidence as to how the assessment of individual indicators have been achieved, an overall analysis of risk and vulnerability must be provided.

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| **Risk and Vulnerability Indicator**  | 1. **Family and peer relationships**
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| **Factors to consider** | Reduced contact with family/friends which is of concern and/or unexplained change in attitude from the child/young person regarding their relationships which fall outside of expectations relating to childhood development.Suspected/known abuse in family (emotional, physical or sexual) Neglect.A lack of warmth/understanding/attachment and/or trust from parent/carer to child/young person. Parents/Carers do not implement age appropriate boundaries (including use around social media)Parents/Carers fail to report missing episodesParental concern’s about exploitation (sexual /criminal)Concerns regarding overprotection Child/young person is socially isolated Friends/family are assessed to be vulnerable to exploitation, and/or involved in gang activity/are known to the criminal justice system/Neighbourhood Police/Serious Organised Crime/ASB teams. |
| **Protective factors identified** |  |
| **Professional analysis** |  |
| **Level of concern** | **No Concern** | **Low Concern** | **Medium Concern** | **High Concern** |
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| **Risk and Vulnerability Indicator**  | 1. **Accommodation**
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| **Factors to consider** | Child/young person and or their family reside in unsuitable/unstable/temporary/overcrowded accommodation. Concerns about location (neighbourhood, ASB, gang activity) concerns about isolation/safetyThe young person is unhappy with their accommodation (although meets physical need) and often stays elsewhereYoung person is homeless and or sofa surfing. Young person resides independently in unsupported accommodationAccommodation is being accessed/used by adults/peers of concern or who pose a risk to the young person. |
| **Protective factors identified** |  |
| **Professional analysis** |  |
| **Level of concern** | **No Concern** | **Low Concern** | **Medium Concern** | **High Concern** |
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| **Risk and Vulnerability Indicator**  | 1. **Education Training or Employment**
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| **Factors to consider** | The child/young person is not engaged in education/training/employment and/or is not motivated to be engaged Excluded and/or does not have an education offer Whereabouts often unknown. Frequently late/leaves site early. Incidents of absence without permissionChange in behaviour to learning/employment, significant decline in school results/performanceRegular breakdown of school/training placements due to behavioural problems. Provision instability.Increasingly disruptive, hostile or physically aggressiveFriendships/peer groups are with others about whom there are concerns relating to criminal and/or sexual exploitationThe child/young person is socially isolated in the education/training/employment settingThe child/young person experiences bullying, harassment, abuse/violence in the education/training/employment settingAdditional educational needs. Alternative provision setting. Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan. |
| **Protective factors identified** |  |
| **Professional analysis** |  |
| **Level of concern** | **No Concern** | **Low Concern** | **Medium Concern** | **High Concern** |
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| **Risk and Vulnerability Indicator**  | 1. **Emotional Wellbeing**
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| **Factors to consider** | Emotional health concerns/identified Social, Emotional and Mental health need/concernsSelf-harm - Cutting, Overdosing, and/or Eating disorder, risk taking behaviours. Previous suicide attemptsRisk taking behaviours (substance misuse, sexual risking taking, offending)Low self-esteem/self-confidence. Concerns regarding fatigue, poor self-image, low moodBullying/threatening behaviour, aggression, violent outbursts, concerning substance misuse Expressions around invincibility or not caring about what happens to themFear and scared of reprisal or violence from young people or adults |
| **Protective factors identified** |  |
| **Professional analysis** |  |
| **Level of concern** | **No Concern** | **Low Concern** | **Medium Concern** | **High Concern** |
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| **Risk and Vulnerability Indicator**  | 1. **Experience of abuse and violence**
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| **Factors to consider** | Known (previous or current) violence and/or abuse from within the family, and/or from peers, associates, intimate partners Physical injuries Disclosure of physical/sexual assault Evidence of coercion/control (see indicator 9)Gang associationUse of sexualised language and/or violenceRisk taking behaviours (sexual and/or offending)Low self-esteem/self-confidence/self-harmBullying/threatening behaviour, aggression, violent outbursts.Limited or no recognition of abusive/exploitative behaviour or understanding of abusive/exploitative behaviour but unable to apply this to keep themselves safe |
| **Protective factors identified** |  |
| **Professional analysis** |  |
| **Level of concern** | **No Concern** | **Low Concern** | **Medium Concern** | **High Concern** |
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| **Risk and Vulnerability Indicator**  | 1. **Missing from home or care**
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| **Factors to consider** | Stays out late or overnight without permission/explanation. Child/young person leaves without explanationWhereabouts unknown. Child/young person secretive about their whereabouts/who they spend time withRepeated episodes of running away/going missing (including short periods)Reported missing with other children/young people assessed to be at risk of/vulnerable to criminal/sexual exploitation Known to spend time when away/missing with peers/adults assessed to be of concernReturns looking well cared for/not hungry/with new belongingsFound/known to have been outside of their local of area and/or in locations of concern. No known means self-support/travel whilst missing/away When missing/found known to have been with others involved with gang activity/offending behaviour/at risk of exploitation |
| **Protective factors identified** |  |
| **Professional Analysis** |  |
| **Level of concern** | **No Concern** | **Low Concern** | **Medium Concern** | **High Concern** |
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| **Risk and Vulnerability Indicator**  | **7. Associations and Locations** |
| **Factors to consider** | Extensive use of phone/secret use/excessive texts/calls and/or contact with unknown adults/peers May have use of more than one mobile phoneSpends time at addresses and places not know to parent/carer, goes or is taken to places the child/young person or family has no connections with Known to go to areas where there are concerns related to sexual exploitation and/or street sex work Evidence of friendships/associations/relationships time spent with adults/peers believed/known to be involved in grooming/exploitation (criminal/sexual)Gang association either through relatives, neighbourhood, peers or intimate relationships Police intelligence/information suggests that the child/young person is associating with/being exploited by peers/adults known to be involved in County Lines, grooming/exploitation, drug dealing, moving money/goods and/or organised crimeUse of social media/mobile phone to share sexualised images/gang related material/activitiesHas arranged to meet up with unknown adults/peers via social media contact  |
