



Havering Multi-agency Child Exploitation Protocol

HSCP

Version control

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Foreword

In Havering we recognise that Child Exploitation is a form of child abuse that negatively impacts on the lives of children, young people, their friends and families and the communities within the borough. We know from the work we do with children and families that the effects of this form of abuse can be long lasting and destructive to children achieving a happy, healthy and safe childhood. Child exploitation (CE) is criminal and is often complex in its presentation. It requires us all to be proactive in identifying and responding to signs. The University of Bedfordshire has led on a number of research and Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) Support Programmes in conjunction with Research in Practice and The Children's Society. They list the following forms of exploitation and emphasises the often interconnected nature of all forms of exploitation.

- Sexual Exploitation
- Criminal Exploitation
- Serious Youth Violence
- Bullying and social isolation
- Radicalisation
- Relationship abuse

It is important that the wider children's safeguarding partnership and children's workforce are focused on working together to prevent harm. Ensuring we listen to children, families and communities about how we can equip them with the knowledge of the early signs of all forms of child exploitation; how to seek help; what support is available and what we can all do to keep children safe.

Who is this Protocol for?

This protocol is to support all professionals to understand how to access support for children where there are concerns regarding exploitation. This is applicable to volunteers and professionals across every agency. Partners including police, early help, children social care, health, schools, wider education services, youth justice, private and voluntary organisations, out of school settings, parents and the wider community have a key role to play. Child Exploitation can be stopped. In order to prevent Child Exploitation and keep children safe it is paramount for all professionals to:

- keep Child Exploitation on the agenda,
- raise awareness of the warning signs associated with Child Exploitation,
- give children a voice to speak out,
- intervene at the earliest opportunity to safeguard the child,
- identify the key moment in a child's journey to engage and capture the evidence of Exploitation (in some cases this may be when a child reaches their lowest point in life e.g. when a victim of Serious Youth Violence, Sexual Abuse or arrested),
- teach children about healthy and safe relationships, and
- make sure everyone knows how to identify signs of exploitation, raise the alarm and is aware of the relevant referral pathways.

We welcome this addition to Havering Safeguarding Children's Partnership protocols to protect children.

1. Introduction

What this Protocol covers:

This is the Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) operating protocol for safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children from exploitation in Havering. This local protocol builds on [The London Child Exploitation Operating Protocol 2021](#), (the London Protocol) published by the London Safeguarding Children Partnership under the leadership of the Metropolitan Police Service. Please read and refer to the London Protocol in conjunction with this protocol to guide your work.

Aims

The HSCP exploitation protocol builds on the aims and principles as outlined in the London Protocol, to:

- Treat children as a children first
- Identify children at risk of exploitation and respond to keep children safe
- Identify and take action against those who contribute to exploitation, being sensitive to when this is other children
- Endeavour to provide a consistent contextual safeguarding response so children receive the best outcomes
- Endeavour to work collaboratively across the partnership and with the community.
- Raise awareness, identify and implement intervention opportunities to prevent child exploitation.

Principles

The principles underpinning our multi-agency response to the exploitation of children include the following:

- Child Exploitation is child abuse;
- Child Exploitation can lead to children being subjected to Serious Youth Violence (*See definition below);
- Exploited children must be treated as victims of abuse, not as offenders;
- Children may be victims as well as perpetrators;
- Our audits, case reviews and local learning has shown us that children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) are more vulnerable to abuse and to exploitation;
- It is vital that language is used which adequately describes the children's experience and does not place any blame on them. See this helpful language guide [here](#)

***Serious Youth Violence (SYV)** - is defined as *'any offence of most serious violence or weapon enabled crime, where the victim is aged 1-19' i.e. murder, manslaughter, rape, wounding with intent and causing grievous bodily harm.* 'Youth violence' is defined in the same way, but also includes assault with injury offences.

Young people associated with gangs are highly vulnerable to SYV. Within this cohort sexual violence amongst peers can be commonplace and can be used as a means of power and control over others, most commonly young women. Young people affected by or associated with gangs are at high risk of sexual exploitation and violence and require safeguarding. Sexual exploitation is used in gangs to exert power and control over members / initiate young people into the gang / exchange sexual activity for status or protection / entrap rival gang members by exploiting girls and young women and inflict sexual assault as a weapon in conflict.

Serious Youth Violence Best Practice 7 minute briefing [here](#)

[Home Office Resources](#)

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 sets out a clear expectation that local agencies will work together and collaborate to identify children with additional needs and provide support as soon as a problem emerges. [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(workingtogetheronline.co.uk\)](#)

Thresholds

The [Threshold Document: Continuum of Help and Support](#) aims to help identify when a child may need additional support to achieve their full potential. It provides information on the levels of need and gives examples of some of the factors that may indicate a child or young person needs additional support. By undertaking assessments and offering services on a continuum of help and support, professionals can be flexible and respond to different levels of need for different children and families. As the tier of need increases the services and response may become more specialised to the need identified.

The thresholds must be used in line with London Child Safeguarding Procedures [London Child Protection Procedures \(londonsafeguardingchildrenprocedures.co.uk\)](#) which incorporate concerns for exploitation

Child Criminal Exploitation

Find out more [here](#)

The Integrated Adolescence Support Service in Havering Council (IASS) provides consultation and advice regarding any Exploitation concerns to all Partners in Havering in relation to individuals and locations of concerns. Please email here: iass@haverling.gov.uk

2. Identifying Child Exploitation

It's important to understand the risks of Child Exploitation. Offenders will use different tactics to recruit and exploit children, including befriending them, use of threats or coercing them. Recruitment can occur not only through face-to-face interaction but through the use of social media and popular culture linked to music videos with the glamorisation of gang lifestyle and the perceived ease of making money. There are some groups that are particularly vulnerable. All children can be subject to exploitation and exploitation happens to children of all genders. Various agencies such as health, schools and youth justice will hold critical intel/information about the relevant child that will assist with decision making. It is key all

agencies share this information to assist with the safeguarding plan, in line with our Pan London information sharing agreements.

Exploited children rarely approach professionals directly to disclose that they are being exploited. It is the shared responsibility for all to identify children, who are vulnerable or experiencing exploitation.

It is often the case that children do not perceive themselves to be victims, as they consider they have acted voluntarily or that the exploiter is their friend. Child on child exploitation is commonplace and often unrecognised as exploitation by the victim. The reality is that their behaviour is not voluntary or consenting, and every child in this situation needs to be considered a victim first, whether “perpetrator” or victim.

Factors that can make children more vulnerable to exploitation include:

- Having a prior experience of neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse
- Lack of a safe/stable home environment
- Victim or witness to domestic abuse
- Recent bereavement or loss
- Social isolation or social difficulties
- Economic vulnerability
- Missing from home or care
- Children not in education or employment
- Organised Crime Group (OCG) association or criminality within the family
- Intermittent drug usage or dependent on drugs and alcohol
- Homelessness or insecure accommodation status
- Pregnancy, termination, STIs (Sexually Transmitted Infections) and mental health issues
- Connections and relationships with other children who are being exploited
- Children with SEND
- Being in care (particularly those in residential care and those with interrupted care histories)
- Children who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or whose gender identity differs from the sex they were given at birth.

They might:

- rarely leave their house or have no time for playing
- be orphaned or living apart from their family
- live in low-standard accommodation
- be unsure which country, city or town they're in
- be reluctant or unable to share personal information or where they live
- not be registered with a school or a GP practice
- have no access to their parents or guardians
- be subject to Private Fostering arrangements
- be seen in inappropriate places like brothels or factories
- have money or things you wouldn't expect them to, or
- give a prepared story which is very similar to stories given by other children.

