

# **Pan-Cheshire All Age Exploitation Strategy**

2023 – 2026

# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
Why do we need this strategy?	4
National picture	4
Regional picture	5
<b>What is exploitation and who is affected?</b>	<b>6</b>
What do we mean by exploitation?	6
Types of exploitation: What's in scope?	6
Core principles for partnership working to tackle exploitation	7
<b>What we know about exploitation across Cheshire</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>The journey of a victim of exploitation</b>	<b>10</b>
Child victim	10
Adult victim	10
<b>What is our approach to tackling exploitation across Cheshire?</b>	<b>11</b>
Best practice principles	11
The Ecological Model	11
A contextual safeguarding approach	12
A trauma informed approach	12
<b>Our Pan-Cheshire strategic objectives</b>	<b>13</b>
Partnership vision	13
Our Theory of Change	13
Objective one: Prevention and early identification	14
Objective two: Appropriate and high-quality support	16
Objective three: Perpetrators are stopped	19
Objective four: Cultural change across our community	23
<b>Putting our strategy in to operation</b>	<b>25</b>
Governance arrangements	25
The way forward: A call to action	25
Monitoring and reporting	25
<b>Appendix A: Definitions</b>	<b>26</b>

# 1. Introduction

Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington Safeguarding Adults Boards, Safeguarding Children Partnership's and the four area Community Safety Partnerships are committed to protecting children, young people and adults from exploitation. We know in order to do this effectively, we must develop a shared approach to our exploitation reduction strategies and intervention models.

Our ambition is to:



Why do we need this strategy?

## Aims of this strategy

Regardless of the type of exploitation, children, their families and adults at risk have a right to be safeguarded from this form of abuse. It is vital that there is collaboration across statutory, private, voluntary and charitable organisations with a clear plan and objectives on how services will work together to support those at risk.

The purpose of this strategy is to:

- Identify a joint vision for all key partners and stakeholders
- Provide the basis for identifying our key Pan-Cheshire joint objectives and commitments over the coming three years,
- Clarifying our agreed adopted definitions, and
- Commitment to the Pan-Cheshire agreed levels of risk as outlined within the current exploitation toolbox.

## An all-age approach

We build upon the significant progress made under the previous Pan-Cheshire Contextual Safeguarding Strategy 2021-2023, which set out the Pan-Cheshire response to eradicate the exploitation of children. Traditionally, adult and child safeguarding procedures have been separated, with divergent strategic and operational approaches. We want to take a more flexible approach, exploring how safeguarding children and young adults could be done fluidly and learning from both children's and adult safeguarding practice and preparing young people for their adult lives.

We know the experience of adversity in childhood can make some young people particularly vulnerable to harm and the effects can persist into adulthood (Dixon et al, 2016; Hanson and Holmes, 2014). Due to the differences in child and adult services, the transition from one system to the other can be a difficult time for the young person facing ongoing risk. This is amplified by the difference in thresholds for services, risk assessments and service provision for children and adults. As a result, young people transitioning into adulthood often slip through the net during this time.

In order to unify the response to exploitation across all stages of safeguarding procedures, we decided to develop Cheshire's first all-age exploitation strategy, aimed to protect children, young people and adults from exploitation.

## National picture

### Statutory responsibilities

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave local authorities and the police a duty to work together to develop crime and disorder audits and implement reduction strategies. Section 5 of the Act sets out that the Council and the Police have joint responsibility for preventing and reducing crime and disorder in the area. They are 'responsible authorities' and have a duty to co-operate through a Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The 'responsible authorities' have responsibility, under Section 6 of the Act, for formulating and implementing 'a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area'.

However, there are gaps in the above duty, where not all forms of exploitation are always considered. For example, there is no specific offence of 'sexual exploitation' in the UK. Instead, prosecutions can be brought under a range of offences in each nation's legislative framework to protect children from harm. There are no specific statutory responsibilities in relation to adult sexual exploitation. However, professionals and agencies have more general duties in relation to safeguarding, health and wellbeing which are often relevant to sexual exploitation, in particular the duties outlined in section 42 of the Care Act. The Local Authority has a duty to undertake safeguarding enquiries where an adult with care and support needs (whether or not these are being met) is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect. The Care Act statutory guidance specifically references sexual exploitation as a form of abuse.

In relation to modern slavery, the Modern Slavery Act (2015) requires specified public authorities to notify the Home Office of any individual encountered in England and Wales who they believe is a suspected victim of slavery, which can include human trafficking, forced labour and sexual exploitation.

## 2. What is exploitation and who is affected?

What do we mean by exploitation?

**Exploitation, as a form of abuse, is a process which utilises the forging of a relationship, trust and/or emotional connection for the purpose of misusing power and gain for the perpetrator.**

Exploitation involves being groomed, forced or coerced into doing something that you don't want to do for someone else's gain. The victim may be exploited for criminal and/or sexual purposes, it can include forced labour, organ harvesting, domestic servitude, and forced marriage.

### Victims and perpetrators

Exploitation, like other forms of abuse, involves a victim and perpetrator. The victim may have been exploited even if the activity appears consensual or they do not recognise themselves as a victim. They may have normalised their experiences of exploitation, especially if it's taken place over a long time, or they may feel dependent on their abuser or the exploitative situation or feel affection towards their abuser – this is often a consequence of being groomed.

Victims of exploitation can be coerced and controlled. We acknowledge that:

- People who are exploited may be forced to take part in crime or become involved in grooming and exploiting other people.
- Their actions may not seem like those of a victim and they may appear to have freely or wilfully carried out these actions.

Anyone is a victim of exploitation if they are involved in a situation which limits their freedom and ability to make decisions about their own actions for the benefit of others. Exploitation involves control and coercion which may not be immediately visible.

### Types of exploitation: What's in scope?

Type	What does this mean?
<b>Criminal exploitation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gangs</li><li>• Serious organised crime</li><li>• County Lines</li><li>• Cuckooing</li></ul>	<p>Criminal exploitation is common in county lines and occurs when the victim is coerced and manipulated into criminal activities; for example, this includes children and adults forced or coerced into transporting drugs, working in cannabis farms, laundering money or to commit theft.</p> <p>For the purpose of this strategy, gangs are people who see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group for whom crime and violence is integral to the group's identity. It's not illegal for a young person to be in a gang – there are different types of 'gang' and not every 'gang' is criminal or dangerous. However,</p>

Type	What does this mean?
	<p>gang membership can be linked to illegal activity, particularly organised criminal gangs involved in trafficking, drug dealing and violent crime (NSPCC).</p> <p>County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of 'deal line'. They are likely to exploit children and adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons (Home Office, 2018).</p> <p>Cuckooing is a form of crime in which exploiters take over the home of a vulnerable person, in order to use it as a base for a number of areas of criminality (Home Office).</p>
<b>Sexual exploitation</b>	Sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse. The child or adult at risk is coerced, manipulated, or deceived for sexual purposes.
<b>Modern slavery</b>	Modern slavery is a complex crime that takes a number of different forms. It encompasses slavery, servitude, forced, compulsory labour, and human trafficking. Traffickers and slave drivers coerce, deceive and force individuals against their will into a life of abuse, servitude, and inhumane treatment. Victims may be sexually exploited, forced to work for little or no pay or forced to commit criminal activities against their will. Victims are often pressured into debt bondage and are likely to be fearful of those who exploit them, who will often threaten and abuse victims and their families. All of these factors make it very difficult for victims to escape. (HM Government, 2014)

Whilst there are differing forms of exploitation which require distinction in respect of intervention and service provision, there are commonalities which cross all. In addition to commonalities across the different forms of exploitation, we also know that exploitation can be a feature across wider forms of abuse too, as highlighted below:

### Commonalities across forms of exploitation

- Risks often manifest within, or facilitated within, extra-familial environments.
- Are shaped by peer norms and environments.
- Interact with social and economic trends including gender norms and poverty.
- May involve victims perpetrating criminal offences, such as exploitation of others, as well as continuing to experience harm and abuse themselves.
- Can present as a perceived 'choice' the person has made, and/or continues to make despite professional and parental intervention.
- Often features grooming, coercion, criminality, sexual and physical harm, which creates climates of fear and reduces engagement with services.