| **Protective factors identified** |  |
| **Professional analysis** |  |
| **Level of concern** | **No Concern** | **Low Concern** | **Medium Concern** | **High Concern** |
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| **Risk and Vulnerability Indicator**  | 1. **Substance Misuse**
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| **Factors to consider** | Some concerns about substance misuseProfessional/parent/carer concern relating to use/dependency or change/increase of useEvidence of regular/heavy or dependant substance (including alcohol) useConcern regarding how substance misuse is being accessed/funded/suppliedThe child/young person is believed to owe money be indebted to peers/adults re substance misuseThe child/young person has previously been cautioned/arrested/charged for, possession of drugs, dealing drugs |
| **Protective factors identified** |  |
| **Professional analysis** |  |
| **Level of concern** | **No Concern** | **Low Concern** | **Medium Concern** | **High Concern** |
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| **Risk and Vulnerability Indicator**  | 1. **Coercion and control**
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| **Factors to consider** | Extensive use of phone/secret use/excessive texts/calls and/or contact with unknown adults/peers. Receives phone calls/texts/messages which the young person ‘has to’ respond to and/or leads to them ‘needing’ to be elsewhereLimited/reduced/no significant contact with family/friends, significant adults/services Appears to be ‘controlled’ or negatively influenced by othersConcerns about domestic abuse/violence/coercion/control in significant relationships/friendshipsDisclosure of physical/sexual assault followed by withdrawal of allegationPhysical injuries – external/internalChild/young person is known to be associating with risky adults and/or peers and does want to alter thisAbduction/forced imprisonment Gang association/involvement Sharing of intimate pictures/information online when asked to by an adult/peer/unknown person Change in behaviour/presentation, secrecy re relationships, presents as being scared/controlledPicked up/dropped off from appointments |
| **Protective factors identified** |  |
| **Professional analysis** |  |
| **Level of concern** | **No Concern** | **Low Concern** | **Medium Concern** | **High Concern** |
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| **Risk and Vulnerability Indicator**  | 1. **Rewards**
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| **Factors to consider** | Concerns about unaccounted for monies and/or goods, (new clothes, jewellery mobile phone, mobile phone top–ups etc.)Concerns regarding the funding of misuse of drugs/alcohol/tobacco or cigarettes, entry into clubs, trips away from home, through unknown sourcesConcerns about how the child/young person funds other items (fast food, taxi fares, etc.)Has use of more than one mobile phone Secrecy about ability to ‘get around’/‘be places’ without known mode of transport |
| **Protective factors Identified** |  |
| **Professional Analysis** |  |
| **Level of concern** | **No Concern** | **Low Concern** | **Medium Concern** | **High Concern** |
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| **Risk and Vulnerability Indicator**  | 1. **Sexual Health and Intimate Relationships**
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| **Factors to consider** | Child/young person is sexually active but not practising safe sex/is not accessing/willing to access support from sexual health servicesDisclosure from young person regarding feeling pressured to have sex or to perform sexual acts in exchange for status/protection, possessions, substances or affectionThe young person reports/indicates they are experiencing sexual violence or coercion/has been unable to consent due to intoxication/substance misuse.Evidence of having (previously or currently) a sexually transmitted disease Miscarriage(s)/termination(s)/Pregnancy. Sexual assault(s)Young person is in a sexual relationship with an adult/or there is a wide age gapChild is under 13 and sexually activeChild/young person is made to watch/engage in sexual acts with adults/peers |
| **Protective factors identified** |  |
| **Professional analysis** |  |
| **Level of concern** | **No Concern** | **Low Concern** | **Medium Concern** | **High Concern** |
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| **Risk and Vulnerability Indicator**  | 1. **Risk to others**
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| **Factors to consider** | Displays violence/bullying and threatening behaviour and/or angry outbursts Encourages or coerces other children/young people to engage in ‘risky’ behaviours, and/or situations, and/or introduces them to ‘risky’ people/places, via friendships, associations, venues Bullying, including sexualised bullying, via the internet/social media sitesGang association through relatives, peers or intimate relationshipsIntelligence/information suggests that the child/young person shares drugs and/or is involved in selling/distributing drugsThe child/young person has been cautioned/arrested/charged for weapon offence(s), selling goods/drugs/gang activity Child/young person has been cautioned/arrested /charged for violent offencesChild/young person displays harmful sexual behaviours. |
| **Protective factors Identified** |  |
| **Professional analysis** |  |
| **Level of concern** | **No Concern** | **Low Concern** | **Medium Concern** | **High Concern** |
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| **Risk and Vulnerability Indicator**  | 1. **Engagement with Professionals and Services**
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| **Factors to consider** | Reduced or altered level engagement with services or professionals, or no meaningful engagementSecretive about friendships/associations/behaviours, who with and where they spend time when whereabouts unknownPresents as unwilling to engage meaningfully Sporadic contact, and/or missed appointments with limited explanation Professional concern re ability to engage with child/young person Often otherwise distracted when attends/engages, presents as nervous and/or keen to be elsewhere |
| **Protective factors identified** |  |
| **Professional analysis** |  |
| **Level of concern** | **No Concern** | **Low Concern** | **Medium Concern** | **High Concern** |
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| **Risk and Vulnerability Indicator**  | 1. **Wider Child and Family Factors**
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| **Factors to consider** | **Family factors** – Parental/family substance misuse, parental mental health, parental domestic abuse violence/coercion and control, Child to parent abuse, adult sex work, poverty, deprived neighbourhood, social isolation, parental childhood experiences of exploitation**Child factors** - Financially unsupported, unaccompanied migrant/refugee/asylum seeker. Recent bereavement or loss in the child/young person’s life. Child /young person unsure about sexual orientation or unable to disclose sexual orientation; young carer. Unmet need, (social, emotional, physical.) Social isolation/difficulties |
| **Protective factors identified** |  |
| **Professional analysis** |  |
| **Level of concern** | **No Concern** | **Low Concern** | **Medium Concern** | **High Concern** |
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| **Other Information****(Including the names of adults /peers, and locations of concern)** |
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| **Views of the child or young person**  |  |
| **Views of the parent /carer**  |  |
| **Views of other professionals** |  |