This said, many exploited children have loving and stable homes but are negatively impacted by violence and abuse outside the home (Extra-Familial harm). Find out more [here](#)

3. Responding to Child Exploitation

There are many avenues to respond as a Partnership

HARVA

Havering has developed a screening tool to help professionals identify contextual harm and risk – the **HA**vering **R**isk and **V**ulnerability **A**ssessment. Initially this will be available within Children’s Social Care (known as Starting Well in Havering) with the intention to make it available on a portal in 2024 to enable concerned professionals to complete it and respond. The HARVA replaces previous adolescent risk assessments and combines all elements of contextual risks. The HARVA should be completed for all children open to services at least once to understand their level of risk or vulnerability. We recommend that as risk and harm is dynamic, the HARVA is reviewed with partners and updated when you become aware of new risks, at closure of the case, transferring of the case or within a 3 month time frame; whichever comes first. This enables practitioners to understand whether the risk and vulnerability has increased or decreased and whether the intervention needs to change or remain. Dependent on the level of risk, the outcome of the HARVA may require an Exploitation Episode being opened on LCS. The HARVA also includes a safety plan section which is mandatory to complete (see. [LCS A Guide to Exploitation \(office.com\)](#)).

Referral to Children’s Services

A Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF) can be completed by any professional or member of the public to raise concerns, worries or needs of a child or family and can be accessed [here](#)

The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH team) will assess the referral received using the Threshold documents: Continuum of help and support as well as targeted risk assessments to determine the level of need or risk. This process will determine whether the child would benefit from an assessment of their needs in line with the Children Act 1989 Section 17 and Section 47.

The Police CAIT (Child Abuse Investigation Team) Officers referring desk will receive all strategy meeting requests relating to Child Exploitation (CSE/CCE). They will refer on to the relevant Child Exploitation Unit / Missing Unit / Gangs Unit to determine if the threshold for a strategy meeting is met based on the information provided. They will inform you of their assessment or request additional information for further review before making a determination.

Information Sharing Form

Information and intelligence is helpful for Police and Council Partners when developing a local picture of exploitation and providing community support, liaison and targeting disruption activity. For example, Police data has shown us that Romford Town Centre is a hotspot for Modern Slavery and sexual offences.

The purpose of this tool is for agencies to record any information, no matter how small, that may be important and relevant for the police to analyse and build intelligence, for example:

- Vehicle details including registration/make/model/colour etc
- Taxi company details
- Details/descriptions including names/nicknames of suspected perpetrators

- Details/descriptions of unusual/regular callers to children’s homes
- Phone numbers of suspected perpetrators
- Address details of suspected perpetrators
- Details of any addresses or localities where the child may have been taken
- Locations /Names (licenced premises) /areas/landmarks
- Include any people mentioned – Names (Alias, nicknames) / DOB / descriptions / distinguishing features / accent
- Bus tickets, train tickets, receipts
- Mobile phone boxes – IMEI numbers 170720-LR

When using the information sharing tool, practitioners or others must submit the information securely to Police and in accordance with their own agency’s information sharing arrangements. Send the Police Partner Information Sharing form through secure email link to MetIntel-LITEA@met.pnn.police.uk

Please use this form [here](#)

Children’s Social Care assessment

Children’s Social Care (CSC) conduct their assessment of need as outlined in the London Child Safeguarding Procedures, available [here](#)

Any assessment of risk must be based on the category level and the assessment of the child’s needs. A separate risk assessment will need to be conducted, based on all known information on both the police’s and CSC’s databases. The risk assessment will be clearly documented on the police crime recording system and all other multi-agency databases as relevant.

HARM Panel

The monthly Havering Adolescent Risk Management (HARM) Panel was introduced to consolidate several existing panels and to create one multi-agency forum for oversight of children currently open to CSC that have either gone missing and/or are being exploited. The HARM Panel develops a common understanding of the patterns and trends around all missing and child exploitation risks within Havering, enabling the Partnership to ensure that resources are directed appropriately. At each meeting, the membership scrutinises local responses to ensure that they are proportionate, targeted, and providing effective outcomes for children and families. Specifically, the Panel will identify particular children of concern and agree the lead agency/team and indicate the range of interventions/actions to be undertaken to improve the safety and outcomes for that child(ren).

Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Panel

The monthly MACE meeting provides the framework to allow regular multi-agency information sharing and action planning to tackle Child Exploitation across Havering. Where necessary or relevant, information will be shared with other strategic and operational panels such as MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference), MAPPA (Multi Agency Public

Protection Arrangements), Havering Channel panel and the Gangs' Partnership, as agreed by the MACE Chair.

Only cases that have followed child protection procedures and have been subject to strategy meetings/discussions will be discussed at MACE if applicable. These cases are identified at the HARM and MACE agenda Meeting.

Child Abuse Warning Notices (CAWNs)

The Police has a range of powers to combat Child Exploitation including Child Abuse Warning Notices (CAWNs), which were originally introduced to deal with children who had gone missing. CAWNs are normally served to prevent children being harboured e.g. by members of County Lines criminal networks. CAWN's are relevant and a good tactic, irrespective of whether the harbourer has an exploitative intent.

A CAWN can be issued on the first occasion a child is found at any specific location, if the circumstances are such that there is reason to believe or suspect that the offences of S2 of the Child Abduction Act 1984 or S49 of the Children Act 1989 are present, or where there are safeguarding issues that give significant cause for concern. The merits of issuing a CAWN should be part of every multi-agency discussion.

Whilst a CAWN can remain in place until the child turns 16 (for Section 2) and 18 (for young people subject to Care Orders), they should still be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they are still proportionate, relevant and necessary (Human Rights Act 1998).

It is extremely important that the respondent is absolutely clear which child is being referred to in the notice. A recent good quality photograph of the child should be obtained from the parent/guardian or sourced in other ways. The existence of the photograph should be referenced on the notice. The photograph must be shown to the respondent at the point the notice is served. The police officer serving the notice should include the photograph as an exhibit in their own statement. The photograph should **never** be left with the respondent.

Contextual Safeguarding

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to children's experiences of significant harm beyond their family and home. This approach recognises the different relationships children have in their schools, peer groups, online and in their community. Exploitation often features extra- familial harm, which arises in the community. There is a focus on safeguarding locations and disruption of activities, which put people at risk of exploitation.

Housing and Havering Community Safety Partnership

Havering Housing and Havering Community Safety Partnership (HSCP) have important local roles in disrupting Exploitation. Sometimes there will be risks to young people if they are taken to people's homes or exploited in their own homes. There can be concerns of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in locations, such as drug dealing or drug-use in stairwells, shopping malls or parks. Equally, families can enter situations of debt and control due to the Exploitation of their children, and find themselves unable to pay their rent, utilities or mortgage. Local Businesses are regularly updated on safeguarding and local risks in order to provide safe havens for vulnerable people and to ensure safety for all. HCSP is able to

provide oversight for mystery shopping and test purchases in hotels and off-licences, for example.

The Tasking Meeting

The Tasking Meeting meets fortnightly and is a multi-agency group to consider operational issues in the community. This meeting considers ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour), Section 92 Police Task Force and repeat offenders. Referrals are taken here:

haveringjointtaskforce@havering.gov.uk

- Relevant Orders / warning letter/ injunctions/penalty notices / criminal behavioural orders can be considered or Partners could look at action by the landlord, warning/eviction etc;
- Housing and DWP (Department of Work and Pensions) can offer advice and support if there are rent / payment arrears.

The Tasking Group can consider locations, individuals and private properties.

Havering Council Anti-Social Behaviour [booklet](#)

Information about reporting ASB and the processes is available here:

[Report anti-social behaviour in our community | Anti-social behaviour in our community | The London Borough of Havering](#)

Havering Community MARAC

The Community MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) meets monthly and deals with:

1. Complex/high level cases of anti-social behaviour arising from individuals where mental health, safeguarding or extremism is a major feature.
2. Complex/high level safeguarding cases which cannot be resolved locally and need the support of the Community MARAC. (These cases do not need to involve any evidence of anti-social behaviour).

The Community MARAC would consider complex Contextual Safeguarding concerns about a location.

Find out more and refer [here](#)

Prevent

Prevent is part of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015; all public bodies have a duty to 'Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'.

Individuals are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation, there is no single way of identifying whether someone is likely to be susceptible to an extremism ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute towards that vulnerability.