### Other forms of abuse which may feature exploitation

- Physical Abuse
- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Psychological Abuse
- Financial or material Abuse
- Modern Slavery
- Discriminatory Abuse
- Organisational Abuse
- Neglect and Acts of Omission

- Are often beyond the control of parents, rarely instigated by parents, although familial context and adverse childhood experiences may play a part in increasing vulnerability.
- Can lead to multiple relocations following a rapid escalation in risk.
- Predominantly occurs during stages of development where individuals experience changes that impact their emotional regulation, approach to risk, desire for autonomy and ability to understand long-term gain or consequences.
- May continue into adulthood, particularly young people 18 – 25 years. (Firmin et al., 2019)

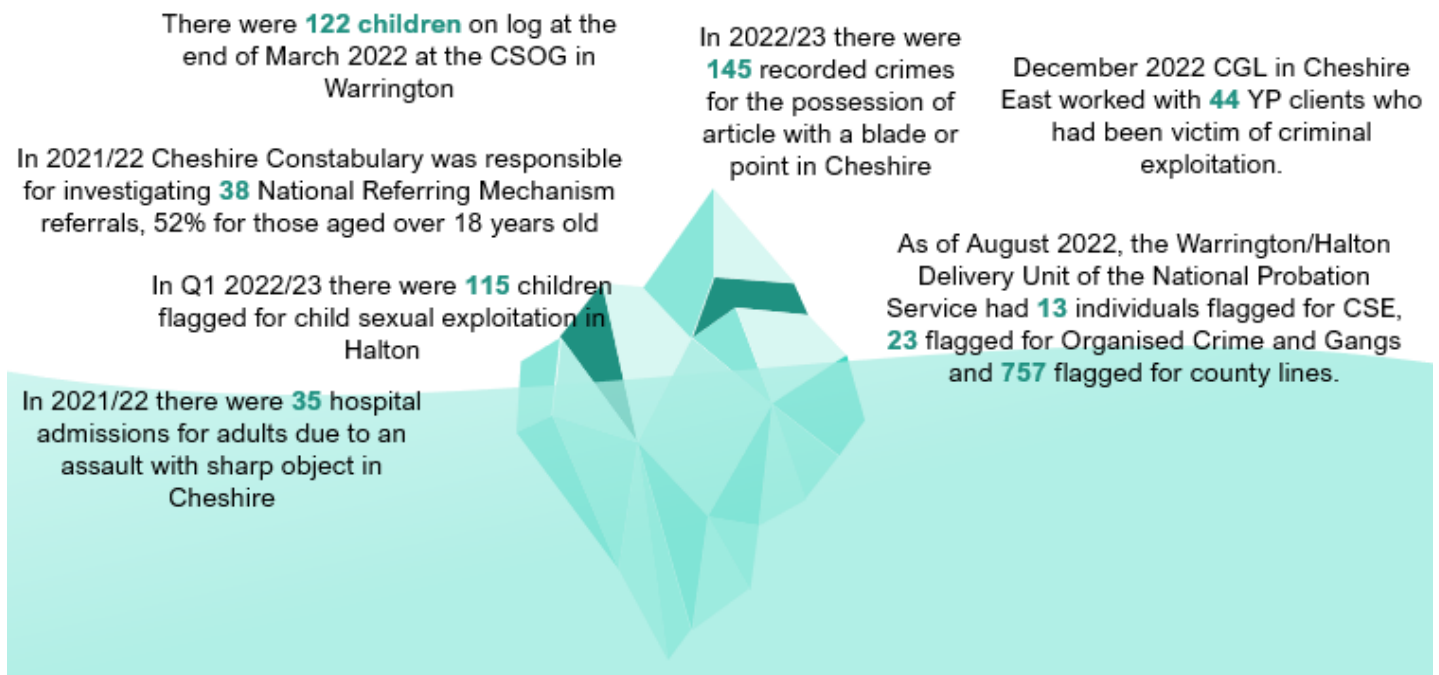
## Core principles for partnership working to tackle exploitation

- All forms of exploitation are a form of abuse which can involve sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse as well as neglect.
- Victims of exploitation do not make informed choices to enter into or remain within sexually and criminally exploitative situations, rather they do so via coercion, manipulation, grooming and/or other forms of enticement.
- Adults at risk who are victims of exploitation are as vulnerable as children and young people experiencing exploitation and deserve an equal level of protection and safeguarding.
- Children under 16 years cannot consent to sexual activity with an adult, and sexual activity with a child aged less than 13 years or an adult who lacks the capacity to consent is statutory rape.
- People who are exploited will often experience difficulty and/or confusion around their autonomy to make choices, and their understanding around their rights, responsibilities, sex, sexuality and the sexual activity into which they have been coerced.
- Exploited people must be treated as victims of abuse and not as offenders.
- Criminal justice efforts must involve disruption of exploitative activity and target offenders, who may be an adult but could also be a child's peer and/or other young people.

### 3. What we know about exploitation across Cheshire

The difficulty of capturing an accurate statistical picture of exploitation is nationally recognised. This is for a range of reasons including the hidden nature and underreporting of exploitation, alongside inconsistent approaches to data collection across organisations.

