

Vulnerable Adolescent Strategy and Protocol Launch



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Welcome

Lesley Walker
Independent Chair



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General Housekeeping

- ▶ Fire Exits
- ▶ Parking Spaces
- ▶ Mobile phones
- ▶ Evaluation Form
- ▶ Certificates
- ▶ Toilets
- ▶ Questions
- ▶ Photographs
- ▶ Safe Space - confidentiality, emotional impact

Senior Leaders' Endorsements

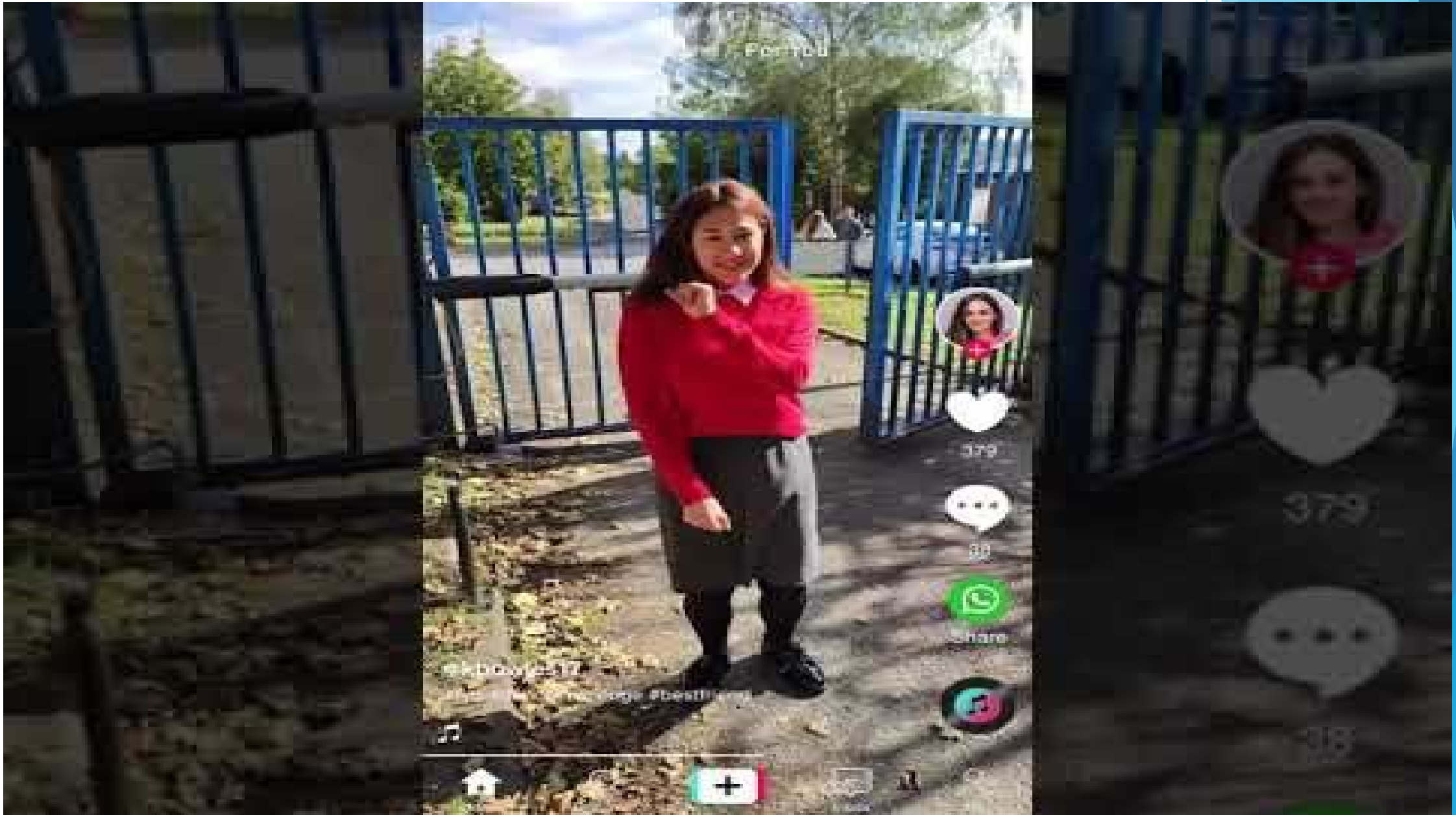
- ▶ Teresa Cope, CEO, Manx Care
- ▶ Graham Kinrade, CEO, Department of Education, Sports and Culture
- ▶ Superintendent Steve Maddocks, Isle of Man Constabulary

Contextual Safeguarding

Julie Gibney

Assistant Director, Children and Families, Manx Care

Did you See it coming?



What is Contextual Safeguarding?

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach that aims to identify and respond to various harms and abuse posed to children and young people from outside their home.

They may occur from:-

- Peers
- At school
- Community or neighbourhood
- Online

When did the idea of 'Contextual Safeguarding' Start?

In 2015 'Carlene Firmin' British Social Researcher proposed the idea of 'Contextual Safeguarding', she raised it as an approach to Child Protection that was intended to assess, support and where necessary intervene.

By taking a Contextual Safeguarding approach to address extra familiar harm, practitioners make efforts to build safety in the contexts and relationships where the harm has occurred in addition to supporting the children.

