CHESHIRE CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING ASSESSMENT TOOL









This Contextual Safeguarding Assessment Tool should be used by all professionals working with children. Exploitation does not always involve physical contact as it can also occur through the use of technology and can include CSE, modern slavery, human trafficking, violence, radicalisation and extremism and exploitation through County Lines activity.

Many of the indicators are also part of normal teenage behaviours and it is the presence of higher risk factors or multiple other factors which may be indications of exploitation. However for younger children the presence of any one high risk factor may be seen as a potential indicator of exploitation.

Professionals need to exercise their own professional judgement when completing the assessment tool. This includes capturing concerns about which they have some evidence **AND** concerns based on their "gut feelings". Staff should differentiate between the two and explain this in the notes section.

Professionals should feel free to use the tool creatively, including as part of awareness raising work with children or in engaging parents and carers in understanding the issues.

Where Exploitation, or the risk of it, is suspected, frontline practitioners should **always** complete the Cheshire Contextual Screening Tool and discuss the case with a manager or the designated member of staff for child protection within their own organisation. If, after discussion there remain concerns, a referral **MUST** be made to Children's Services using the assessment tool via the appropriate routes within the local authorities' levels of need. (**Contacts at the back page**)

When practitioners have concerns that a child is linked to a perpetrator(s) or other young people at risk of exploitation or has concerns about a location or adult a separate referral to the local Contextual Safeguarding Operational Group/(via your local information form) must also be completed.

Version 2	October 2019	Review September 2020	Owned by Cheshire Strategic Group

Child's Surname:	Child's forenames:
Gender identity:	
Address(es) of child:	DOB:
Date assessment completed:	School/College:
Who has parental responsibility for the child?	Are there any siblings or other children at the address?
Parent Special Guardian	Yes No
Children's Social Care	Details:
Joint Parent & Social Care	
Name and Contact Details:	
Main Language(s) Spoken by the child:	Does the child have a disability or communication
English	impairment: Yes No
Other (Please Specify):	Details:
Does the child require an interpreter:	Preferred method of communication (e.g. signing,
☐Yes ☐No	hearing loop, Makaton etc.):
What level is the child currently open to:	
☐No Plan	
CAF/TAF/Early Help Plan	
Undergoing Social Care Assessment Child in Need Plan	
Child Protection Plan	
Cared For	
_	Interim Care Order
Child in Care of another Local Authority S.20 Full Care Order	Interim Care Order
	internit Care Order
Details of potential risks to other children or vulne	
	ase provide as much detail as is known (). Please provide ible adult / peer perpetrators and any friendship groups
names (metading mek names), descriptions of poss	ible dudity peer perpetrators and any menasing groups
Was the child involved in completing the Assessme	ent Tool?
Yes No	int 1001:
If No, Why Not:	
What are the child's views now?	
what are the child's views now?	

Was the child's parent/carer involved in completing the Assessment Tool? Yes No If No, Why Not: What are their views now?	
ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST/ HIGHLIGHT AND COMMENT (Please note this list isn	't exhaustive):
Abuse / Neglect ▼	
History of abuse or neglect	Yes No Possible
Current experience of abuse or neglect	Yes No Possible
Analysis of Risk and Action already taken:	
Abduction ▼	
Thought to have been abducted	Yes No Possible
Child states they have been abducted	Yes No Possible
Analysis of Risk and Action already taken:	
Alcohol/ Drug ▼	
Experimenting with alcohol, drugs or other substances including novel psychoactive substances Regular use of alcohol or drugs – cannabis; novel psychoactive substances Concern that the child is selling and/or providing drugs to others Long term / prolific alcohol or drug use / dependence on alcohol or drugs	Yes No Possible
Analysis of Risk and Action already taken:	
Associations ▼	
Associating with unknown peers/ associating with older peers	Yes No Possible
Associating with unknown adults	Yes No Possible
Associating with an adult or peer thought to pose risk to children	Yes No Possible
Associating with other children thought at risk of being exploited New contacts with people not local to the area	Yes No Possible Yes No Possible
Reports that child has been seen in or thought to have visited "hot spot" location	
Travelling unaccompanied to meet an adult known to pose risk or an unknown adult	Yes No Possible
Entering vehicles or travelling with an adult known to pose risk/ an unknown ad	lult Yes No Possible
Associating with peers/adults known for drug intelligence and/or criminality	Yes No Possible
Possessing keys to unknown properties	Yes No Possible
Analysis of Risk and Action already taken:	