Radicalisation can occur through many different methods and settings (e.g. internet). As with other safeguarding risks, everyone should be alert to changes of behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Individuals should use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and refer appropriately.

Spotting the signs

There is no single profile of a person likely to become involved in extremism and the process of radicalisation is different for every individual. Radicalisers use normal social processes such as loyalty, self-perception, and fear of exclusion to influence others. Those who are vulnerable or isolated may be more vulnerable.

Signs that an individual may be being groomed into extremism could be:

- vulnerable individuals becoming withdrawn and stopping participating in their usual activities
- they may express feelings of:
 - anger
 - grievance
 - injustice
 - or go missing from their home, school or care setting

- a new group of friends who have an extremist ideology
- using language that supports 'us and them' thinking
- or possessing or searching for extremist literature online or as hard copies whether from a political, religious, environmental or gender rights perspective.

Reporting a concern: If you are concerned about any adult or child who you think may be vulnerable to being drawn into extremist activity, please report your concern.

Where individuals are concerned that children, young people or adults are developing extremism views or show signs of becoming radicalised, they should discuss this with the Prevent and Hate Crime Coordinator by e-mailing prevent@havering.gov.uk

You should report this to either Havering MASH/Police/LADO or for the Anti-terrorist hotline call 0800 789 321.

You can report online on <http://www.seeitreportit.org/> and report terrorist content on the web go to <https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism>

Find out more here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse/dedicated-helplines/protecting-children-from-radicalisation>

See Appendix 6 for a flow chart.

Havering Channel Panel

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

The Channel Panel is chaired by the Local Authority and works with multi-agency partners (can include a variety of statutory partners such as the police, children's services, social

services, education professionals and mental health care professionals) to collectively assess the risk to an individual and decide whether an intervention is necessary. If a Channel intervention is required, the Panel works with local partners to develop an appropriate tailored support package. The support package is monitored closely and reviewed regularly by the Channel Panel.

All referrals are carefully assessed by the police and the Prevent Coordinator to see if they are suitable for Channel or may require another intervention. If suitable, the case is discussed with all relevant partners at a Channel Panel to decide what support, if any, is needed. Referred individuals are informed and must give consent (or via a parent or guardian if they are children) before an intervention can take place.

Refer to the Prevent and Hate Crime Coordinator by e-mailing prevent@havering.gov.uk

Havering Transitions Panel

Transitions occur through various stages of a young person's life from starting primary school, moving to secondary school, preparing for independence and leaving home. Transitions also coincide with physical, emotional, psychological and physiological developments that are coupled with changes to roles and relationships with family, friends, community and professionals. The Transitions Panel meets monthly and considers young people on the brink of leaving local authority care, including those from other areas; those with substance use, or mental health concerns, SEND, young people vulnerable to exploitation and serious youth violence, or youth offending issues. Referrals can begin from the age of 14 years. The Transitions Panel produces a multi-agency Transitions Plan for each young person referred but is not a funding panel.

Find out more here together with the Referral Form:

<https://safeguardinghavering.org.uk/adultsboard/transitional-safeguarding/>

Local learning around Transitions is very important to us: Find our more [here](#)

Parents

Parents and carers play the main role in keeping their children safe. They are an important partner for professionals and volunteers to engage with, as they are so important to our network. Engaging with parents can help keep a child or young person living in the family home, if it is safe enough. Extra- familial harm can often leave parents feeling powerless, afraid and alone. Parents can access support from various organisations to assist their understanding of the risks presented to their children through Child Exploitation. Some links to support can be accessed [here](#), as well as Havering specific parenting support.

What to do if my child goes missing from home? Children's Society parents' [leaflet](#)

PACE UK Parents Against Child Exploitation Information [here](#)

Safer London [here](#)

Professional Curiosity

Nurturing Professional Curiosity and challenge are a fundamental aspect of working together to keep children, young people and adults safe from harm. It is one of our recommendations for strengthening local practice from our Case Review Working Group.

Professional curiosity is often a theme in Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and other reviews completed in Havering, and this finding is reflected nationally. Although it has long been recognised as an important concept in safeguarding children practice it is equally relevant to work with adults.

This protocol raises awareness of the need for professional curiosity or respectful uncertainty as it is sometimes called. It is designed to help practitioners spot the signs of when a parent or carer may be using disguised compliance; and advise where and how to access help and services.

Find out more [here](#)

4. Types of Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse. The exploited child or young person is exploited and are given things, like gifts, drugs, money, status and affection, in exchange for performing sexual activities. Children and young people are often tricked into believing they're in a loving and consensual relationship. This is called grooming. They may trust their abuser and not understand that they're being abused. Children may not recognise they are being exploited and see the relationship and any sexual activity as consensual.

Children and young people can be trafficked into or within the UK to be sexually exploited. They're moved around the country and abused by being forced to take part in sexual activities, often with more than one person. Young people in gangs can also be sexually exploited.

Sometimes abusers use violence and intimidation to frighten or force a child or young person, making them feel as if they've no choice. They may lend them large sums of money they know can't be repaid or use financial abuse to control them.

Anybody can be a perpetrator of CSE, no matter their age, gender or race. The relationship could be framed as friendship, someone to look up to or romantic. Children and young people who are exploited may also be used to 'find' or coerce others to join groups.

Core Procedures should be followed in relation to all cases of child sexual exploitation. Children at risk of sexual exploitation should be referred to Children's Social Care and the normal processes of checks and information gathering, assessment, strategy discussions and review processes should be followed in line with the risk level identified – see the [Threshold Document](#) in the London Child Safeguarding Procedures for examples of the indicators of need which would require an early help response or a response under section 17 or section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

Find out more [here](#)

Child Trafficking

The element of Child Trafficking needs to be high on the agenda of curiosity and exploring potential risk, especially when they are Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). Further guidance regarding Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTG) can be accessed [here](#)

Referral link for ICTG [here](#) Find out more [here](#)

County Lines

County Lines is the term for urban gangs exploiting young people into moving drugs from a hub, normally a large city, into other markets – suburban areas and market and coastal towns – using dedicated mobile phone lines or “deal lines”. Children as young as 12 years old have been exploited into carrying drugs for gangs. This can involve children being trafficked away from their home area, staying in accommodation and selling and manufacturing drugs. This can include:

- Airbnb and short term private rental properties
- budget hotels
- the home of a drug user, or other vulnerable person, that is taken over by a criminal gang , this may be referred to as cuckooing.

The PAN London service, **Rescue and Response** supports young people in London aged up to 25 years, who are involved in County Lines activity. Rescue and Response referral criteria and information can be accessed [here](#)

Rescue and Response can provide:

- 1:1 support for young people exploited in London
- Specialist support for young women
- Help to manage risk and safeguarding
- Support to move away from county lines and experiences of criminal exploitation and harm
- Gender mainstreaming and consultations for professionals and teams
- Awareness-raising training on county lines

Find out more [here](#)

Children at risk of being engaged in County Lines are discussed at the MACE Panel below. Locations are considered at the ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) Tasking Group.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Harmful Sexual Behaviour is part of the spectrum of concerns of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). The definition for young people who display Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) refers to any child, under the age of 18, who demonstrates behaviour outside their normative parameters of development (this includes, but is not exclusive to, abusive behaviours) (Hackett 2011, National Institute of Health and Care Excellence 2014).

The Hackett tool and model to assist in assessing strengths and need can be accessed [here](#)

Find out more [here](#)

Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

Online CSAE (Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation) Offending can take a number of different forms which include:

Online Grooming - The act of developing a relationship with a child to enable their abuse and exploitation both online and offline. Online platforms, such as social media, messaging and live streaming, can be used to facilitate this offending.

Live Streaming – Live streaming services can be used by Child Sex Offenders (CSOs) to incite victims to commit or watch sexual acts via webcam. CSOs also stream or watch live contact sexual abuse or indecent images of children with other offenders. In some instances CSOs will pay facilitators to stream live contact abuse, with the offender directing what sexual acts are perpetrated against the victim.