#### PICTURE OF EXPLOITATION IN CHESHIRE

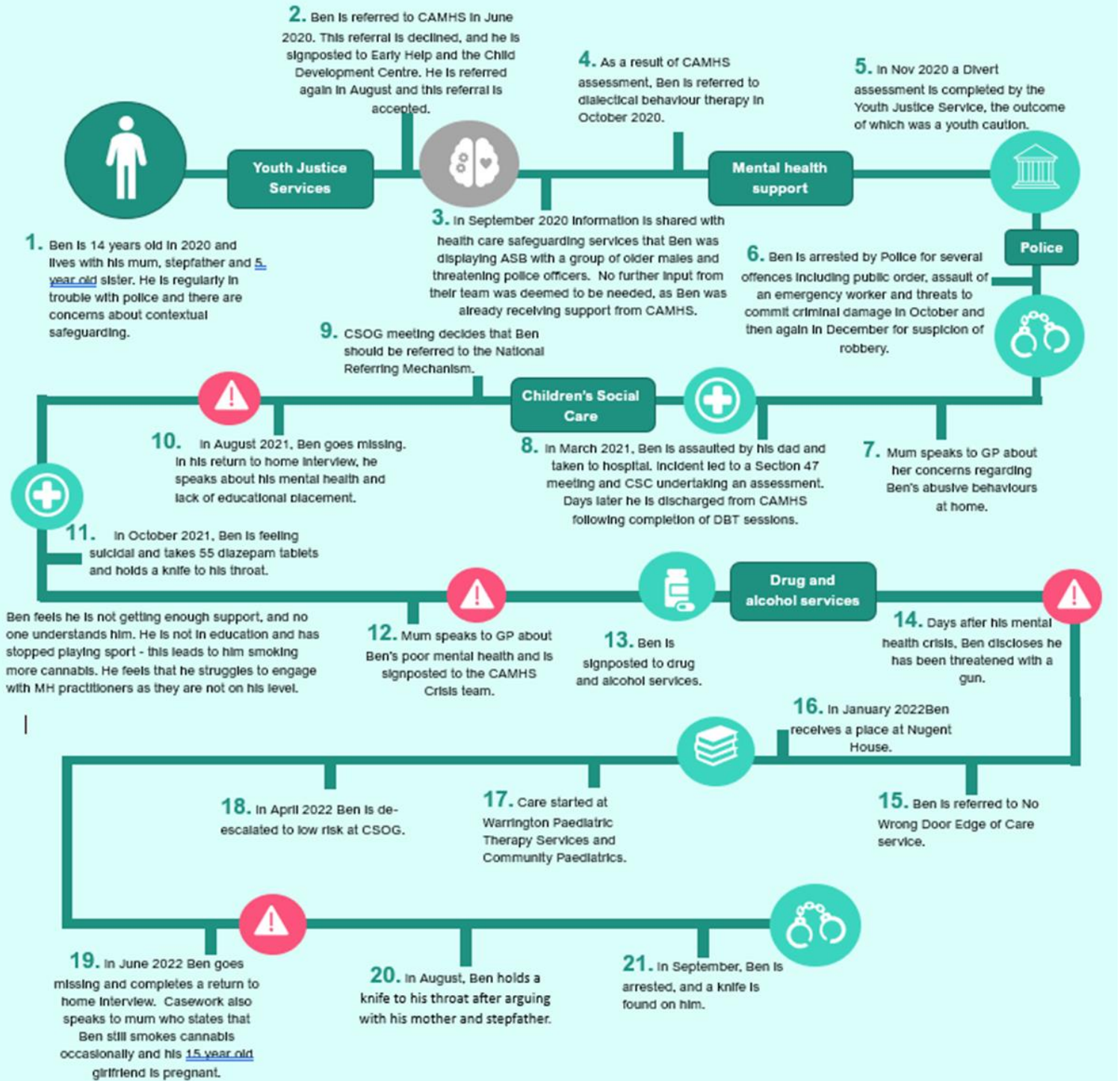


# 4. The nature of exploitation in Cheshire

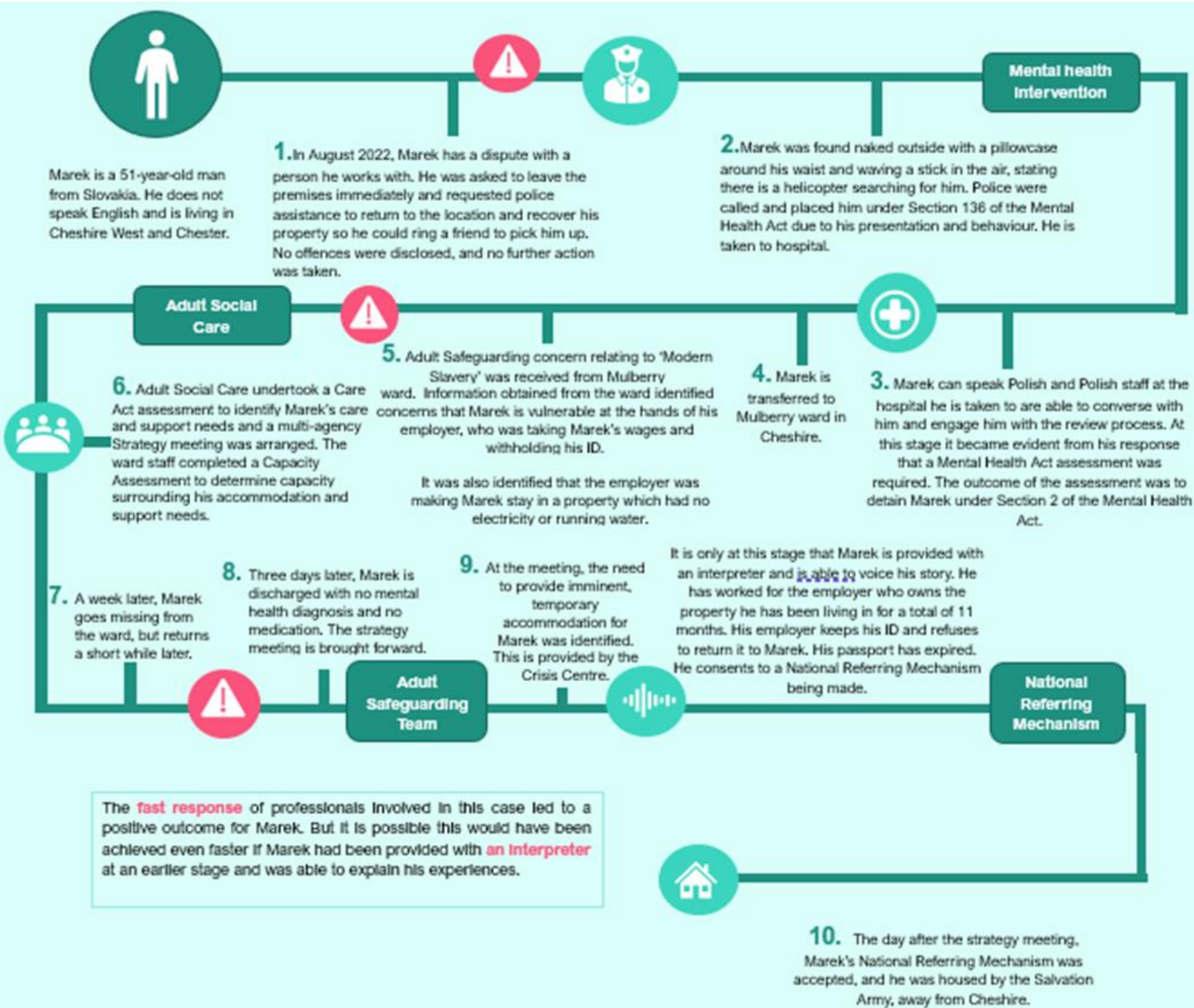
## Victim journey: Ben

This map highlights the **multi-agency and partnership work** which happened in Ben's case. Information was well shared, and roles and responsibilities of all professionals were clear.