Behaviour/Presentation ▼	
Displaying a change in behaviour/ presentation/ mood/ attitude/ appearance	Yes No Possible
Volatile/ abusive behaviour / aggression to family member, carer or animal	Yes No Possible
Volatile/abusive behaviour/ aggression to member of community/ peer group	Yes No Possible
Analysis of Risk and Action already taken:	
Bereavement ▼	
Has the child/young person experienced a bereavement or loss impacting upon their behaviour or mental health	Yes No Possible
Analysis of Risk and Action already taken:	
Bullying ▼	
Being bullied	Yes No Possible
Bullying others	Yes No Possible
Analysis of Risk and Action already taken:	
Coercion/Control ▼	
Reduced contact with family or friends	Yes No Possible
Detachment/ isolation	Yes No Possible
Threats made to child, family or home / child experiencing or threatened with violence or intimidating behaviour	Yes No Possible
Child has engaged in sexual activity as a result of feeling threatened, coerced or intimidated	Yes No Possible
Child has engaged in criminal activity or anti-social behaviour as a result of feeling threatened, coerced or intimidated	g Yes No Possible
Child experiencing sexual violence or bullying	Yes No Possible
Receiving payment or reward for recruiting others into exploitative or abusive situations	Yes No Possible
Apparent use of mobile device or social media by another to control/ monitor	Yes No Possible
Analysis of Risk and Action already taken:	
Disability ▼	
Has a disability/ learning disability or difficulty which impacts upon capacity to consent, decision making or perception of risk taking behaviour	Yes No Possible
Analysis of Risk and Action already taken:	

Education/Training ▼		
Multiple change of education provider	Yes	No Possible
Educated at home	Yes	No Possible
Temporary exclusion	Yes	☐No ☐Possible
Infrequent or poor attendance	Yes	☐ No ☐ Possible
Reduced timetable/ disengagement from school/lessons	Yes	☐ No ☐ Possible
Permanent exclusion	Yes	☐ No ☐ Possible
Analysis of Risk and		
Action already		
taken:		
Engagement in adult activity ▼		
Accessing pornography	Yes	■ No ■ Possible
Introduction to adult activities (Isolated incident of attending an inappropriate or unsupervised party or other 18+ venue such as a nightclub)	□Yes	□No □Possible
Exposure to pornography by another person	Yes	■No ■Possible
Multiple incidents of attending an inappropriate or unsupervised party or other 18+ venue such as a nightclub	Yes	☐No ☐Possible
Analysis of Risk and Action already		
taken:		
Exchanging sexual or criminal activity for goods, money 🔻		
"Clipping" – promising sexual activity for money, goods etc. and then running off	Yes	No Possible
Receiving gifts/new clothing or shoes which raises concern or suspicion	Yes	No Possible
Unaccounted for money/ mobile phone top ups/ bank deposits	Yes	No Possible
Offactourited for money mobile priorie top apsy bank deposits	163	
Analysis of Risk and		
Action already		
•		
taken:		
taken:		
•		
taken:	Yes	□No □Possible
taken: Family ▼	☐Yes ☐Yes	No Possible No Possible
taken: Family ▼ Relationship breakdown		
Family ▼ Relationship breakdown Parent, carer or sibling health problem / disability	Yes	No Possible
Family Relationship breakdown Parent, carer or sibling health problem / disability Poor communication Reduced contact with family or friends Low warmth, high criticism household	Yes	No Possible No Possible
Family Relationship breakdown Parent, carer or sibling health problem / disability Poor communication Reduced contact with family or friends Low warmth, high criticism household Parent(s) or carers not coping with behaviour/ parental limitations	Yes Yes	No Possible No Possible No Possible
Family Relationship breakdown Parent, carer or sibling health problem / disability Poor communication Reduced contact with family or friends Low warmth, high criticism household Parent(s) or carers not coping with behaviour/ parental limitations Neglect – including associated domestic abuse / alcohol or drug use / mental	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes	No Possible No Possible No Possible No Possible No Possible No Possible
Family ▼ Relationship breakdown Parent, carer or sibling health problem / disability Poor communication Reduced contact with family or friends Low warmth, high criticism household Parent(s) or carers not coping with behaviour/ parental limitations Neglect – including associated domestic abuse / alcohol or drug use / mental health problems (If neglect is being identified, please ensure you are following	Yes Yes Yes Yes	No Possible No Possible No Possible No Possible No Possible
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Family ▼ Relationship breakdown Parent, carer or sibling health problem / disability Poor communication Reduced contact with family or friends Low warmth, high criticism household Parent(s) or carers not coping with behaviour/ parental limitations Neglect – including associated domestic abuse / alcohol or drug use / mental health problems (If neglect is being identified, please ensure you are following Local Authority Procedures for Neglect) Lack of boundaries related to CE issues Parent/ carer colluding with inappropriate behaviours/ relationships Family/ carer unable to keep child safe despite efforts- "beyond parental control" Analysis of Risk and Action already taken: Gang Association or Involvement / Criminal Behaviour ▼	Yes	No Possible No Possible No Possible No Possible No Possible No Possible No Possible No Possible No Possible No Possible No Possible No Possible No Possible

