

Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership



Bromley Child Sexual Exploitation Protocol

2020

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1. Introduction

This document sets out the procedures and practical guidance for safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children from Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Bromley. It outlines how, through our partnerships, we assess, challenge and provide an enhanced, effective service to reduce the harm and threats posed to children and young people from Child Sexual Exploitation; and target offenders to prevent and disrupt criminal activity.

This protocol is designed to help practitioners, local leaders and decision makers who work with children and families to identify child sexual exploitation and to enable them to take appropriate action in response to it. This includes the management, disruption and prosecution of perpetrators.

It has been informed by the London Child Sexual Exploitation Protocol, specifically the key themes, definitions and information provided within it. That said it is critically important that the focus when applied across our multiagency partnership is in line with our overarching strategy to ensure that all of our children are seen, heard and helped within the context of each of their lives in Bromley.

The document should be read in conjunction with the Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership [Vulnerable Child and Adolescents Strategy 2019-21](#) as well as the following documents:

- [The London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocol - 3rd Edition - June 2017](#)
- [London Child Protection Procedures \(6th Edition, September 2020\) Safeguarding Children from Sexual Exploitation](#)
- [The Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership \(BSCP\) Missing Children Protocol](#)
- [The Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership \(BSCP\) Protocol for Safeguarding Children Affected by Gang Activity](#)
- [Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership Pledge](#)

2. Purpose

The purpose of this protocol is to provide agencies across Bromley with clear local guidance on referral pathways in relation to children at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

3. Definition

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

For the purposes of clarity across partner agencies and the public, Bromley has adopted the nationally agreed definition of Child Sexual Exploitation:

“Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.”

This revised definition and further guidance is found in the following Department for Education document:

[Department for Education - Child Sexual Exploitation - Definition and a Guide for Practitioners, Local Leaders and Decision Makers Working to Protect Children from Child Sexual Exploitation \(February 2017\)](#)

Sexual Exploitation of Children and Young People includes some combination of the following:

- **Pull Factors** - children exchanging sex for attention, accommodation, food gifts or drugs
- **Push Factors** - children escaping from situations where their needs are neglected and there is exposure to unsafe individuals
- **Control** - brain washing, violence and threats of violence by those exploiting the child

No child can consent to their own exploitation and abuse. There are strong links between children abused through exploitation or at risk of being drawn into exploitation and other behaviours such as going missing from home or care, truancy and substance misuse.

4. Aims and Principles

The Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership adopts and endorses the aims and principles within the London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocol, 3rd Edition (June 2017) in informing this local protocol and underpinning multi-agency response to the sexual exploitation of children. These are as follows:

Aims

- To identify children at risk of being sexually exploited
- To ensure a child-centered approach, action will be focused on the child’s needs. This includes consideration of children with particular vulnerabilities or sensitivities, and the fact that children do not always acknowledge what may be an exploitative or abusive situation. Sexually exploited children are children in need of services under the Children Act 1989 and 2004. They are also children in need of protection
- To ensure the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people who are, or may be, at risk from sexual exploitation

- To work collaboratively to ensure the children and young people at risk of being sexually exploited are safeguarded
- To provide timely and effective interventions with children and families to safeguard those vulnerable to sexual exploitation
- To apply pro-active problem solving to address the risks associated with victims, offenders, locations and themes (**VOLT**)
 - Victims
 - Offenders
 - Locations
 - Themes
- To take action against those intent on abusing and exploiting children and young people by prosecuting and disrupting perpetrators
- To raise awareness and provide preventative education for the welfare of children and young people who are, or may be, sexually exploited

Principles

The principles underpinning a multi-agency response to the sexual exploitation of children and young people include that:

- Sexually exploited children should be treated as victims of abuse, not as offenders
- Sexual exploitation includes sexual, physical and emotional abuse and in some cases, neglect
- Children do not make informed choices to enter or remain in sexual exploitation, but do so from coercion, enticement, manipulation or desperation
- Young people who are, or at risk of being sexually exploited will have varying levels of needs. They may have multiple vulnerabilities and therefore an appropriate multi-agency response and effective coordination and communication is essential
- Law enforcement must direct resources against the coercers and sex abusers, who are often adults, but could also be the child's peers. However, it needs to be recognised that these peers may also be victims themselves
- Sexually exploited children are children in need of services under the Children Act 1989 and 2004. They are also children in need of immediate protection

As well as these, this Protocol maintains focus on the following:

- **Parenting, family life and services** - it is important that agencies consider the need for support services for parents which help them gain the information and access the services they need to protect and support their children
- **The rights of children and young people** - children and young people are entitled to be safeguarded from sexual exploitation, just as agencies have duties in respect of safeguarding and promoting their welfare
- **Responsibility for criminal acts** - the government remains clear that children and young people who are sexually exploited should not be regarded as having bad or criminal behaviour; they are victims of sexual abuse
- **An integrated approach** - effective measures to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people cannot be seen in isolation from the wider range of support and services available to meet the needs of children and families
- **A shared responsibility** - safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in this context depends on effective joint working between different agencies and professionals that work with children and young people. This joint working should be underpinned by:
 - A strong commitment from leaders and senior managers
 - A shared understanding of the problem of sexual exploitation
 - Effective coordination by the LSCB for the area

Children under 16 years cannot consent to sexual activity

Children do not make informed choices to enter or remain in sexually exploitative situations, but do so from coercion, enticement, manipulation or desperation. Section 5 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 makes it an offence for a person intentionally to penetrate with his penis the vagina, anus or mouth of a child under the age of 13, whether or not the child consented to this act is irrelevant.

5. CSE Identification and Warning Signs

Current Understanding of Bromley Profile

The local intelligence, investigations, assessments and data that has been provided to date suggests that the most prevalent form of CSE within Bromley is that of **Peer-on-Peer**. However, this must not lead to BSCP, agencies and or professionals within the borough focusing upon or only consider this form of CSE.

As Bromley Partnership governance structures related to MASH, ATLAS, MEGA and MACE engagement become more developed and further strengthened, the CSE profile may change and a deeper understanding of pathways to specific and related harms will emerge.

The most recent intelligence (2019) highlights the following factors: parental substance misuse, mental health issues, domestic violence and offending within the family.

Strong associations with going missing, drug and alcohol misuse and CSE.

A significant number of the children are in alternative provision (PRUs) or residential placement and have experienced multiple moves, absence and instability.

The building and development of the borough's CSE profile is a cumulative process that needs to be informed by all staff and agencies, as well as by the wider Bromley community; **everyone has a role.**

Identifying CSE - What to look for

Sexually exploited young people rarely approach the police or social workers directly and disclose that they are being exploited. It is a shared responsibility for all to identify young people vulnerable to, or at risk of or experiencing CSE. It is important that everyone working with young people are aware of the vulnerabilities and risk indicators that can make a young person more vulnerable.

The following are factors that can make a young person more vulnerable to exploitation:

- Having a prior experience of neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse
- Lack of a safe/stable home environment, now or in the past (e.g. domestic violence, parental substance misuse, mental health issues or criminality)
- Recent bereavement or loss
- Social isolation or social difficulties
- Absence of a safe environment to explore sexuality
- Economic vulnerability
- Missing from home or care
- Gang association
- Dependent on drugs and alcohol
- Homelessness or insecure accommodation status
- Connections with other children and young people who are being sexually exploited
- Family members or other connections involved in adult sex work
- Having a physical or learning disability
- Being in care (particularly those in residential care and those with interrupted care histories)
- Young people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or whose gender identify differs from the sex they were given at birth

Sexual Exploitation is often linked to other types of crime including:

- Child trafficking (into, out of and within the UK)
- Domestic abuse
- Sexual violence in intimate relationships
- Grooming (both on and off-line)
- Viewing, creating or distributing abusive images of children
- Organised sexual abuse of children
- Gang-related activity
- Immigration-related offences
- Domestic servitude

Often children and young people who are victims do not recognise that they are being abused. There are a number of warning signs that can indicate a child may be being groomed for sexual exploitation and behaviours that can indicate that a child is being sexually exploited.