- **Definitions of CCE and CSE**
- **Criminal exploitation:** is child abuse where children and young people are manipulated and coerced into committing crimes
- **Child Sexual exploitation :** is child sexual abuse in which a person of any age takes advantage of the power imbalance to force or entice a child to engage in sexual activity in return for something e.g. money, alcohol, drugs or affection.

Overview of concerns to date

Since August 2020 concerns where highlighted regarding Exploitation of Children & Vulnerable Adults.

- As a result of the concerns raised and the emergence of issues around criminal exploitation, Complex Abuse Procedure was invoked.
- The concerns came to light with the closure of the borders during covid and the 'criminals ' had to find other ways of getting their drugs on to the island
- This resulted in our vulnerable young people and adults being groomed and targeted

Scale of Exploitation

Between August 2020 and August 2022

- A high number of children and young people identified as being at risk of or on the periphery of Exploitation.
- Some of these are now adults or no longer living on island
- A number of these young people were identified as requiring the completion of an 'Exploitation tool'.
- Some of these young people currently identified as being at 'medium' or 'high risk' of exploitation.
- Some of these young people are both the victim and perpetrator of the exploitation

Importance of language

- It is crucial that appropriate terminology is used when talking about children and young people who have been exploited
- Language implying that the child or young person is responsible in any way for abuse and crime that they are subjected to should be avoided
- Unintentional language is used that is victim blaming, this can reinforce the shame and guilt that children and young people feel
- A child cannot consent to their own exploitation
- Some professionals find it frustrating that they have to change their language in these scenarios

Importance of language continued

- Consider the influence of your language within written information and how this may alter the perspective and practice of any professional that it is shared with
- The language that you use could change the responses to and outcomes for a young person
- We should consider how different terms may feel for a young person when they hear it being used to describe them, ie victim of exploitation, trafficked etc
- Video importance of language Waltham forest youth independent advisory group

A young man with dark, wavy hair and a light complexion is looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a dark navy blue V-neck sweater over a light blue collared shirt. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a path. The words 'Blame' and 'Perpetrator' are written in white, handwritten-style text across his chest.

Blame

Perpetrator

Importance of language

Examples of some inappropriate terms used by professionals to describe particular young people or situations

- Putting themselves at risk: **this implies that the child is responsible for the risk presented by the perpetrator and that they can make choices**
- Sexual activity with: **this implies that consensual sexual activity has taken place**
- **Boyfriend:** implies a consensual relationship
- **They are choosing this lifestyle:** this implies that the child or young person is responsible for their exploitation and has the capacity to make free and informed choice (these are just a few examples that im sure we have all heard)

Next steps

- This way of working is the first steps towards a coordinated multi agency group working together to improve outcomes for children and families .
- As we move forward with this initiative it will develop and grow into the Isle of Man Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- This will support and enable sharing of information that will support the safety and well being of children and vulnerable adults.

A background image showing several hands stacking light-colored wooden blocks on a table. The image is slightly blurred and has a blue overlay. The text is overlaid on this image.

Introducing the launch of new working arrangements for Vulnerable Adolescents.

Siobhan Burns

22.09.2022

Learning from Child J

- Child J had been the subject of child protection procedures periodically over 6 years, starting from the age of 7 years.
- He experienced emotional harm due to witnessing domestic abuse, complex family dynamics and the interactions between his parents who were locked in conflict while seeking custody of and contact with Child J.
- The child protection plan ceased and he was then considered to have complex needs until he came into care in 2019.
- He presented as complex, was using drugs, often went missing from home and was at times violent. Due to his chaotic behaviours he was considered “beyond parental control”.



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Learning from Child J

- Child J overdosed and required intensive care as a result.
- As J recovered he became violent to hospital staff and police officers and was remanded into secure care.
- Following this J was taken to the emergency department a further 6 times in 2020.
- The last overdose had significant consequences.
- Child J was 15 years old.



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Learning from Child J

- Social worker, team manager and youth justice worker were working to try to keep Child J safe, however this was not in a coordinated way.
- Information was missing from key agencies and this limited multi-agency ownership of the risk to Child J.
- A lack of framework for information sharing.
- A need for a multi-agency procedural framework ensuring that agencies work together in a co-ordinated way to safeguard children like Child J.
- A need to improve the recognition and understanding of Contextual Safeguarding.



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Our agreed commitment to working effectively with children and young people to keep them safe

- Place the safety of children and young people first.
- We will be curious about past harm and other factors that we know reduce resilience in families.
- We will use information from missing episodes and share information to understand the picture of local risk for individual children and young people as well as groups. Our commitment to sharing information for the purposes of safeguarding are set out in the Isle of Man Safeguarding Children and Adults Information Sharing Guidance and Protocol.
- We will assess risk to individual children and young people using a consistent assessment tool and forming consistent risk management plans.
- We will work creatively to support children and young people with risk management plans and we will review these to ensure that the joint agency activity is making a difference.
- We will keep a centralised record of children and young people who are vulnerable to or being exploited and review this to measure changes in outcomes for children and young people.

The work of the Board

- Identified Vulnerable Adolescents as a key business priority.
- Formed the Vulnerable Adolescent Working Group– representation from education, police, Manx care (health) and children's social care, CAMHS and prisons and probation.

Responsible for:

- Agreeing an overarching Vulnerable Adolescent Strategy
- Identifying 'best in class' assessment tool
- Identifying 'best in class' procedural framework for adoption.



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The work of the Vulnerable Adolescents Working Group.