Online coercion and blackmail – The coercion or blackmail of a child by technological means, using sexual images and/or videos depicting that child, for the purposes of sexual gain (e.g. to obtain new IIOC or bring about a sexual encounter), financial gain or other personal gain.

Possession, production and sharing of IIOC and Prohibited Images– CSOs can use online platforms to store and share IIOC and prohibited images. Online platforms can also be used to facilitate the production of IIOC, for example screen-recording of CSEA perpetrated over live streaming.

Indecent Images of Children (IIOC) are images of, or depicting, a child or part of a child which are judged to be in breach of recognised standards of propriety. Examples of images considered to be indecent are those depicting a child engaging in sexual activity or in a sexual manner, through posing, actions, clothing etc. IIOC includes photographs, videos, pseudo-photographs and tracings.

Prohibited Images of Children are non-photographic images, for example CGI, cartoons etc, which portray a child engaging in sexual activity, a sexual act being performed in the presence of a child or focus on the child's genital or anal region.

For a comprehensive summary and list of relevant legislation for online CSEA please consult Annex 1 of the [UKCCIS guidance for providers of social media and interactive services](#).

Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Command can be accessed [here](#)

The Independent Watch Foundation (IWF) in partnership with NSPCC and Child Line, have developed a 'report and remove' element, which is a child focused approach to removing indecent images of children. This can be accessed [here](#)

Children at risk of online harm may not have any previous vulnerabilities. The first parents may know that their child has been a victim of criminal exploitation is when the police contact the family. Children often do not see the dangers of sharing intimate images of themselves to strangers. The internet creates a false feeling of security and diminishes inhibitions that would exist offline. The anonymous nature of the internet allows perpetrators to adopt false personas and build trust via online conversations. Children can fail to realise that they lose control of uploaded images, falsely believing the properties of social media applications will protect them. This leads to risks of blackmail and coercion against the child.

These factors can lead to any of the following risks:

- Online grooming and child abuse.

- Access to age – inappropriate content.
- Financial exploitation, where young people’s bank accounts are used by exploiters to launder the proceeds from criminal activities.
- Bullying and cyberbullying.
- Personal information being obtained by perpetrator.
- Talking to strangers or people who misrepresent themselves.

Youth-produced sexual imagery identified in schools

Children may take nude and sexual images of themselves and share them with other children and, whilst the taking and receiving of such images is a criminal offence and a criminal justice response may be necessary in some cases, the focus should be on providing a collaborative response which educates, supports and safeguards all children involved.

The following offences could be committed by sexting:

- Take or permit to take an indecent photo or video of themselves or another person under 18.
- Share an indecent image or video of another person under 18, even if it’s shared between young people of a similar age.
- Possess, download or store an indecent image or video of a child / young person under 18, even if that young person gave their permission for it to be created.

There is assistance on the police intranet regarding this policy [here](#) .

Radicalisation

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people, including children, come to support terrorism and extremism and in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups.

Radicalisation also includes grooming into far right groups as well as Islamism and other forms. Radicalisation is not about a specific faith or demographic and there is no obvious profile of a person likely to become involved in extremism or a single indicator of when a person might move to adopt violence in support of extremist ideas. The process of radicalisation is different for every individual and can take place over an extended period or within a very short time frame and often involves an element of exploitation. For further guidance please see this [document](#) produced by Department of Education.

Gangs and Organised Crime Groups

The word ‘gang’ means different things in different contexts, the Government in their [paper](#) ‘Safeguarding children and young people who may be affected by gang activity’ distinguishes between peer groups, street gangs and organised criminal gangs.

- **Peer group**
A relatively small and transient social grouping which may or may not describe themselves as a gang, depending on the context.
- **Street gang**
Groups of young people who see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group for whom crime and violence is integral to the group’s identity.

- **Organised criminal gangs**

A group of individuals for whom involvement in crime is for personal gain (financial or otherwise). For most crime is their 'occupation'.

It's not illegal for a young person to be in a gang or a group, it is natural human behaviour – there are different types of 'gang' and not every 'gang' is criminal or dangerous. However, gang or group membership can be linked to illegal activity, particularly organised criminal gangs involved in trafficking, drug dealing and violent crime.

A child or young person might be recruited into a gang or organised group, because of where they live or because of who their family is. They might join because they don't see another option or because they feel they need protection. Children and young people may become involved in gangs for many reasons, including:

- peer pressure and wanting to fit in with their friends
- they feel respected and important
- they want to feel protected from other gangs, or bullies
- they want to make money, and are promised rewards
- they want to gain status, and feel powerful
- they've been excluded from school and don't feel they have a future.

Organised criminal gangs groom children and young people, because they're less suspicious and are given lighter sentences than adults.

Safeguarding Children in Custody

Children often end up in custody because of their vulnerability and whilst in custody, they will be at a point of crisis. This is a reachable moment to support them to be safer. They should spend as little time as possible in custody and when charged should be released safely on bail wherever possible. Secure accommodation should only be requested when necessary.

The custody sergeant will, in the first instance contact the Local Authority where the child resides or, if the child is 'looked after' / 'in care', they will contact the Local Authority with Parental Responsibility for the child.

The Home Office [Concordat](#) on Children in Custody and London Protocol 2019 supports professionals involved in the transfer of children in custody to Local Authority accommodation to understand both their own roles and responsibilities and those of their colleagues and thereby to facilitate joint working. It also sets out how local areas should monitor the implementation of this Protocol and ensure that feedback develops and enhances local practice.

Please ensure that an Appropriate Adult is always available, and consideration is given to any health needs.

The **Engage Project** is a scheme that provides a visitor for someone in Custody. The goal is that children are in custody for the shortest period of time.

5. Modern Slavery and the NRM (National Referral Mechanism)

Child trafficking and modern slavery are child abuse. Many children and young people are trafficked into the UK from other countries. Children are also trafficked around the UK.

Trafficking is where children and young people tricked, forced or persuaded to leave their homes and are moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold. Children are trafficked for:

- sexual exploitation
- benefit fraud
- organised begging
- forced marriage
- domestic slavery like cleaning, cooking and childcare
- forced labour in factories or agriculture
- committing crimes, like begging, theft, working on cannabis farms or moving drugs.

Trafficked children experience many types of abuse and neglect. Traffickers use physical, sexual and emotional abuse as a form of control. Children and young people are also likely to be physically and emotionally neglected and may be sexually exploited.

If you think that Modern Slavery has taken place, the case must be referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) so that the Single Competent Authority can fully consider the case. Only certain organisations can make these referrals and these are called first responders. The police and social care are first responders, for a full list of these see the following link [here](#)

It is best practice for NRM submissions to be made with multi-agency input and therefore it may be appropriate to explore this in a multi-agency safeguarding meeting, such as a Strategy meeting. In this discussion each organisation can contribute relevant intelligence and information and a lead agency can be chosen to submit the referral.

In Havering, most adults and children connected to Modern Slavery have been trafficked to the borough from Albania, followed by the United Kingdom.

You do not need to be certain that someone is a victim, only suspect that it may be possible, and consent is not required.

If the potential victim is under 18, a NRM referral must be made. Child victims do not have to consent to be referred into the NRM and must first be safeguarded and then referred into the NRM process. NRM referrals must now be made online, the following link provides guidance on this process including separate processes for children and adults [here](#):

Please forward a copy of the completed NRM and reference number be forwarded to the IASS@haverling.gov.uk for data and tracking purposes.

Find out more [here](#)

6. Missing Children

MPS Missing Person Coordinator

The Philomena Protocol

The Philomena Protocol has been agreed with all care homes. The Philomena Protocol has been created to outline a clear pathway for the reporting of missing children in care and the same process is in place throughout England. The Philomena Protocol outlines the process to take when a young person is being reported missing. The Protocol can be found [here](#) on our website and has been shared by Police with all local care homes. Compliance is monitored by Police and the Council Commissioning Team.