The mnemonic “**SAFEGUARD**” provides prompts to help focus on the signs and symptoms that may indicate a child is a victim of CSE:

S exual health and behaviour	Evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexually transmitted infections Pregnancy and termination Inappropriate sexualised behaviour
A bsent from school or repeatedly running away	Evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truancy Periods of missing from home or care
F amilial abuse and / or problems at home	Evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familial sexual abuse Physical abuse Emotional abuse Neglect Risk of forced marriage So-called ‘Honour’ based violence Domestic abuse Substance misuse Parental mental health concerns Parental criminality Experience of homelessness Living in a Care Home Living in temporary accommodation
E mootional and physical condition	Evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thoughts of or attempted suicide Thoughts of or attempted self-harming Low self-esteem or confidence Problems relating to sexual exploitation Learning difficulties Poor mental health Unexplained injuries Changes in physical experience
G angs, older age groups and involvement in crime	Evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement in crime Direct involvement with gang members Living in a gang-afflicted community Involvement with older individuals Lacking friends from the same group Contact with other individuals who are sexually exploited
U se of technology and sexual bullying	Evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexting Sexualised communications online Problematic use of the internet Problematic use of social networking sites
A lcohol and drugs misuse	Evidence of:

<p>Receipt of unexplained gifts or money</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Problematic substance misuse <p>Evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unexplained finances ▪ Unexplained phone credit ▪ Clothes ▪ Money
<p>Distrust of authority figures</p>	<p>Evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resistance to communicating with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parents ▪ Carers ▪ Teachers ▪ Social Services ▪ Health ▪ Police ▪ Others

6. Forms of CSE

The common characteristics of CSE can manifest in different ways and include;

Peer-on-Peer

This form of exploitation involves children being enticed, forced or coerced into sexual activity by other children. Peer-on-peer exploitation can take place without the involvement of adults, or can involve adults exploiting children and young people to exploit other children.

The London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocol (3rd Edition, June 2017) provides the following further helpful pan-London insight and intelligence regarding the prevalence of peer-on-peer CSE.

“Young people can be sexually exploited by people of a similar age as well as adults. Research is increasingly demonstrating that a significant number of sexually exploited young people have been abused by their peers and a London Councils report in 2014 found that peer-on-peer exploitation was the most frequently identified form of child sexual exploitation in London.

Young people can be exploited by their peers in a number of ways. In some cases young women and young men who have been exploited themselves by adults or peers, will recruit other young people to be abused. In other instances, sexual bullying in schools and other social settings can result in the sexual exploitation of young people by their peers.

Sexual exploitation also occurs within and between street gangs, where sex is used in exchange for safety, protection, drugs and simply belonging. For 16 and 17 year olds who are in abusive relationships, what may appear to be a case of domestic violence may also involve sexual exploitation.

In all cases of peer-on-peer exploitation, a power imbalance will still inform the relationship, but this inequality will not necessarily be the result of an age gap between the abuser and the abused.”

Older Boyfriend or Girlfriend

A child is groomed by an adult to believe that they are in a loving relationship. The adult may entice, coerce or force the child to have sex with them, and sometimes also with the adult's friends or associates.

Organised, Networked or Trafficked

In this form of CSE, children are passed through networks of perpetrators, sometimes over geographical distances and between different cities. They may be forced or coerced into sexual activity with multiple adults. They may also be used to recruit other children into the network.

Some of this activity is described as serious organised crime and can involve the organised 'buying and selling' of young people by offenders. Organised exploitation varies from spontaneous networking between groups of offenders, to more serious organised crime where young people are effectively 'sold'.

Children are known to be trafficked for sexual exploitation and this can occur across local authority boundaries and regions and across international borders.

Position of Responsibility

CSE involves an imbalance of power. Some perpetrators may be in positions of responsibility - such as teachers, religious leaders, sports coaches - and manipulate this in order to sexually exploit children.

Other forms of CSE, as identified within the London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocol (3rd Edition, June 2017) are:

On-line Child Sexual Exploitation

Children and young people now grow up and live in a digital world; it improves people's lives in many ways, allowing multiple methods to communicate and share information.

However, the online environment can open pathways to harm. According to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) most child sexual exploitation offences take place online. In fact, contemporary experience indicates that in many 'offline' cases digital technology can form part of the communication, grooming and control process used by predators including peers.

These offences include deceiving children into producing indecent images of themselves and engaging in sexual chat online or sexual activity over a webcam.

LGBTQ+

Children and young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, plus (LGBTQ+) may become victims of child sexual exploitation. This group of young people can experience higher levels of vulnerability and their plight can often go undetected. It is important that safeguarding professionals across the Bromley Safeguarding Partnership familiarise themselves with the signs and symptoms that a young person from this community is suffering CSE. The

following link provides information on the vulnerabilities, barriers to disclosure and practical tips, as well as sign posting to specialist services and resources.

Supporting LGBTQ+ Children and Young People at Risk of Child Sexual Exploitation: Guidance for Professionals:

https://www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/sites/default/files/cse_guidance_lgbtq.pdf

Gangs and Groups

Young people associated with gangs are at a high risk of criminal and sexual exploitation. Sexual violence amongst peers is commonplace and it is used as a means of power to apply coercive control over others; most commonly young women.

Young people affected by or associated with gangs are at high risk of sexual exploitation and violence and we must seek to identify and safeguard them at the earliest opportunity.

We now know that:

- **Gangs** – Whilst some girls are gang members or are associated with them the majority are men and boys aged 13-25 years old, who take part in many forms of criminal activity (e.g. knife crime or robbery) who can engage in violence against other gangs, and who have identifiable markers, for example a territory, a name, or sometimes clothing, or by utilising gang identified material or communications via online channels/social media.
- **Groups** - involves people who come together in person or online for the purpose of setting up, co-ordinating and / or taking part in the sexual exploitation of children in either an organised or opportunistic way.

Sexual exploitation is used in gangs to:

- Exert power and control over members
- Initiate young people into the gang
- Exchange sexual activity for status or protection
- Entrap rival gang members by exploiting girls and young women
- Inflict sexual assault as a weapon in conflict.

County Lines

County lines typically involves an inner-city/London based criminal gang travelling out of London 'counties' to sell drugs.

The gangs often use a local property, generally one belonging to a vulnerable person, as a base for their activities. This is sometimes referred to as 'cuckooing' and can involve the use of force or coercion. In some instances victims have left their homes in fear of violence.

Perpetrators employ various tactics to evade detection, including rotating gang members between locations so they are not identified by law enforcement or competitors, and using women and children to transport drugs in the belief that they are less likely to be stopped and searched.

CSE can also be seen in these types of cases and every effort should be taken to identify those young people that are also being sexually exploited as well as being coerced into other criminal behaviour.

Older gang members often groom and indoctrinate a vulnerable young person to the point that they can be used as an instrument of crime. Such criminal exploitation of a child is often subtle whereby time is taken to normalise abnormal or criminal behaviour. It is important that all partners not least those involved in the criminal justice system are sensitive to the fact that some young people engaged in criminal acts will be under the direct and coercive control of an adult.

These situations will often become apparent to professionals when young people are located after missing episodes outside of the London area and where there is no apparent reason for them being there or independent means for them to travel to, or return from a particular location.

Inappropriate Relationships

These usually involve one offender who has inappropriate power or control over a young person (physical, emotional or financial). One indicator may be a significant age gap. The young person may believe they are in a loving relationship.

Familial

Children can be exploited by their parents and/or other family members. Parents or family members may also arrange the abuse of the child and/or control and facilitate exploitation. Where one child is being exploited, siblings or other child relatives are at increased risk of suffering exploitation.

Opportunistic

This may occur quickly and without any form of grooming. Typically, older males identify vulnerable young people who may already have been groomed or sexually abused. The perpetrator will offer a young person a 'reward' or payment in exchange for sexual acts. The perpetrator is often linked with a network of abusive adults.

Digital Collateral

Furthermore, Serious Case and Local Practice learning Reviews have highlighted the use of technology to coercively control young victims. Perpetrators can and do track and remain in constant communication with them. They also use sexually exploitative images captured from them (digital collateral) to maintain direction and control of them.