- Planned today's conference
- Vulnerable Adolescent Strategy
- Agreed the adoption of the SAFEGUARD mnemonic to help shape referrals about children or young people that may be at risk of, or being exploited.
- Agreed to adopt the CEAM (Child Exploitation Assessment and Measurement) tool which helps to identify and analyse risks of both criminal and sexual exploitation.
- Agreed the adoption of the London Borough of Barnet Procedural Framework.

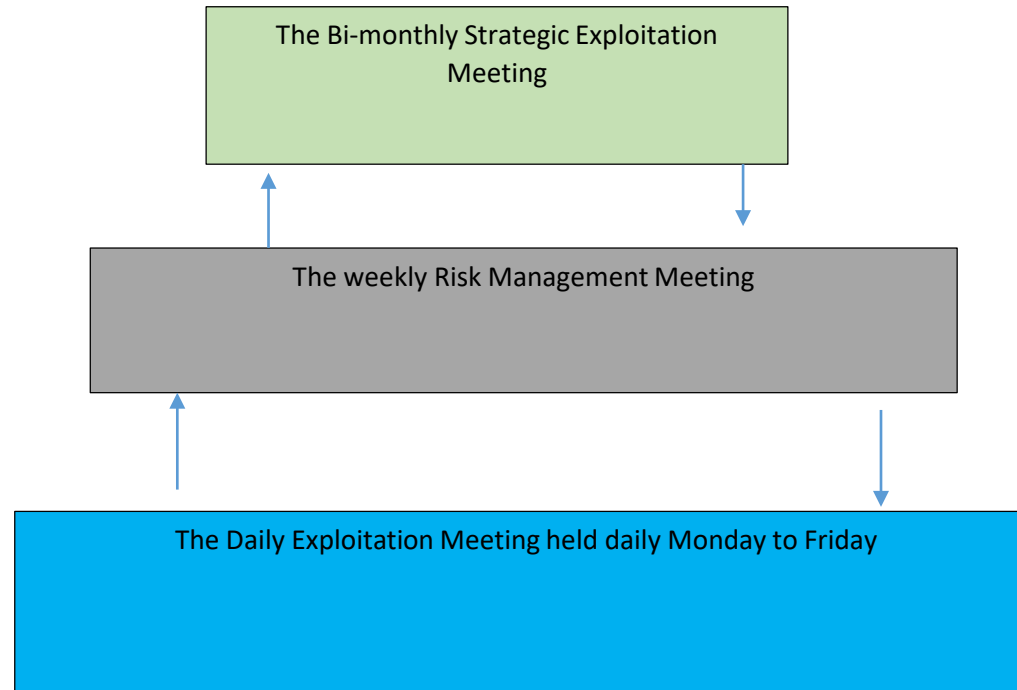


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SAFEGUARD

S	sexual wellbeing. i.e. STD's, repeated infections, pregnancy, terminations, sexual relationships in unsafe context or environment
A	absence, truancy, missing from school, home or care
F	family and home, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect
E	emotional and physical health
G	gangs, groups, criminal involvement
U	use of technology in a secretive manner
A	alcohol or substance misuse
R	receipt of unexplained gifts
D	distrust of authority figures

Local arrangements



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Daily Exploitation Meetings

The Daily Exploitation Meeting will take place daily, Monday to Friday. This meeting is a multi-agency meeting where information is gathered about a child or young person or perpetrator, from agencies including:

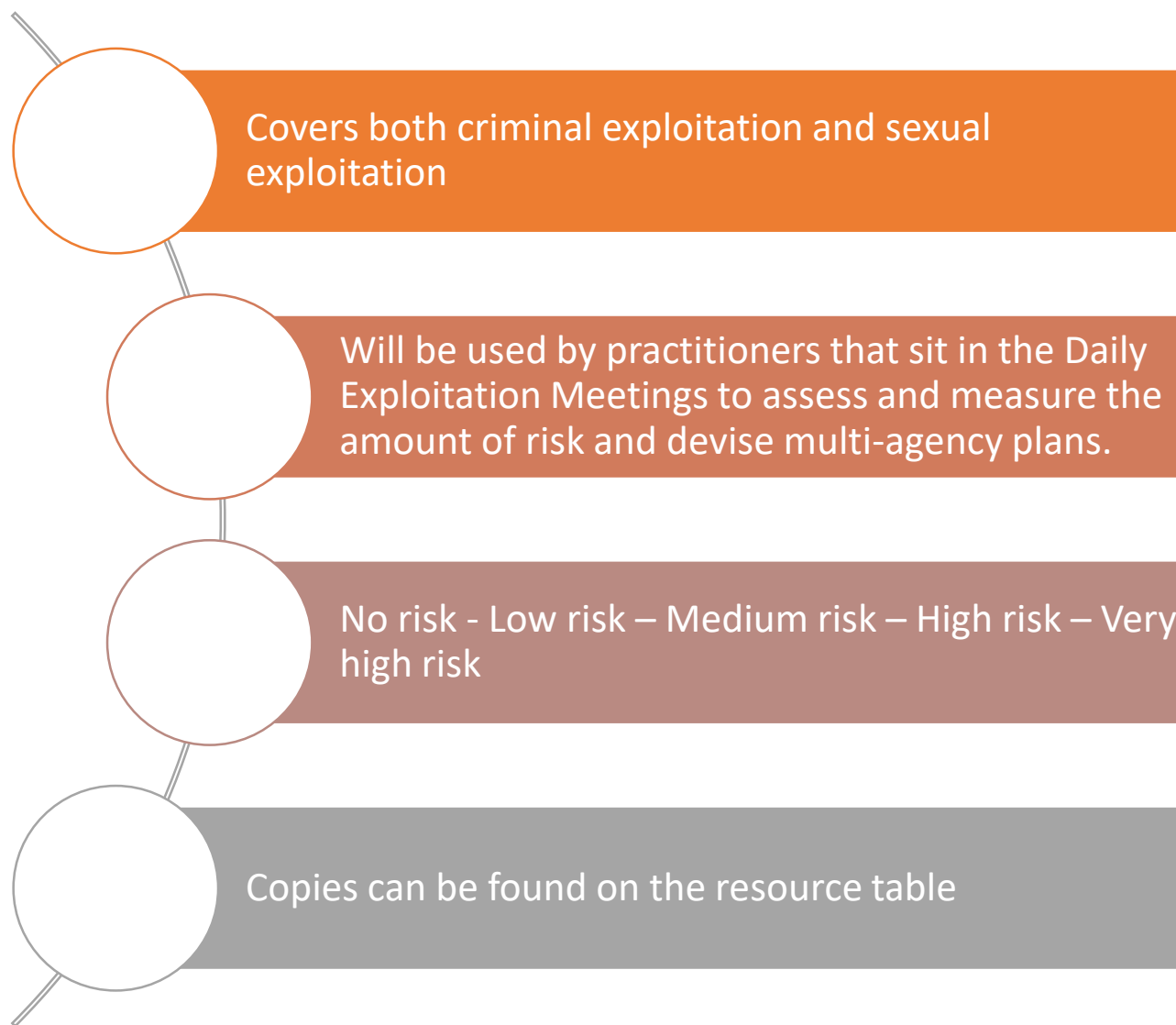
- Police
- Manx care
- Children's Social Care
- Schools