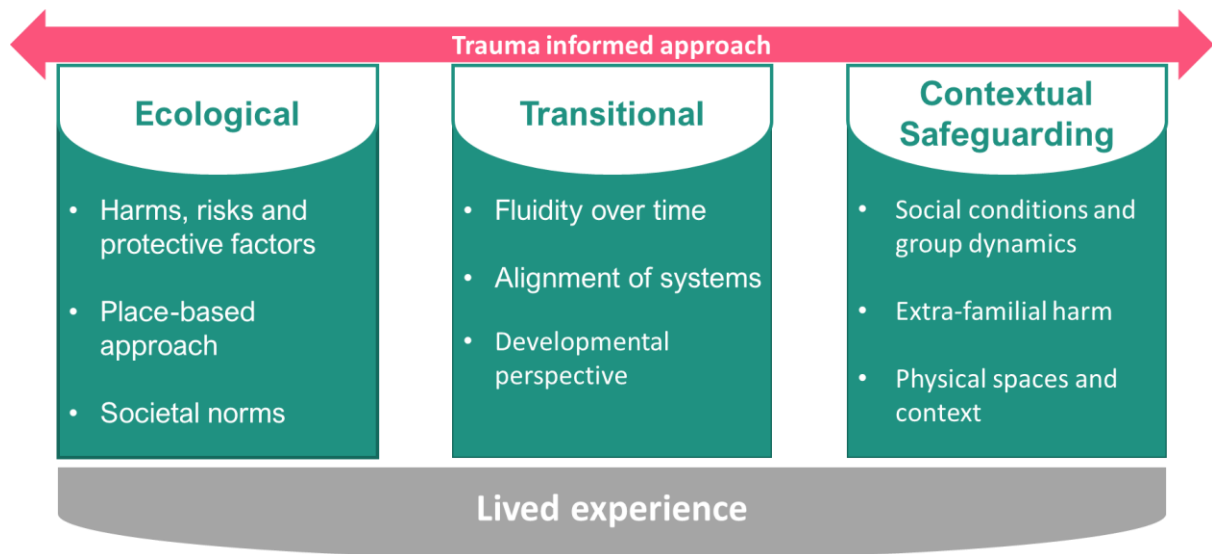
However, escalation processes were not always utilised, and **mental health needs** could have been better met. This is also underpinned by the fact that Ben's voice is not truly heard until after his suicide attempt. This could have been remedied through the **use of a lead worker**.



# Victim Journey: Marek

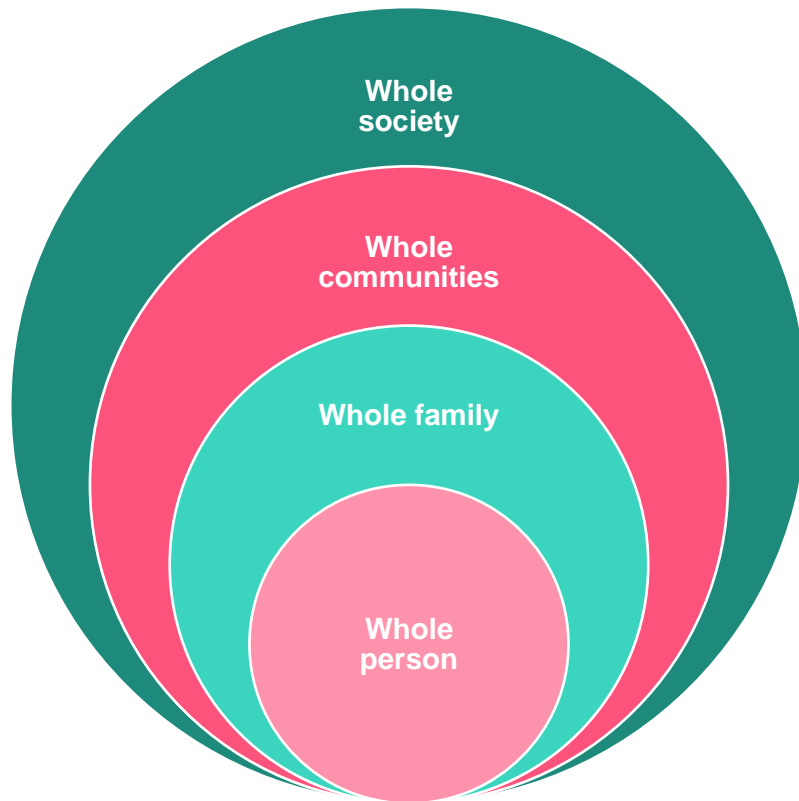


## 5. What is our approach to tackling exploitation across Cheshire?



### The Ecological Model

Our approach to exploitation is based on the ecological model on violence prevention. The ecological model looks at developing interventions across multiple levels – the individual, the community, the institutional and societal. When working closely across these levels, we are able to address the wider context in which exploitation happens and make wider cultural change. The ecological model explains how improving responses across communities, institutions, and wider society, can better support individuals. By understanding the challenges that an individual faces at these levels, we are also able to respond to survivor’s needs. Change requires an enabling environment where all forms of exploitation are recognised and are increasingly unacceptable. Understanding what this looks like on different levels ensures that everyone plays their part in changing the culture in which exploitation happens. Across this strategy, we will look at how we can meet our objectives by understanding the actions individuals, communities, institutions, and society can take to meet our aim to end exploitation across the region.



## A contextual safeguarding approach

Exploitation happens in places, so we need to make sure our community spaces and environments are safe and interventions to eradicate exploitation consider what we can do contextually.

A contextual safeguarding approach seeks to create a response to extra familial forms of abuse that can:

- Target the contexts in which that abuse occurs, from assessment through to intervention
- Provide a framework to address extra-familial risk through the lens of child welfare, as opposed to crime reduction or community safety
- Utilise partnerships between children's services and agencies who have a reach into extra-familial contexts (such as transport providers, retailers, youth workers, residents' associations, parks and recreation services, schools and so on), and;
- Measure success with reference to the nature of the context in which harm has been occurring, rather than solely focusing on any behaviour changes displayed by young people who were at risk in those contexts

## A trauma informed approach

Exploitation is a traumatising experience for individuals, but its lasting effects are likely to create collective trauma for families, communities and society too. We want to minimise and where possible prevent the re-traumatisation of victims when accessing services which are meant to help them.

This is why we are taking a trauma informed approach to tackling exploitation in Cheshire. Trauma-informed practice is an approach to health and care interventions which is grounded

in the understanding that trauma exposure can impact an individual's neurological, biological, psychological and social development (Office for Health, Improvement and Disparities, 2022). This approach offers a framework for a common set of values, knowledge and language across services.

The key principles underlying trauma informed practice are:

- **Safety** - Efforts are made by an organisation to ensure the physical and emotional safety of clients and staff. This includes reasonable freedom from threat or harm and attempts to prevent further re-traumatisation.
- **Trustworthiness** - Transparency exists in an organisation's policies and procedures, with the objective of building trust among staff, clients and the wider community.
- **Choice** - Clients and staff have meaningful choice and a voice in the decision-making process of the organisation and its services.
- **Collaboration** -The organisation recognises the value of staff and clients' experience in overcoming challenges and improving the system as a whole. This is often operationalised through the formal or informal use of peer support and mutual self-help.
- **Empowerment** - Efforts are made by the organisation to share power and give clients and staff a strong voice in decision-making, at both individual and organisational levels.

# 6. Our Pan-Cheshire strategic objectives

## Partnership vision

Working together to strengthen the visibility, early identification and partnership response to prevent violence, reducing the risk of exploitation and its associated harms.

Our joint vision is to:

- Prevent the exploitation of any person (child or adult) living in our community, and
- Ensure that communities, businesses and workforces are confident and competent in recognising and responding to early indicators of abuse or vulnerability.