Independent Return Home Interview

Return Home Interviews (RHIs) or conversations should be offered to all children who have been reported missing within 72 hours of them being found. A child is not obliged to accept or engage with the RHI but it is compulsory that the RHI is offered to them. Providing children with the opportunity to talk is key to safeguarding them. The RHI aims to safeguard children by exploring the events that occurred during the missing episode and any push or pull factors that likely influenced the missing incident. RHI should be formally documented as this enables practitioners to recognise key locations, themes and patterns within this period of time. This will assist a practitioner identifying what level of risk or harm, if any the young person may be exposed or subjected to.

This links to the HSCP Missing Protocol [here](#)

7. Strategy Meetings or Discussions

For Social Care staff to request a Strategy meeting for any Havering child, an 87a form will need to be submitted to EAmailbox-.PublicProtectionReferrals@met.police.uk. This email address will differ if the incident took place in another borough. In this scenario, the CAIT Team where the incident occurred, will need to be requested to attend the strategy meeting. Childrens Services, where the incident of alleged harm took place will need to host the strategy meeting and all involved agencies will be invited to discuss and share information regarding the child. Please invite a Paediatrician to discuss any issues around Child Sexual Abuse. Child Protection / Sexual Abuse Medicals should be considered if there are concerns for physical abuse, sexual abuse or any injuries, even if they are not visible.

Strategy meetings for Child Exploitation should consider covering the following agenda:

1. Introduction and status of individual meeting;
2. Apologies;
3. Factual information / details;
4. Reason for convening meeting;
5. Concerns and Indicators;

6. Sexual health concerns / criminality / medical assessments / physical and mental health;
7. Family awareness / response to risks;
8. Child protection considerations;
9. Perpetrators;
10. Support for victims and perpetrators, including onward referrals;
11. Risk discussion;
12. Chair's summary (including level of risk);
13. Decisions and recommendations including plan to safeguard and support the child;
14. Review date.

If you believe there to be Exploitation concerns of a child you are working alongside a HARVA risk assessment should be completed to ascertain what the level of risk may be to the child.

This should provide a guideline to you as a practitioner as to what level of risk the young person may be at and suggest interventions based on the presented concerns.

A multi-agency review risk assessment should be completed on a 6 monthly basis to determine whether the risk is reducing or increasing, including updating the Risk Management Plan (RMP); this will identify whether the interventions/safety planning identified are reducing the risks.

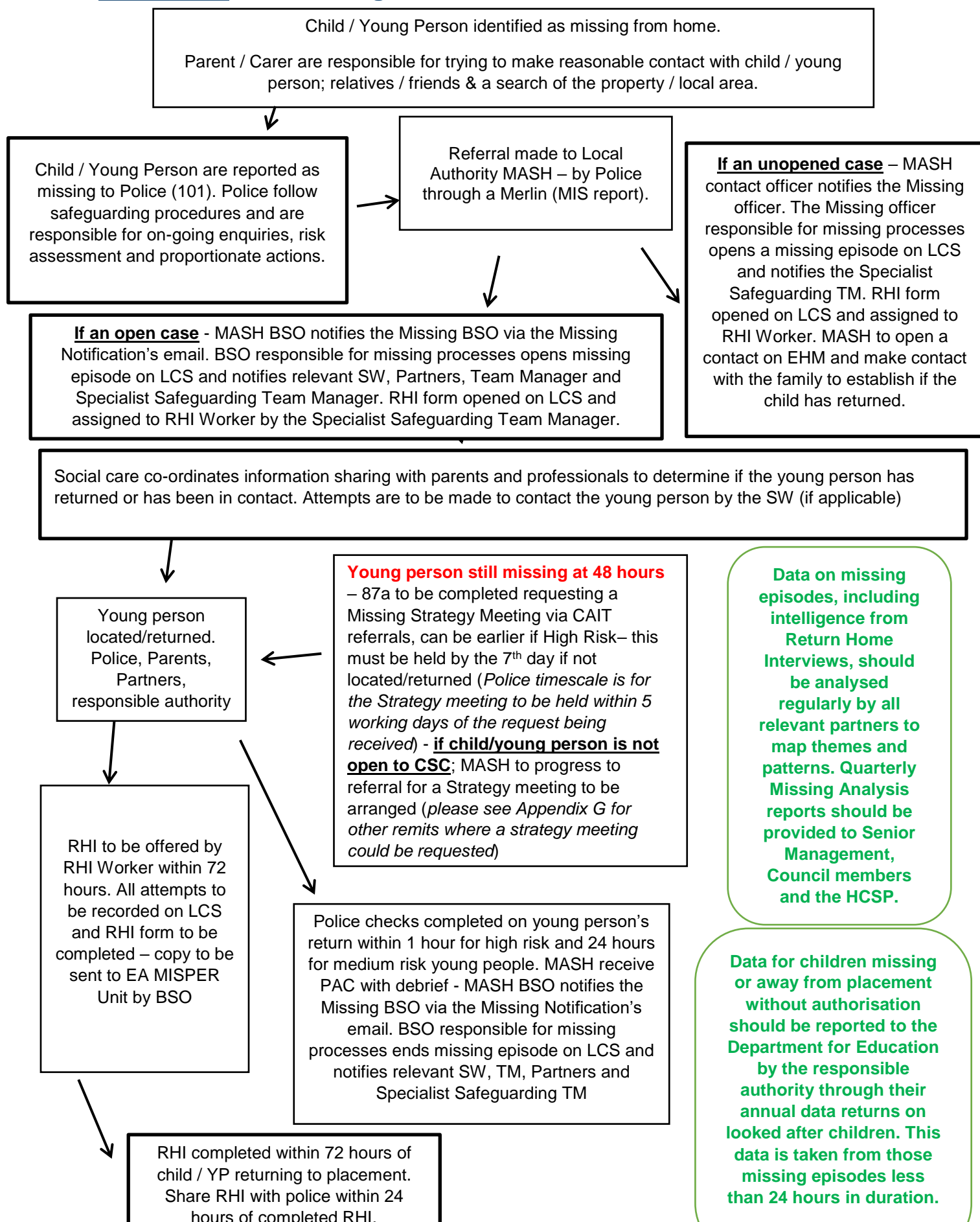
Dispute Resolution and Escalation

Working with children and young people at risk of exploitation can be very pressured, time-consuming, and fast-moving. Multi-agency working is the expectation in Havering and therefore it is natural that there will be professional differences of opinion. This is healthy and disagreements should be resolved in a timely manner. Please see our HSCP [guidance](#)

Appendices

Appendix 1

Missing from Home flow chart



Appendix 2

HARM Panel TOR

Havering Adolescent Risk Management (HARM) Panel

Terms of Reference

Signed; Date; June 2022 Review Date; April 2023

Amended invite list; minute template Oct 22

Introduction

Safeguarding children who go missing, are at risk of exploitation or serious youth violence is a key priority for the Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership. The Adolescent Safeguarding Strategy Board is responsible for overseeing the partnership arrangements and coordinated action plan for safeguarding adolescents from harm and exploitation across the borough.

In 2021 a rapid review was undertaken into local arrangements for multi-agency meetings to safeguard children from exploitation, specifically children – up to 18, or to 25 where they have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - who go missing or who are exploited, and for adolescents – ages 10 to 18, or 25 where they have SEND who are at risk of exploitation.

The Havering Adolescent Risk Management (HARM) Panel has been introduced to consolidate several existing panels and to create one forum for oversight of children currently open to CSC that have either gone missing and/or are being exploited. These children will be identified in the IASS Single View dashboard as Top 8 children at risk in the preceding week. The HARM Panel will also be multi-agency prevention and early intervention network to discuss children at risk of exploitation not open to Children's Social Care (CSC). These children will also be identified in the IASS Single View dashboard and will be the Top 5 children below those currently open in Assessment/CIN/CP/ CIC teams.

The panels that the HARM Panel will replace /incorporate include;

- The CSE Panel
- Pre-MACE
- Missing Panel
- The CCE Panel

Please note that HARM does not replace the requirement for Strategy or Risk Management meetings and information sharing across the Partnership.