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| **Overall Assessed Level of Vulnerability and Risk** |

**Please note \*** One high risk and vulnerability indicator, or several low risk indicators may indicate a serious concern relating to a child/young person’s risk of/vulnerability to exploitation, alternatively overall analysis may conclude that concerns are not related to exploitation, but that there are concerns which require addressing via the child/young person’s overall plan. Professional analysis, and judgement based on knowledge of the child/young person, the voice of the child/young person, parent/carer views and research should all inform the overall assessed risk.

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| **Following your assessment what do you consider to be areas of risk and vulnerability for the child/young person?****Tick all that apply.** | Child Sexual Exploitation |  |
| Child Criminal Exploitation |  |
| Going Missing |  |

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| **What are the primary areas of risk and vulnerability for the young person?****Tick only one.** | Child Sexual Exploitation |  |
| Child Criminal Exploitation |  |
| Going Missing |  |

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| **No risk**  | Whilst there may be concerns for the welfare of the child/young person, which may involve the requirement of service provision for other assessed risks, the assessment of risk and vulnerability indicates that there are no current exploitation concerns for the child/young person. |  |
| **Low Risk** | The overall analysis raise some concerns relating to the child/young person’s vulnerability of being exploited. Concern that the child/young person is at risk of being targeted or groomed, but there are positive protective factors in the child/young person life.  |  |
| **Medium Risk** | The overall analysis indicates that the child/young person is vulnerable to being exploited and there is concern that the child/young person is at risk of opportunistic abuse, or is being targeted/groomed, however there are no assessed immediate or urgent safeguarding concerns. Whilst there are protective factors, current circumstances place him/her vulnerable to and at risk of exploitation. |  |
| **Highest Risk** | The overall assessment and analysis of the indicators/evidence/disclosure indicates that the child/young person is extremely vulnerable to, or at risk of exploitation, or that they are currently experiencing exploitation. (They may not recognise this). |  |

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| **This section to be completed only if a referral is being made to the Risk and Vulnerability Team:** |
| What agencies or professionals is the child/young person currently working with?(e.g. YOT,CAMHs, MST, third sector) |  |
| Have referrals been made to another agency or professional? |  |
| What support and intervention do you assess the child/young person and their family would benefit from? |  |

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| Line Manager verification  |  | Date agreed |  |
| Signed by child |  | Date |  |
| Signed by parent /carer |  | Date |  |

Please send a copy of this completed assessment to the Risk and Vulnerability Team at:riskandvulnerabilities@kirklees.gov.ukand West Yorkshire Police at:Kirklees.sguchild@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

**Review timescales:**

For those children and young people who are judged to be at low, medium or high risk of Exploitation, the level of risk must be reviewed at the following frequency:

**Low risk – every 3 months**

**Medium risk – every 3 months**

**High risk – bi - monthly**