



Child Sexual Exploitation Screening Tool and Risk Assessment

If you suspect anyone is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999. If a child/young person is currently at risk of significant harm, including from CSE, refer immediately to your West Sussex MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub).

Child Sexual Exploitation Screening Tool for all agencies (Part A)

What is this tool?

This is a screening tool that you can use to help you decide whether a child or young person may be at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE) in a quick and consistent manner. It is a simple set of questions to use as a prompt when talking to a child or young person. Please use with the CSE behaviours chart at the end of this document to help you establish the level of risk and check if there are indicators of CSE within a young person's life from the evidence you have.

Who should you use this tool with?

The CSE screening tool can be applied to all children and young people (male or female) under the age of 18 years and is to be used by anyone who has a concern that a child/young person may be being sexually exploited.

Practitioners should be aware that the child or young person may not initially relay accurate information about their circumstances, particularly if they do not identify themselves as a victim, or if they are under the power and control of a perpetrator or group/gang. Please also be aware that some children or young people may no longer be at risk of harm but will already be being significantly harmed. It is important to retain a sense of professional curiosity about the behaviours you are seeing and support the child in discussing this with you.

Next steps

The tool is to assist you in assessing the possibility of sexual exploitation; it is not intended to be a referral form. If you have ticked any indicators refer to the behaviour chart to support your decision making about the level of risk this indicates. Then complete Part B, risk assessment section, agreeing the risk level with your manager or lead CP safeguarding lead. If you have not identified CSE concerns in the screening tool but remain worried about the child's safety refer to MASH as below.

If CSE signs or behaviours are identified then a referral must be made to West Sussex MASH using the request for support forms, attaching this screening and risk assessment. <http://www.westsussexscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Request-for-Support-form.doc> to MASH@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk or if the child has a social worker this information must be passed to the allocated social worker. If you are unsure please call MASH Telephone: 01403 229900 for advice.

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Child Sexual Exploitation Risk rating assessment (Part B)

What is this tool?

This is the risk assessment section that can be used to add all of the available information regarding the risks presented and use professional judgement to establish a risk rating. This tool should also be used to review and update the risk assessment of CSE as per the CSE Procedures.

Who should you use this tool with?

The CSE Risk assessment can be applied to all children and young people (male or female) under the age of 18 years either at point of the first indicators of CSE risks or to review the current evidence of risk. Please add any additional information into this section regarding potential perpetrators (associations the child has) and the potential places that the child may be going to. Using the behaviour chart check the evidence of the behaviours that are a concern and agree the level of risk with your line manager or safeguarding lead for Child protection.

The risk rating will be a professional judgement based on all the evidence you have and may change after multi agency meetings have taken place. If unsure give your view of risk and add a note in the details section.

Definitions of Risk of CSE:

High Risk: Screening and risk assessment indicates evidence that the child is actively being sexually abused. Should be level 4 on continuum of need and will require a Children's Social care intervention.

Medium Risk: Screening and risk assessment indicates evidence that the child may be being sexually abused or at significant risk of exploitation. Level 3 or 4 on the continuum of need requiring a Social worker or named lead professional.

Low risk: Screening and risk assessment indicates evidence that the child may be vulnerable to exploitation and sexual abuse. Level 3 or 2 on the continuum of need and will need a named lead professional.

For further information about the continuum of need refer to the West Sussex Safeguarding Children's Board link here;

<http://www.westsussexscb.org.uk/professionals/helping-you-work/>

Next Steps

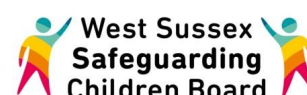
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A copy of all completed CSE Risk assessments and screening tools must also be send to CSEHUB@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk. This allows for the monitoring of children identified at risk and ensures oversight by the multiagency missing and exploitation group.