7. Missing

The Police are the lead agency for missing, missing from home/care or away from placement without authorisation and are ultimately responsible for deciding whether to categorise a child as missing. There will be on-going risk assessment and so children may move between the missing categories depending on the updated risks.

The definitions:

High Risk	
<p>The risk of serious harm to the subject or the public is assessed as very likely. (<i>College of Policing APP 2017</i>)</p>	<p>This category almost always requires the immediate deployment of police resources. A member of the BCU senior leadership team or similar command level must be involved in the examination of initial enquiry lines and approval of appropriate resourcing levels.</p> <p>Such cases should lead to the appointment of an IO and possibly an SIO and PoISA engagement prior to search assets being deployed. There should be a press/media strategy and/or close contact with outside agencies. Family support should be put in place through a FLO or via the Missing People charity.</p> <p>The NCA Missing Persons Bureau should be notified of the case if outstanding after 72 hours.</p> <p>A Child Rescue Alert should be considered in cases involving individuals under 18 years old (see toolkit)</p> <p>If Under 18, Children's Services should be notified immediately (This is usually done via the Merlin shared via MASH)</p>
Medium Risk	
<p>The risk of harm to the subject or the public is assessed as likely but not serious. (<i>College of Policing APP 2017</i>)</p>	<p>This category requires an active and measured response by police and other agencies in order to trace the missing person and support the person reporting.</p>
Low Risk	
<p>The risk of harm to the subject or the public is assessed as possible but minimal. (<i>College of Policing APP 2017</i>)</p> <p><i>Children aged 17 and under CAN be considered in this category where established circumstances dictate</i></p> <p><i>'Regular' episodes of missing are often a sign of significant risk and therefore low risk should not be an automatic consideration without further rationale.</i></p>	<p>Proportionate enquiries should be carried out to ensure that the individual has not come to harm.</p>

Children who frequently go missing overnight from care and foster homes should be considered to be at risk of sexual exploitation and this should trigger a referral to the lead professional responsible for sexual exploitation and trafficking. Beverley.Brown@bromley.gov.uk

What you should do if you are concerned a child is at risk from CSE or Missing:

- If you have clear concerns about a child, then make a referral to Children's Social Care via the online form or phone number. This will go direct to the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) Team
- If you have fresh concerns about a child already allocated to a social worker in Children's Social Care, then ensure that you share those concerns in writing with the allocated Social Worker, if known. If not known, then please contact Children's Social Care as above
- If you are uncertain about your concerns or wish to talk to the Safeguarding Lead for Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing, then you should contact Bromley's Atlas Team:
Email: Beverley.Brown@bromley.gov.uk

For the attention of:

CSE / Missing Coordinator
London Borough of Bromley
Atlas Team Bromley Civic Centre
Stockwell Building
BR1 3UH

8. Role of Children's Social Care

On receipt of a referral, Children Social Care must consider whether the child is at immediate risk of significant harm, and if so, then child protection procedures apply.

Child protection procedures should be followed where:

- The child is at immediate risk of significant harm and has other vulnerabilities
- There is concern that the sexual exploitation is being facilitated by the child's parent / carer
- There is concern that the sexual exploitation is facilitated by the child's parent failing to protect
- There is concern that a related or unrelated adult in a position of trust or responsibility to the child is organising or encouraging sexual exploitation

If child protection procedures are not considered appropriate, the social worker in discussion with their team manager and / or the lead professional / child protection manager will identify and assess the level and category of risk of harm to the child.

The outcome of the assessment should be discussed within the outcome strategy discussion and an appropriate safeguarding and support plan put in place.

Children's Social Care **must** collect information to monitor prevalence, activity patterns and effectiveness of interventions for children who are sexually abused, including sexually exploited in their area and should supply these to the business analysis for review.

9. Role of Police

CSE - Police Officer Reporting Pathway

All police officers have a duty to safeguard and protect children under S11 Children Act 2004. The MPS current procedures require all officers to complete a MERLIN PAC for a child that comes to notice. This procedure applies to those occasions when a child is believed to be at risk of CSE. There is a specific category on the MERLIN PAC to highlight a CSE concern. The reporting officer will also complete a CRIS report even where no actual allegation of crime is made, and no offence has been alleged. The MERLIN reference number must then be cross referenced onto the CRIS report.

When an officer identifies that a child (any person under the age of 18), is at risk of CSE the first consideration must be their protection and safety and if the officer believes that the child is in immediate risk of significant harm, then police protection must be considered and the appropriate procedures complied with. Appendix 1 illustrates the front-line officer's pathway to be followed.

Responsibility for police category 1 and non-contact on-line police category 2 investigations and interventions will rest with borough police and partner agencies (not Looked After Children) where the child resides. Where the exploitation is taking place away from where the child resides, the borough where the exploitation is taking place will conduct any necessary enquiries on behalf of the owning borough. This will include liaison with Children's Services local to where the risks are apparent. For children who are in the care of Social Services (Looked After Children) procedures set out in the London Child Protection Procedures (6th Edition, 2020) for their response will be followed. The lead police responsibility will remain with the borough where the child resides.

The Police (South BCU) will provide initial support through guidance of all police category 1 notifications to ensure the necessary enquiries are completed in a timely and effective manner. However, all professionals need to remain vigilant and curious as children and young people can be assessed as police category 1 due to a lack of information or engagement at the time. Child Sexual Exploitation is a very dynamic process, young people can be drawn in and out of CSE and / or the speed in which young people can become involved can on occasions be very short.

The Police (South BCU) will include CSE in their daily, weekly and monthly tasking meetings to ensure the threat of CSE is effectively managed.

Police Prevention Interview - Police Responsibility

Police should interview all children when they return or are located. The interview consists of a simple series of questions about where the child was whilst missing, where they went, what they did, who they were with etc. However, the purpose of this interview is to establish whether the child has come to harm whilst missing and to establish what can be done to prevent future missing occurrences. If the child makes an allegation of crime that occurred whilst they were missing or that contributed to him/her running away, the police will record this allegation and take appropriate action.

Prevention Strategies for Businesses and Night-time Economy - Operation Makesafe

Operation Makesafe is an initiative to identify potential victims of Child Sexual Exploitation with the assistance of business owners/premises where CSE has historically taken place. This will include hotels, taxi, fast food restaurants, licensed premises and care homes. This is not an exhaustive list.

CSE awareness training is provided to staff at these premises in relation to the warning signs for CSE and what actions should be taken if they are concerned about a child's safety or concerned about suspicious behaviour or activity on their premises.

If concerned the business community are encouraged to ring 101 and quote Operation Makesafe where they will receive an appropriate police response. Local authorities and borough police are encouraged to promote this initiative within their boroughs.

10. Referral to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Referrals relating to concerns that a child or young person is at risk of sexual exploitation can be made by professionals and members of the public (such as parents and carers) using the CSE Risk Screening Tool.

Any concerns that a child or young person is at risk of or is suffering significant harm through abuse or neglect must be referred to Bromley Children's Social Care using a standard referral form. The referral form has been modified to enable the easy identification of cases of suspected CSE and can be found on the London Borough of Bromley website.

Bromley's MASH team have a link to Synergy Connect (database used by the CAF Team and Bromley Children's Project) and are able to cross reference this to ascertain if there are any CAF involvement on individual cases.

All referrals into Children's Social Care are received by MASH. Within MASH each case is given a RAG rating and corresponding response time:

▪ Red	-	3 hours
▪ Amber	-	7 hours
▪ Green	-	72 hours

In making decisions about how best to respond to concerns, members of the MASH team will carry out checks to determine whether the child or young person is known to any of the core agencies or has an open referral or case.

They may make contact with the referrer, the parents/carers, or engage in professional consultations in order to obtain further information enabling better decision making about how to respond. On occasion there may be a need to share information with other agencies; this is done securely in accordance with the existing legislative framework for information sharing.

If the child is not known to Children's Social Care and the formal MASH process has been initiated, with managerial oversight the MASH/social worker will then use an internal CSE screening form to risk assess the case and to refer to MASH.