The CEAM tool will be completed for each of the children that appear to be at risk.



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The CEAM tool or Child Exploitation Assessment and Measurement Tool



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The CEAM – outcomes

No risk

No further action

Low risk

Lead professional to monitor risk

Medium risk

A CEAM strategy meeting is convened. Planning for urgent health needs and police investigation or disruption activities will be undertaken.

High risk

A CEAM strategy meeting is triggered , chaired by the team manager of the Intake and Assessment team. Planning for urgent health needs and police investigation or disruption activities will be undertaken. HOS informed.

Very High Risk

The child or young person's circumstances is considered in a CEAM strategy meeting, chaired by the team manager of the Intake and Assessment team. Planning for urgent health needs and police investigation or disruption activities will be undertaken. Executive Director is informed.



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The Risk Management Meetings

- A weekly meeting
- Multi-agency meeting
- Focusses on children assessed as medium, high and very high risk
- Oversight and assurance of the risk management plans
- A reflective space to discuss cases and any specific barriers

The Strategic Exploitation Meeting

- Bi monthly multi-agency meeting
- Considers strategic and tactical activity to tackle exploitation
- Trends, patterns, locations and/or hot spots
- Resolution of barriers to keeping children and young people safe
- Building a picture of local exploitation activity e.g.
 - Data
 - Missing children info
 - Referrals to the Daily Exploitation meetings
 - Police intelligence
 - Hospital admissions
- Responsible for ensuring the local arrangements are working well



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Introducing the Information Sharing Practitioner Guidance and Protocol

Siobhan Burns

22.09.2022

Our legal duties.

The Safeguarding Act (2018) sets out the duty of agencies to co-operate and share information that is expedient to the safeguarding of adults and children.

And

Safeguarding Together (2019) sets out the important role of the Board in supporting information sharing and ensuring that “information sharing is developed and supported.

Without effective information sharing we are not able to safeguarding those at risk of harm or abuse.

Why this work is so important.

- Findings from Serious Case Management Reviews both on the Island and in the UK.
- A factor in all published reviews held on the Island.
- Analysis of reviews in the UK between 2014 and 2017.

Working Together	Frequency
Information sharing and communication between professionals and agencies	49
Lack of professional curiosity	19
Challenge and escalation	11
Supervision and management oversight	7
Understanding professionals roles	6
Better recording	4
Cross Border arrangements	2