Involvement in criminal offences/activity Yes No Possi	pie
Current involvement with criminal justice system/ youth justice services Yes No Possi	ble
Repeat offending / Escalating anti-social or criminal behaviour Yes No Possi	ble
Possession or access to weapons Yes No Possi	ble
Taking part in sexual activity/ offending behaviour as part of the gang association/	hle
coercion.	
Evidence of gang involvement associated with CSE activity/ initiation Yes No Possi	ble
Analysis of Risk and	
Action already	
taken:	
Home Life ▼	
History of being in care Yes No Possi	ble
Currently in Care Yes No Possi	ble
Unknown adult visitors to home Yes No Possi	ble
Alone at home for significant periods of time without parental supervision Yes No Possi	ble
Presenting as homeless Yes No Possi	ble
Numerous house moves (Transient) Yes No Possi	ble
No stable home/ multiple placement breakdowns/ living with friends/ private Yes No Possi	hla
fostering arrangement/ wants to move into care/ "sofa surfing"	bie
Adult/peers visiting home address who pose a potential risk to child Yes No Possi	ble
Analysis of Risk and	
Action already	
taken:	
Manual breakh and Mallibrator	
Mental health and Wellbeing ▼	
Low self-esteem, poor self-image, anxiety or social isolation Yes No Possi	ble
Diagnosed depression or other mental health condition Yes No Possi	ble
Significantly high confidence/self-esteem Yes No Possi	ble
Historic / current self-harm (no medical or psychiatric intervention) Yes No Possi	ble
Significant self-harm (medical/psychiatric intervention) Yes No Possi	ble
Eating disorder Yes No Possi	ble
Suicidal thoughts, ideation or attempts Yes No Possi	ble
Analysis of Risk and	
Action already	
taken:	
	_
Missing From Home/Care/Education ▼	
History of going missing (reported) Yes No Possi	
Recent missing episode/s (within last 90 days- reported) Yes No Possi	
Late to school / missing from education during the day / leaving early from school Yes No Possi	
Concerns that child is going missing and it is not being reported Yes No Possi	
Getting into cars with unknown adults or peers Yes No Possi	
Missing episodes escalating in terms of length of time and / or frequency Yes No Possi	ble
Persistently missing, staying out overnight or returning late with no plausible Yes No Possi	ble
explanations	
Analysis of Risk and	
Action already	
taken:	
Physical/Sexual Assault ▼	
Within family Yes No Possi	ble
Previous allegation of physical/ sexual assault / injury withdrawn Yes No Possi	
Frevious arregation of physicall sexual assault / injury withurawn ites ino iPossi	DIE

