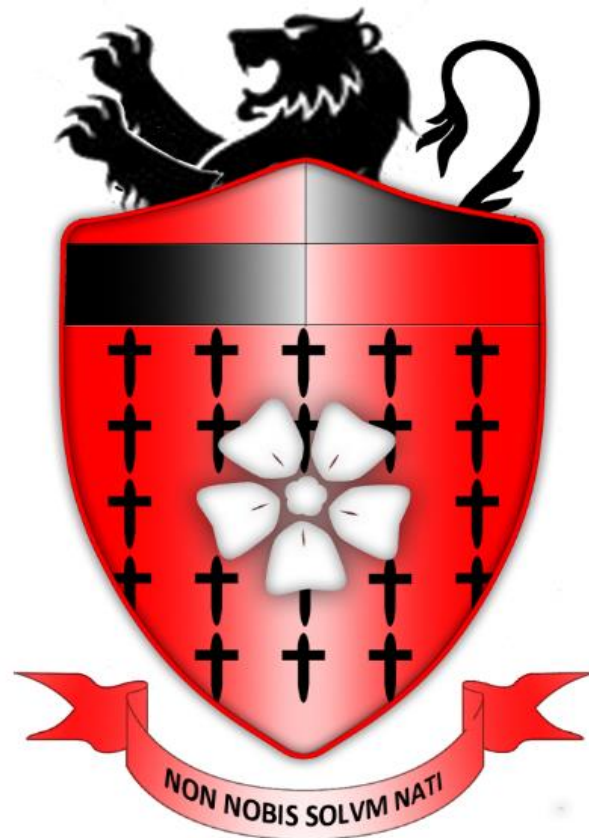


# Hornsea School & Language College



## Child Sexual Exploitation Policy

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# Child Sexual Exploitation Policy

## Introduction and Commitment

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) continues to be a serious concern and is recognised as a form of child sexual abuse. The Hornsea School and Language College (HSLC) Child Sexual Exploitation Policy is a recognition of this concern and our commitment to protecting and supporting the school community and working with partner agencies to achieve this. As such, this Policy falls within the established Child Protection and Safeguarding framework that is in place in school and as documented in the HSLC Child Protection Policy and Procedures. Concerns relating to CSE will be addressed in line with local guidance and procedures in line with the requirements of the East riding Safeguarding Children Board (ERSCB).

At HSLC we strive to support and teach pupils about how to make positive choices and informed decisions in their relationships so that they develop awareness and can protect themselves from all potential forms of risk, abuse and sexual exploitation.

HSLC promotes healthy friendships and relationships through the school ethos, school policies, student-staff relationships and the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum. An awareness of the risk factors and signs and indicators of CSE is key for all staff, as is, how to access support and guidance within school.

The purpose of this policy is to create an informed, considered and consistent approach to dealing with CSE at HSLC.

## Aims and objectives

- To increase awareness and understanding of CSE within the school setting
- To raise awareness of the risk factors and warning signs CSE
- To provide relevant information and guidance on CSE, which is accessible to staff, parents/carer's and students.
- To provide a consistent approach when dealing with CSE
- To make readily available support for pupils, parents and staff in the event of concerns arising in relation to CSE
- To enable those seeking help to feel secure and supported and to know how to access support in school
- To fulfil legal and ethical safeguarding obligations to the HSLC school community

## ERSCB Guidance Documents

This policy is based upon the available information, advice and guidance provided by the ERSCB and the Child Exploitation Response Team. As such the following documents have been used –

ERSCB CSE Procedures and Guidance – see Appendix 1

ERSCB CSE Information report - See Appendix 2

ERSCB CSE Risk Assessment tool – See Appendix 3

This policy is also informed by guidance contained within Safeguarding children and young people from Sexual Exploitation: Supplementary guidance to Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfCSF 2009) and Child sexual exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation (DfE February 2017).

The above mentioned ERSCB guidance and information relating to CSE will be readily accessible to staff and is saved on the school intranet in the folder: Safeguarding Info and Docs – Staff. In addition a CSE Information sheet has been developed and is available on the school web site and has been distributed to pupils and parents.

Additionally, statutory guidance increasingly incorporates information and guidance relating to CSE and this also informs and shapes the HSLC response to CSE e.g. Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016).

ERSCB identify the following 6 principles as underpinning the CSE procedures and guidance -

1. Sexual exploitation includes sexual, physical and emotional abuse, and, in some cases, neglect.
2. Children and young people do not make informed choices to enter or remain in sexual exploitation, but do so due to coercion, enticement, manipulation or desperation.
3. Young people under 16 cannot consent to sexual activity: sexual intercourse with children under the age of 13 is statutory rape. (Sexual Offences Act 2003)
4. Sexually exploited children and young people should be treated as victims of abuse, not as offenders.
5. Many sexually exploited young people have difficulty distinguishing between their own choices about sex and sexuality, and the sexual activities they are coerced into. This potential confusion should be handled with care and sensitivity by professionals.
6. The primary law enforcement effort must be made against the coercers and adults who sexually exploit young people. In some cases young people themselves may exploit other young people, and in these cases law enforcement action may also be necessary.

### **Definition and Overview of CSE**

CSE is defined in Child sexual exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation (DfE February 2017) as:

*“Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology” (p.5)*

Like all forms of child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex
- can still be abuse even if the sexual activity appears consensual
- can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity; • can take place in person or via technology, or a combination of both
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence
- may occur without the child or young person’s immediate knowledge (through others copying videos or images they have created and posting on social media, for example)
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the abuse. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

Even where a young person is old enough to legally consent to sexual activity, the law states that consent is only valid where they make a choice and have the freedom and capacity to make that choice. If a child feels they have no other meaningful choice, are under the influence of harmful substances or fearful of what might happen if they don’t comply (all of

which are common features in cases of child sexual exploitation) consent cannot legally be given whatever the age of the child.

The age of consent (the age at which it is legal to have sex) is 16 for everyone in the UK. Under the age of 16 any sort of sexual touching is illegal. It is illegal to take, show or distribute sexualised / graphic / indecent photographs of children (under 18 years of age) or to pay or arrange for sexual services from children.

It is also against the law if someone in a position of trust (such as a teacher) has sex with a person under 18 that they have responsibility for.

Sexually exploited children are rarely visible on the streets and are only a small part of the bigger picture of sexual exploitation of children by adults, other children and young people. A growing number of the young people are being sexually exploited by adults and older young people via the Internet. This method of grooming children for abuse has contributed to the invisibility of the sexual exploitation of children.

