

Child Exploitation

A guide for working with young people
deemed to be low risk





RISK DEFINITIONS

UNIVERSAL RISK 9-10

INDICATORS OF RISK

No risk indicators but may have one or more vulnerabilities present.

DESCRIPTION

A child or young person who may be 'in need' but who is not currently at risk of being groomed for exploitation.

LOW MILD RISK 6-8

Multiple vulnerabilities. One or two risk indicators may also be present.

A vulnerable child or young person who may be at risk of being groomed for exploitation.

MEDIUM MODERATE RISK 3-5

Multiple vulnerabilities and risk indicators present.

Indication that a child or young person is at risk of or may already be being exploited.

HIGH SIGNIFICANT RISK 0-2

Multiple vulnerabilities and risk indicators. One or more significant risk indicators also likely.

Indication that a child or young person is at significant risk of or is already being exploited.



SCREENING TOOL

If you have a concern, complete the Child Exploitation Indicator Tool which you can find at www.coventry.gov.uk/indicatortool And follow local safeguarding procedures.

You can contact the Horizon Team on 024 7678 8555 for advice and guidance.

A MASH Referral can be completed at www.coventry.gov.uk/mashreferral

Use your professional judgment! There could be no risk factors and all of the protective factors, if you have a concern, share it.



ADDRESSING VULNERABILITIES...

A single agency safety plan should be developed to support the young person. Or a professionals meeting of the agencies currently in contact with the child / young person should be arranged to discuss risks and develop a multi-agency safety plan.

Practitioners should consider a safety plan which includes:

- specific risk factors identified and how these will be mitigated against e.g. does the young person have a safe adult they can talk to
- Awareness raising work around healthy relationships, exploitation, grooming and online safety
- Education/training/employment support
- Family Support and other networks
- Any other relevant concerns

Remember to log your decision making on your own agency system.

BUILDING A TRUSTED RELATIONSHIP

For a young person to open up about their situation, it's important to build a positive relationship with them. Here are some tips on how to build trust:



The trusted relationship doesn't need to be with the lead professional, it can be anyone that the young person gets on with.

STARTING A DIFFICULT CONVERSATION

Talking to a young person about exploitation may not be easy.
Here are some tips on how to start that difficult conversation . . .

Where are you? Is this a private area? Is there space for them to retreat to in order to reflect? Try and meet in a location where they feel safe and able to express themselves. Some of the best conversations occur in informal settings.

Who is with them at the time? Are they able to offer support? Are they likely to help the situation or make it more difficult?

Where are they going to go after or what are they planning to do? Are they going somewhere where there are people they can talk to?

Who is going to support them after this? Do they have someone appropriate to talk to or ask questions or verbalise how they feel?

Try and consider any questions which the young person may have and find the answers to them. If during the conversation they have any questions which you do not have the answer to, explain that you are unsure of the answer, however will find out and let them know when you will contact them by with an update.

Start the conversation with **positivity** and **interest**, ask how they are or what they have been up to.

Avoid being critical, judgmental or using **victim blaming** language.

Always **be honest** with the young person. It is better to deal with a difficult situation when hearing difficult news than rebuilding a relationship through a breakdown in trust.

A young person may not want to talk to you, It is important you continue to attempt to meet the young person regardless so they know you are going to be consistent and you care.

If they become angry or upset, allow them to, making sure you keep yourself safe. Try and avoid asking a young person to **"calm down"** If a session with a young person does not end well, it is important to inform a family member/safe person to ensure they are there to offer emotional support. It is important to revisit this with the young person at the earliest opportunity consistency is key. Take a strength based approach reflecting on the positives of the conversation.

Following a session or meeting with a young person which has ended negatively, contact them to see how they are getting on. Try and draw a positive from it. For example, ***"I know yesterday was a really tough day for you and you had to hear things which you didn't want to, however I'm really impressed with how you handled it"***

Contact the young person later in the day or the following day to see how they are. Reflect on the previous session this is important to ascertain their understanding of the discussions.



SHARING INFORMATION

Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of children, which must always be the paramount concern. Be open and honest with the person from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will or could be shared.

Seek advice from Information Governance in your agency if you are in any doubt, without disclosing the identity of the person where possible

Share with consent where appropriate, however consent is not always needed or appropriate

The Data Protection Act and GDPR are not a barrier to sharing information!

Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it

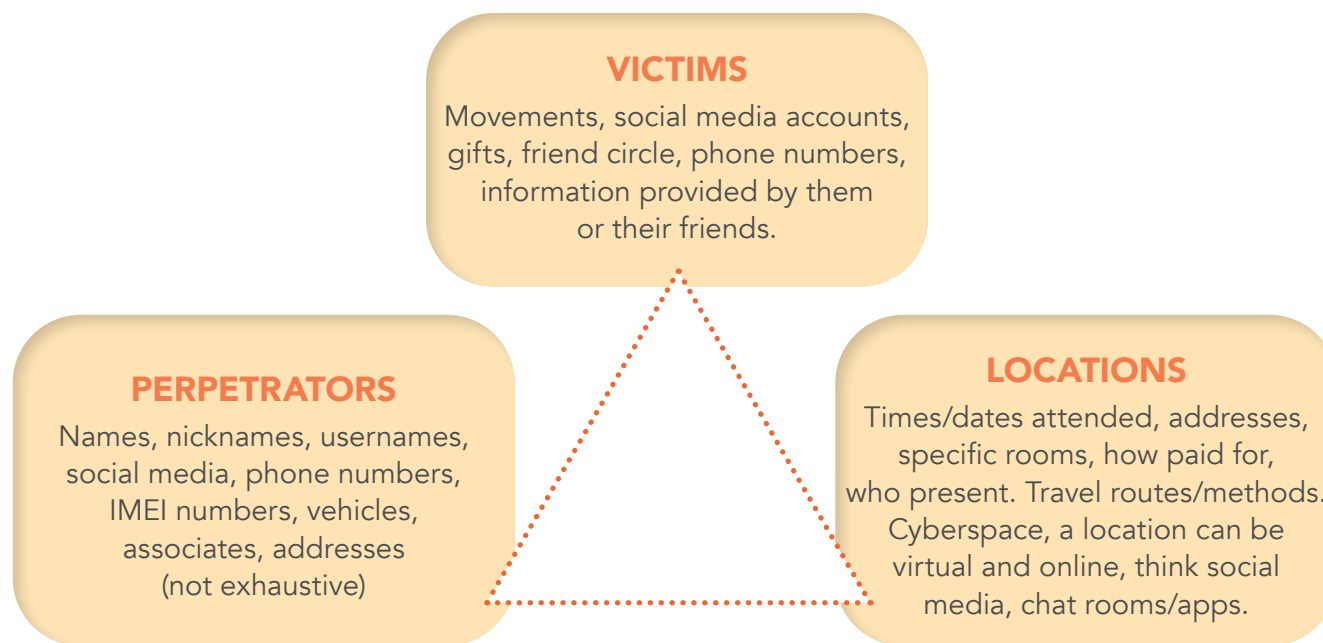
Consider safety and wellbeing of all individuals concerned

Ensure the information shared is relevant, accurate, timely, secure and necessary



INTELLIGENCE SHARING . . .

There are 3 elements to child exploitation: **Victims, Perpetrators** and **Locations**. If we remove one aspect of the risk, that risk can be prevented. When intelligence is gathered around a young person at risk of child exploitation, action can be taken to reduce the risk.



Intelligence is collected information that has been developed for action by the Police. Intelligence collection is a continuous process.

You don't need to be certain that your information is definitely linked to a child exploitation risk. If you have suspicion a child, person or location is involved in child exploitation, then let the Police know with this form

www.coventry.gov.uk/fibform and send to **coventryintel@westmidlands.police.uk**

The source will be kept confidential and not contained within the body of the log (there's a separate bit for that).

Keep information clear, concise and no abbreviations.

Share all the information, whether you think it is relevant or not.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Where possible, speak to **YOUR Safeguarding Lead** within your organisation about any concerns that you have.

If you need to report a matter to the police, call **101** with your concerns.

If you need to report an emergency matter always dial **999**

Social worker (out of office hours): **024 7683 2222**

www.coventry.gov.uk/childexploitationlanguage



024 7678 8555 weekdays 8.30am-5pm

cse.horizon@coventry.gov.uk

- Can offer advice and guidance with one to one discussions with professionals
- Have a directory of resources that can be used on a 1-2-1 or small groups
- Work on a 1-2-1 with young people identified as a medium or high risk of sexual exploitation

Please contact them for guidance on the best resources to use.



024 7627 7777 Mon-Fri 10am-2pm, Mon-Thurs 6pm-8pm

helpline@crasac.org.uk

Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre CRASAC continue to offer the ISVA advice around the criminal justice system or any other advocacy relating to sexual violence.

SUPPORT SERVICES



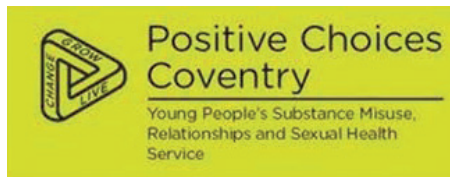
coventry_partnership@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Project Apollo/Artimus is a West Midlands Police led programme focusing on the awareness and prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation delivered to females living in Coventry between the ages of 12-19. The project discusses Child Exploitation case studies, grooming, sexual health and healthy behaviours as well as drug awareness and making positive choices. Some sessions include a personal trainer focusing on the health and well being of the participants to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

This project is Police led with inputs delivered by partner agencies and is suitable for vulnerable females and those scored as being low risk of Child Exploitation.