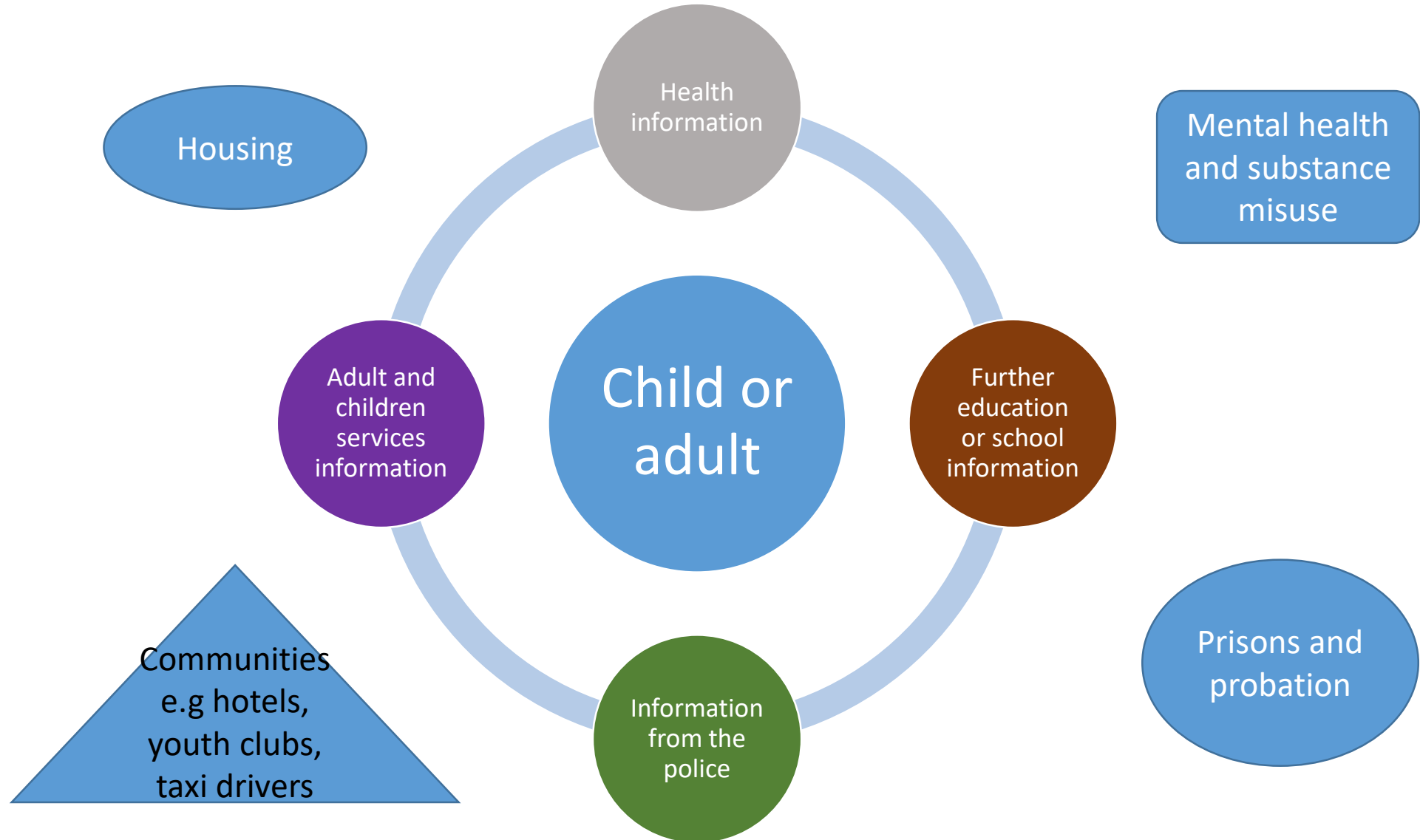
How the Guidance and Protocol were developed.

- Listening to practitioners and managers.
- Learning from local reviews.
- Review of 'best in class' guidance and protocols.
- Consultation with Information Sharing leads for each agency.
- Consultation with the Information Sharing Commissioner.
- Presented the final draft to the Safeguarding Board.
- Strategic leaders from the Board agreed and signed off the Guidance and Protocol.



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Why is effective information sharing so important?



Barriers to effective information sharing.

Fears about “breaching confidentiality”.

Not understanding that GDPR and Data protection gives permission for information to be shared when you are concerned about safety or welfare.

“I can’t share information if I don’t have consent”.

The belief that IT systems are a barrier to sharing information.

Key principles of information sharing.

- Identify how much information to share.
- Distinguish fact from opinion.
- Ensure that you are giving the right information to the right person.
- Ensure you are sharing the information securely.
- Inform the person that the information has been shared, if they were not aware of this, and that it would not create or increase risk of harm.



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The 7 golden rules to sharing information.

1. Remember that the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Data Protection Act 2018 and human rights law are not barriers to justified information sharing, but provide a framework to ensure that personal information about living individuals is shared appropriately.
2. Be open and honest with the individual (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.
3. Seek advice from other practitioners, or your information governance lead, if you are in any doubt about sharing the information concerned, without disclosing the identity of the individual where possible.
4. Where possible, share information with consent, and where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to having their information shared. Under the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 you may share information without consent if, in your judgement, there is a lawful basis to do so, such as where safety may be at risk. You will need to base your judgement on the facts of the case. When you are sharing or requesting personal information from someone, be clear of the basis upon which you are doing so. Where you do not have consent, be mindful that an individual might not expect information to be shared.
5. Consider safety and well-being: base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the individual and others who may be affected by their actions.
6. Necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure: ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those individuals who need to have it, is accurate and up to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely.
7. Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.

The Isle of Man Information Sharing Guidance 2022.

Sets out:

- Why information sharing is important.
- Principles of information sharing.
- The Legislative framework for information sharing.
- Our duty to be alert to abuse or neglect of children and vulnerable adults.
- Consent and capacity to consent.
- Case scenarios (examples of where children, young people and vulnerable adults have needed support and or protection)
- Signposts where to go for help if you are unclear or confused.



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The Information Sharing Protocol 2022.

The Protocol shows the agencies that have signed up to the agreed commitments underpinning effective information sharing on the Isle of Man and sets out the framework to:

- Ensure there is a consistent and effective response to safeguarding concerns and allegations or disclosures of abuse or neglect.
- Ensure agencies work efficiently together to conduct safeguarding enquiries.
- Support the improvement of practice through learning, such as Serious Case Management Reviews.



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Aims of the protocol.



Ensure a mutually agreed collaborative approach to information sharing.

Evidence the commitment that each agency has signed up.

Provide a basis for professional challenge and holding to account where barriers to effective information sharing appear to be present.



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Agencies that have signed up to the protocol.

