

**Child Sexual Exploitation Pre-checklist for Professionals**

Introduction

The purpose of the pre-checklist (Appendix 1) is to enable professionals to assess a child’s level of risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE) in a quick and consistent manner. The pre-checklist can be applied to all children (male and female) under the age of 18 years.

Who is this the pre-checklist for?

This pre-checklist is to be used by anyone who has a concern that a child may be being sexually exploited.

Important points to remember when considering CSE;

* Both girls and boys can be victims of child sexual exploitation and are equally

vulnerable.

* The coercer(s) and perpetrator(s) are usually an adult(s), but children and young

people can also act in a sexually abusive way towards other young people or exert

power e.g. group/gang members of either gender.

* Children and young people may exchange or sell sex as a result of constrained

choices such as poverty, isolation and historic abuse.

* Although it is rare, parents/carers may be involved in the sexual exploitation of

their children.

* Groups of children and multiple perpetrators may be involved (organised abuse).
* No child under 13 years should be assessed as No or Low Risk if behaviours indicate a risk of CSE.
* Children with additional needs require special consideration up to the age of 21

years.

* No child with a learning disability should be assessed as No or Low Risk if behaviours indicate involvement in or risk of CSE.
* Be aware: disclosure of information by the child may take time and evident risks

may only emerge during ongoing assessment, support and interventions with the

child and/or family.

**Guidance on the use of the screening tool**

1. Completion of the pre-checklist: (Appendix 1) by the professional identifying the

concerns should involve liaison with other agencies to ensure that there is multi- agency information sharing and support.

2. The pre-checklist is intended to assist the exercise of professional judgment by

assisting professionals to consider the risk of harm to a child. Professionals are

encouraged to go beyond the child’s presenting behaviour e.g. missing episodes

and to explore what else might be going on for this child/young person.

3. If a child presents with one indicator, action is required. Early intervention

improves the chances of positive outcomes. One indicator is unlikely to require

Children’s Social Work Services or specialist services intervention unless it is a

Significant Risk category.

4. Assessing or screening for child sexual exploitation should not be seen as a one off

event. Young people can move very quickly between the risk categories, therefore

regular assessment should be undertaken using the pre-checklist tool (Appendix 1).

Any escalation of risk should be dealt with in accordance with LSCB procedures. <http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/local-content/4gjN/escalation-policy-resolution-of-professional-disagreements>

5. Where risk is assessed as ‘medium’ or ‘significant’, then a referral must be made to

Children’s Social Work Services (MASH) or the allocated Social Worker where the

Child is already known.

6. The level of intervention required depends on the assessed level of risk. Hereford

LSCB procedures set out the pathways to be followed dependent on the level of

assessed risk including how to ensure information about the young person is

recorded by the LSCB at a local level. A summary can be found at Appendix 1a.

7. Disruption and prosecution of perpetrator/s is also of significant importance

therefore any information which comes to light about the victim/s or

perpetrator/s (however insignificant this may seem) should be passed on to the

Police via Information Report Forms.

8. The Child Sexual Exploitation Officer (CSE) should be informed of any young

person who is assessed as at risk of CSE.

**Child Sexual Exploitation Screening Tool**

**Child sexual exploitation is a form of abuse. It involves children being forced or manipulated into sexual activity in exchange for something e.g. money, gifts or accommodation, or less tangible goods such as affection or status.**

**The sexual activity and exchange may be seen as consensual, but is based on an imbalance of power which severely limits victims’ options. This Tool has been developed to enable the identification of children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation.**