Sexual exploitation involves both girls and boys under the age of 18. The children involved must be regarded as potential victims of abuse. Increasingly, victims are children under 16 years of age, from all communities and cultures and include a significant proportion of looked after children. Vulnerability due to abuse, neglect, domestic violence and parental difficulties, disengagement from education, drugs/alcohol, homelessness, peers' involvement in sexual exploitation and association with 'risky' adults are the most common factors amongst children who are at risk of being sexually exploited. Strong links have been identified between child sexual exploitation and prostitution, running away from home, human trafficking and substance misuse. Looked After Children are also particularly at risk of being targeted for sexual exploitation. (Barnado's: Reducing the Risk 2006)

Children may be drawn into sexual exploitation by a young person of a similar age. Girls, in particular, are often coerced into sexual exploitation by an older male who targets an individual. They may see him as their boyfriend, and become physically and emotionally dependent upon him. This may be reinforced by the use of alcohol and drugs. Over time, access to friends and family may become restricted and the child becomes alienated from sources of support which may be able to identify and interrupt the abuse. This is often referred to as the grooming process.

Sexual exploitation adversely affects the lives of children and impacts on their health, education, self-esteem and causes them to be socially excluded. This group may include children who have been victims of human trafficking.

### **Vulnerability to CSE**

HSLC recognise that any child, in any community is potentially vulnerable and that CSE is occurring across the country but is often hidden so prevalence data is hard to ascertain.

School staff are aware of the possibility that the children they work with might be affected and work on the basis that "it could happen here" and that "Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility". School staff are aware that concerns relating to CSE should be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and HSLC Child Protection and Safeguarding procedures followed.

Age: Children aged 12-15 years of age are most at risk of child sexual exploitation although victims as young as 8 have been identified, particularly in relation to online concerns. Equally, those aged 16 or above can also experience child sexual exploitation, and it is important that such abuse is not overlooked due to assumed capacity to consent. Account should be taken of heightened risks amongst this age group, particularly those without adequate economic or systemic support.

Gender: Though child sexual exploitation may be most frequently observed amongst young females, boys are also at risk. Staff are aware that boys may be less likely than females to

disclose experiences of child sexual exploitation and less likely to have these identified by others.

Ethnicity: Child sexual exploitation affects all ethnic groups

The following vulnerabilities are examples of the types of things children can experience that might make them more susceptible to child sexual exploitation:

- Having a prior experience of neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse
- Lack of a safe/stable home environment, now or in the past domestic violence or parental substance misuse, mental health issues or criminality, for example)
- Recent bereavement or loss
- Social isolation or social difficulties
- Absence of a safe environment to explore sexuality
- Economic vulnerability
- Homelessness or insecure accommodation status
- Connections with other children and young people who are being sexually exploited;
- Family members or other connections involved in adult sex work
- Having a physical or learning disability
- Being in care (particularly those in residential care and those with interrupted care histories)
- Sexual identity

Not all children and young people with these vulnerabilities will experience child sexual exploitation. Child sexual exploitation can also occur without any of these vulnerabilities being present.

**Sexual exploitation can have links to other types of crime. These include:**

- Child trafficking;
- Domestic abuse;
- Sexual violence in intimate relationships;
- Grooming (including online grooming);
- Abusive images of children and their distribution;
- Drugs-related offences;
- Gang-related activity;
- Immigration-related offences; and
- Domestic servitude.

**Children rarely self-report child sexual exploitation so it is important that staff are aware of potential indicators of risk, including:**

- Acquisition of money, clothes, mobile phones etc without plausible explanation;
- Gang-association and/or isolation from peers/social networks;
- Exclusion or unexplained absences from school, college or work;
- Leaving home/care without explanation and persistently going missing or returning late;
- Excessive receipt of texts/phone calls;
- Returning home under the influence of drugs/alcohol;
- Inappropriate sexualised behaviour for age/sexually transmitted infections;
- Evidence of/suspicious of physical or sexual assault;
- Relationships with controlling or significantly older individuals or groups;
- Multiple callers (unknown adults or peers);
- Frequenting areas known for sex work;
- Concerning use of internet or other social media;
- Increasing secretiveness around behaviours; and
- Self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being.

By virtue of regular contact with young people, school staff are well placed to notice changes in behaviour and physical signs which may indicate involvement in sexual exploitation. School staff should also be mindful of the risks posed by CSE and remain alert to the potential for this and need to respond immediately.

### **Responding to Concerns – Risk Assessment Framework**

In the event of staff identifying concerns relating to CSE, this information should be shared immediately with the school Designated Safeguarding Lead. The concerns will be reviewed and appropriate action taken in line with the school Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and ERSCB guidance. Where appropriate consultation will take place with the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHaSH) and if necessary, the Child Exploitation Response Team. Advice and guidance from EHaSH will direct the action taken.

Where necessary and as requested, the ERSCB CSE Information Report and CSE Risk Assessment Tool will be used as appropriate to profile the level of concern, structure assessment of risk and form the basis for progressing support. This will assist in determining the category of risk of harm through sexual exploitation –

**Category 1 (At Risk):** a vulnerable child who is at risk of being targeted and groomed for sexual exploitation;

**Category 2 (Medium Risk):** a child who is targeted for opportunistic abuse through the exchange of sex for drugs, accommodation (over night stays) and goods, etc. The likelihood of coercion and control is significant

**Category 3 (High Risk):** a child whose sexual exploitation is habitual, often self defined and where coercion / control is implicit.

A multi-agency approach, in line with local ERSCB guidance, will be adopted to ensure that holistic support is available – potentially involving partner agencies such as the Police, Children’s Social Care, School Nurse, the Child Exploitation Response Team and the Youth and Family Support Service

### **Prevention**

Ongoing staff training and briefings will be used to share information and ensure that CSE is recognised as a potential cause for concern and source of risk and harm for the school community. Work on E Safety in school is also designed to raise awareness and be a source of information and protective factor in respect of potential CSE via for example, social media. Staff will be made aware of this policy and the importance of ongoing vigilance and early intervention to prevent the likelihood for sexual exploitation and abuse occurring. ERSCB guidance and information relating to CSE will be readily accessible to staff via the appendices in this policy and is also saved on the school intranet in the folder: Safeguarding Info and Docs – Staff. Information relating to CSE will be on display across the school site, providing guidance and advice to pupils and staff.

The issue of Child Sexual Exploitation will also be raised on different levels within the school and will be informed by support and guidance from the Local Authority and partner agencies as appropriate:

- At a whole school level - this will be achieved through staff briefings and pupil assemblies which will provide information and guidance relating to CSE as well as the support available in school and through external agencies.
- Information and guidance will be provided and reinforced through tutor time and mentoring sessions. Additionally, the Citizenship and PSHE curriculum will provide positive guidance and advice to facilitate and support healthy personal and social development, this also covers ESafety issues
- At an individual level – where concerns are identified or suspected (through information received or disclosed) a response will be fashioned in line with the ERSCB guidance

and CSE procedures. This will also be informed by the requirements of the HSLC Child Protection Policy and Procedures and dealt with as a potential safeguarding concern. The HSLC Pastoral Support and Student Support Team structure provide a support network that is readily available to individual pupils and parents / carers and is readily available through a commitment to open access in event of concerns or worries. All expressions of concern will be taken seriously and investigated.