## Our Theory of Change

All forms exploitation of children, young people and adults across Cheshire are eradicated

All individuals within Cheshire are protected from harm

Cheshire is a hostile place for perpetrators and facilitators of exploitation

The risk that individuals are exploited is reduced through a focus on prevention and early identification

Individuals at risk of or experiencing exploitation and their families receive appropriate and high-quality support

Perpetrators are stopped, brought to justice and are less likely to re-offend

Cultural and social barriers to preventing and tackling exploitation are reduced

Individuals across Cheshire are resilient and are equipped to help themselves and their peers

Individuals and groups **at risk of** exploitation are identified as early as possible

An appropriate range of high-quality services are available

Individuals and groups **affected by** exploitation are identified as early as possible

Perpetrators and facilitators of exploitation are held to account through the criminal justice system

Perpetrators are supported to change their thoughts and behaviour

Perpetrators are supported to change their thoughts and behaviour

Legal preventative measures are robust and used effectively

Practitioners are equipped with the knowledge and skills to recognise and respond appropriately to the needs of people at risk or affected by exploitation

Increased understanding amongst parents and the wider public of all forms of exploitation, including risks and indicators, and appropriate responses

Perpetrators and facilitators of exploitation are disrupted

Children and young people affected by sexual exploitation are encouraged to report abuse

Social tolerance of gender inequalities is reduced

People who are **at risk** of sexually exploiting children are supported to change their thoughts

Perpetrators are identified as soon as possible

Increased public and practitioner understanding that exploitation can affect people from any background or community

## Objective one: Prevention and early identification

*“People need to understand more and be educated from around 11 years old, treated as adults in a sense, not spoken down to, most girls especially should be aware of what to expect, it comes from awareness, it needs to be closed sessions where they feel comfortable to speak too, some may not want to speak in front of friends so need to know they can contact the agency if wanted at any time as not everybody is able to speak to parents either”*

Cheshire resident

Our theory of change shows how we will do this:

### 1. The risk that individuals are exploited is reduced through a focus on prevention and early identification.

#### How will we achieve our outcome?

- Ensure that serious violence and exploitation are included as an issue on all of the strategic boards across Cheshire, with a clear plan on how to reduce violence and exploitation.
- Promote protective factors in children, working with parents/carers and support their relationships with their children.
- Ensure that parents/carers are informed about the value of parenting programmes, and the potential consequences of not participating in these programmes.
- For all front line professionals (including school staff, healthcare professionals and staff within the voluntary sector) to be aware of the drivers of violence and exploitation, and how to identify and prevent these factors and promote protective factors.
- Increased education and training about the risks and potential consequences of knife carrying and being involved in violence and exploitation, including county lines and drug demand/supply. Take a universal and innovative approach for delivering these messages.
- Ensure that all school children receive high quality, engaging training on how to keep safe online.
- Ensure that all young people between 16-18 year olds are provided with a structured education or apprenticeship offer.

#### What difference will this make?

A reduction in the prevalence or rate of risk factors for violence and exploitation as highlighted in the Strategic Needs Assessment (Public Health England).

An increase in the prevalence or rate of protective factors for violence and exploitation highlighted in the Strategic Needs Assessment (Public Health England).

An increase in awareness amongst the whole community (residents and professionals) about what exploitation is and how to get support if you need it.

Professionals will feel confident in identifying exploitation, assessing the risk and finding the right help for the victim.

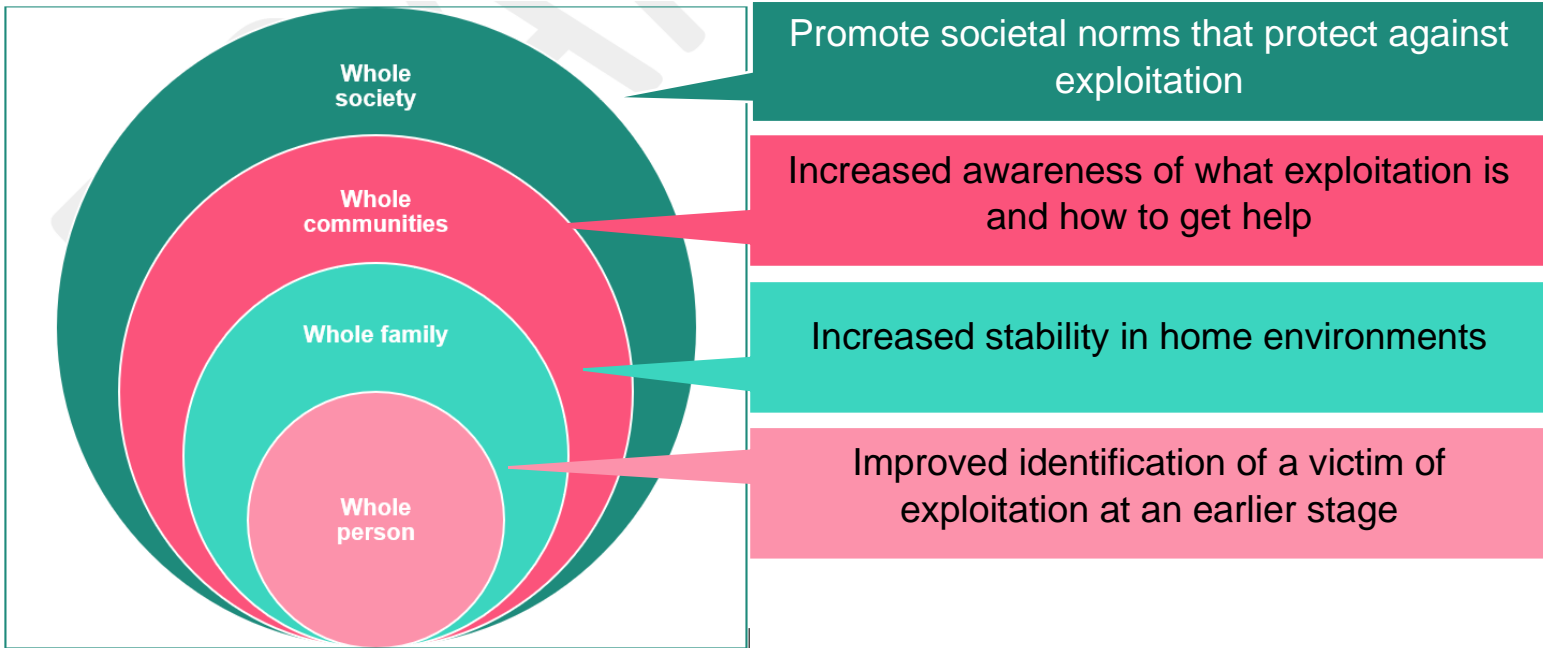
Reduced number of young people Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET) across Cheshire.

Reduced fixed and permanent school exclusions.

- Reduce the number of children and young people who are excluded from school or other educational settings.
- Identify individuals who have been in contact with the police due to anti-social behaviour (ASB) or may be at risk becoming involved in violence and/or exploitation, through improved data sharing between agencies. Ensure that these children and young people receive targeted education and support.



What does this look like across the ecological model?



## Objective two: Appropriate and high-quality support

*“We have some excellent practitioners who are committed to improving the safety and promotion of healthy relationships of young people.”*

Cheshire resident

### 2. Individuals at risk of or experiencing exploitation and their families receive appropriate and high-quality support.