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Part A**CSE Screening Tool**

General details							
Name and role of worker completing screening tool		Agency and contact details					
Child/Young Person's name/alias/known as		Date form completed					
Age		D.O.B					
Home address		Current address (if different to home)					
Contact number		Gender					
Ethnicity		Religion					
Vulnerability Factors				Please tick			
If you tick a box please give rationale in the details section				Current	Historic		
Unsuitable/inappropriate accommodation/sofa surfing							
Isolated from peers/family/social networks							
Involvement in criminal activities and/or at risk of gang involvement							
Breakdown of family relationships							
Historic Vulnerability Factors				Yes	No		
History of Child Protection involvement in relation to neglect, physical or emotional abuse							
Family history of domestic abuse and/or substance misuse and/or mental health difficulties							
Sexual abuse (during childhood)							
History of Local Authority care							
Details							
Significant Risk Indicators (please refer to behaviours chart)			No Risk	Low Risk	Med Risk	High Risk	Historic
If you tick a box please give rationale in the details section							
Periods of going missing day or night							
Details							
Relationship of concern with a controlling adult or young person, which might involve physical and/or emotional abuse and/or gang activity							
Details							
Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown/concerning adults (not car theft)							
Details							
Unexplained Gifts/possessions i.e. amounts of money, online currency, clothes, drugs and/or alcohol or other items							
Details							

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Frequenting areas known for risky activities					
Details					
Groomed/abused via the Internet and/or mobile technology					
Details					
Having unexplained contact with hotels, taxi companies or fast food outlets					
Details					
Additional Risk Indicators	No Risk	Low Risk	Med Risk	High Risk	Historic
Whereabouts unclear or unknown – day and/or night					
Details					
Unexplained absences or exclusion from school or not engaged in Education, employment or training					
Details					
Multiple callers attending the Young Person's accommodation or calling					
Details					
Physical injuries without plausible explanation					
Details					
Sexually transmitted infections					
Details					
Pregnancies / termination of pregnancies					
Details					
Drug Misuse					
Details					
Alcohol Misuse					
Details					
Self-harming and/or suicide attempts and/or eating disorders					
Details					
Use of a mobile phone which causes concern – including sexting/multiple phones/sims					
Details					
Unsafe use of internet					
Details					
Being sexually assaulted					
Details					
Disclosure of sexual/physical assault followed by withdrawal of allegation/refusal to cooperate with prosecution					
Details					
Risky or concerning sexual behaviour					
Details					
Lack of awareness around personal safety					

Details				
Peers involved in sexual exploitation and/or risky or concerning behaviours				
Details				
Failing to respond to attempts by workers to engage them and keep in touch				
Details				
A&E attendance because of alcohol or drug misuse or mental health				
Details				
Being accompanied to appointments by unknown people				
Details				
Association with gang members or part of organised criminal activity				
Details				
Any Other Concerns				

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.

Part B

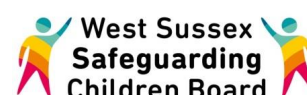
CSE Risk Assessment

General details				
Number of risk assessments completed				Date completed
FWi Reference Number				Hollistix Reference Number
Parent/Carer name				Legal status
SEND (If yes please give details)	Yes		No	Sexuality
Young Carer (If yes please give details)	Yes		No	Legal status (Please include Parent Local authority)
Details of perpetrators, People, locations or Vehicles of concern				
Details of other people at potential risk				

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Details of friends/associates of young person									
Risk assessment rating		No Risk	Low Risk	Med Risk	High Risk				
Agreed risk rating with manager or safeguarding lead for child protection.									
Details									
Is risk increasing or decreasing?									
If evidence of sexual abuse or significant harm ensure Child protection procedures have been followed. E.g. Consideration of S47 investigation									
Is there evidence of peer on peer abuse or complex abuse? Refer to Pan Sussex procedures for guidance (Sections 8.7 and 8.8)									
Other services involved									
Name/agency		Contact details							
Name/agency		Contact details							
Name/agency		Contact details							
Name/agency		Contact details							
Name/agency		Contact details							
Name/agency		Contact details							
Actions									
Multi Agency Action Plan Completed?	Yes		No		Review meeting date				
Form uploaded to recording System?	Yes		No		Copy sent to CSE Hub email?	Yes		No	
Any additional details									

Please ensure that the West Sussex Multi Agency Child Sexual Exploitation Procedures and guidance for professionals working with children are followed and this document is uploaded to your recording system and a copy sent to csehub@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk

Professionals information

Worried about a child being Sexually Exploited?