All CSE referrals and risk assessments must be sent to the CSE/Missing Co-Ordinator and Leads Beverley.Brown@bromley.gov.uk (using the reference 'Strategy Meeting' in the subject line of the email.

If the child is already known to Children's Social Care or on receipt of the CSE Risk Screening Tool (Appendix 1) referral to MASH, and therefore has an allocated worker, the concern is passed to the current allocated social worker/lead professional for action in response to the concerns. The referral will not go through the MASH process.

It is then the responsibility of the allocated worker to risk assesses the case using the CSE Risk Assessment Tool (found in Appendix 3) for all children and young people with CSE involvement or concerns and, with managerial oversight, refer the case to the Atlas Team.

All CSE Strategy referrals must be sent to the CSE/Missing Co-Ordinator Beverley.Brown@bromley.gov.uk using the reference 'Strategy Meeting' in the subject line of the email.

The allocated worker should also send an 87A form to the Police. This is the form used by professionals to refer CSE concerns to the Police.

The CSE Police Specific Point of Contact Form is found at Appendix 4.

Children and Young People who are confirmed to be at MEDIUM and HIGH risk will be discussed at MEGA. The risk level will be informed by the relevant risk assessment tool. New referrals will be placed onto the weekly Child Level List by the Team Manager of Atlas.

NOTE: No agency should delay action against referrals whilst waiting for a discussion at the next MEGA meeting. Where immediate action is required, the Group/Deputy Manager must refer the child to the Asphaleia service without delay.

11. Atlas Team - CSE Unit

The Atlas Team has the primary responsibility for co-ordinating and increasing safety for children and young people at risk of extra familial (contextual) harm and for those children who go missing from home or care. This team comprises of a team manager, 3 return home interview officers, a data analyst and a business support officer. A CSE intervention worker from the Asphaleia service is also based in the team. The team works closely with the Youth Offending Service, Police (Gangs, Missing, CSE and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)) and Rescue and Response Project.

The Atlas team is located within the MASH and contributes intelligence to daily MASH meetings and the MASH intelligence process thereby supporting the early identification and safeguarding of young people in need of support or protection. All children and young people who go missing from home / care, are at risk of CSE, CCE or serious youth violence are known to the team. The team manager and data analyst attend strategy meetings and collate information in relation to risk assessments and safety planning for young people. The team manager is responsible for ensuring that all young people at medium or high risk are presented and tracked through the MEGA panel.

12. Victims and Families

Child Sexual Exploitation has a devastating impact, not only on the child victim but on the whole family. Parents and carers are valuable in supporting an investigation by providing intelligence, corroboration and other evidence. Practice has shown that providing effective engagement and support to both the victim and their family can significantly improve outcomes.

Supporting victims and their families must be based upon a multi-disciplinary assessment of their circumstances. However, evidence has shown how important families are in helping young people in their recovery. Families also need help to deal with the impact of CSE and the Partnership must ensure there is access to appropriate support both on a local basis and through national organisations.

Victims - Barriers to Engagement

Sexually exploited young people rarely approach Police or Children's Social Care directly, unless they are in immediate danger. Police officers and other front-line services are more likely to come into contact with exploited young people as a result of them: going missing, becoming involved in criminal behavior; gang association; substance misuse or anti-social behavior.

Taking time to ask searching questions and using professional curiosity can get underneath the immediate situation that professionals are facing.

Children and young people's willingness to engage with police is also linked to:

- Previous experiences of police
- Whether the young person is wanted by the police
- Fear of not being believed
- Fear of being judged
- Fear of negative repercussions for themselves or their families

There is no doubt that there are challenges for professionals and services when engaging with young people but the following have been identified as positive behaviours that if displayed by professionals would make it more likely for them to respond to and potentially disclose to professionals:

- Being respectful and non-judgemental
- Demonstrating empathy and compassion
- Effectively eliciting and responding to children and young people's accounts
- Conveying information in a timely and appropriate manner
- Having due consideration to confidentiality and discretion
- Maximising continuity and engagement with children and young people
- Considering support needs
- Facilitating choice and control for children and young people

(Beckett H, Warrington C, Ackerley E and Allnock D, (2016) Children's voices research report: Children and young people's perspectives on the police's role in safeguarding: a report for HMIC.)

Appendix 5 gives an illustration of how good engagement can impact on an investigation and a more positive outcome.

Capacity to Consent

The fact that a young person is 16 or 17 years old and has reached the legal age of consent should not be taken to mean that they are no longer at risk of sexual exploitation. These young people are defined as children under the [Children's Act 1989](#) and [2004](#), and they can still suffer significant harm as a result of sexual exploitation. Their right to support and protection from harm should not, therefore, be ignored or downgraded by services because they are over the age of 16, or are no longer in mainstream education.

Sexual activity with a child under the age of 13 is an offence regardless of consent or the defendant's belief of the child's age.

The Act also provides for offences specifically to tackle the use of children in the sex industry, where a child is under 18 (S 47 to 50 Sexual offences Act).

Criminal Justice Support for Victims

Sound preparation between police and children's services will increase the likelihood of providing effective witness care prior to a criminal trial. This should be completed jointly utilising the multi-agency partnership and the specific skills that each agency provide. The support required should be assessed on a cases-by-case basis.

A victim care strategy should be driven by the victim's needs and include details such as:

- Use of special measures to support victim/witnesses.
- Use of intermediaries.
- Reassuring them of their safety.
- Keeping regular contact and updating with trial dates.
- Encourage and assist a pre-court visit.
- Provide the victim/witness with a child witness pack, age appropriate.
- Transporting to and from court.
- Debriefing them at the end of each day.
- Consider a one to one meeting with prosecuting barrister.
- Bail management of suspected perpetrators.

- Arrangements for attendance at sentencing as part of the closure process if deemed appropriate. MPS and CSC to discuss in the best interests of the victim.
- Re-housing is arranged through the local authority in extreme cases e.g. where there is further risk of CSE or threat to life.
- Assistance with the CICA (after trial).

It is a fundamental aspect of the Crown Prosecution Service policy and the multi-agency practice guidance on pre-trial therapy that the best interests of the child are paramount when deciding whether, when and in what form, therapeutic help is given. Further details can be found in the multi-agency practice guidance entitled 'Provision of Therapy for Child Witnesses Prior to a Criminal Trial'.

13. Trafficked Children

Human trafficking is the movement of a person from one place to another into conditions of exploitation, using deception, coercion, the abuse of power or the abuse of someone's vulnerability. It is possible to be a victim of trafficking even if your consent has been given to being moved. Although human trafficking often involves an international cross-border element, it is also possible to be a victim of human trafficking within your own country.

Where there are concerns that a child or young person may have been trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation (both within the United Kingdom and across international borders), referrals should be made to the MASH in the usual way. The allocated worker should then engage the National Referral Mechanism using the NRM form. The Modern Slavery Human Trafficking unit (MSHTU) sits within the National Crime Agency and deals with referrals from Local Authorities.

For more detailed advice see Modern slavery: how to identify and support victims:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-how-to-identify-and-support-victims>

14. Processes and Pathways

The overview of the CSE and Missing processes can be seen in Appendix 7. All cases come in through the same front door via MASH and are allocated accordingly. All cases with a CSE, missing, gangs or trafficking element will be risk assessed and referred to the Atlas Manager for consideration at MEGA .

A Multi-Agency CSE Risk Screening Tool (Found in Appendix 2) has been designed which can be used by professionals in order to gauge the risk to the young person quickly and effectively.

15. MEGA Meetings

The Missing, Exploitation and Gang Affiliation (MEGA) Tracking Panel is an operational multi-agency panel to maintain oversight for Safeguarding children/ young people at risk of significant

harm through Exploitation (CSE & Criminality), missing from home and care, trafficking and gang affiliation/serious youth violence.

Children and Young People who are confirmed to be at MEDIUM and HIGH risk will be discussed at MEGA. The risk level will be informed by the relevant risk assessment tool. New referrals will be placed onto the weekly Child Level List by the Team Manager of Atlas.