#### How will we achieve our outcome?

- For all frontline agencies across Cheshire to be ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) aware and trauma informed.
- Consistency in definition of exploitation and operational screening tools.
- Front line professionals are able to detect individuals or communities that are already involved in, or at higher risk of being involved in, violence and exploitation.
- Ensure that professionals have the knowledge, skills and confidence to intervene early and understand referral pathways (including National Referral Mechanisms, CSOGs, MASH, MARAC and wider services).
- Siblings, families and close contacts of individuals involved in violence and exploitation are identified early and given the appropriate support as part of contextual safeguarding.
- Increased knowledge of violence during school hours, around before, and after school time, working with schools and colleges.
- Data and intelligence from multiple organisations (police, hospital attendances, and ambulance) is used to highlight “at risk” areas for serious violence and exploitation. This data is used to inform our planning and interventions to target service provision and interventions.
- Ensure that there is a clear and supportive process for vulnerable adults who are transitioning from children’s services to adult’s services, particularly for those people with low level support needs who may fall through the gaps in social, health and housing provision

#### What difference will this make?

Earlier access to support services for those at risk of exploitation.

Professionals have a common understanding of what exploitation is and are able to triage and signpost victims to appropriate support.

An increase in the number of children and young people who are engaged with interventions.

Consistent recording and sharing of risks.

Greater professional awareness leading to increase in individuals identified and referred for support.

A reduction in the number of missing young people.

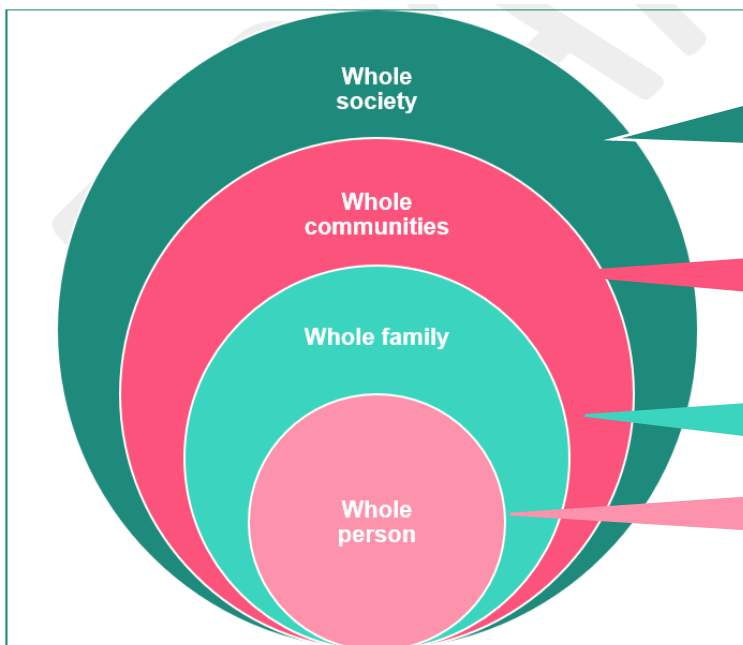
Reduced number of victims who are re-victimised in the future.

Improved cross-boundary communication, information sharing and consistency of practice.

who may be vulnerable to exploitation in adulthood.

- Raise awareness of issues related to violence and exploitation across specific industries e.g. hoteliers, motorway service stations, football clubs, night time economy, security, shopping centres, fast food outlets, taxi companies, barber/hairdressers and services that go into people's homes (e.g. plumbers, electricians).
- Continue to support existing and established services, which support those at risk of being involved in violence and exploitation at an early stage, to ensure effective, sustainable and consistent services across Cheshire.
- Work with other Local Authorities who place vulnerable children and young people into Cheshire, to ensure that these individuals are known about and given early support.
- Providing victims of exploitation with skills and resilience to navigate future risk of re-victimisation, supporting repair and renewal of self-esteem and relationships.

What does this look like across the ecological model?



Less judgement of acts committed by victims due to the exploitation they were experiencing

Improved knowledge of hot spots or at risk areas and spaces for exploitation

Families are more equipped to move on and heal following experiences of exploitation

Victims receiving targeted and quality interventions

## Objective three: Stop perpetrators

*"[A perpetrator is] someone who needs gratification from others, who has no real place in the family or society, and it is a way of them feeling 'important' and in control of others rather than being controlled."*  
Cheshire resident

### 3. Perpetrators are stopped, brought to justice and are less likely to re-offend

#### How will we achieve our outcome?

- Ensure that individuals who are currently involved in violence and/or exploitation are offered different opportunities for support and mentoring (including from those with lived experience).
- Continue to support existing and established services, which support those who are involved in violence and exploitation to ensure effective, sustainable and consistent services across Cheshire.
- Ensure that front line professionals are provided with education and training on "teachable moments" or "making every contact count," particularly within specific services e.g. within A+E and Youth Offending.
- Ensure that individuals who are involved in violence and exploitation are able to access support for their mental health and wellbeing.
- Ensure effective information sharing and joint working to identify those involved and maintain an accurate profile of Serious Violence to enable targeted, evidenced based activity and interventions.
- Support work carried out by specialists to provide emotional counselling and practical support for children, young people and their families involved in violence and exploitation. Ensure that these services link closely with other relevant services across the county e.g. Youth Offending Services and early help.
- Continue, and build upon, the ongoing work being carried out across Cheshire which supports individuals who have been involved in the criminal justice system to find employment.
- Ensure that there is a coordinated multi-agency approach for those young people who are

#### What difference will this make?

A reduction in the rate of young people entering the Criminal Justice System.

Reduce knife carrying and associated knife crime.

A reduction in the rate of re-offending.

An increase in the number of individuals exiting offending behaviour.

An increase in action taken against those causing harm to others.

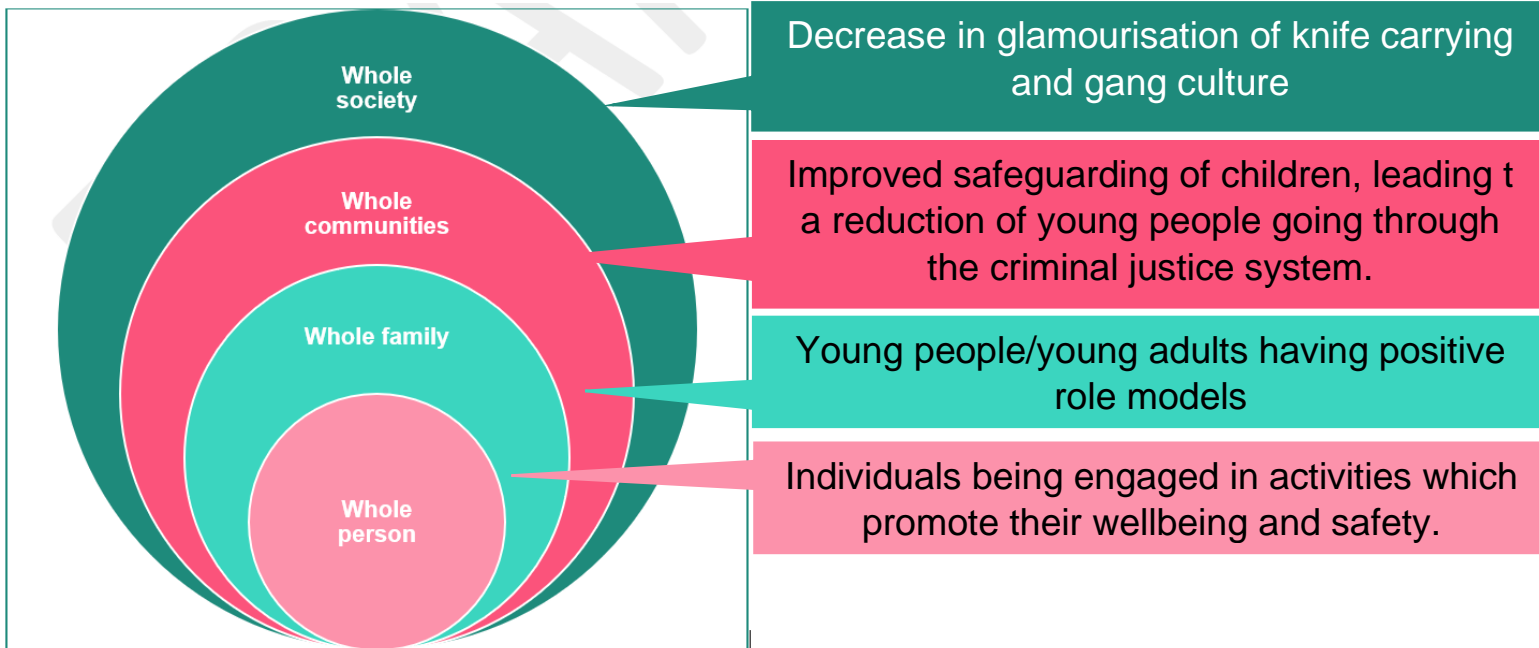
Increasing preventative and protective factors in those who are causing harm to others.