- It is accepted that all children and young people may potentially be at risk of online CSE and therefore, by way or response, HSLC has a robust E-Safety policy to ensure pupils are taught to recognise online risk and who to report any concerns to (John Hart, ESafety Co-ordinator).
- HSLC will commit to having appropriate staff complete CEOP training and attend ERSCB training on CSE to ensure that appropriate knowledge and skills are available to support the school community.

### **Confidentiality**

- HSLC appreciate that some pupils may feel anxious about seeking help due to concerns about sharing of information and confidentiality. We always strive to share information on a 'need to know' basis and manage information discreetly and sensitively. . Therefore information will only be shared in the child or young persons' best interest.
- Staff are required to share information if they feel the pupil is at risk or is suffering from significant harm, and therefore complete confidentiality cannot be achieved.

### **Parental Involvement**

- HSLC always seeks wherever possible to establish a positive partnership with parents and carer's and to work proactively to support pupils and their families.
- If a concern is raised either by a young person or a peer, it would be usual to initiate contact with home. It is often the case that the parent will be invited to attend a meeting with the Child Protection Officer or the Parental Liaison Officer, and the Student Support Team / Pastoral Manager involved. This pupil involved will also be asked to attend this meeting if at all possible. The concerns raised will be discussed and an action plan may be formulated to address concerns.
- In specific circumstances (see the HSLC Child Protection Policy and Procedures for more information) it may not be possible to contact parents / carer's prior to sharing information and concerns with EHaSH. Professional guidance will be sought and every effort made to communicate with parent's / carer's as soon as possible whilst ensuring the safety and well-being of pupils.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- As with all Child Protection and Safeguarding concerns within school, the identification or disclosure of CSE will be recorded and securely stored. Information will be shared on a 'need to know' basis to ensure the safety and well-being those involved.
- Any communication with home, or meetings with the child will be recorded and the relevant bodies will be informed about issues or concerns.
- Senior staff and Governors will evaluate the effectiveness of this policy and agree adjustments that may be necessary to address any on-going concerns. These will be shared with staff, parents/carers and pupils.

### **How do we ensure that people are aware of the Policy?**

- Formal acceptance by the Governing Body.
- This policy will be made available to staff, parents and students on the HSLC website.
- Students will be informed about Child Sexual Exploitation and the school policy through assemblies and academic teaching (PHSE, Citizenship and tutorials).
- Pupils can speak to members of staff about their concerns throughout the school day and will be offered support, advice and guidance.

## **Appendix 1 - Child Sexual Exploitation Procedures & Guidance**

### **1. Introduction**

The sexual exploitation of children and young people is a form of child sexual abuse.

The National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People defines sexual exploitation as:

*'Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.*

*Child Sexual Exploitation can occur through use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example the persuasion to post sexual images on the internet / mobile phones with no immediate payment or gain.*

*In all cases, those exploiting the child / young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and / or economic or other resources.*

*Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social / economic and / or emotional vulnerability'*

Sexually exploited children are rarely visible on the streets and are only a small part of the bigger picture of sexual exploitation of children by adults, other children and young people. A growing number of the young people are being sexually exploited by adults and older young people via the Internet. This method of grooming children for abuse has contributed to the invisibility of the sexual exploitation of children.

Sexual exploitation involves both girls and boys under the age of 18. The children involved must be regarded as potential victims of abuse. Increasingly, victims are children under 16 years of age, from all communities and cultures and include a significant proportion of looked after children. Vulnerability due to abuse, neglect, domestic violence and parental difficulties, disengagement from education, drugs/alcohol, homelessness, peers' involvement in sexual exploitation and association with 'risky' adults are the most common factors amongst children who are at risk of being sexually exploited. Strong links have been identified between child sexual exploitation and prostitution, running away from



home, human trafficking and substance misuse. Looked After Children are also particularly at risk of being targeted for sexual exploitation. (Barnado's: Reducing the Risk 2006)

Children may be drawn into sexual exploitation by a young person of a similar age. Girls, in particular, are often coerced into sexual exploitation by an older male who targets an individual. They may see him as their boyfriend, and become physically and emotionally dependent upon him. This may be reinforced by the use of alcohol and drugs. Over time, access to friends and family becomes restricted and the child becomes alienated from agencies which may be able to identify and interrupt the abuse. This is often referred to as the grooming process.

Sexual exploitation adversely affects the lives of children and impacts on their health, education, self-esteem and causes them to be socially excluded. This group may include children who have been victims of human trafficking.

## **2. Principles**

The principles underpinning this guidance are as follows:

- Sexual exploitation includes sexual, physical and emotional abuse, and, in some cases, neglect.
- Children and young people do not make informed choices to enter or remain in sexual exploitation, but do so due to coercion, enticement, manipulation or desperation.
- Young people under 16 cannot consent to sexual activity: sexual intercourse with children under the age of 13 is statutory rape. (Sexual Offences Act 2003)
- Sexually exploited children and young people should be treated as victims of abuse, not as offenders.
- Many sexually exploited young people have difficulty distinguishing between their own choices about sex and sexuality, and the sexual activities they are coerced into. This potential confusion should be handled with care and sensitivity by professionals.
- The primary law enforcement effort must be made against the coercers and adults who sexually exploit young people. In some cases young people themselves may exploit other young people, and in these cases law enforcement action may also be necessary.

## **3. Risk-vulnerability factors, categories, indicators and responses**

### **Vulnerability factors to sexual exploitation**

Anyone who has regular contact with children and young people is in a good position to notice changes in behaviour and physical signs which may indicate involvement in sexual exploitation. However, parents, carers, teachers, doctors and youth workers are particularly well placed to do so. They should also be able to recognise where children and young people are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and may need targeted measures to prevent such abuse. Children are more vulnerable to abuse through sexual exploitation if they have experience of one or more of the following:

- Child sexual abuse;
- Domestic violence within the family;
- Family breakdown;
- Physical abuse and emotional deprivation;
- Bullying in or out of school;
- Family involvement in sexual exploitation;
- Parents with a high level of vulnerabilities (drug / alcohol, mental health etc);
- Drug / alcohol, mental health or other difficulties themselves;
- Being looked after in residential care; and
- Going missing frequently – See ERSCB Missing Children Protocol

## **Risk Assessment Framework**

Children and young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation or who are being sexually exploited may display highly complex and challenging behaviours. They may appear abusive and anti-social and may become involved in bullying and exploitative activities towards others. These behaviours may mean that professionals can experience difficulty in recognising the young people's vulnerability and in responding to it. However, it is also important to recognise that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not exhibit any external signs of this abuse.