Purpose of the HARM Panel

The HARM Panel is to effectively develop a common understanding of the patterns and trends around all missing and child exploitation risks within Havering, enabling the partnership to ensure that resources are directed appropriately. At each meeting, the membership would scrutinise local responses to ensure that they are proportionate, targeted, and providing effective outcomes for children and families. Specifically the panel

will identify particular children of concern and agree the lead agency/team and indicate the range of interventions/actions to be undertaken to improve the safety and outcomes for that child(ren).

The chair of each meeting will ensure that there is multiagency challenge, planning and effective actions are put in place, including monitoring arrangements, for all children at risk of being exploited and going missing in accordance with Havering Safeguarding Partnership procedures. The Adolescent Safeguarding Strategy Board would remain responsible for maintaining a clear oversight on both the strategic and operational response to all children who go missing or who are exploited in Havering.

Role of HARM Panel

1. Oversee operational decision making and response of all professionals working with missing children and/or children being exploited.
2. Scrutinise operational delivery for exploited children, ensuring that interventions are fit for purpose, sustainable, including the disruption of exploiters.
3. Cover (discuss) missing children and children at risk of any form of exploitation e.g. child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, modern slavery and trafficking and their siblings where appropriate.
4. Have oversight to the risk assessments and interventions to reduce risks.
5. Ensure consistent multi-agency challenge in accordance with Havering Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures.
6. Assess risk for repeat and outstanding episodes for missing children and examine any links to child exploitation and/or links to Organised Crime Groups.
7. Inform the MACE meeting of themes, trends, locations and people of concern, resource issues that will inform a strategic overview, which will be reported to the Havering Adolescent Safeguarding Board.
8. Enable professionals who work with children ages 10-18, or 25 with SEND to identify vulnerabilities, and risks of exploitation and harm, and maximise preventative opportunities.
9. Coordinate partnership work to support vulnerable children ages 10-18, or 25 with SEND and their families and respond in a targeted, proportionate way to risks.
10. Where necessary agree and review actions to reduce risks and support to children and families
11. Identify underlying issues that may be making a child vulnerable to exploitation
12. Make best use of information sharing between partner agencies to establish a comprehensive picture of exploitation, and use problem solving to reduce exploitation and harm.
13. Focus partnership attention on areas that generate concern including child vulnerability factors, places and spaces of concern, emerging issues, patterns and trends, including those arising from local intelligence.

14. Identify additional support that can be offered to those at risk of exploitation and harm, including support from education, community, and voluntary sectors.

15. Develop and share best practice between professionals involved in working with children who are subject to harm, abuse, and exploitation

Governance Arrangements:

Structure of Meetings

Meetings will take place twice a month around planned MACE meetings. It will be on Tuesdays from 2.00 pm to 4.00pm. The structure of the meeting will be as follows;

First meeting after MACE

2.00pm to 4.00pm: The Top 10 high Risk cases (cohort 1) identified on the Single View Dashboard, plus any highlighted cases that the Data Analyst identifies, that are open to CSC where concerns around exploitation are increasing.

- Update on current risks
- Agreement on new actions to safeguard child(ren) or step down
- Agreement on inclusion in MACE agenda

Meeting prior to MACE

2.00 – 3.30pm: the Top 10 emerging cases (cohort 2) as identified by the Universal Dashboard plus any highlighted cases that the Data Analyst identifies, and any cohort 1 cases that need immediate review.

3.30 – 4.00pm; MACE agenda settings: any children that need to be added to MACE agenda, plus people of concern and places of concern, and any CAWNs that are outstanding, new Police reports.

Discussion at this meeting does not constitute a referral to statutory Children's Social Care. These will continue and will be a conduit to the HARM Panel if agreed at that meeting.

Membership

Name Role Delegated Representative

IASS Group Manager (Co-Chair) SASS Team Manager

ISS Group Manager (Co-Chair) ISS Group Manager

Group Manager for MASH + Assessment MASH and Assessment Team Manager

Group Manager, Family Placement Service Team Manager, Family Placement Service

CAD 5-19 Support Team Manager Social Care & Preparation for Adulthood Team Manager

CAMHS Lead

Schools Inclusions

Data Analyst, Community Safety Community Safety Officer

Data Analyst, IASS N/A

IASS Team Manager, Missing and Exploitation Lead IASS Social Worker

DSL Leads, HES

Designated Nurse for Safeguarding NEL ICB

Exploitation Unit, Met Police

Business Leader (IASS) (minute taker) BSO colleague

Misper Police (Havering Officer for Missing Panel and Philomena Protocol)

Team Manager Youth Support Targeted Youth Manager

Specialist Nurse, Children Looked After

Assistant Head Havering Virtual School Advisory Teacher, Havering Virtual School

Neighbourhood Officer, Met Police

Team Leader – Wise- Up Elm Park Children’s Centre

HARM Panel Meeting prior to MACE only

Roles and Responsibilities of Members

Chair

- The list of children to be discussed will be shared ahead of the next meeting to aid preparation
- Chair will ensure minutes are taken and disseminated to relevant professionals
- Chair will quality assure and monitor compliance of statutory guidance and safeguarding practice in the discharge for their role.
- Where there is a significant risk of harm raised, the Chair is accountable for ensuring that an appropriate member is tasked to take immediate action.
- Chair will review minutes and actions from the previous meeting at the start of each meeting to ensure appropriate actions/interventions have taken place.
- Chair will ensure that the group make timely decisions.
- Chair will ensure timely operational and tactical responses are put in place to ensure children and young people are safeguarded without delay
- Chair will ensure that all relevant children and young people have (where appropriate):

- A completed Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HaRVA) and related action plan.
- Current CIN, CP or LAC planning.
- Escalation plans.
- Health Care Plan if applicable.
- YJ disposals if applicable.
- EHCP if applicable.
- Related professionals invited to attend the panel to present case updates and report on multi-agency risk assessments and related action plans.

All Panel Members

- Each member is responsible for sending a representative to all scheduled meetings if they are unable to attend.
- Each partner is responsible for the sharing of information across all members.
- Members are required to complete and report back on allocated actions as directed by the Chair in a timely manner, and by the next meeting so as not to compromise a child's welfare, safety or to delay an intervention plan.
- All participating agencies are responsible for reporting back to the meeting the activities and interventions undertaken in relation to managing exploitation.
- Members of the group will expect to be:
 - provided with information in a timely manner;
 - given reasonable time to make key decisions;
 - alerted to potential risks and issues that could impact the group, as they arise.
- Membership ensure a co-ordinated multi-agency approach is taken to safeguard children who have been identified as being at risk of exploitation.
- Members are required to share information held by their agency for children who meet the criteria for discussion.
- Members, under the guidance of the Chair, will review the available assessment information in relation to each child, including the objective scrutiny and analysis of local partnership responses and interventions.
- Each member is responsible for implementing their agreed actions and to report on the effectiveness and impact.

Appendix 3

MACE (Multi – Agency Child Exploitation Panel) TOR

MACE will include:

- **Child Sexual Exploitation**
- **Child Criminal Exploitation**
- **Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery**

Aim and Purpose

The MACE Panel aims to ensure an appropriate strategic response to Child Exploitation across the multi-agency partnership. The purpose of the MACE Panel is to have tactical oversight of Child Exploitation cases, information, intelligence and activity in the London Borough of Havering.

MACE discussions focus on the “VOLT”; **V**ictim, **O**ffender, **L**ocations and **T**rends.

The key function and purpose of the MACE Panel is:

- To have tactical oversight of Child Exploitation cases, information, activity and intelligence across the Local Authority and, where applicable across borough boundaries.
- To remove blockages or obstacles in cases and consider and direct resources and activity according to trends identified from these cases.
- To apply pro-active problem solving to address the risks associated with victims, offenders, locations, and trends (VOLT). This includes removing blockages and obstacles in cases as well as considering and directing resources and activity in response to trends identified from these cases
- To identify, discuss and deliver a partnership response to short, medium and long-term themes trends and patterns emerging from CSE and CCE cases.
- To gather case information and data to feed into and maintain a meaningful local Child Exploitation Problem Profile
- To work collaboratively to ensure the safeguarding and welfare of children and people who are being, or are at risk of being, exploited.
- To take action against those intent on abusing and exploiting children and young people by prosecuting and disrupting perpetrators.