*Tip – use the TAB key to move between boxes*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name:** | Click here to enter text. | **Also known as:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Date of Birth:** |  | **Gender:** |  |
| **Ethnicity:** | Click here to enter text. | **Disability:** | Click here to enter text. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Address:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Contact number:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Lives with:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Parental Responsibility:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Relationship to young person:** | Click here to enter text. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date CSE pre-checklist completed:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Completed by:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Address:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Telephone:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Email:** | Click here to enter text. |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Significant Risk Indicators**  *The presence of one significant risk indicator will require action as set out below* | Current or during the past 6 months: | | Prior to 6 months Ago: |
| Repeat periods of absence / missing (day &/or night) |  | |  |
| Relationship of concern with a controlling adult (male or female) or young people, which might involve physical and/or emotional abuse and/or gang activity |  | |  |
| Entering / leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults (not car theft) |  | |  |
| Unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothes or other items including phone credit |  | |  |
| Frequenting areas known for risky activities |  | |  |
| Groomed / abused via the internet and mobile technology and/or excessive use of mobile phone including at night |  | |  |
| Having unexplained contact with hotels, taxi companies or fast food outlets |  | |  |
|  | |  | |
|  | |  | |
| **Medium Risk Indicators** | | Please tick | |
| Whereabouts unclear or unknown – day and/or night | |  | |
| Absences/exclusion from school or not engaged in school/college/ training/work | |  | |
| Regular/Multiple contacts from unknown adults/young people | |  | |
| Physical injuries without plausible explanation | |  | |
| Sexually transmitted infections/ Pregnancies / termination of pregnancies | |  | |
| Drugs Misuse | |  | |
| Alcohol Misuse | |  | |
| Self-harming/challenging behaviours/suicide attempts/ eating disorders/aggression | |  | |
| Use of a mobile phone which causes concern – including sexting/multiple phones and/or SIM cards | |  | |
| Unsafe use of internet | |  | |
| Has been sexually assaulted | |  | |
|  | |  | |
| Disclosure of sexual/physical assault followed by withdrawal of allegation | |  | |
| Risky/inappropriate sexual behaviour | |  | |
| Lack of awareness/understanding of being safe | |  | |
| Peers involved in sexual exploitation/risky or concerning behaviours | |  | |
| Living independently and failing to respond to attempts by workers to keep in touch | |  | |
| Accident & Emergency attendance because of alcohol/drug misuse | |  | |
| Being accompanied to appointments by an unknown person that causes concern | |  | |
| Association with gang members that suggests sexual exploitation is a possibility | |  | |
| Volatile behaviour/hostility in relationships with parents/carers and/or other members of the family | |  | |
|  | |  | |
|  | |  | |
| **Vulnerability Factors** | | Please tick | |
| Unsuitable/inappropriate accommodation/sofa surfing/financially unsupported/migrant/refugee | |  | |
| Isolated from peers/family/social networks | |  | |
| Learning disabilities/special needs or mental health issues | |  | |
| History of Local Authority Care/looked after status | |  | |
| Involvement in criminal activities and/or at risk of gang involvement | |  | |
| Family conflict/ breakdown, lack of love/security, death, loss, illness of a significant person in child’s life | |  | |
| History of Child Protection involvement in relation to neglect, physical sexual or emotional abuse | |  | |
| Family history of domestic abuse and/or substance misuse and/or mental health difficulties | |  | |
| Risk of forced marriage | |  | |
| Recent bereavement and loss | |  | |
|  | |  | |
|  | |  | |
|  | | Please tick | |
| Is the child under 13 years of age | |  | |
| Does the child having a learning disability | |  | |

**NB:** No child under 13 years or with a learning disability should be assessed as No or Low Risk if behaviours indicate a risk of CSE. A referral to MASH is likely to be required.

The framework includes three categories of risk and is intended to inform appropriate responses in relation to children and young people’s safeguarding needs. The presence of one significant risk indicator will necessitate action as set out in LSCB procedures. Please use your professional judgement to reflect upon the indicators you have ticked above and consider the health, welfare and safety of the child in question. (NB: A ‘child’ is any person under the age of 18, male and female and older children can be equally as vulnerable)