The Risk Assessment Framework (Appendix 1) has been developed to help professionals in all agencies assess whether a child for whom they have a concern is at risk, at medium risk or high risk of harm through sexual exploitation. The indicators are recognised indicators of sexual exploitation and should not be read as a definitive list and the indicators should not be taken, in themselves, as proof of involvement or predictive of future involvement. They are intended as a guide, which could be included in a wider assessment of the child or young person's needs and circumstances. In effective practice, the facts should be considered separately for each child or young person. Indicators of risk of harm are grouped in the categories:

**Category 1 (At Risk):** a vulnerable child who is at risk of being targeted and groomed for sexual exploitation;

**Category 2 (Medium Risk):** a child who is targeted for opportunistic abuse through the exchange of sex for drugs, accommodation (over night stays) and goods, etc. The likelihood of coercion and control is significant; and

**Category 3 (High Risk):** a child whose sexual exploitation is habitual, often self defined and where coercion / control is implicit.

These categories also include situations where:

- A child is at immediate risk of significant harm and has other additional vulnerabilities;
- The sexual exploitation may be being facilitated by a child's parent;
- The sexual exploitation may be being facilitated by a child's parent failing to protect;
- A related or unrelated adult in a position of trust or responsibility to a child may be organising or encouraging the sexual exploitation.

The earlier that sexual exploitation, or a risk of sexual exploitation, can be identified, the more likely it is that harm to a child or young person can be minimised or prevented. Therefore it is important that concerns are shared as early as possible. This can include information about people, places or activities where concerns may arise before the knowledge that a child is actually being sexually exploited. Such information can form the basis of strong intelligence for the Police and may help them to start an investigation.

If you have any concerns of this nature then the report form in Appendix 2 can be used to pass on this information. The information gained from these forms will be shared with the police and other agencies where appropriate by the ERSCB Safeguarding Unit.

NB. This form **SHOULD NOT** be used to report a crime, or to report a child protection concern.

## **4. Managing Individual Cases**

### **Initial professional response**

Professionals in all agencies should be alert to the possibility that a child they are in contact with may be being sexually exploited. The professional may already have concerns about the child e.g. that s/he is missing school, frequently missing from home, misusing substances, is depressed or self-harming etc.

The professional should discuss their concerns with their manager /agency's lead for safeguarding children; they should use the risk assessment framework to make an initial assessment of risk of harm to the child. All professionals should maintain clear contemporaneous records of contact with the child, their concerns, all information shared and discussed (and with whom), decisions made and actions taken.

Managers/ agency leads for safeguarding children need to ensure that Child Sexual Exploitation is considered during supervision/ practice discussions and stress the importance of record keeping.

### **Category 1**

A professional, together with their manager/agency's lead for safeguarding children, should consider whether the agency can provide focused early intervention and diversion to meet the child's needs as a single agency.

A professional or agency view that a child is at risk (category 1) may be inaccurate. Sharing information about that child with other agencies may reveal them to be at medium or high risk and in need of immediate protection.

If a single agency cannot meet the child's needs, they should consider completing a Common Assessment (CAF) and/or call a multi-agency meeting of the agencies currently involved with the child and any others identified. The meeting should agree a plan to address the risk of the child's need to be kept safe not being met. Intervention should include raising awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation, providing information on keeping safe and address specific identified issues that pose a threat to safety. It should also include opportunities for children and young people to understand the very real risks involved in staying out late and going missing from school, home or care.

### **Category 2 and 3**

Where a professional considers the child to be at high or medium risk of sexual exploitation after using the Risk Assessment Framework in Appendix 1, the professional should consult with their agency's line manager or safeguarding lead and make a referral to Children's Social Care in line with ERSCB Guidelines and Procedures.

The Sexual Exploitation of children can be considered as part of a complex safeguarding issue and Children's Social Care must notify the East Riding Safeguarding Children Board of any cases referred to them, whether or not they decide to take action. Where the sexual exploitation of a child is believed to be part of a complex safeguarding issue, a decision will be made in consultation with the Police, whether to follow the guidelines laid out in relation to ***Investigating Complex (Organised Or Multiple) Abuse And Historical Abuse (ERSCB Guidelines and Procedures, Volume 3, Section 5.9)***.

### **Referral to Children's Social Care**

Children who are being or are likely to be sexually exploited are victims of child sexual abuse and in all cases where abuse or neglect is suspected as a result of sexual exploitation, the ERSCB Guidelines and Procedures apply.

When information is received that a child/young person is being sexually exploited, the initial assumption should be that they are at risk of significant harm and all necessary action should be taken to safeguard the child/young person.

In extreme cases this may require the Police to utilise their powers under Section 46 of the Children Act 1989 and place the child under Police Protection.

Police Officers coming into contact with a child/young person who is being sexually exploited will not issue a caution for any offence (e.g. prostitute warning) but will apply the principle that sexually exploited children and young people should be treated as victims of abuse, not as offenders.

### **Initial Assessment**

In all instances where a referral is made to Children's Social Care regarding a child/young person who is considered to be at medium or high risk of sexual exploitation, Children's Social Care should decide within 24 hours what action they should take. This will normally follow discussion with the referrer and may involve other professionals and services as necessary, including the police as a criminal offence may have been committed against a child.

Children and young people who are sexually exploited, or at risk of being sexual exploited, are a particularly vulnerable group of children. The initial assessment of any children in need (whether or not there are child protection concerns) should be led by Children's Social Care and be completed using the ***Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families***. All Initial Assessments should consider the following:

- a. What are the child's needs?
- b. Are the parents/carers able to respond appropriately to the child's needs and promote the child's health and development?
- c. Are the child's parents adequately safeguarding the child?
- d. Is action required to safeguard and promote the child's welfare?

On completion of this assessment, where there are ongoing concerns a multi-agency meeting should be convened by Children's Social Care (see appendix 4 & 5 for agenda and minute template). The meeting should consist of representatives from a range of agencies including:

- the referrer, if a professional
- Children's Social Care
- Police
- Health
- Education
- Placement

- Youth Support Service (Specialist Support Team)
- YOT
- Voluntary agencies
- Parent(s)/Carers and the child/young person should also be included unless it is felt this may compromise the child's safety or the progress of an investigation.

The multi-agency meeting should:

- Share and clarify information
- Establish exact nature of concerns
- Establish risk for any other children, including siblings
- Develop a plan to support the child and his/her parent/carers
- Consider the use of disruption plans
- Complete a monitoring form and send to the East Riding Safeguarding Children Board (see appendix 3)

### **Continuing risk of significant harm**

If during, or as a result of, the assessment it is identified that a child is suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm, a Strategy Meeting should be convened involving Children's Social Care, Police, ERSCB Safeguarding Unit (where part of a complex safeguarding issue) and other agencies as listed above.