MACE is not a case management process and will therefore not case manage individual cases; it will however identify, discuss and deliver a partnership response to themes, trends and patterns emerging from Child Exploitation cases.

Where necessary or relevant, information will be shared with other strategic and operational panels such as MARAC, MAPPA and the Gangs Partnership, as agreed by the MACE Chair.

Only cases that have followed child protection procedures and have been subject to strategy meetings/discussions will be discussed at MACE if applicable. These cases are identified at the HARM and Pre-MACE/MACE agenda Meeting.

The aim of the London Borough of Havering's MACE Panel is to bring key partner agencies together to:

- Ensure all possible powers and options are being utilised to protect the victim.
- Ensure all possible powers and options are used to identify and disrupt the offenders(s).
- Ensure all agencies are working together in identifying, and planning responses to Child Exploitation, identifying locations of concern and planning a coordinated response to location.
- All agencies have recorded the relevant details of the case on their systems to ensure others have access to the information.
- Any actions taken co-ordinate with other processes such as MARAC and MAPPA.
- Links/patterns with any cases/locations/venues are identified.
- To identify patterns in relation to agencies requiring support and develop packages of support.
- To identify gaps across the Borough in services and plan for its resolution.
- To review all cases where there is police involvement i.e. Category 1, 2, and 3 and all CCE cases.
- Above all else agencies are working together to make a positive difference to those affected by Child Exploitation.
- The MACE meeting should provide the LSCB (sub group) information on the following:
 - Volume of cases.
 - Communities affected, to allow awareness raising and targeted intervention.
 - Patterns of Child Exploitation identified.
 - Activity against perpetrators.
 - Performance of individual agencies.

- Number and type of disruptions e.g. civil orders, charging of offenders, closure of premises etc.

Frequency of Meetings

MACE is scheduled to take place once a month, on the second Monday of every month. The duration of the meeting is 2 hours.

Chair

The meeting will be co-chaired by the Local Borough Police at Detective Inspector (DI) level and the Local Authority Head of Service, Integrated Adolescent Safeguarding and Support (IASS) Service.

The Co-chairs will be responsible for chairing meetings in turn, but may delegate this responsibility to each other by agreement.

Membership of MACE

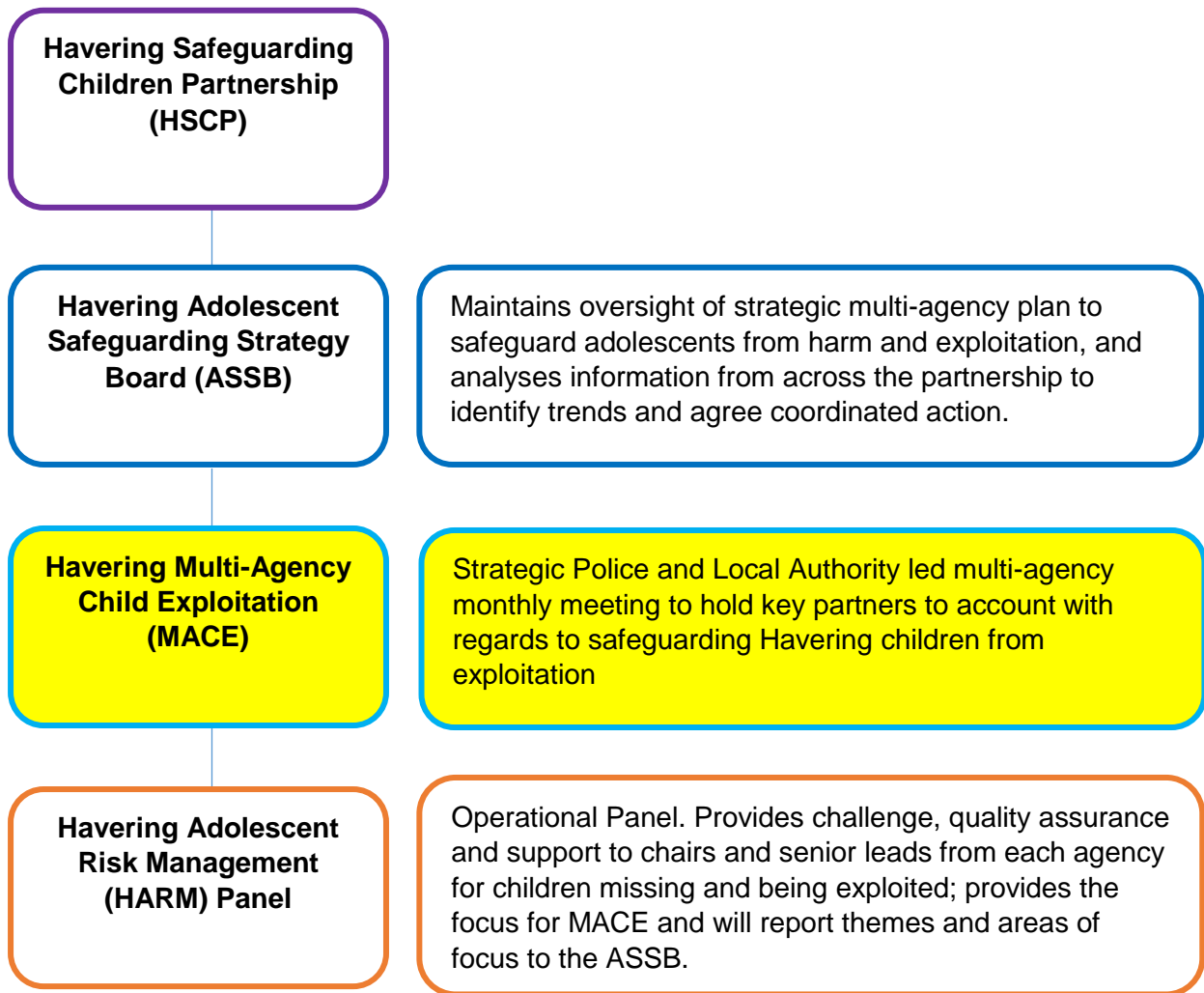
- Police: Local Borough DCI or DI (Chair)
- Local Authority: Head of Service, Integrated Adolescent Safeguarding and Support Service Deputy (Co-chair)
- Police: Local Borough Child Exploitation SPOC (DS/DC)
- Health: SPOC (ICB/NELFT/ BHRUT)
- Local Authority: Integrated Adolescent Safeguarding Service – Group Manager & Team Manager
- Local Authority: Head of Service MASH, Assessment & Early Help
- Local Authority: Head of Leaving Care
- Local Authority: SPOC Adult Social care
- Probation: SPOC
- Local Authority: Housing SPOC
- Local Authority: Education – Admissions & Inclusion Team
- Team Leader (Wize-Up)
- Local Authority: IASS Analyst
- Local Authority: Head of ISS
- Local Authority: Community Safety Lead
- Local Authority: VRU Analyst

Other agency representatives should be considered and invited as appropriate.

All attendees must be in a position of managerial responsibility or have strategic oversight of their area of business.

MACE Accountability

The MACE group is accountable to the Havering's Safeguarding Children Partnership and Havering's Adolescent Safeguarding Strategy Board:



Standard Agenda

The following agenda will be followed at each meeting:

Purpose and Structure of the Meeting and Information Sharing Agreement.
Introductions and apologies
Previous Minutes and Action Log – review and sign-off
Update from Met Police: new Exploitation cases; CAWNS and other disruption activity; summary of presenting themes & any key areas of concern.
Update from Community Safety: local intelligence on Child Exploitation and data; disruption activity; summary of presenting themes & any key areas of concern.
Update from Children’s Social Care: new Exploitation cases; summary of presenting themes & any key areas of concern; any specific child/group of significant concern.