MEGA meetings are convened and chaired by the Head of MASH, RAS, Atlas.

The MEGA meeting is made up of professionals who are working with the young person; therefore each meeting may be attended by different professionals.

The MEGA Terms of Reference (ToR) are attached at Appendix 6

Purpose of MEGA Meetings

- - To ensure that outcomes for children and young people improve through a consistent, co-ordinated and robust management of risk across the partnership.
- - To enable information sharing and intelligence gathering which will support effective protection, prevention and disruption.
- - To provide a framework to identify themes, trends and connections between young people at risk.
- - To build an intelligence picture of the contextual harm across Bromley including locations, persons of concern, victims and perpetrators.
- - To hold partners to account for delivery of services to ensure that children and young people are safeguarded.
- - To ensure Bromley has effective structures, protocols and agreements in place at both operational and strategic level
- - To reduce duplication and aid resource management due to the back to back format of meetings and crossover of subjects

Membership

The panel takes place weekly - Wednesday morning from 10am – 12.30pm at Bromley Civic Centre.

The panel will be held in 2 parts, focusing on:

- Gangs / Serious Youth Violence / Criminal exploitation
- CSE, Missing and Trafficking.

Chair – Head of Mash, RAS, AtlasCSC Atlas Unit – Data Office and Team Manager

CSC – Team Manager / Group Manager from each service area

Health – Designated Nurse – Safeguarding Children, LAC Health and Sexual Health Clinic

Education – EWO / CME co-ordinator / Virtual School

YOT – YOS / MASH linke

Intervention Services – Barnardos, Targeted Youth Services, Bromley Y, CAMHS, EIS/BCP

Contextual Services – Housing, Community Safety

Criteria for deciding whether or not to invite the child and their family

- The child's age and maturity, taking into account any learning difficulties
- The child's perception and interpretation of their involvement
- Patterns and frequency of any behaviour causing concern
- Identity and role of adults involved
- Age and maturity of other participants
- Nature of sexual activity, who is controlling the sexual activity, where it is taking place
- The actual and potential physical and emotional effects
- Whether any physical injuries have been caused
- Existence of substance misuse and their significance for the child's behaviour
- Likely reaction of parents/carers
- Likely reaction of peers
- Likely reaction of other agencies

If child is invited to a MEGA meeting the child should be made aware in advance of the meeting, at a minimum:

- What the meeting is for
- What information is likely to be discussed and who will be attending

Professionals should meet initially to cover sensitive information and intelligence, then parent / carer and child can attend the latter part so that they can be involved in the care planning.

Confidentiality, Diversity and Information Sharing

Each Agency will be required to sign an overarching Information Sharing Agreement which will support proportionality, confidentiality and safeguarding.

- Information shared within the context of the panel, may at times be restricted due to sensitivity.
- The panel will be committed to equal access to services for all, particularly in relation to race, gender, age, religious beliefs, sexual orientation and disability.
- All attendees will sign a Confidentiality Statement at the start of each panel.

Review and Escalation

All agencies will be required to review actions and updates prior to a MEGA panel meeting. Feedback will be provided at each meeting to ensure that progress for children and young people at risk of harm is swift and focused.

Any member of the panel can escalate concerns directly to the chair for a further decision or case direction. Where there are concerns around service delivery, delays in planning for young people and concerns in relation to practice, the Team Manager for Atlas will raise this directly with the line manager for the case as well as with the Head of Service. The chair will escalate concerns about service delivery to the relevant managers in partner agencies.

16. MACE Meetings

The MACE meeting was established to provide a comprehensive strategic approach to tackling issues of sexual exploitation of children and young people across the borough.

The role of MACE is to maintain a strategic overview of all CSE contacts, including their risk level at presentation, outcomes of MEGA meetings and the effectiveness of interventions. It should be responsible for the resolution of any partnership blockages that might occur. It should be reviewing CSE data to inform the planning of future work; including the identification of victims, offenders, locations and themes

Cross-borough meetings for those children placed out of the Borough will also be established when required.

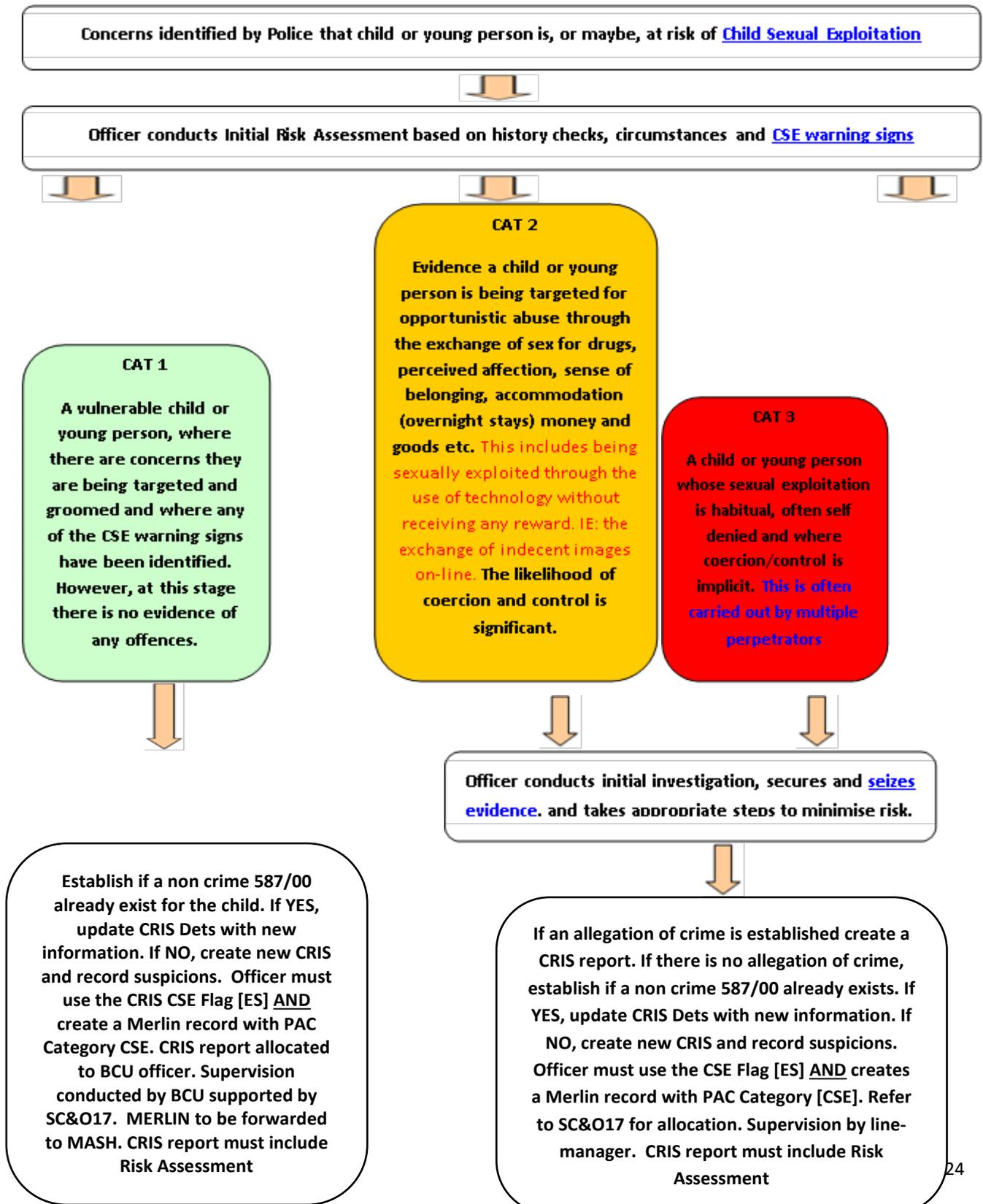
Purpose of MACE Meetings

- Lead the strategic overview and planning
- Report to Bromley Safeguarding Partnership on a quarterly basis
- For professionals to refer young people who are at risk of or who are experiencing sexual exploitation, who are subject to a MEGA plan but for whom the risks are not decreasing and specialist advice or support is needed
- To refer information/intelligence about venues, people or locations involved in sexual exploitation. MACE will use this information/intelligence to target strategic action and/or target referrals to mitigate risks to children and young people
- MACE is in addition to and does not replace procedures relating to protecting children
- The responsibility for the oversight, monitoring and implementation of any plans remains with the professionals network working with the young person

The MACE Meeting is currently being reviewed. Former terms of reference are found at Appendix 8.