The strategy meeting should be used to:

- Share information;
- Decide whether Section 47 enquiries should be initiated in line with the ERSCB Procedures and Guidance;
- Plan how enquiries will be handled;
- Consider the likelihood of prosecution of relevant adults and/or disruption plans
- Agree on any immediate action to safeguard the child and/or provide services and support
- Complete a monitoring form and send to East Riding Safeguarding Children Board(see appendix 3)

If a child or young person is willing to make a complaint, a written or video statement will be taken. In accordance with the *Achieving Best Evidence* guidance (2002), all joint interviews with children should be conducted by those with specialist training and experience in interviewing children. Additional specialist help may be required if the child does not speak English at a level which enables him / her to participate in the interview; the child appears to have a degree of psychiatric disturbance but is deemed competent; the child has an impairment; or where interviewers do not have adequate knowledge and understanding of the child's racial, religious or

cultural background. Consideration should also be given to the gender of interviewers, particularly in cases of alleged sexual abuse.

If a child or young person is not willing to make a complaint, the Police should speak with them to gather intelligence about any individuals, locations and any specific concerns.

As Part of any multiagency consultation an Intervention Plan should be formulated. This should include any investigation techniques that are believed to be proportional and appropriate. Even without an evidential account from the Child or Young Person, the investigators should attempt to gather all the available evidence to be able to support any subsequent prosecution of the perpetrator(s).

The Intervention Plan should also give consideration to any disruption techniques available to safeguard the victims involved. The use of Risk of Sexual Harm Orders or Sexual Offence Prevention Orders should be considered along with any apparent offences the perpetrators may have committed.

Consideration can also be given to using the Child Abduction Act 1984 section 2.

*The Child Abduction Act 1984 S2 states that an offence is committed by taking or detaining a child under 16, so as to keep the child from the lawful control of someone who has or is entitled to have, the lawful control of the child. An offence may be committed if a child goes willingly with an abductor as a result of an inducement. A child's parent or carer can make a statement to the police stating that they do not give permission for the child to be with a particular adult.*

Note: If a child or young person is subject to a Care Order, Abduction Orders apply up to the age of 18 (Section 29 Children's Act 1989).

During or at the conclusion of the Section 47 enquiry, Children's Social Care, together with agencies most involved, will make a decision as to whether they believe the child or young person is at continuing risk of significant harm. If parents/carers are failing to protect the child or are implicated in the sexual exploitation, Children's Social Care should request an Initial Child Protection Conference to decide what action is required to safeguard the child or young person and promote his/her welfare. In the majority of cases, parents and carers will be actively seeking to remove their children from sexual exploitation and a conference will not be appropriate.

### **Initial Child Protection Conference**

Where an Initial Child Protection Conference is held because the child/young person is at continued risk of significant harm and the parent is failing to protect the child/young person from significant harm, the threshold outlined in the ERSCB Procedures and Guidance should be applied when considering whether a Child Protection Plan should be put in place.

A Child Protection Plan resulting from an Initial Child Protection Conference will be implemented by an inter-agency Core Group and subject to review as set out in the ERSCB Procedures and Guidance regarding Core Groups and Review Child Protection Conferences.

Where the child/young person is not subject to Child Protection Plan, an inter-agency Child In Need/Family Support Plan should be agreed, with timescales for review.

### **Looked After Children (LAC)**

When a referral is received regarding a Looked After Child, who is being or is likely to be sexually exploited, the allocated social worker must inform their team manager and the ERSCB Safeguarding Unit and the child/young person's Independent Reviewing Officer.

A multi-agency meeting should be considered. In addition, the following factors should be taken into account:

- The risks to other children in the placement;
- Whether the child should remain in their present placement;
- The feasibility of controlling the child's movements, and the likely effects of doing so.

A support plan should be drawn up, which will form part of the overall care plan for the child.

The multi-agency meeting should consider the appropriateness and method of informing the child's parents. If the child/young person is accommodated (s20 Children Act 1989), parent/s must be informed of all significant matters. When a child is subject to a care order, generally their parent/s should be informed of such a significant matter. A decision not to inform the parent/s should be recorded on file.

The child's social worker and the carer/s should put in place a written strategy which balances the need for assertive action and the need to not unduly increase the likelihood of the child running away in response to the action being taken, and possibly placing themselves at even greater risk. Any consideration of restriction of liberty or confiscation of property needs to be agreed by the Area Manager responsible for the child's case.

Active work should be undertaken with the child to address issues of their self-esteem, relationships, sexuality, sexual relationships and health.

Whether or not the child is moved from their placement, the other children in the placement should be monitored to identify whether they are also at risk of harm from, or are in some way supporting, the sexual exploitation.

If the child is in a residential unit, the staff should be asked to take positive action to clarify and record suspicions (see appendix 2. *Child Sexual Abuse*



*Information Report*) and minimise the child's involvement in sexual exploitation.

If suspicions are confirmed, the following steps should be taken:

- Treating the child as a victim of exploitation, not a criminal
- Ensuring that all relevant information is recorded in the child's care plan and file – concerning adults and identifying information (e.g. appearance, cars etc, telephone activity, the child's patterns of going missing etc) – together with decisions and clear directions for action.
- Making every effort to dissuade the child from leaving to engage in sexual exploitation by talking to them, involving them in alternative activities, and ensuring they have the resources to attend, including escorting where necessary;
- Ensuring that the child is aware of the legal issues involved, including advice that staff cannot safeguard money which is reasonably suspected to have been gained through sexual exploitation. When staff do acquire such money, they must retain it and seek legal advice;
- Monitoring telephone calls, emails or other electronic communication by preventing the child from receiving some incoming calls, being present when phone calls are made, confiscating a mobile phone which is being used inappropriately; reasons for intercepting communications to the child should be included in the care plan;
- Monitoring callers to the home, or adults collecting children by car. This may involve turning visitors away, or passing information direct to the police, monitoring any suspicious activity in the vicinity of the home and informing the police;
- Using physical control, where appropriate, in accordance with Local Authority guidance, to prevent the child leaving home to engage in sexual exploitation;
- Where these efforts fail, and the child leaves, staff need to decide whether to follow them and continue to encourage them to return;
- If they will not return, staff should inform the local police and pass on relevant information;
- Liaising with outreach agencies, so they can look out for a child who has gone missing;
- Offering sensitive and welcoming responses to children returning home.

If the child is in foster care, the social worker and fostering link worker should meet with the foster carer to decide which of the above steps could reasonably be taken by the foster carer. This needs to take place in consultation with the fostering team manager.

