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**Pan Berkshire Child Exploitation Simple Screening Tool**

**Guidance on completing the tool**

The screening tool uses the term ‘child’ deliberately to remind us that a child at risk through exploitation is a child in need of protection and not a young adult making poor choices. It is designed to be used by anyone who has concerns for a child. A child is defined as person who is under 18 years of age.

The screening tool is designed to help identify possible risks of exploitation. Your observations of behaviours and any significant changes will be important as children will often deny or be unaware that they are being exploited.

Significant changes in behaviours, a single high-risk episode or multiple risk factors may indicate that the child is a victim of abuse through exploitationrather than a teenager experimenting with risk taking.

These are the most prevalent forms of child exploitation:

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| Sexual Exploitation | any sexual activity with a child in exchange or to either enhance perpetrators reputation/status or for the financial gain of the perpetrator |
| Criminal Exploitation | Forcing/coercing a child to engage in criminal behaviour e.g.: drug dealing, county lines, holding weapons/drugs, ABH, GBH, shoplifting, burglary, mugging (robbery) etc.… |
| Forced Labour | Employing a child to undertake some form of employment to pay off any ‘debts’ or pay them minimal amounts. Engage in work that is illegal for their age. This can also include domestic servitude. |

Often, children do not recognise themselves as victims, or that they are being groomed, and as a result disclosures of such abuse can be unlikely. Therefore, this indicator tool aids the identification of exploitation.

**This is an initial screening tool, and not a risk assessment**. Please complete as fully as possible. If there are indicators of Exploitation, please submit this form to:

[mash@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:mash@achievingforchildren.org.uk)

Secure email: [MASH@rbwm.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@rbwm.gcsx.gov.uk)

The list of questions and observations within this screening tool is not exhaustive. Therefore, regardless of the lack of identified indicators, if you are still concerned about exploitation, please contact your local Children’s Social Care – **01628 683150 Option 5**.

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| Child’s Name | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Date of Birth |  |
| Gender | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Home or placement address | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| School attended by child | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Name and contact phone number of person completing the screening tool | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| What is your relationship to the child? | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Date tool completed | Click or tap here to enter text. |

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| **Risk Indicators**  Children are groomed and exploited in different ways. Below are some signs that may signify if the child is being groomed for exploitation, or actually being exploited. | **Yes/No**  **Observations / Detail** |
| Frequenting areas known for on/off street sex work and/or drug supply |  |
| Disclosure of sexual/physical assault followed by withdrawal of allegation. |  |
| Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Knowledge of/connection to town or cities child has no previous connection with. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Association with taxi firms/takeaway owners/night-time economy. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Evidence of unexplained / suspicious public transport - rail / bus tickets to places where they have no trusted association | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Possession of a knife / self-defence weapon | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Seen in or known to frequent places of concern. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Change in behaviour – being more secretive/ withdrawn/ isolated from peers and not mixing with usual friends. |  |
| Increasingly disruptive, hostile or physically aggressive at home or school, including to animals, and the use of sexualised language. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Association/relationship with older person(s) online/offline, who encourage emotional dependence, loyalty and isolation. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Physical/emotional abuse from a partner, controlling adult or peer, including use of manipulation, violence and/or threats. |  |
| Possession of keys to unknown premises and/or hotel key cards. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Phone calls, texts, letters from unknown adults. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Persistently missing from home/care/school for different periods including overnight, including episodes that aren’t reported to Police. |  |
| Returning home after long intervals appearing dirty/dishevelled. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Change in physical appearance (more/new clothes, more/less make up, weight gain/loss). | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Unexplained marks/scars/physical injuries and attempts to conceal them. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Attendance at a hospital / surgery with a stab wound | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Expression of despair (depression, mental health, self-harm, suicidal thoughts/attempts, eating disorder). | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Repeat/unplanned pregnancy(s) and/or seeking termination/emergency contraception. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Accessing contraception outside of ‘normal’ amounts. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Sexually transmitted infections (STI’s) and/or repeat visits to the sexual health clinic. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Adults/unexplained person(s) loitering outside the child/young person’s usual place of residence or school. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Concealed/concerning use of the internet and/or mobile phone, including during the night (webcam, online gaming, web chat, social media, online dating apps/websites). | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Concern that an online relationship has developed into an offline relationship. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Involvement in offending. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Exclusion from school, disengaged from education, unexplained absences from school. |  |
| Failing to respond to attempts from workers/carers to keep in touch/disengagement from professionals. |  |
| Sexualised behaviour, including on the phone and internet, e.g. sexting. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Young gay/bisexual exploring sexuality in an unsupported way. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Association with gangs/fear of victimisation from gangs. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Increasing use of drugs/alcohol or misuse of drugs/alcohol. |  |
| Evidence of sexual bullying and/or vulnerability through the internet, including sharing of indecent images. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Concern that the child/young person is being coerced/bribed/threatened to provide sexually explicit images/engage in inappropriate online activity. |  |
| Unexplained money/clothing/goods/activities. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Possessing multiple mobile phones, sim cards, or concerning use of a phone, i.e. multiple callers, frequent messages, phone answered by adult/unknown person. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Becoming angry/hostile if any suspicions or concerns are expressed about their activities | Click or tap here to enter text. |

If the child has made a disclosure of being exploited or abused, you must contact the police immediately.