Update from Education: summary of presenting themes & any key areas of concern from education providers across the borough; any specific child/group of significant concern
Update from Health: summary of presenting themes & any key areas of concern from health services across the borough; any specific child/group of significant concern.
Update from IASS: summary of presenting themes & any key areas of concern from Youth Justice, Adolescent Support and Youth Services; any specific child/group of significant concern.
Update from Youth Justice: summary of presenting themes & any key areas of concern from Youth Justice; any specific child/group of significant concern.
Update from Wize-Up: summary of presenting themes & any key areas of concern from young people and adult drugs services; any specific child/group of significant concern.
Update from Leaving Care and adult social care: summary of presenting themes & any key areas of concern amongst young adults.
Perpetrators/Persons of Concern.
Locations of concern.
Cross Border Issues.
Good practice, lessons learnt and workforce development feedback from all partners.
AOB and Date of next meeting

Appendix 4

Transitions Panel TOR

Having Multi-Agency Transitions to Adulthood Panel

Terms of Reference – July 2017

Updated - April 2021

Purpose / role of the group

Transitions occur through various stages of a young person's life from starting primary school, moving to secondary school, preparing for independence and leaving home. Transitions also coincide with physical, emotional, psychological and physiological developments that are coupled with changes to roles and relationships with family, friends, community and professionals.

How any transition is experienced depends on the planning, understanding and information available to those going through the transition. When this goes well children, young people, their parents/carers can look to the future confident that their child will enjoy their future whatever guidance, support and opportunity is on offer.

The purpose of the Panel is to ensure that the children and young people, their families and or carers brought to its attention have received the intervention they need, so as to:

- Ensure where possible children and young people remain at home with targeted support from CAD, NELFT, Housing, social work teams or universal services.
- Ensure children, young people, their families and or carers understand what services they are eligible for.
- Ensure continuity of the development and implementation of transition planning / procedures
- Give leadership and direction to work around transitions.
- Ensure all partner agencies are involved in aligning resources, effective communication, joint training for staff, and reaching agreements on multi-agency working.
- Consider impact of service providers in supporting independence for children and young people in their care
- Ensure disabled young people and their carers are involved in reviewing the effectiveness of transition procedures.
- Consider permanence options and services required
- Consider the need for education, apprenticeships or employment opportunities.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989

The UNCRC is an international treaty which was ratified in the UK in 1991. Articles 12 & 13 of the Convention enshrine the right of all children to express their views and for these to be taken into account in decisions that affect them. Further to this, Article 23 focuses specifically on disabled children and young people, recognising their right to dignity, independence and participation within their community.

The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000:

The Act amends the previous provision for care leavers set out in the Children Act 1989 and is designed to improve the life chances of young people living in and leaving local authority care. Provides an entitlement to an assessment and a Pathway Plan and a personal adviser for each looked after and former looked after young person to improve:

- Preparation and planning for leaving care
- Financial arrangements for care leavers
- Ensure that young people continue to receive the support they need to make an effective transition to adult life.

It is not the intention for children or families to attend panel meetings. Panels should be viewed as an internal quality assurance process, which support and bolster standard care planning processes.

Membership

Panel members will provide multi-agency contribution to the cases brought before panel and consider the provision of any resources that may be provided within their own services. If a panel member is not able to attend a suitable replacement with decision-making responsibility should attend. In order to be quorate a minimum of five agencies should be present.

Service	Representative
Care Resources	Head of Service (Co-Chair)
Adult Social Care	Head of Integrated Services (Co-Chair)
Children & Adults with Disabilities Service	Head of Service or Team Manager
NHS (CAMHS/NELFT)	Integrated Specialist Children's Services Manager
Leaving Care	Team Manager
Youth Offending Service	Group Manager / YOS Operational Manager
Virtual School	Officer
Access, Assessment & Brief Intervention Team (NELFT)	Service Manager
CGL Havering	CGL staff member
Housing	MASH Housing Manager / Housing Choice Applications Manager
Families Together Team	Team Manager
Intervention & Support Service	Group Manager
Joint Commissioning Unit	Children's Placements & Quality Programme Manager / Adults Complex Placements Manager
Safeguarding & Service Standards Unit	Group Manager
Systemic Practice Team	Head of Clinical Practice
Department of Work & Pensions	DWP Worker
Early Help Service	Group Manager, Early Help & Troubled Families
Metropolitan Police	Mental Health Police Officer
Provider Representative – CentrePoint	
National Probation Service	

- Panel membership will be reviewed at least every 6 months.

- The group will be organised and facilitated by a designated member of the Business Support Team.

Accountability

- An agenda will be provided to all Panel members three working days before panel via Business Support Officer.
- Each agency will ensure Panel expectations are cascaded within their respective teams.
- The Business Support Officer Lead will maintain effective tracking of cases, minutes and outcomes

Aims and Objectives

- Further embed a multi-agency, coordinated and collaborative approach to shared planning around transition to adulthood.
- Where possible secure diversion of children from care through intensive positive work by Families Together Team and other provisions within Havering.
- To ensure the right level of input from partner agencies.
- Jointly with partner agencies, explore transition placement options.
- Identify unmet resource needs (as children present with multiple complex needs).
- To explore innovative ways of putting together alternative support for children in care.
- To deliver an efficient, effective and evidence based deployment of resources which ensures value for money and contributes to financial forecasting.
- Share information and learn lessons and identify trends to continuously feed into service improvements and resource sufficiency planning.

Function and Process of Panel

- Panel will meet once a month (to be kept under review).
- Panel will consider young people (14-18 LAC) & post 18 eligible to leaving care support.
- Panel will consider young people with disabilities and transition support.
- Panel will review high cost transition placements and consider if service provide value for money.
- Panel will consider young people outside of the leaving care remit, if concerns are such that it is appropriate to do so. For example, cases held by early help services or mental health services that would benefit from multi-agency input.
- Panel will offer transparency, scrutiny and escalate cases as appropriate to the Assistant Director. Cases that will be considered for escalation are as follows:
 - Require funding contribution from partner agencies.
 - Financial implications / funding disagreements.
 - Adult Safeguarding concerns.
 - Reputational risk to Local Authority.
 - Multi-agency based good practice intervention.
 - Practice concerns/ concerns around effectiveness of multi-agency working.
 - Evidence of good practice impacting on positive outcomes.
 - Delays in planning.

Multi-Agency Transitions Plan

- The minutes of the Transitions Panel will be completed as a Multi-Agency Transitions Plan for each case. The template for this is Appendix 2.
- The Multi-Agency Transitions Plan will highlight the input from each agency at the meeting, and the role of each agency going forward.
- The Multi-Agency Transitions Plan for each case will be signed off by the Chair prior to circulation to panel members.
- Panel will agree review of cases or sign off of cases from panel. Where cases are to be reviewed, the plan will be brought back to the relevant meeting and progress reviewed.
- Actions agreed on cases will have to be followed up by the identified agency and panel will track cases until sign off.
- Relevant information will be shared in a sensitive manner and each panel member will be given an opportunity to contribute towards case discussions.

Criteria for case presentation

- It is good practice to present cases to the Transitions Panel at the earliest stage in the process. Young people should be considered for presentation at the Transitions Panel from the age of 14, particularly if they are likely to remain in care until they are 18, and/or are eligible for leaving care services.
- Presentation to the Transitions Panel is expected in cases where the below factors are present;
 - Mental health, learning needs, substance misuse, domestic abuse concerns which are impacting on independent living skills.
 - History of placement breakdown.
 - Offending behaviour, or vulnerable to exploitation due to criminal association. (Contextual Safeguarding)
 - Move from semi-independent accommodation to own tenancy (with multiple complex needs)
- Cases without the above factors but require a multi-agency input will still be considered.

Sharing of information

- Information will be shared with members using the relevant secure email addresses.
- During panel relevant information must be shared to promote effective and timely decision making. Where information is not forthcoming, partners will be asked to find this information and report back to the panel.

Appendix 6

Responding to Risks of Extremism