The child's behaviour and attitude may be extremely challenging, and carers and staff will require ongoing support, advice and training in knowing how to respond. These needs must be considered and resources identified, either by the manager of the residential unit or the fostering link worker.

Professionals and carers should be aware of their own position in relation to the child, e.g. male carers or staff may be viewed with suspicion or contempt.

### **Involvement of groups of Looked After Children**

Where there is knowledge or strong suspicion that children are involved in sexual exploitation together, or are being controlled by the same person, particularly when that person is a child, there will need to be additional planning, including consideration of the use of child protection and/or complex abuse procedures.

If a strategy meeting is not appropriate; a multi-agency meeting should be convened, as above. This will need to ensure that there are no inconsistencies between individual children's care plans. Where the placement is in another authority, or children from other authorities are involved, the child's social worker from that authority must be contacted, to discuss which authority is to take overall responsibility for convening the meeting and co-ordinating the response.

### **Leaving care / aftercare**

The same procedures as above should be followed in cases where young people in the Pathway Team are considered to be at medium or high risk of abuse through sexual exploitation.

The leaving care plan for any young person where there are concerns about sexual exploitation should specifically identify their vulnerability to sexual exploitation, and address the factors known to impede successful recovery from sexual exploitation (e.g. homelessness, poverty, lack of educational and employment opportunities and lack of supportive social contacts).

### **Involvement of the Criminal Justice System**

The vast majority of children/young people do not freely and willingly become involved in sexual exploitation. The Criminal Justice process should only be considered if the child/young person persistently and voluntarily continues to solicit, loiter or importune in a public place for the purposes of prostitution.

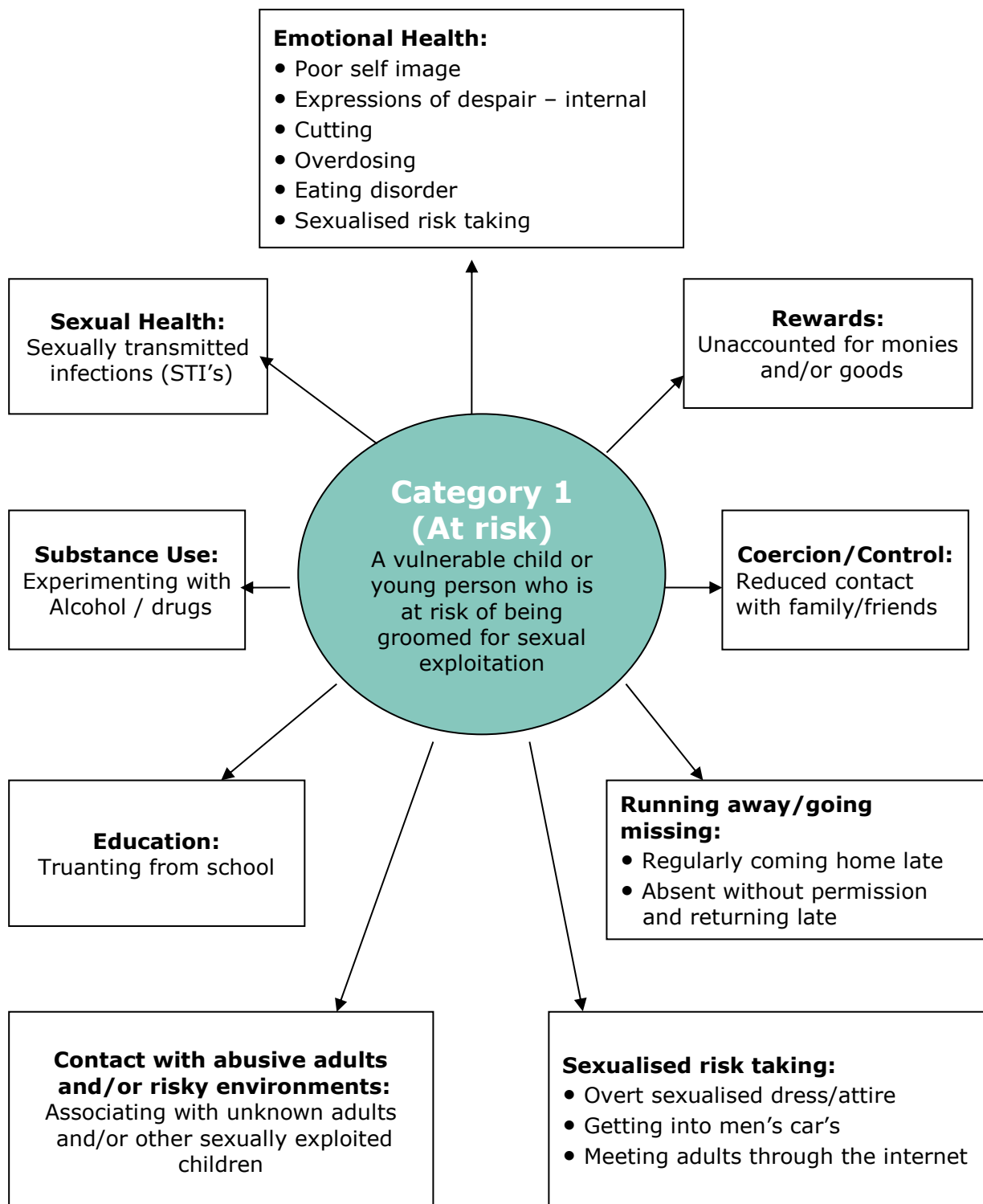
Police and colleagues in other agencies, who will be involved in considering whether there is a genuine choice, must be aware of the strong links that have been identified between sexual exploitation, running away from home, human trafficking and substance misuse and the high degree of coercion and harmful influence that can be exercised by abusers and fully alert to the possibility that what is claimed as a voluntary activity simply masks threats or coercion.