For referrals please contact Kimberley Keating directly on

kimberley.keating@westmidlands.police.uk or via the Partnerships email above.



024 7655 3130 Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-4.30pm positivechoices@cgl.org.uk

Positive Choices are an integrated risk taking service for children and young people. Their age range is from aged 5 and extends to 25. Positive Choices can be broken down over 3 age brackets;

- Primary School Aged 5-11- children can access support for hidden harm (affected by a parents substance misuse) and risky behaviour.
- Young people aged between 11-16 can access for support around risky behaviour; substance misuse, poor sexual health, poor partner relationships and hidden harm.
- Young people aged up to aged 18 can access support around problematic substance misuse. This service extends to aged 25 young people with a LAC status or additional vulnerability including mental health, learning disability or NEET.

Anyone can refer a young person into service including family members.

Young people can also self refer.

MENTORING SERVICES



01788 551919

admin@assisttraumacare.org.uk

Guiding Young Minds is at heart therapeutic service which recognises that young people caught up in gangs and knife crime have often experienced adverse childhood events. Trauma-focussed interventions are therefore delivered as part of mentoring if needed, and the team has undertaken training in trauma-focussed cognitive behavioural therapy to enable this and enable him to help young people who have suffered trauma.



01637 787483

Skilled Youth Workers, Mentors and Sports Coaches working in areas of social deprivation delivering activities helping young people and adults to develop personal, social and emotional skills. Offering Youth Groups, 1-2-1/Group Mentoring, Football Coaching, Multi-Sports, Music Studio Workshops and Accredited Qualifications to improve confidence and self-esteem. Qualified Tutors able delivering quality Youth Work and Sports Leadership Qualifications. Ultimately inspiring young people (9-17) to be active citizens and make positive life choices, and supporting adults (18+) to become leaders in their community through accredited training.



024 7615 8550

info@positiveyouthfoundation.org

PYF provides a safe and accessible timetable of provision for young people across Coventry. Whilst open-access in its nature, the work of Positive Futures primarily focuses on keeping young people safe from exploitation and associated risk-factors. In addition to this we offer targeted mentoring services that embrace influences from the sport, youth work and criminal justice sectors to improve personal, social and community development outcomes. With a purposeful intention to change, rather than simply 'manage', young people's behaviour.

MENTORING SERVICES



024 7622 4975

The MAC (Music and Change) Project is designed as a course to engage young people about career possibilities within music. From production, to artist management, the MAC project seeks to give participants a new pathway to professional studies, in an informal and immersive manner. It also offers sports opportunities and boxing sessions with a full size boxing ring and general fitness/physical activity.

The MAC Project is open to all and is particularly valuable to those who may feel disconnected with their current education or need a positive environment to keep them away from the streets. The sessions will provide both theory and practical lessons.

City centre location at Coventry Boys and Girls Club. Youth sessions run Wednesdays and Fridays 6-8pm and cost £1 per session. No referral required.



Universal Early Help Offer - The Family Hub and Start for Life offer

The Coventry Family Hub offer is available to children, young people and families across the city. There are eight Hubs that offer a safe space for young people and support, advice and activities to children 0-19 and their families. Young people and families can drop into any of the Family Hubs to find out what activities and service are available locally to them.

Whether you're a parent with young children, a teenager, or anyone in between, a Coventry Family Hub is the place to connect with the help and guidance that families need to ensure they receive the right support at the right time from the right people. This includes the parenting support offer provides a range of evidenced based interventions that provide parents with practical strategies that aims to promote healthy relationships and improve children's lived experiences.

To make that support even more accessible, the new Coventry Families portal – is now available at www.CoventryFamilies.co.uk

The portal is a 'one-stop shop' for information useful to all Coventry families, bringing together resources from various organisations across the city, including Coventry City Council and the NHS. This also includes the local SEND offer and includes information that will support children, young people and their families who may be at risk of exploitation.



Targeted intensive family support - Supporting Families (Early Help)

Request for early help can be made to support young people and their families using the online form www.coventry.gov.uk/applyearlyhelp. Once a request is received the family will receive a call to establish the right help, this could be signposting, advice and guidance or the need to explore a package of intensive family support to intervene with the risks identified as well as wider family issues.

USEFUL LINKS

www.seeme-hearme.org.uk

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.nwgnetwork.org

www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre

www.paceuk.info

www.coventry.gov.uk/safeguardingchildren

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.coventry.gov.uk/csescreeingtool

www.barnardos.org.uk

www.coventry.gov.uk/mashreferral

www.coventry.gov.uk/lscb

www.west-midlands.police.uk/your-local-police/coventry