Agency	Senior Leader Signatory CEO
The Police	The Chief Constable, Gary Roberts
Department of Education, Sports and Culture	CEO, Graham Kinrade
Department of Home Affairs	CEO, Dan Davies
Department of Health and Social Care	CEO, Karen Malone
Manx Care	CEO, Teresa Cope

Where you can find these resources.

- [Information Sharing \(safeguardingboard.im\)](https://safeguardingboard.im)
 - Myth Busting Guide
 - Information Sharing Guidance
 - Signed Information Guidance Protocol
 - Information Sharing Video Guide (6 mins).

Thank you for
listening.
Any questions?



Refreshment Break

(20 minutes)

Lunch

(1 hour)

Reflections and Questions

The Young Person's Experience

Emma's Story - Know the Signs
- A Victim's perspective

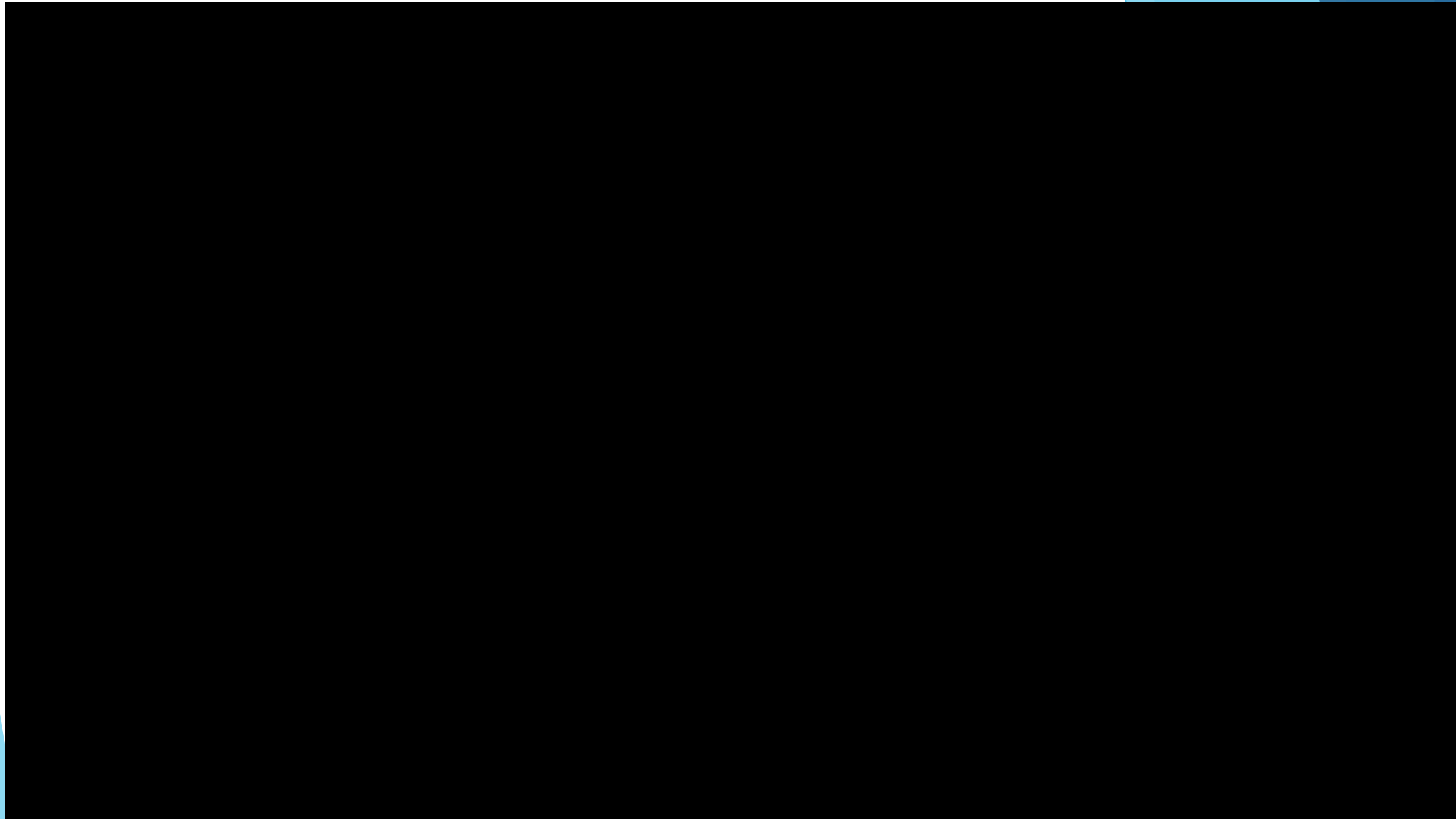


Table top discussion

- ▶ Did you learn anything from the video that you hadn't known before?
- ▶ How do Emma's issues relate to experiences in your work setting?
- ▶ In thinking about the video content, what might you do differently?

Running the Lines - Jamie's Story



Child Criminal Exploitation - Jamie's Story

Table top discussion.

- ▶ Did you learn anything from the video that you hadn't known before?
- ▶ How do the issues in the video relate to your work setting?
- ▶ In thinking about the video content, what might you do differently?