For further information, read "***Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation***" DCSF 2009

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DCSF-00651-2009>

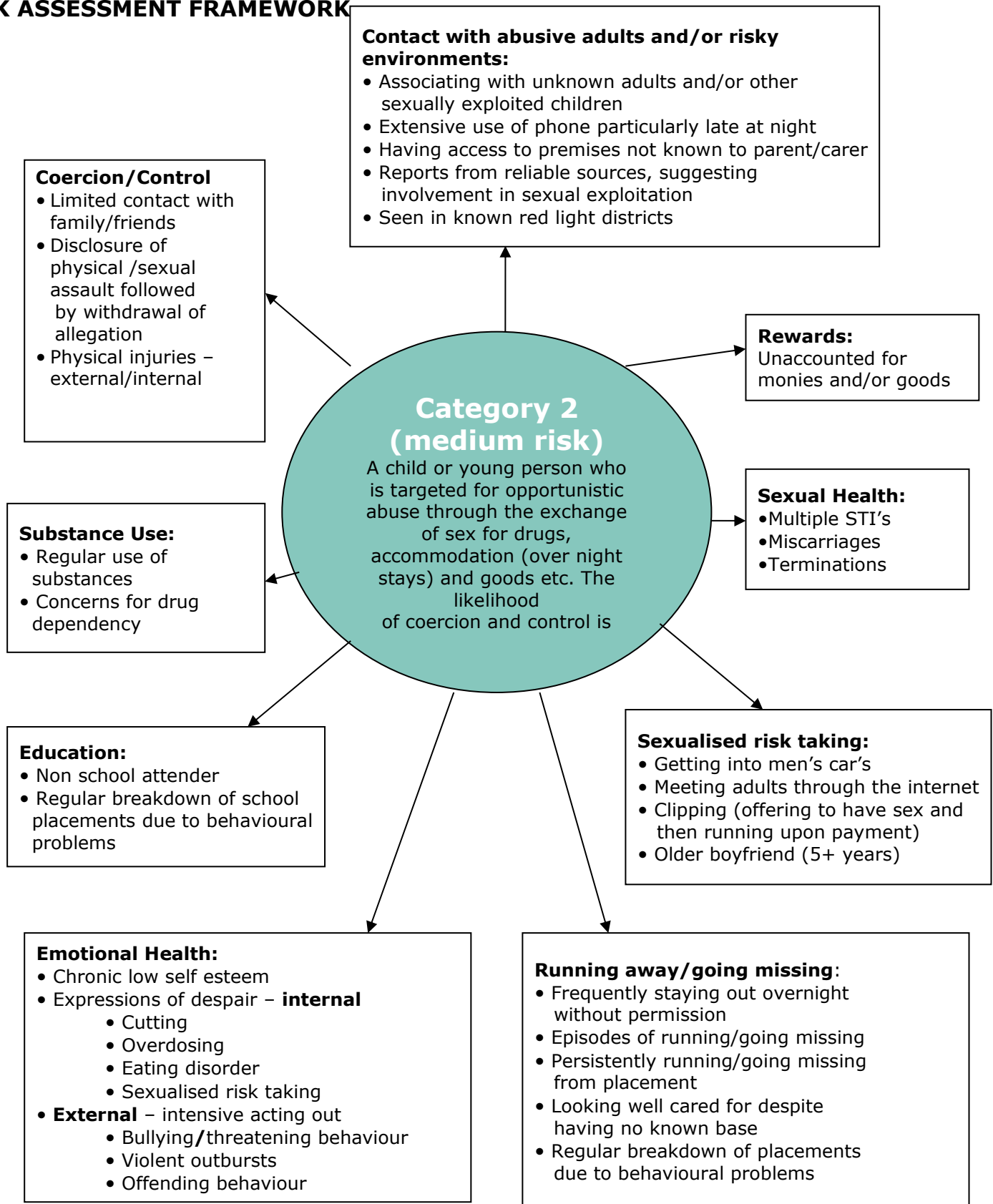
# APPENDIX 1:

## RISK ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK (Sexual Exploitation)

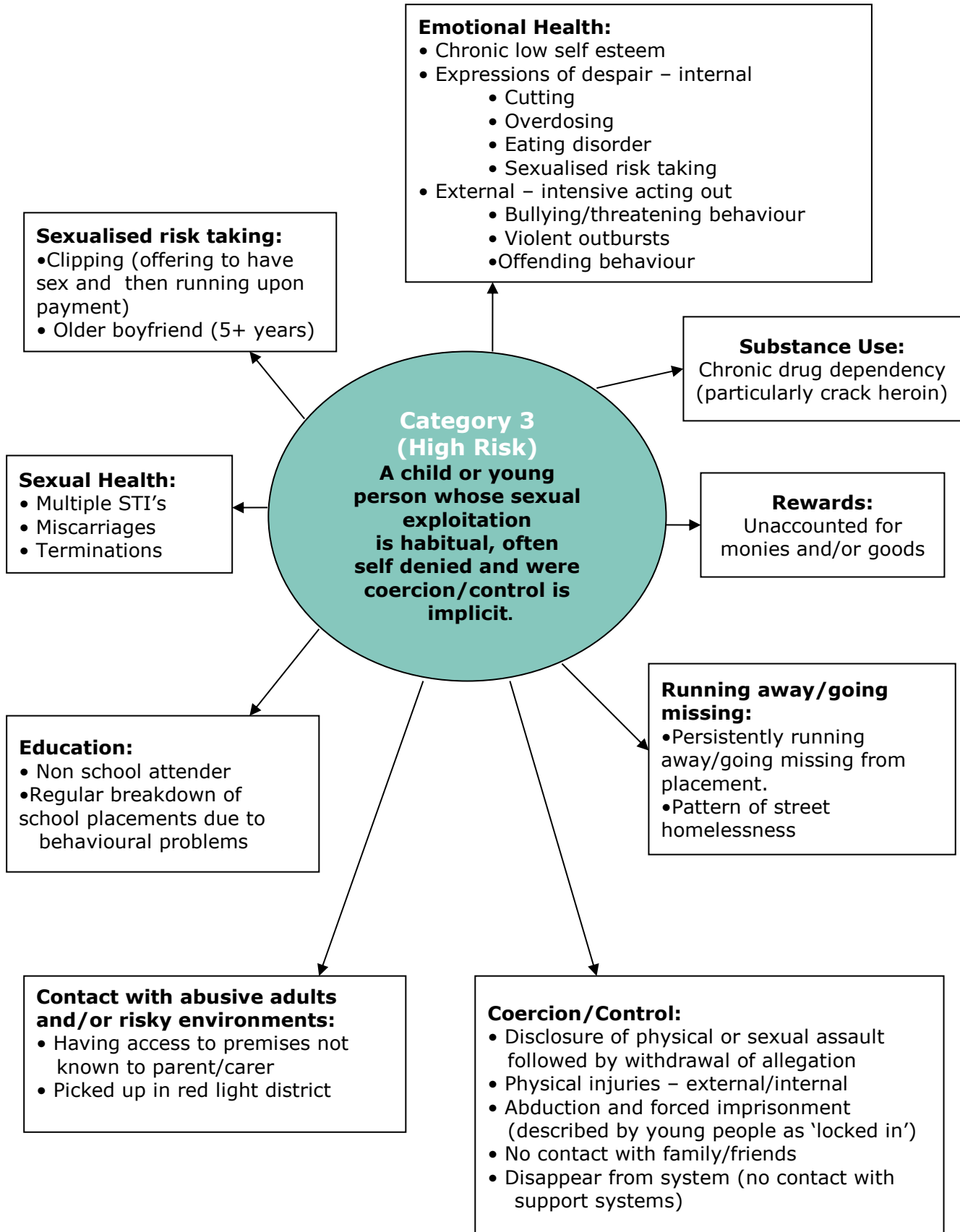


# APPENDIX 1:

## RISK ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK



RISK ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK



## Appendix 2 - Child Sexual Exploitation Information Report

In order to safeguard children and young people from sexual exploitation it is important that concerns are shared as early as possible. This can include information about people, places or activities. Such information can form the basis of intelligence and may help the police to start an investigation.