Appendix 1 - Procedure for Frontline Police Officers' Response to CSE

The following flowchart illustrates the procedure by which frontline police officers identify, and respond to cases of CSE or suspected cases of CSE. The nominated BCU officer for Police Category 1 or non-contact police category 2 enquiries will be decided upon by each BCU as procedures may vary.



Appendix 2

Multi-Agency CSE Risk Screening Tool - MASH Referral

This risk assessment tool has been designed to be used by professionals working with children and young people for whom there are concerns that they may be vulnerable to, being targeted for or involved in child sexual exploitation. Professionals should discuss any concerns with their designated child protection officer before carrying out this risk assessment.

Professionals should use their knowledge of the young person to select the statements that best describe their situation and presentation and any evidence that grooming or exploitation is taking place. Some of the indicators mirror normal teenage behaviour but professionals should consider each statement in the context of other concerns about the young person's behaviour or presentation.

When carrying out any risk assessment, professionals should always consider what type of exploitation the young person may be experiencing based on the information known:

- Inappropriate relationship:** *the young person is in a relationship with an older partner who exerts a great deal of influence and control over them due to an imbalance of power. The young person is likely to believe they are in a serious adult relationship and not recognise its exploitative nature.*
- Peer exploitation:** *the young person is in a relationship with another young person who is coercing them into sexual activity with their friends. This is the model that gang related exploitation follows.*
- Organised exploitation:** *the young person is being groomed or sexually exploited by a network of perpetrators and may be being coerced into sexual activity with different men. Some may be used to recruit others.*

Details of subject child/young person

Name	Click here to enter text.
Date of birth	Click here to enter text.
Gender	Click here to enter text.
Address	Click here to enter text.
Ethnicity	Click here to enter text.
Religion	Click here to enter text.
Language spoken	Click here to enter text.

Details of the person completing risk assessment

Name	Click here to enter text.
Agency	Click here to enter text.
Job title	Click here to enter text.
Contact telephone number	Click here to enter text.
Contact e-mail	Click here to enter text.
Date of risk assessment	Click here to enter a date.

Vulnerability Factors

The following factors are known to make young people more vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Please select any that are known to be true about the young person.

- Under the age of 14
- Looked after
- Missing school or excluded/NEET
- Frequently missing from home or placement
- Involved in gang activity
- Mental health or learning difficulties
- Difficult family background
- Believed to be sexually active

Presentation

The young person's behaviours or presentation may be indicative that they are being sexually exploited, for example sexual risk taking, pregnancy or STIs, low self-esteem, self-harming or substance abuse. If you think there is anything in the young person's presentation that may indicate CSE, please give details.

Click here to enter text.

Evidence of Grooming

Please select any of the following statements that best describe the young person's situation and that may indicate that they are being groomed for CSE.

- Reports that young person has been seen regularly in places linked to sexual exploitation
- Associating with young people known to be sexually exploited
- Associating with older teens/adults known to be involved in CSE
- Sexual relationship with a significantly older person (more than 5 years)
- Possession of money, clothes, mobiles and other possessions with no plausible explanation
- Seen at public toilets known for cottaging or adult venues (pubs/clubs)
- Physical injuries such as bruising indicative of physical or sexual assault
- Disclosure of sexual assault then retracting statement

Evidence of Exploitation

Please select any of the following statements that best describe the young person's situation and that indicate they are being sexually exploited.

- Homeless and staying with an adult believed to be sexually exploiting them
- Known to be meeting adults for sex in exchange for money, drugs etc.
- Believed to be being moved around for CSE
- Receiving rewards of money or goods to recruit others to CSE

If there is any other evidence of exploitation, for example restriction of movements, losing contact with family, friends and the professional network, please give details here.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

On-Line Grooming and Abuse

If there are concerns that the young person is being sexually exploited online, please give details here; include any evidence of the young person exchanging inappropriate images for goods or cash, forming online relations with unknown adults or meeting these adults offline.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Other Relevant Information and Intelligence

In order to help the police gather intelligence on CSE in the borough so that they can disrupt the grooming process and take action against the perpetrators, it is vital that professionals provide any information on the following: possible adult perpetrators, other young people known to this young person who may be involved, any locations where the young person may frequent, any links with gangs.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Outcome of Risk Assessment

*If you have ticked 2 or more boxes in the Evidence of grooming section or 1 box in the Evidence of exploitation section, or have evidence of online exploitation, you **must** make a child protection referral to the MASH team. The young person (and their parents if possible) should be informed of the referral but their consent is not necessary.*

If you have ticked 2 or more boxes in the Vulnerability section and have concerns about the young person's presentation but there is no evidence of grooming or exploitation, you should discuss the risk assessment with the young person (and their parents if possible) and seek consent for a referral to the Early Help/CAF team.

*If you are unsure about what action to take following this risk assessment tool, please call the MASH team on **0208 461 7309** for advice.*

CSE Risk Assessment Tool

CSE Risk Assessment

Tool

This risk assessment tool has been designed to be used by professionals working with children and young people for whom there are concerns that they may be vulnerable to, being targeted for or involved in child sexual exploitation. This includes concerns that the young person's internet use is putting them at risk of CSE. Professionals should discuss any concerns with their designated officer before using this screening tool.

Professionals should use their knowledge of the young person to select the statements that best describe their situation and presentation and any evidence that grooming or exploitation is taking place. All the questions in the tool should be considered in order to get as wide a picture as possible as to the young person's level of involvement in sexual exploitation. Each statement chosen will generate a score; and the final score will give an indication of the level of involvement and therefore risk to the young person.

Some of the indicators mirror normal teenage behaviour but professionals should consider each statement in the context of other concerns about the young person's behaviour or presentation.

If professionals are unsure about any aspect of this risk assessment tool, they can seek advice from the MASH team on 020 83134418

Details of subject child/young person

Name	
Date of birth	
Gender	
Address	
Ethnicity	
Religion	
Language spoken	
Date of risk assessment	

Household members and significant others

Name	Date of birth	PR	Gender	Ethnicity	Address	Religion	Relationship to child

Details of the person completing risk assessment

Name	
Agency	

Job title		
Contact Tel No		
Contact e-mail		
Vulnerability - (Put zero for not applicable question)		Enter your score here 
Under the age of 14	3	
Looked after	2	
Missing school or excluded/NEET	1	
Frequently missing from home or placement	2	
Involved in gang activity	2	
Mental health or learning difficulties	1	
Unstable family background/history of abuse	2	
Unstable or unsafe accommodation/unstable placement history	2	
Difficult relationship with or estranged from parents	2	
Believed to be sexually active	2	
Reduced contact with professionals	2	
<i>Maximum Total</i>		
Presentation - (Put zero for not applicable question)		
Sexual risk taking behaviour	2	
Presence of STIs or pregnancy	3	
Self-harming	2	
Substance misuse	2	
Sudden change in behaviour or appearance	1	
Sudden change in pattern of school attendance	1	
Low self-image/self-esteem	2	
<i>Maximum Total</i>		0
Evidence of grooming - (Put zero for not applicable question)		
Seen entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown persons	3	
Signs of being controlled via mobile phone	2	
Reports that young person has been seen regularly in places linked to sexual exploitation	3	
Unexplained relationship with older teens/adults	2	
Associating with young people known to be sexually exploited	2	
Associating with older teens/adults known to be involved in CSE	3	
Involved in "clipping" – offering sex for money or other payment and running off before sexual activity takes place	3	
Sexual relationship with a significantly older person (more than 5 years)	3	
Phone calls, texts or letters from older teens/adults unknown to parents	2	
Mobile phone being answered by persons unknown to parent	2	
Accounts of social activities with no plausible explanation of the source of necessary funding	2	