Professionals in all agencies should always be alert to the possibility that a child/young person they are working with may be being sexually exploited. The professional may already have concerns about the child/young person as they are displaying key indicators (see appendix 1). When considering possible exploitation any professional should first discuss the concerns with their agency's designated safeguarding lead and refer to CSE indicators in the screening tool and risk assessment.

Child sexual exploitation is a form of abuse. It involves children and young people being forced or manipulated into sexual activity in exchange for something; money, gifts, accommodation or less tangible goods such as affection or status. The sexual activity and exchange may be seen as consensual, but are 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.

Important points to remember when considering CSE:

- Child sexual exploitation is a child protection matter
- Both girls and boys can be victims of child sexual exploitation and are equally vulnerable
- The coercer(s) and perpetrators(s) are usually adult, 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
- Although it is rare, parents/carers may be involved in the sexual exploitation of their children
- Groups of children/young people and multiple perpetrators may be involved (organised abuse)
- No child under 13 years should be assessed as low risk if behaviours indicate involvement in or risk of CSE
- No child or young person with a learning disability should be assessed as 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 only emerge during on-going assessment, support and interventions with the child/Young person and/or family
- Should a child be approaching 18 and still considered vulnerable consideration should be given to making a referral to adult safeguarding.

Consider what type of exploitation the child/young person maybe experiencing based on the information known:

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

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

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

BEHAVIOUR CHART

Risk Indicator (Behaviour)	No Risk	Low Risk (Vulnerable)	Medium Risk (At Risk)	High Risk (Child Sexual Exploitation)
1. Missing	Has Never been missing or absent	Sometimes has been absent/truanting	Often goes missing and is reported as missing to the police	Regularly goes missing overnight or for long periods, Police have had to search for them
		Has been missing once and Police are aware	Sometimes goes missing and is not reported to the police	
2. Relationships	Current boyfriend or girlfriend who is around their age	Believes it's OK to have a boyfriend or girlfriend who is not close to their own age	Current boyfriend or girlfriend who is not close to their own age	Done or doing sexual acts with others to help out their boyfriend or girlfriend or to please them
	No current boyfriend or girlfriend		Tells lies and keeps secrets about their relationship	
3. Vehicles	Only uses vehicles of family or friends that parents/carers know well	Sometimes uses older friends vehicles that parents/carers do not know well	Unknown or vehicles concern have been seen around the young persons home	Has been seen entering or leaving vehicles of unknown adults or vehicles of concern
			Has used prepaid taxis on occasion	Regularly uses taxis that are paid for and desination is unknown
4. Gifts/stuff	Never broken the law to get or do stuff they needed or wanted	Broken the law before to get or do stuff they needed or wanted	Would be OK with doing sexual acts to get things they needed or wanted	Done or doing sexual acts to get or do stuff they needed or wanted
	Never received unexplained gifts, items etc.	Some gifts or items have been noticed but explanations given	Often has unexplained items or gifts but tries to conceal them. No plausible explanations given	Has been given or offered something in exchange for sex Has offered sex to people in exchange for something Regularly had unexplained items or gifts, doesn't hide them and refuses to answer how they got them
5. Areas	Only hangs around in their local area where they know & are safe	Visits adult venues such as pubs, nightclubs & adult house parties	Visits places (inside or outside) where adults go for sex	Visits places where they have been or are being given or offered something for sex
6. Grooming	Doesn't chat to unknown young people or adults	Has secret accounts on social media	Has multiple profiles on social media where false information such as age	Belives they are in a loving relationship with an adult