If you have concerns that a young person/s is possibly being targeted for the purposes of sexual exploitation fill out your details and any of the information sections on this form (even if it is only one) and post or email to;

Email to: [childrens.socialcare@eastriding.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.socialcare@eastriding.gcsx.gov.uk)

**\*Please note – this is not a referral form. If you need to refer a child to Children’s Social Care telephone 01482 395500**

### **Definition of Sexual Exploitation**

*'Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.*

*Child sexual exploitation can occur through use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example the persuasion to post sexual images on the internet / mobile phones with no immediate payment or gain.*

*In all cases, those exploiting the child / young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and / or economic or other resources.*

*Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social / economic and / or emotional vulnerability'*

(Safeguarding Children and Young people from Sexual Exploitation, DfES 2009)

## Child Sexual Exploitation Information Report

<b>Date/ Time of report:</b>	
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Post/ job title</b>	
<b>Agency</b>	
<b>Contact details</b>	
<p>If the information was supplied by someone other than yourself, how reliable are they:  a) always reliable b) mostly reliable c) sometimes reliable d) unreliable e) unknown  How accurate do you think the information is?  1) known to be true without reservation 2) known to the source but not to you 3) not known personally to the source, but corroborated 4) cannot be judged 5) suspected to be false.</p>	
<b>How current is this information? Please give dates if available.</b>	

<b>Child's name</b>		<b>DOB</b>	
<b>Address</b>			

<b>Has a referral been made to Children's Social Care?</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>	<b>Name of Social Worker</b>	
<b>Have the police been informed?</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>	<b>Name of Officer</b>	
<b>Other agencies involved with this child</b>			

<b>Adults / young adults causing concern</b>	<b>Information re: name, address, 'known as', physical appearance, accent, ethnicity</b>
Family member	
Friend of family	
Older 'boy/girlfriend' or 'friend'	
Community member	
Business person (e.g. taxi driver, restaurant)	
Unknown adult	
<b>Locations</b>	<b>Information re: address, locality, 'known as'</b>



Domestic dwelling	
Business premises	
Public place	
Leisure facility	
Frequently going missing / unsupervised trips to other local authority, town or city	
<b>Cars</b>	<b>Information</b>
Model (s)	
Colour (s)	
Number Plate (s)	
Distinguishing Marks Inside or outside the car	
<b>Mobile phone activity</b>	<b>Information</b>
Time young person receives calls	
Frequency of calls	
Number of callers	
Behaviour of YP post call (angry, upset, leaves immediately etc):	
<b>Missing patterns</b>	<b>Information</b>
Appearance when YP leaves	
Who is the YP with	
Date and time left	
Length of absence	
Frequently staying out late at night without explanation	
Episodes of running away / going missing	
Emotional and physical appearance upon return	
Gifts/presents	
<b>Other young people causing concern</b>	<b>Information re: Name, address, locality, 'known as'</b>

Associating with other young person known to be abused through child sexual exploitation	
Associating with other young person where there are concerns about risk of child sexual exploitation	
<b>Any other information you think may be relevant</b>	

### Appendix 3 - Child Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Tool

Child/Young Person's Name / Alias / Known As		Date of Risk Assessment	
Known to children's social care	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Age / DOB	
Name of worker completing assessment		Agency and contact details	
Person/s of PR		Legal status	
Ethnicity		Gender	
Language Spoken		Physical/Learning Disabilities	
If other agencies are involved please list them here		Has sexual exploitation previously been identified as a specific issue for this child? Please provide details	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  If yes when:

<b>Vulnerabilities (consider protective factors and resilience)</b>	<b>Please score 1 for each tick</b>	<b>Vulnerabilities</b>	<b>Please score 1 for each tick</b>
Emotional neglect by parent/carer/family member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family history of domestic abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical abuse by parent/carer/family member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family history of substance misuse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family history of mental health difficulties	<input type="checkbox"/>
Breakdown of family relationships	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low self-esteem	

<b>Vulnerabilities</b>	<b>Score 1 if present on date of assessment</b>
Unsuitable/inappropriate accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Isolated from peers/social networks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of positive relationship with a protective/nurturing adult	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Moderate risk indicators</b>	<b>Score 1 if present on date of assessment</b>
Consistently staying out late	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ongoing 'missing' episodes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Multiple callers (unknown adults/older young people) – (record details i.e. description/names etc) (refer to information log)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unusual or increased use of a mobile phone that causes concern	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expressions of despair (self-harm, overdose, eating disorder, challenging behaviour, aggression)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exclusion/suspension from school or unexplained absences from or not engaged in school/college/training/work	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disclosure of sexual/physical assault followed by withdrawal of allegation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peers involved in sexual exploitation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drugs misuse	<input type="checkbox"/>

Alcohol misuse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unusual or increased use of the social media/internet that causes concern	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Significant Risk Indicators.</b>	<b>Score 1 if present between 6 and 12 months ago</b>	<b>Score 5 if present on date of referral or during past 6 months</b>
Periods of going missing overnight or longer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship with controlling partner or adult (record details i.e. occupation/description etc) (refer to information log)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical abuse by that controlling person	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emotional abuse by that controlling person	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown persons – (record details i.e. reg no./description etc)(refer to information log)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothing or other items	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frequenting areas known for on/off street sex work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Living independently and failing to respond to attempts by worker to keep in touch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Multiple pregnancies/terminations		

<b>Risk Assessment score</b>		<b>Risk Category</b>	
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**Principal area of concern:**

**Please include a rationale for what you have scored**

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**Intended action: Please document any further action, treatment or monitoring arrangements**

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**Category 1 – At risk of sexual exploitation 1 to 8 (LOW RISK)**

Discuss the findings with your line manager

**Category 2 – Medium risk of sexual exploitation 9 to 30 (MEDIUM RISK)**

Contact the CSE Response Team based at County Hall with regards to advice, information and support on the next steps

Telephone: 01482 396999

[csc.response@eastriding.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:csc.response@eastriding.gcsx.gov.uk)

**Category 3 – High of sexual exploitation 31 to 68 (HIGH RISK)**

Contact the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub to make an immediate referral

Telephone: (01482) 395500 Fax: (01482) 395530

E-mail: [childrens.socialcare@eastriding.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.socialcare@eastriding.gcsx.gov.uk)