Outside of "relationship" or unknown perpetrator	Yes	 No Possible
Marks / tattoos / tags related to sexual assault	Yes	☐ No ☐ Possible
Analysis of Risk and		
Action already taken:		
Pregnancy ▼		
Pregnant/Young Parent	Yes	No Possible
Concealed pregnancy	Yes	No Possible
Previous pregnancy/termination	Yes	No Possible
Unwilling to share information about father	Yes	No Possible
Multiple pregnancies/ terminations/ miscarriages	Yes	No Possible
Analysis of Risk and		
Action already		
taken:		
Polettenskins	-	
Relationships 🔻		
Unable to discuss or disclose sexuality or gender identity to family/friends	Yes	■No ■Possible
Concerns regarding Domestic Abuse within "relationship" If over 16 consideration	Yes	No Possible
should be made for a RIC/DASH Assessment	∟res	
Older "boyfriend" or "girlfriend"	Yes	☐ No ☐ Possible
Analysis of Risk and		
Action already		
taken:		
Sexual Activity and Behaviours ▼		
remember that sexual activity may be described as "consensual" but could	be driver	n bv
exploitation/grooming		
,		
Sexual activity between under to S	Yes	No Possible
Sexual activity between under 16's Inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour – comments, exposure, inappropriate	Yes	No Possible
Inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour – comments, exposure, inappropriate touching	Yes	No Possible No Possible
Inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour – comments, exposure, inappropriate	Yes	□No □Possible
Inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour – comments, exposure, inappropriate touching		
Inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour – comments, exposure, inappropriate touching High number of disclosed/ suspected sexual partners or high rates of sexual activity Child under 13 engaging in sexual activity	☐Yes	No Possible No Possible
Inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour – comments, exposure, inappropriate touching High number of disclosed/ suspected sexual partners or high rates of sexual activity Child under 13 engaging in sexual activity Safeguarding referral MUST be completed where this indicator is selected as per	Yes	□No □Possible
Inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour – comments, exposure, inappropriate touching High number of disclosed/ suspected sexual partners or high rates of sexual activity Child under 13 engaging in sexual activity Safeguarding referral MUST be completed where this indicator is selected as per legal guidance	☐Yes ☐Yes ☐Yes	No Possible No Possible
Inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour – comments, exposure, inappropriate touching High number of disclosed/ suspected sexual partners or high rates of sexual activity Child under 13 engaging in sexual activity Safeguarding referral MUST be completed where this indicator is selected as per	☐Yes	No Possible No Possible
Inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour – comments, exposure, inappropriate touching High number of disclosed/ suspected sexual partners or high rates of sexual activity Child under 13 engaging in sexual activity Safeguarding referral MUST be completed where this indicator is selected as per legal guidance Adult has engaged in sexual activity with the child Analysis of Risk and	☐Yes ☐Yes ☐Yes	No Possible No Possible
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Inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour – comments, exposure, inappropriate touching High number of disclosed/ suspected sexual partners or high rates of sexual activity Child under 13 engaging in sexual activity Safeguarding referral MUST be completed where this indicator is selected as per legal guidance Adult has engaged in sexual activity with the child Analysis of Risk and	☐Yes ☐Yes ☐Yes	No Possible No Possible
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Inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour – comments, exposure, inappropriate touching High number of disclosed/ suspected sexual partners or high rates of sexual activity Child under 13 engaging in sexual activity Safeguarding referral MUST be completed where this indicator is selected as per legal guidance Adult has engaged in sexual activity with the child Analysis of Risk and Action already taken: Sexual Health ▼ Unprotected sexual activity	☐Yes ☐Yes ☐Yes ☐Yes ☐Yes	No Possible No Possible No Possible No Possible No Possible
Inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour – comments, exposure, inappropriate touching High number of disclosed/ suspected sexual partners or high rates of sexual activity Child under 13 engaging in sexual activity Safeguarding referral MUST be completed where this indicator is selected as per legal guidance Adult has engaged in sexual activity with the child Analysis of Risk and Action already taken: Sexual Health ▼ Unprotected sexual activity Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI)	☐Yes☐Yes☐Yes☐Yes☐Yes☐Yes☐Yes☐Yes☐Yes☐Yes	No Possible
Inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour – comments, exposure, inappropriate touching High number of disclosed/ suspected sexual partners or high rates of sexual activity Child under 13 engaging in sexual activity Safeguarding referral MUST be completed where this indicator is selected as per legal guidance Adult has engaged in sexual activity with the child Analysis of Risk and Action already taken: Sexual Health ▼ Unprotected sexual activity Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Frequent attendance at Sexual Health Clinics	☐Yes ☐Yes ☐Yes ☐Yes ☐Yes ☐Yes ☐Yes ☐Yes	No Possible
Inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour – comments, exposure, inappropriate touching High number of disclosed/ suspected sexual partners or high rates of sexual activity Child under 13 engaging in sexual activity Safeguarding referral MUST be completed where this indicator is selected as per legal guidance Adult has engaged in sexual activity with the child Analysis of Risk and Action already taken: Sexual Health ▼ Unprotected sexual activity Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Frequent attendance at Sexual Health Clinics Repeat access to Emergency Contraception	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes	No Possible No Possible
Inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour – comments, exposure, inappropriate touching High number of disclosed/ suspected sexual partners or high rates of sexual activity Child under 13 engaging in sexual activity Safeguarding referral MUST be completed where this indicator is selected as per legal guidance Adult has engaged in sexual activity with the child Analysis of Risk and Action already taken: Sexual Health ▼ Unprotected sexual activity Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Frequent attendance at Sexual Health Clinics Repeat access to Emergency Contraception Untreated/ Frequent/ Recurrent STIs	☐Yes ☐Yes ☐Yes ☐Yes ☐Yes ☐Yes ☐Yes ☐Yes	No Possible
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Increased time spent accessing the internet, social media or live streaming or	Yes	No Possible
gaming platforms		
Seeming to be more involved with social media world than with family and friends	Yes	No Possible
Secrecy/ anxiety in relation to phone/device use	Yes	No Possible
Unsafe use of internet – low/ no security, posting personal details, etc. including befriending unknown individuals online	Yes	☐ No ☐ Possible
Photographing/ filming self and sharing (Indecent images)	Yes	No Possible
Being photographed/filmed by someone else (indecent images)	Yes	No Possible
High number of contacts on social media including unknown adults / peers	Yes	No Possible
Accessing inappropriate networking forums – dating websites, specialist forums		
for anorexia, self-harm, sexual fetish etc.	Yes	No Possible
Child under 16 receiving sexual communication from an adult		
(Online and offline communication, including social media, e-mail, texts, letters)	Yes	☐No ☐Possible
Using uncommon communication apps or platforms suggested to them by an	Yes	□No □Possible
unknown adult/peer		
Meeting contacts from dating websites or forums in person	Yes	No Possible
Analysis of Risk and		
Action already		
taken:		
Trafficking ▼		
Thought to have been moved for the purpose of exploitation (Incl. multiple		
perpetrators, consenting or not, domestic/ national/ international) <i>If this is a</i>		
factor a referral needs to be made for into the National Referral		
Mechanism as per national guidance	Yes	☐No ☐Possible
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-		
victims-referral-and-assessment-forms		
Analysis of Risk and		
Analysis of Risk and Action already		
· ·		
Action already		
Action already		
Action already		
Action already taken:	nal teenag	ge' Low Risk
Action already taken: Risk Management Categories Presenting some vulnerability factors in the checklist but appear to relate to 'norn behaviour. No statutory intervention required but may benefit from low level mo	_	ge' Low Risk
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In summary:	
What is Working Well (Strengths) and Protectiv	e Factors:
What are we worried about (also include vulner	abilities- aspects of a child's historical or current circumstance.
which may make them more susceptible to being	targeted and groomed for sexual exploitation):
Where risks are identified, what actions have be	een undertaken to safeguard the child from those risks?
What interventions are you looking for?	
What interventions are you looking for?	
What interventions are you looking for?	
What interventions are you looking for?	
	Organisation:
What interventions are you looking for? Name and job title of person completing:	Organisation:
	Organisation: Telephone:
Name and job title of person completing: E-mail:	Telephone:
Name and job title of person completing: E-mail: On completion this form must be sent to the ag	
Name and job title of person completing: E-mail: On completion this form must be sent to the ag	Telephone: gency lead professional (e.g. social worker), if there is one. ofessional has not responded to you in respect of any concerns
Name and job title of person completing: E-mail: On completion this form must be sent to the ag Please note if there is a concern that the lead project identified for this young person the escalation project.	Telephone: gency lead professional (e.g. social worker), if there is one. ofessional has not responded to you in respect of any concerns
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For perpetrators or locations please submit to relevant Public Protection Unit and Contextual Safeguarding Operational group:

For Halton and Warrington northern.ppu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

For Cheshire West and Cheshire western.ppu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

For Cheshire East <u>eastern.ppu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk</u>