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BEHAVIOUR CHART

			is given	
	Chats to only people online that they know	Has unsupervised access to the internet on a regular basis	Has adults or young people they do not know that they communicate with regularly	Is keeping 'relationships' either online or off line secret from friends or family
		Sometimes talks to strangers	Has started being secretive about people they have met either online or offline	Regularly talks to strangers either offline or online and discloses personal information
7. Whereabouts	A parent/carer always knows where they are	Sometimes visits places or stays out without telling parents or carers or lies about it	Often visits places or stays out without telling parents/carers where they are or lies about it	Visited or visits places where they've done sexual acts to get something they needed or want
8. Education or training	Engaged in full time education or training	Registered in education or training but sometimes doesn't attend	Regularly doesn't attend educational establishment	Not attending education or any attempts to engage them in education
		On a reduced timetable	On a very reduced timetable	No education provision currently being provided or provision is inadequate (a few hours a week)
9. People	No unknown callers at the home or by phone.	One off occasion of unknown caller at the home or phone	Regular callers of concern/unwanted at the home or by phone that parents/carers are aware of	Multiple unknown callers at the home or by phone
			Some unknown callers at the home or on the phone	Multiple mobiles used to contact different people
10. Physical injuries	No unexplained injuries	A few physical injuries occurred but explanations always given that were plausible and collaborated	Often has physical injuries where the explanation given is not plausible or believed	Regular physical injuries (in particular bites, burns, bruises) that are attempted to be concealed and no explanation given
				Has injuries after returning from periods of missing or unknown whereabouts
11. Sexual Health	Always uses protection during sex. Is knowledgeable about STIs & where to	Previous STIs and/or unsafe sex and is worried this might happen again	Previous or current multiple STIs	Given or offered something in exchange for sex

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BEHAVIOUR CHART

	get support			
	Never had sex	Lack of knowledge regarding STIs and unsafe sex	Rarely uses protection during sex	
12. Pregnancies	Has never been pregnant	Has been/got somebody pregnant as part of an age appropriate relationship with no concerns	Has had more than one pregnancy/termination	Has had multiple terminations
			Has got someone pregnant multiple times	Has had multiple pregnancies
	Has never got anyone pregnant	Has had a few pregnancy 'Scares'	Has been/got somebody pregnant as a result of a concerning or inappropriate 'relationship'	Has repeatedly got different people pregnant Has tried to conceal pregnancies
13. Drugs	Doesn't take drugs	Sometimes takes drugs & sometimes wakes up forgetting what happened	Often drinks a & often wakes up forgetting what happened	Done or doing sexual acts to get drugs or pay debt
	Sometimes takes drugs but it doesn't seriously affect their life	Sometimes takes drugs and lies or is secretive about it	Sometimes breaks the law to get money to buy drugs	
14. Alcohol	Doesn't drink alcohol	Sometimes drinks alcohol & sometimes wakes up forgetting what happened	Often drinks alcohol & often wakes up forgetting what happened	Done or doing sexual acts to get alcohol or to be allowed to go to parties
	Sometimes drinks alcohol but it doesn't seriously affect their life	Sometimes drinks alcohol and lies or is secretive about it	Sometimes break the law to get money to buy alcohol	
15. Mental Health	No mental health concerns	Some mental health behaviour concerns	Often Self harms or suicidal idealisations	Diagnosed mental health issue
		'Superficial' self-harm	Concerns over young person's eating	Undiagnosed mental health concerns
		Beginning to demonstrate concerning signs	Refusal to engage with services regarding concerns	Regular attempts to take their own life
			Has made an attempt on their own life	Attendance at hospital/sepcoialist services due to concerns
16. Phones	Never sent or received sexual content or images	Sent or received non-sexual content or images to adults they have not	Sent or received sexual content or images only to their boyfriend or	Sent or received sexual content or images to or from adults to get

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BEHAVIOUR CHART

		met	girlfriend who is around their age	something they needed or wanted
17. Internet	Doesn't chat to people online	Chats to adults online they don't know & have never met	Chats to adults online they don't know. They have met some of them & would be fine meeting some of the others	Used or using the internet to meet adults for sex
	Only chats to people online they know & have met before			
18. Sexual Assault	Never been sexually assaulted	Has made disclosures about situations that could have resulted in sexual assault	Has been sexually assaulted historically	Is currently being sexually assaulted on a regular basis
			Has been sexually assaulted by current 'partner'	Evidence suggests they have been or continue to be sexually assaulted
19. Disclosures	No need to make a disclosure	Has made low level disclosures that have been supported	Has made a disclosure but later retracted it	Has made multiple disclosures and then retracts them
			Has made a disclosure and remained in contact with alleged offender	Has made disclosures whilst under the influence and then withdrawn them later
			Friends have made disclosures about the individual that they refuse to talk about	Has eluded to incidents but refuses to disclose due to fear of consequences
20. Sexual Activity	Had or is having sex with someone around their own age without feeling forced or pressured	Had or is having sex with people around their own age. Doesn't always feel confident to say no	Looking for an adult or someone not close to their own age to have sex with	Been or being pressured, persuaded, tricked or forced into doing sexual acts
	Never had sex	Had or is having sex with people around their own age. Sometimes feels pressured	Believes it's OK to have sex with adults	Done or doing sexual acts to get something they need or want Under 16 having or had sex with someone aged 18 or over
21. Personal Safety	Does not take risks with their personal safety	Understands personal safety but sometimes puts themselves at risk	Has a lack of understanding around personal safety and often doesn't keep themselves safe	Regularly putting themselves in situations that are a risk to their personal safety
	Has a good understanding of personal safety	Has a lack of understanding around personal safety	Is unable to keep themselves safe due to SEND and requires support to	Has no understanding of keeping themselves safe