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|  | **Description** | **Associated actions** |
|  | **No/Low risk**  A child who is at risk of being  groomed for sexual exploitation. | (1)Liaise with Agency Designated Safeguarding Advisor for any advice/guidance.  (2)Inform CSE Coordinator of young person considered at risk of CSE (so information about the extent and profile of CSE is captured by LSCB).  (3)Work with child, young person and family to develop an awareness of the risks that can lead to a situation in which they may be exposed to sexual exploitation - delivered on a single agency basis or integrated into existing multi-agency plan. .  Ongoing review of risk required particularly if there are any changes in circumstances. |
|  | **Medium risk**  A child who is targeted for abuse through exchange of sex for  affection, drugs, accommodation  and goods etc.  The likelihood of coercion and  control is significant | (1) A multi-agency approach will be needed to promote child’s safety and well-being.  (2) Follow local procedures including referral to MASH who will lead the completion of a specialist CSE Risk Assessment on a multi-agency basis. If concerns are substantiated, a CSE Risk Management meeting should be held to devise a safeguarding and support plan or such activity should be integrated into an existing multi-agency plan. The plan should include actions in relation to disrupting, investigating and prosecuting perpetrators. Risk should be closely monitored and regularly assessed as part of the risk management process.  (3) Inform CSE Coordinator of young person considered at risk of CSE (so information about the extent and profile of CSE is captured by LSCB). |
|  | **Significant risk**  A child who is entrenched in sexual  exploitation, but often does not  recognise or self denies the nature  of their abuse often in denial, and  where coercion/control is implicit. | (1) A multi-agency approach will be needed to promote child’s safety and well-being.  (2) Follow local procedures including referral to Children’s Social Work Services who will lead the completion of a specialist CSE Risk Assessment on a multi-agency basis. . If concerns are substantiated, a CSE Risk Management meeting should be held to devise a safeguarding and support plan or such activity should be integrated into an existing multi-agency plan. The plan should include actions in relation to disrupting, investigating and prosecuting perpetrators. Risk should be closely monitored and regularly assessed as part of the risk management process.  (3) Inform CSE Coordinator of young person considered at risk of CSE (so information about the extent and profile of CSE is captured by LSCB). |

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| --- | --- |
| **Professional judgement**  **Explain reasons for your decision regarding level of risk of CSE**  ***NB: This checklist is intended to assist the exercise of professional judgement. If professional judgement indicates different level of risk to the CSE checklist explain your reasoning here.*** | Click here to enter text. |

**Where to refer or discuss your concerns:**

Anyone who completes a CSE screening tool, or is considering the need to do so, can seek advice from the Designated Safeguarding Advisor in their agency/service/setting

Advice can also be sought from the CSE Coordinator, Amy Proctor, tel. 01432 260552

If the screening tool indicates that the child/young person is likely to be at medium or significant risk of sexual exploitation you should contact Children’s Social Care or the Police:

**Children’s Social Work Services:** Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 01432 260800

Emergency Duty Team (EDT) (out of hours) 01905 768020

**Police:** Central Referral Unit 0300 333 3000

Emergency 999

**Where to get more information:**

Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](file:///\\herefordshire.gov.uk\data\CS\Safeguarding&Assessment\HSCB%20Database\HSCB%20SUB-GROUPS\Policy%20and%20Procedures%20Sub%20Group\West%20Mids%20MASTER%20Policies%20wef%20Aug%202017\Level%20Three\3.03%20Child%20sexual%20exploitation%20risk%20assessment\www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

PACE – Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation. [www.paceuk.info](file:///\\herefordshire.gov.uk\data\CS\Safeguarding&Assessment\HSCB%20Database\HSCB%20SUB-GROUPS\Policy%20and%20Procedures%20Sub%20Group\West%20Mids%20MASTER%20Policies%20wef%20Aug%202017\Level%20Three\3.03%20Child%20sexual%20exploitation%20risk%20assessment\%20www.paceuk.info)

UKHTC – UK Human Trafficking Centre. [www.soca.gov.uk/about-soca/about-the-ukhtc](file:///\\herefordshire.gov.uk\data\CS\Safeguarding&Assessment\HSCB%20Database\HSCB%20SUB-GROUPS\Policy%20and%20Procedures%20Sub%20Group\West%20Mids%20MASTER%20Policies%20wef%20Aug%202017\Level%20Three\3.03%20Child%20sexual%20exploitation%20risk%20assessment\www.soca.gov.uk\about-soca\about-the-ukhtc)

Herefordshire LSCB Procedures:   
<http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/>

**Where there are concerns about the possibility of a child being at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation, complete the CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION Pre-checklist for professionals and seek support from your safeguarding lead and/ or CSE Coordinator**

**CSE Coordinator–Amy Proctor**

**Tel – 01432 260552 Email – [amy.proctor@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:amy.proctor@herefordshire.gov.uk) [amy.proctor@herefordshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:amy.proctor@herefordshire.gcsx.gov.uk)**

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If there are immediate safeguarding concerns, Herefordshire LSCB procedures are to be followed

**CSE Pathway Guidance**

Appendix 1A

**Medium Risk**

For cases not open to Social Care, or where you are unsure of Social Care involvement, make a referral to MASH using the multi-agency referral form and attach the CSE pre-checklist. Where you are aware of current social care involvement, discuss your concerns and send a copy of the CSE pre-checklist to the allocated social worker.