Possession of unaccounted for money, clothes, mobiles and other expensive possessions with no plausible explanation	2	
Seen at public toilets known for cottaging or adult venues (pubs/clubs)	3	
Older teens/adults loitering outside the young person's home/placement/school	2	
Going out in inappropriate clothing or borrowing clothes from older young people/hiding clothing under coat	1	
Persistently staying out overnight or returning late with no plausible explanation	2	
Returning after being missing for a period of time looking well cared for despite having no known home base	3	
Returning after being missing looking dirty, dishevelled, tired, hungry	3	
Physical injuries such as bruising indicative of physical or sexual assault	3	
Disclosure of sexual assault then retracting statement	3	
<i>Maximum Total</i>		0
Evidence of exploitation - (Put zero for not applicable question)		
Homeless and staying with an adult or other older teen believed to be sexually exploiting them	5	
Movements restricted and known to have been abducted or held against their will	3	
No contact with family or friends	3	
Removed from known red light areas by Police and professionals	2	
Known to be meeting older teen/adults for sex in exchange for money, drugs etc	5	
Believed to be being moved around for CSE	5	
Indicators of CSE in conjunction with chronic substance misuse, self-harming or mental health problems	3	
Receiving rewards of money or goods to recruit others to CSE	5	
<i>Maximum Total</i>		0
Evidence of on-line grooming and abuse - (Put zero for not applicable question)		
Forming inappropriate relationships with others via the internet	3	
Receiving gifts through the post from adults unknown to parents	3	
Evidence that the young person is being coerced or bribed into providing sexually explicit images to others	5	
Evidence that the young person is selling sexual services to others via the internet	5	
Evidence that the young person is having an online relationship with an adult or older teen	3	
Evidence that the young person's online friendship with an older teen/adult has developed into an offline relationship	3	
<i>Maximum Total</i>		0
Overall of risk assessment score and RAG colour		0

Guide

Under 10 = No Concerns (**Blue RAG rating**)

10 - 30 = Vulnerable to CSE (**Green RAG rating**)

Social Worker to undertake preventative work with the young person

Other staff to refer for early intervention

30 - 50 = Possibly being targeted/groomed for CSE (**Amber RAG rating**)

Social worker to follow child protection procedures and convene a CSE child protection strategy meeting

Other staff to refer to MASH

Over 50 = Likely to be involved in CSE (**Red RAG rating**)

Social worker to follow child protection procedures and convene a CSE child protection strategy meeting.

Other staff to refer to MASH

Possible model of CSE

Please select the model that best describes the form of CSE the young person may be experiencing

* **Inappropriate relationship:** the young person is in a relationship with an older partner who exerts a great deal of influence and control over them due to an imbalance of power. The young person is likely to believe they are in a serious adult relationship and not recognise its exploitative nature.

* **Peer exploitation:** the young person is in a relationship with another young person who is coercing them into sexual activity with their friends. This is the model that gang related exploitation follows.

* **Organised exploitation:** the young person is being groomed or sexually exploited by a network of perpetrators and may be being coerced into sexual activity with different men. Some may be used to recruit others.

* **On-line Grooming:** the young person is being groomed or exploited on-line.

Brief summary of concerns

Please give brief details of what the concerns are for the young person, their likely level of involvement in CSE and which indicators evidence this concern

Concerns:

Names of possible perpetrators

Name(s):

Association with other young people at risk of CSE (Please give names if known)

Name(s):

Found at or known to frequent specific locations (Please give details of location)

Location:

Links with gang members (Please give names if known)

Name(s):

Team Manager's comments

All CSE risk assessments should be signed by the team manager who should record their agreement with the outcome and decisions on what further action will be taken, including whether to convene a CSE strategy discussion. Social workers and managers may wish to take advice from the Child Protection Officer when deciding on actions.

Comments:

Outcomes / Decisions

- * *Convene CSE Child Protection Strategy Meeting (Red or Amber RAG rating)*
- * *Provide preventative social work support (Green RAG rating)*
- * *Refer to Early help for preventative support (Green RAG rating)*
- * *Concerns Unsubstantiated*

**Following completion, this risk assessment form must be sent to the Missing/CSE Coordinator in ATLAS Team.
Email: Beverley.Brown@bromley.gov.uk. and Zoe.Hinton@met.pnn.police.uk.**

Appendix 4:

CSE Police Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Referral Form - Initial Referral to MEGA

This referral form is for children who require involvement from the Met police CSE single point of contact, under Police Category 1 level of risk – a vulnerable child, where there are concerns they are being targeted or groomed and where any of the CSE warning signs have been identified, but where there is no evidence of any offences at this stage.

Please complete and send to the CSE/Missing/Gangs Coordinator who will refer to the Borough CSE SPOC. This must be completed for a MEGA meeting referral only – thereafter it is not required.

Referring Professional			
Referring Professional:			
Agency:			
Telephone:		Secure Email:	

Subject					
First Name:		Middle Name:		Surname:	
Any Alias:				Ethnicity:	
D.O.B:				Gender:	
Address (Including postcode):					
School:				Social Worker	
Is the Child a LAC (looked after child)			If LAC, Local authority area responsible		

Family Composition		
Name	D.O.B	Relationship to subject

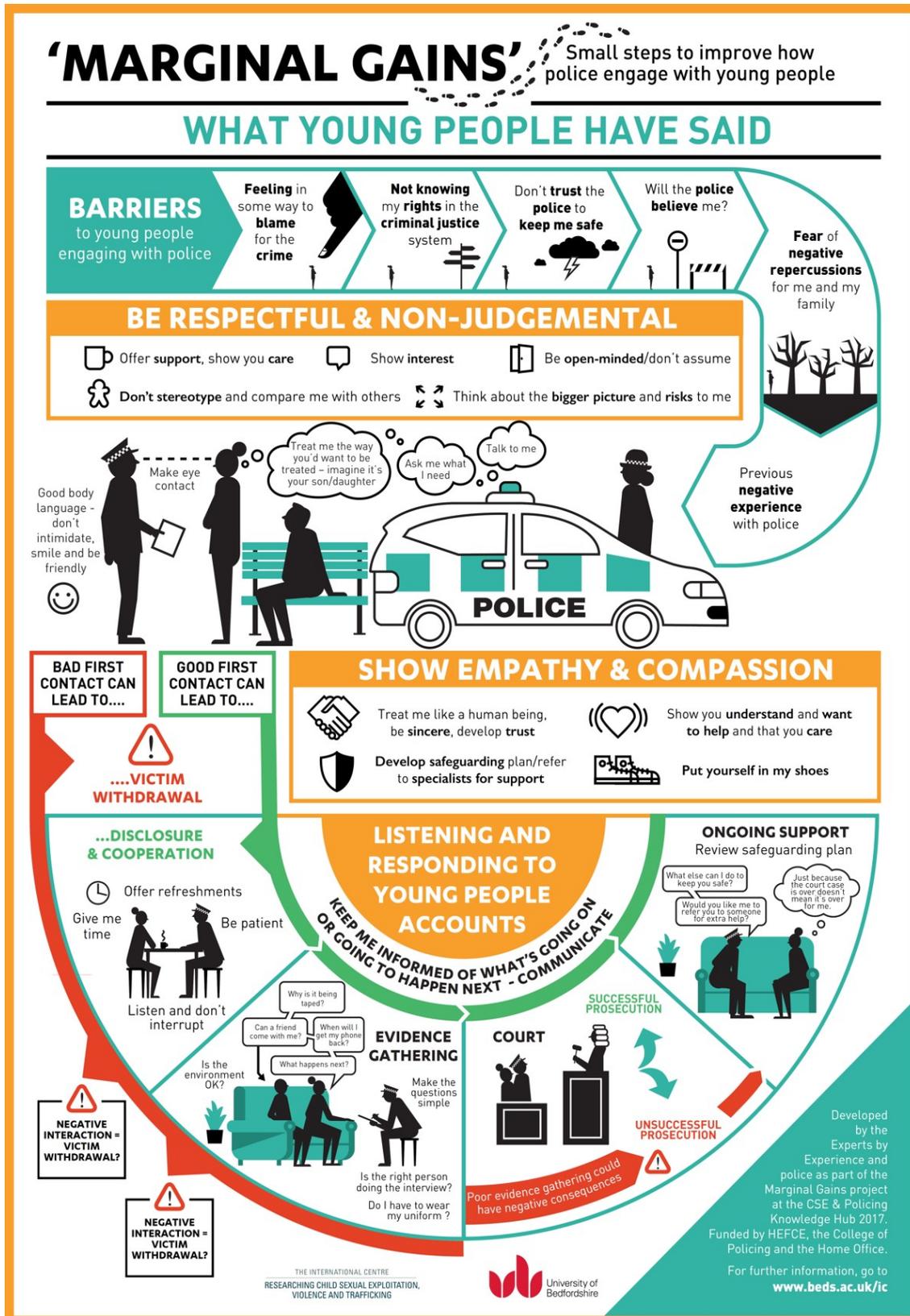
CSE Risk Factors and concerns (mark those that apply and provide information on each risk factor in the text box below)