Provide those at risk of harming others with a sense of purpose from positive and productive activities.

already involved in violence and exploitation by establishing a Serious Youth Violence Panel.

- Avoid criminalising children, young people and vulnerable adults where possible, using a trauma informed approach.
- Work with all relevant partners to prevent and disrupt offending behaviours and support people to reduce reoffending, developing a robust multiagency plan to carry this work forward.
- Strengthen the ongoing work across Cheshire which aims to change the course of those with violent offending habits, including work focusing on rehabilitation, recovery from drug and alcohol dependency, resettlement, employment and access to health services.
- Undertake targeted activity and interventions, including overt police activity, to tackle and reduce drugs, knife and gun crime in affected areas.
- Support interventions that promote restorative justice, and continue to work with victims and their families and communities to deliver restorative justice programmes
- Ensure that victims, and their families, are supported throughout their journey in the criminal justice system to promote recovery.
- Take action to identify and prosecute retailers who sell knives and other weapons to children and young people.
- Improve reporting of specific crimes that are known to be consistently underreported e.g. Child Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Domestic Abuse.
- Work with our partner organisations to share data (ambulance, A+E) to identify the scale of the under-reporting and respond to this.

What does this look like across the ecological model?



### Objective four: Cultural change across our community

*“There are constant challenges around exploitation and as Local Authorities, we need to ensure that pathway plans are current to tackle the various issues. Good communication is vital to ensure that all risks are identified and there are safe places that can accommodate and support victims to rebuild their confidence and make positive lifestyle choices.*

Cheshire resident

## 4. Cultural and social barriers to preventing and tackling exploitation are reduced

### How will we achieve our outcome?

- Strengthen community resilience and increase perceived safety, continuing to work with communities and partners to support areas of Cheshire where violence is normalised, to change the narrative around violence.
- Encourage communities to develop “place-based” solutions and allow young people to have a voice and co-design solutions.
- Continue to engage with our community and voluntary groups, to give them the opportunity to guide and influence our objectives at a place level.
- Build upon and strengthen positive relationships between our communities,

### What difference will this make?

- An increase in disclosures and information provided by residents and communities.
- Improved levels of community confidence in the partnership process.
- Evidence of greater community/business involvement in local problem solving.
- Positive changes in the perception of safety across Cheshire.

Cheshire Constabulary and service providers, to increase trust and engagement and confidence in the partnership process to protect communities.

- Emphasise that violence is preventable, and shift beliefs around violence.
- Promote young people more positively using traditional and non-traditional media.
- Share positive stories of interventions that have reduced violence and exploitation, highlighting the positive impact of our work across Cheshire, through different forms of media (including social media).
- Develop a counter narrative, working with the community to identify 'alternative' initiatives, using its assets (including long-term opportunities for employment).
- Ensure that we engage with, and work with, the victims of serious violence and exploitation, and their families for them to design and support our prevention work. Use evidence from other areas of what has "worked well."
- Challenge the assumption that knife- carrying is "normal." Work with communities and young people for them to understand that knife or other weapon carrying should not be tolerated within peer groups and within the wider community.
- Raise community awareness of the signs of exploitation (including sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and modern slavery).

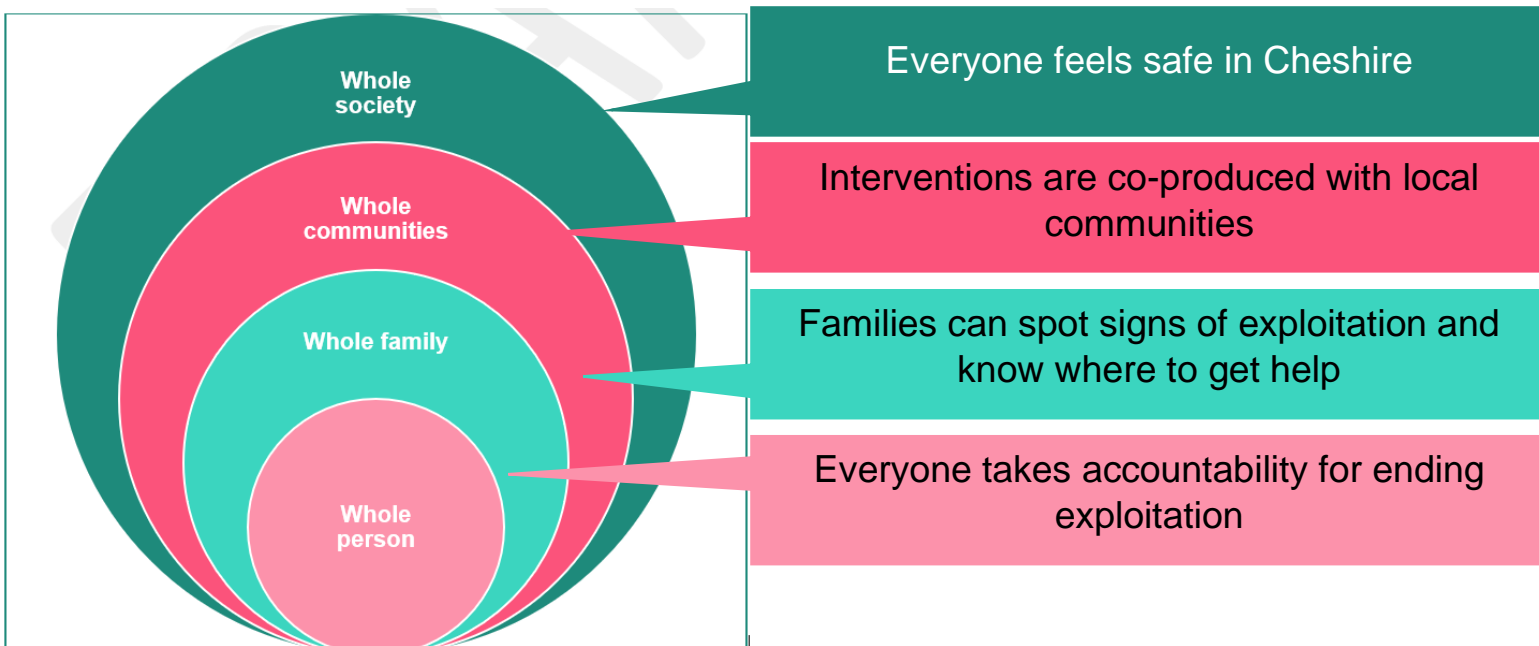
Reduced fear about violence and exploitation in our communities, particularly in children and young people.