Refreshment Break

(20 minutes)

Transitional Safeguarding

Transitional Safeguarding

- Safeguarding during Adolescence the relationship between Contextual Safeguarding, Complex Safeguarding and Transitional Safeguarding
- Improve our safeguarding response to older teenagers that recognises their development needs
- Risks of contextual safeguarding do not end at 18 years
- Emotional, psychological and cognitive development continues beyond 18yrs and maturity is fluid with age
- Person centred approach – individual needs led approach

Transitions - A time of Vulnerability

- Change can be difficult to negotiate
- Change of school, moving house, relationships, jobs
- Impact of early family life and adverse childhood experience(ACEs) and trauma
- Isolation and lack of family contact can increase vulnerability
- Unsupported young people can be at greater risk of contextual safeguarding, exploitation, cuckooing, substance misuse and mental health problems
- At 18 years young people can “fall through the gap” when Children’s Services involvement ends
- Young people “fitting into” services working in silos

Children and Adults Services

- More joint working and joined up thinking across Children's Social Care and Adult Services and with partners. Challenging ourselves and flexing systems
- Challenging cultures and traditional ways of working – thresholds and eligibility criteria more flexible
- Thinking about Transitions support for young people earlier in their adolescence and preparing young people with life skills for independence
- Needs to be part of their Person Centred Care Plan or Pathway Plan, thinking beyond 18 years and what support they will need
- Identifying sources of support and connections in the wider family and community

Some Risk Indicators

- At risk of homelessness or loss of placement
- Vulnerable to harm to self or others (including self neglect and hoarding)
- Lack of independent living skills
- Has poor engagement with support and advice/ socially isolated
- Chaotic behaviours/ complex mental health/substance misuse
- Underlying Disability
- At risk of contextual safeguarding and exploitation (criminal/sexual/modern day slavery)

Some Mitigation Factors

- Best solutions come from professionals working together
- Relationship based approach and Person Centred
- Mix of skills and expertise across professional boundaries
- Changing culture and services having to be flexible around eligibility
- Housing options and suitable supported accommodation for this age group
- Preparing young people better for adulthood and independent living skills earlier, financial literacy and practical skills, role of schools, family and support workers.
- Where there's an underlying Disability – earlier joint transitional / cross team working.

Benefits of this approach

- For the Young Person:
- Reducing their risk of contextual safeguarding/homelessness
- Improving their stability, quality of life and well being
- Promoting their engagement with a wider range of support services in the community
- Provide a safety net for crisis
- Improve access to the right support
- Promoting their independence and decision making

Benefits of this approach

- For the Children's Social Worker:
- Access to professional support and advice from adult focus services they may not normally engage with
- Shared sense of responsibility and better risk management
- Forming links across with other services for a more joined up approach to assessment and planning forward
- Increasing knowledge and skills in relation to transitional safeguarding for young people

Benefits of this approach

- For the wider safeguarding system:
- Reducing risk of vulnerable adolescents from contextual safeguarding and poor mental health leading to poor outcomes for young adults
- Services become more joined up with a person centred approach and more flexible thresholds for services
- Better understanding of roles and responsibilities across adults and children's services
- Reduce long term demand and higher costs because young people are better prepared and supported into adulthood.

Useful References

- Research in Practice Briefing 2019 Safeguarding During Adolescence the relationship between Contextual Safeguarding, Complex Safeguarding and Transitional Safeguarding
- https://adcs.org.uk/assets/documentation/AC19_TSafeguarding.pdf Adolescence to Adulthood, Transitional Safeguarding, ADCS Briefing Dez Holmes and Dr Adi Cooper
- <https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/post-16-and-preparing-for-adulthood/>

Diversion and Exit Strategies



Terri Banks –Head of Safeguarding Children and Adults, Manx
Care Health Services.

- Multi-Agency strategies should be developed and implemented with the young person and their family/social worker/LAC worker.
- This approach will address the young persons needs and help them move on from the situation.



- Research indicates key areas of service which can assist with effective diversion from exploitation:
- Help with drug use:
- Education and employment opportunities:
- Emotional support
- LAC status, family placement, independence.