Notify CSE Coordinator of referral or concerns shared with the allocated social worker, including a copy of CSE Pre-checklist, for inclusion on CSE database.

Following completion of the multi-agency CSE Risk Assessment by the allocated social worker and if the CSE concerns are substantiated, a risk management meeting should be called and chaired by the social work Team Manager. Parent(s)/carer(s) and the child should be invited to the second part of this meeting and a safeguarding and diversion plan should be devised.

Procedures, including invitees and agenda, for Risk Management Meetings can be found at

<https://herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/herefordshire-safeguarding-children-board/child-sexual-exploitation-and-missing-sub-group/>

The initial CSE Risk Management meeting should be held within 5 working days of the completion of the CSE Risk Assessment.

The child’s safeguarding and diversion plan should be continually reviewed in the context of the child’s CIN, CP or Care Plan. The disruption and investigation of offenders is an essential component of a safeguarding and diversion plan.

CSE Risk Assessment Tool and Risk Management Review meetings should be held every 12 weeks or earlier if significant change in circumstances or information is shared which indicates change of risk level.

**No/Low Risk**

A Referral to MASH may not be required however single agency or multi-agency support will be required to undertake preventative work with the young person and parent/carer.

Notify CSE Coordinator of pre-checklist outcome via email, including a copy of the pre-checklist, for inclusion on CSE database.

Liaise with CSE Coordinator for any advice/guidance if required.

Intervention should consider;

* Awareness raising work around healthy relationships and CSE
* Education/ training/ employment

support

* Family Support
* Other activities to positively engage the young person
* Any other relevant concerns

The single or multi-agency plan should be undertaken in a timely way, and reviewed every 3 months minimum, or more regularly as risks change.

-Keep records of incidents/indicators

-Monitor changes in vulnerability/risk

Resources which could be used to support

The young person are;

- Healthy & Safe Relationships - Solihull

- CEOP Exploited programme

- Barnardos BWise2 Sexual Exploitation

- Barnardo’s Sex, Secrets and Lies

**Significant Risk**

For cases not open to Social Care, or where you are unsure of Social Care involvement, make a referral to MASH using the multi-agency referral form, and attach the CSE pre-checklist. Where you are aware of current social care involvement, discuss your concerns and send a copy of the CSE pre-checklist with the allocated social worker.

Notify CSE Coordinator of referral or concerns shared with the allocated social worker, including a copy of CSE Pre-checklist, for inclusion on CSE database.

Following completion of the multi-agency CSE Risk Assessment by the allocated social worker and if the CSE concerns are substantiated, a risk management meeting or strategy meeting should be called and chaired by the social work manager. Parent(s)/carer(s) and the child should be invited to the second part of the Risk Management Meeting. A safeguarding and diversion plan should be devised as part of the strategy meeting / Risk Management Meeting.

Procedures, including invitees and agenda for Risk Management Meetings can be found at

<https://herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/herefordshire-safeguarding-children-board/child-sexual-exploitation-and-missing-sub-group/>

The strategy meeting should be held within 72 hours of the referral to Children’s Services or the completion of the CSE Risk Assessment. If an initial Risk Management meeting, this should be held within 5 working days of the completion of the Risk Assessment Tool.

The child’s safeguarding and diversion plan should be continually reviewed in the context of the child’s CIN, CP or Care Plan. The disruption and investigation of offenders is an essential component of a safeguarding and diversion plan.

CSE Risk Assessment Tool and Risk Management Review meetings should be held every 12 weeks or earlier if significant change in circumstances or information is shared which indicates change of risk level.

Full LSCB procedures for Safeguarding Children and Young People from CSE can be found at

<https://herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/herefordshire-safeguarding-children-board/child-sexual-exploitation-and-missing-sub-group/>