Inclusion of individuals with lived experience in developing initiatives and commissioning of support services.

An increase in the engagement with the serious violence and exploitation agenda by agencies, schools and communities.

Schools and colleges have a greater understanding of their role in preventing serious violence and exploitation.

What does this look like across the ecological model?



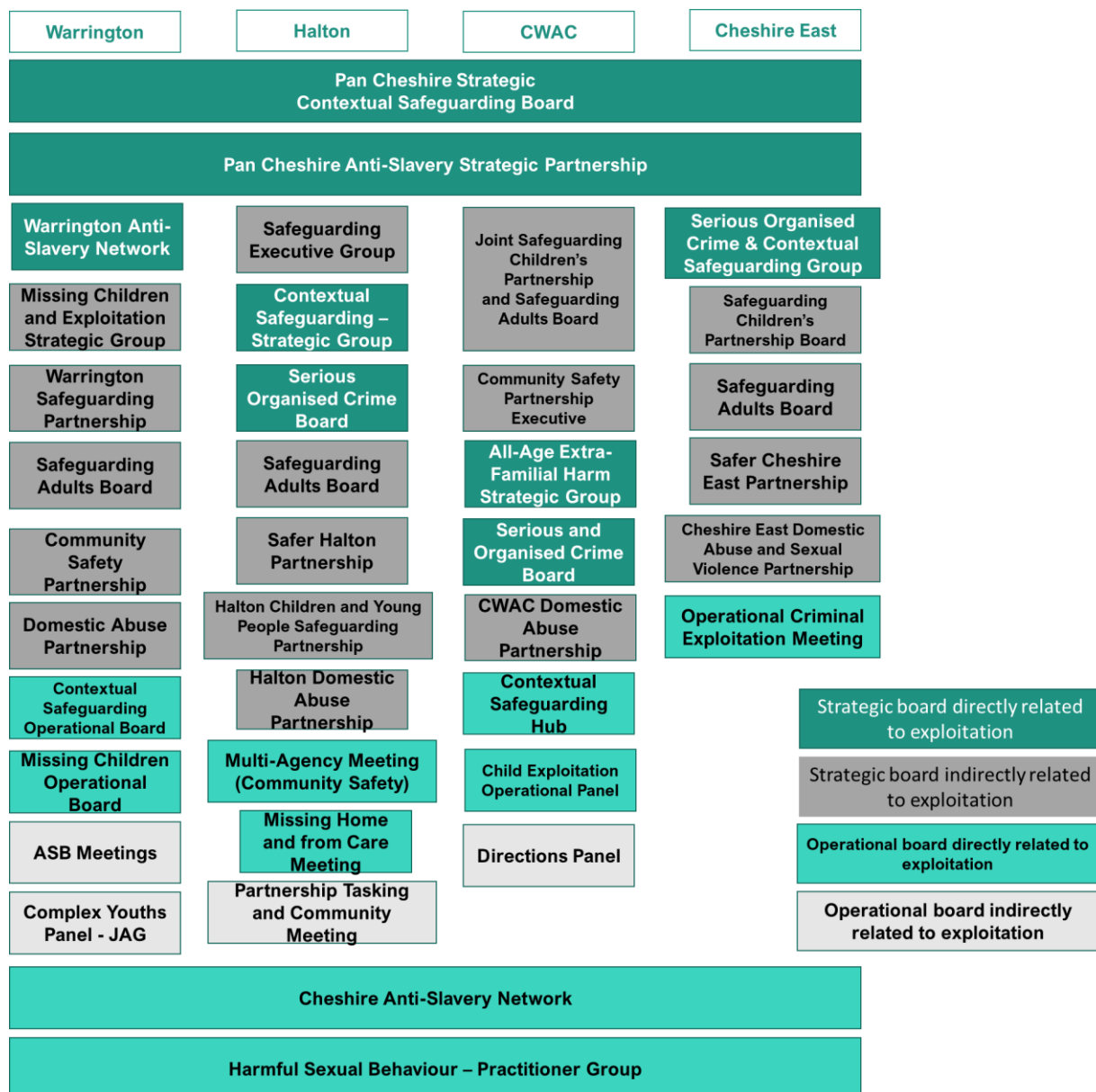
# 7. Putting our strategy into operation

This strategy will be implemented through a partnership approach in which everyone plays their part in responding and ending exploitation.

## Governance arrangements

A Pan Cheshire All Age Exploitation Strategic Group will be established to lead on the coordination of the strategy and its objectives. This Group will be supported by the Community Safety Partnerships, Safeguarding Children Partnerships, and Adult Safeguarding Boards in Cheshire.

The strategy will be reviewed, monitored, and adjusted as needed by All Age Exploitation Strategic Group. The Group will be influenced and work in conjunction with other strategic boards in Cheshire which relate to exploitation to implement detailed action plans based on our strategic objectives.



## Monitoring and reporting

To measure the impact of our strategy a monitoring framework will be developed and reported through the All-Age Exploitation Strategic Group. The expected outcomes will include the following Key Performance Indicators:

- Number of Sex Worker Visits
- Number of intelligence reports submitted
- Number of crimes recorded from enquiries
- Number of Police National Database enquiries
- Number of VPAs submitted
- Number of NRMs submitted
- Number of Slavery and Traffic Risk Orders applied for (and obtained)
- Number of 'victim recoveries' i.e. victims removed from being exploited/slavery
- Number of cash/assets seizures and POCA applied for
- Number of prosecutions sought
- Number of Immigration Enforcement Visits
- Number of housing Visits/HMO Visits
- Number of DWP/Fraudulent Benefits Stopped
- Any other 4P activity: Prevent/Protect/Prepare/Pursue
- Number of Child Abduction Warning Notices served
- Number of telecoms apps submitted / reviewed
- Number of phone downloads completed
- Contextual Safeguarding
- Information Sharing with Partners for 4Ps
- CCE/CSE operations tasking work

## The Way Forward

This strategy sets out our vision for ending exploitation in Cheshire. This is an ambitious vision which will be realised through a robust action plan. We are working closely with residents and multi-agency partners to develop this in order to address our four strategic objectives:

1. Reduce the risk of exploitation by focusing on prevention and early identification.
2. Provide appropriate and high-quality support.
3. Stop perpetrators and bring them to justice.
4. Reduce cultural and social barriers to preventing exploitation.

An action plan will be published in Autumn 2023 setting out the steps to be taken. This strategy and action plan will link up with and support other strategic priorities to create safe communities, empowering and caring about people, residents living happy, healthy and independent lives and children and young people being given the best start in life and achieve their full potential.