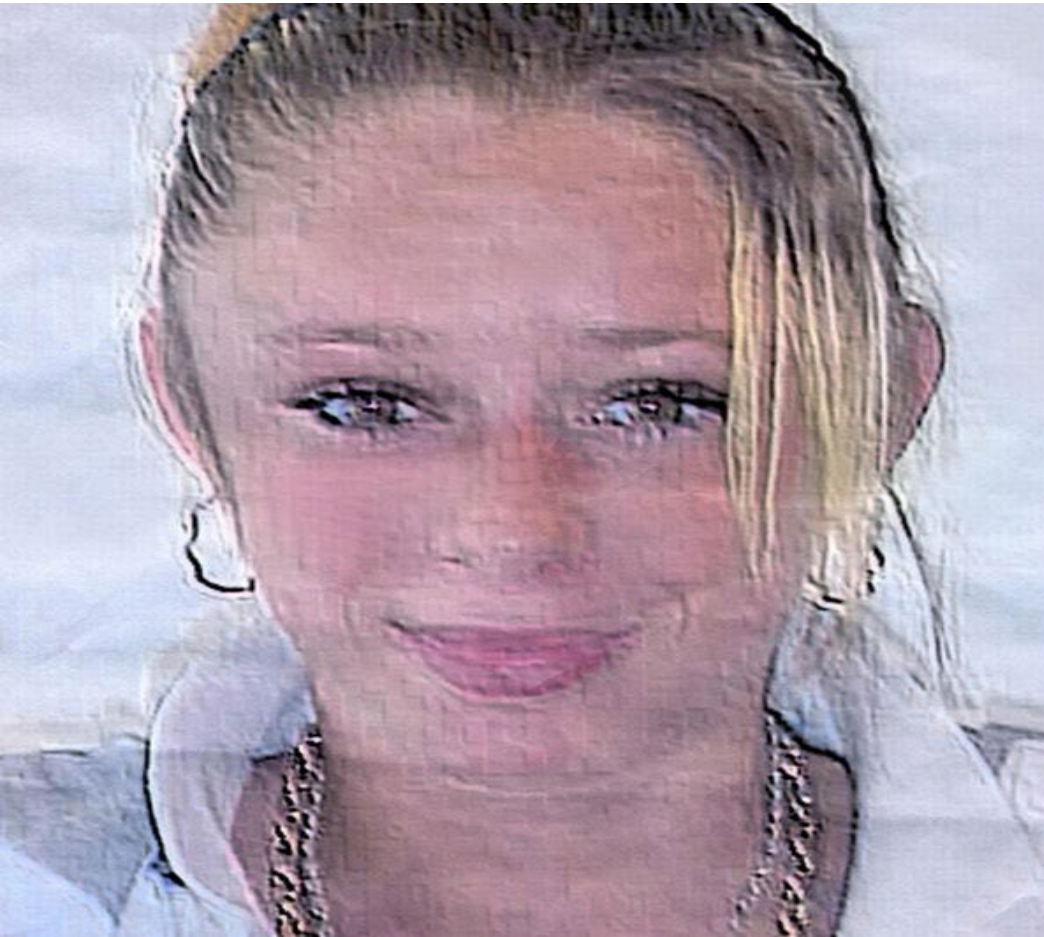
- An exit strategy should be developed with the young person and family, addressing the individual needs of the young person and to include:
 - Mentoring to assist return to education or employment;
 - Securing appropriate health services;
 - Pursuing leisure activities;
 - Developing a positive network of friends and relatives

- Strategies need to be based on a robust assessment which should include the following:
- How the young person became involved.
- Motivational factors to remain involved; financial, housing, drug use etc;
- The young persons perception and intention;
- The young persons self-identity and self-esteem;
- The young persons coping strategies and sources of support;
- Immediate health and welfare needs and potential risks;
- Plans for relapse prevention.

Paige Emily Chivers

- Recently lost her Mother (involved with Bereavement Counsellor)
- Smoking cannabis and drinking (involved with Drug and Alcohol Team)
- Expelled at 13 from school (involved with Pupil welfare)
- Self harming (involved with CAMHS)
- Physical abuse from Father (Involved with SW)
- MFH aged 15

WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED?



MISSING

Can you help?



Paige Emily Chivers

Age:
17

Missing since:
23rd August 2007

Last seen location:
Blackpool, Lancashire

There is a £12,000 reward for information. Paige is described as 5'5 tall, slim build, with shoulder length dyed blonde hair and brown eyes. She also has a distinctive 'Playboy bunny' tattoo on the back of her neck with the word 'Playgirl' written underneath. Any information please contact NPIA Missing Persons Bureau or Lancashire Police.

If you have seen Paige please call
Freephone 0808 100 8777
or Alternatively contact
Lancashire Police Tel: 01772 614444



Michele Mountjoy - Assistant Director, Adult Social Work -
August 2022

Background: Questions for the Panel

- Do adolescents in need of state protection from criminal exploitation get the help they need, when they need it?
- How can the services designed to keep adolescents safe from criminal exploitation, and the way those services work together, be improved to prevent further harm?

Review based on 21 adolescents

Key learning points for local agencies:

- understanding the nature and scale of the problem and identifying children engaged with and at risk from criminal exploitation
- tailored support for front line staff
- service design and practice development
- quality assurance

National recommendations

- a review of Working Together 2018 to reflect the specific circumstances of this group of children who are at risk of criminal exploitation
- a review of the use of the National Referral Mechanism
- data collection to improve local and national understanding of prevalence, characteristics and service response.

Key findings 1

- **Ethnicity and gender appear to be factors**
In the cohort of 21 children, 15 were from a black or minority ethnic background and all of them were male. This is a serious concern.
- **Known risk factors around vulnerability don't always act as predictors**
All but 2 were living with parents or extended family. Most of the children (and their families) were not known to children's social care before the problems associated with their potential exploitation surfaced.



Key Findings 4:

- **More priority should be given to disrupting perpetrator activity**
The National Referral Mechanism (NRM)⁴ is not well understood and is inconsistently used.
Evidence from the cases reviewed suggested that an intensive risk management plan which includes control measures such as electronic tags, within the context of a good relationship with the child and with parental support, can be effective in reducing risk.

Key findings 2:

- **Exclusion from mainstream school is seen as a trigger point for risk of serious harm.**
Seventeen of the children who died or experienced serious harm had been permanently excluded from mainstream education.
- **Effective practice is not widely known about or used.**
Practitioners' lack of confidence. Different approaches but no evaluation about what helps
- **Trusted relationships with children are important.**
This takes time and skills

7 minutes briefing: It was hard to escape Safeguarding children at risk from criminal exploitation

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/870035/Safeguarding_children_at_risk_from_criminal_exploitation_review.pdf

Carla Thomas

Key Findings 3:

- **Responding to the 'critical moment'.**
 - the point at which they are excluded from school
 - when they are physically injured
 - when they are arrested
- **Parental engagement is nearly always a protective factor**
- **Moving children and families works for a short period but is not effective as a long-term strategy**

Plenary and Questions



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Chair's closing summary

Lesley Walker
Independent Chair



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Thank you



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