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BEHAVIOUR CHART

			do this	Takes risks on purpose to achieve adrenaline rush or attention
22. Friends	Current friends who are around their age	No friends	Current close friends who are not close to their own age	Done or doing sexual acts to, with or for their friends to help them out or to get something they need or want
			Current close friends who do sexual acts to, with or for adults	
23. Engagement	No need to engage with services	Sporadic engagement with services	Reluctant to engage with agencies but has a trusted adult	Refuses to engage with any agency and has no trusted adult
	Engages well with services			
24. A and E	Never attended A and E	Sometimes has attended A and E for mental health, drug or alcohol issues and engaged in any ongoing support offered	Often attends A and E	Has attended A and E whilst or recently returning from a missing episode
	Has attended A and E on the rare occasion with support from parents/carers and a plausible explanation		Attends A and E sometimes but refuses to give explanation of cause of concerns	Has attended A and E with a unknown adult, or been dropped at A and E by unknown adult/vehicle
25. Appointments	Attends appropriate routine appointments with parent/carers	Attends appointments alone and is not willing to discuss with parents/carers	Has additional appointments and attends these with adult	Being accompanied to appointments by different people on a regular basis
		Sometimes doesn't attend routine appointments	Adult other than parent/carers attending appointments with the Young Person	Unknown adult accompanying YP to appointments
26. Gangs	No association with gangs and not in a gang area	Lives in a gang neighbourhood/area but not involved	Associating with gangs in their area	A gang member that is linked into gang life and culture
			Associating with city gangs outside of their area	In a 'relationship' with a gang member Has begun to start a gang and becoming a known group

Appendix 2

Child Sexual Exploitation: Warning signs and vulnerabilities checklist

The following are typical vulnerabilities in children prior to abuse:

- Living in a chaotic or dysfunctional household (including parental substance use, domestic violence, parental mental health issues, parental criminality).
- History of abuse (including familial child sexual abuse, risk of forced marriage, risk of 'honour'-based violence, physical and emotional abuse and neglect).
- Recent bereavement or loss.
- Gang association either through relatives, peers or intimate relationships (in cases of gang associated CSE only).
- Attending school with young people who are sexually exploited.
- Learning disabilities.
- Unsure about their sexual orientation or unable to disclose sexual orientation to their families.
- Friends with young people who are sexually exploited.
- Homeless.
- Lacking friends from the same age group.
- Living in a gang neighbourhood.
- Living in residential care.
- Living in hostel, bed and breakfast accommodation or a foyer.
- Low self-esteem or self-confidence.
- Young carer.

The following signs and behaviour are generally seen in children who are already being sexually exploited:

- Missing from home or care.
- Physical injuries.
- Drug or alcohol misuse.
- Involvement in offending.
- Repeat sexually-transmitted infections, pregnancy and terminations.
- Absent from school.
- Change in physical appearance.
- Evidence of sexual bullying and/or vulnerability through the internet and/or social networking sites.
- Estranged from their family.
- Receipt of gifts from unknown sources.
- Recruiting others into exploitative situations.
- Poor mental health.
- Self-harm.
- Thoughts of or attempts at suicide.

This content is taken from the interim report of the Office of the Children's Commissioner's inquiry into child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups (pages 114-115). For more information, including about data sets relevant to the above signs, the report can be accessed here: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/info/csegg1>

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