Sexual health and behaviour	Evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexually transmitted infections Pregnancy and termination Inappropriate sexualised behaviour 	
Absent from school or repeatedly running away	Evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truancy Periods of missing from home or care 	
Familial abuse and/or problems at home	Evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familial sexual abuse Physical abuse Emotional abuse Neglect Risk of forced marriage Honour based violence Domestic violence Substance misuse Parental mental health concerns Parental criminality Experience of homelessness Living in a care home Living in temporary accommodation 	
Emotional and physical condition	Evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thoughts of or attempted suicide Thoughts of or attempted self-harming Low self-esteem or confidence 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Problems relating to sexual exploitation ▪ Learning difficulties ▪ Poor mental health ▪ Unexplained injuries ▪ Changes in physical experience 	
Gangs, older age groups and involvement in crime	<p>Evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involvement in crime ▪ Direct involvement with gang members ▪ Living in a gang afflicted community ▪ Involvement with older individuals ▪ Lacking friends from the same group ▪ Contact with other individuals who are sexually exploited 	
Use of technology and sexual bullying	<p>Evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sexting ▪ Sexualised communications on line ▪ Problematic use of the internet ▪ Problematic use of social networking sites 	
Alcohol and drugs misuse		
Receipt of unexplained gifts or money	<p>Evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unexplained finances ▪ Unexplained phone credit ▪ Clothes ▪ Money 	
Distrust of authority figures	<p>Evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resistance to communicating with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parents ▪ Carers ▪ Teachers ▪ Social Services ▪ Health 	

Details of Perpetrator(s), Locations(S) and Other Children at risk (Please provide details e.g. name, DOB, address and any other details about adults or young people of concern and details of locations, times and dates when CSE has occurred)

Appendix 5: Impact of Good Engagement on Investigation and Creating a More Positive Outcome



Appendix 6:

Terms of Reference MEGA Meetings

Safeguarding Children and Young People at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation(CSE), those who go missing from home and care and those affected by Gang activity / affiliation, criminal exploitation and/or serious youth violence.

Terms of Reference – Missing, Exploitation and Gang Affiliation (MEGA) Tracking Panel.

1. Aim:

To establish an effective strategic multi-agency panel to maintain oversight for Safeguarding children/ young people at risk of significant harm through Exploitation (CSE & Criminality), missing from home and care, trafficking and gang affiliation/serious youth violence.

2. Purpose:

- To ensure that outcomes for children and young people improve through a consistent, co-ordinated and robust management of risk across the partnership.
- To enable information sharing and intelligence gathering which will support effective protection, prevention and disruption.
- To provide a framework to identify themes, trends and connections between young people at risk.
- To build an intelligence picture of the contextual harm across Bromley including locations, persons of concern, victims and perpetrators.
- To hold partners to account for delivery of services to ensure that children and young people are safeguarded.
- To ensure Bromley has effective structures, protocols and agreements in place at both operational and strategic level
- To reduce duplication and aid resource management due to the back to back format of meetings and crossover of subjects

3. Membership and Frequency.

The panel will take place fortnightly on Wednesday mornings from 10am – 12.30pm at Bromley Civic Centre.

The panel will be held in 2 parts, focusing on:

- Gangs / Serious Youth Violence / Criminal exploitation
- CSE, Missing and Trafficking.

Membership:

Chair	Head of Mash, RAS, Atlas
Police	Gangs SPOC Missing SPOC CSE SPOC
CSC Atlas Unit	Data officer Team Manager
CSC	Referral and Assessment – Represented by Atlas Manager Team Manager – Safeguarding East & West. Team Manager – Children Looked After Group Manager – Leaving Care & 16+

Education	EWO / CME co-ordinator / Virtual School
YOT	YOS Group Manager
Intervention Services	CSE - Asphaleia County Lines - Rescue & Response Targeted Youth Services Mental Health - Bromley Y & CAMHS, Parenting Support - EIS/BCP Substance Misuse - Bromley Changes Mentoring / Gang diversion - St Giles Trust
Contextual Services	Housing lead Probation (when required) Community Safety

All members will need to be of sufficient seniority to direct service delivery and to maintain oversight of case work. Membership should be consistent to aid continuity. Where a member is unable to attend, a suitable delegate should be nominated.

The panel will be co-ordinated and administered by the Business Support Officer for Atlas.

4. Confidentiality, Diversity and Information Sharing Arrangements.

- Each Agency will be required to sign an overarching Information Sharing Agreement which will support proportionality, confidentiality and safeguarding.
- Information shared within the context of the panel, may at times be restricted due to sensitivity.
- The panel will be committed to equal access to services for all, particularly in relation to race, gender, age, religious beliefs, sexual orientation and disability.

5. Child Level Data.

Three data sets will be produced prior to each meeting:

1. Young people at risk of gangs / SYV
2. CSE
3. Missing.

All agencies will be required to review actions and updates prior to the panel. Feedback will be provided at each meeting to ensure that progress for children and young people at risk of harm is swift and focused.

6. Referral pathways.

Children and Young People who are confirmed to be at MEDIUM and HIGH risk will be discussed at MEGA. The risk level will be informed by the relevant risk assessment tool. New referrals will be placed onto the weekly Child Level List by the Team Manager of Atlas.

7. Escalation.

Any member of the panel can escalate concerns directly to the chair for a further decision or case direction. Where there are concerns around service delivery, delays in planning for young people



and concerns in relation to practice, the Team Manager for Atlas will raise this directly with the line manager for the case as well as with the Head of Service. The chair will escalate concerns about service delivery to the relevant managers in partner agencies.

8. Governance Arrangements.

The MEGA panel is a Strategic Panel that sits within the Children's Social Care Structure. The effectiveness of the partnership arrangements will however be subject to the scrutiny of the BSCP.

9. Review.

The terms of Reference will be reviewed annually. Date of next review – April 2021

Appendix 7

CSE Safety Plan

ID child	NAME	DOB

HOME ADDRESS	
PLACEMENT ADDRESS	
PRIMARY CARERS	

Date of completion of Missing Risk Assessment	
Level of assessed risk	
Date risk assessment shared with child/young person	
Has the young person been discussed at MEGA	
What date was the young person discussed at MEGA	
Does the young person situation remain open to MEGA	

Child Young Person's view on risk assessment and safety plan

What are the concerns?

What is working well?

Individual / Prevent / Prosecute/ Pursue

Peers/School – Prevent

Family safety and protective factors, as identified by professionals and the child, young person and family (Please refer to the Strengthening Families guidance regarding the difference between safety and strengths)

Family / Prevent

What needs to change?

ACTION	BY WHO	TIMESCALE

REVIEW DATE	REVIEW MECHANISM (CIN Meeting/Core Group/LAC review/Professionals Meeting)

SAFETY PLAN COMPLETED BY	
DATE	



Appendix 8

Terms of Reference CSE Multi-Agency Criminal Exploitation (MACE) Meetings

Under review 2020.