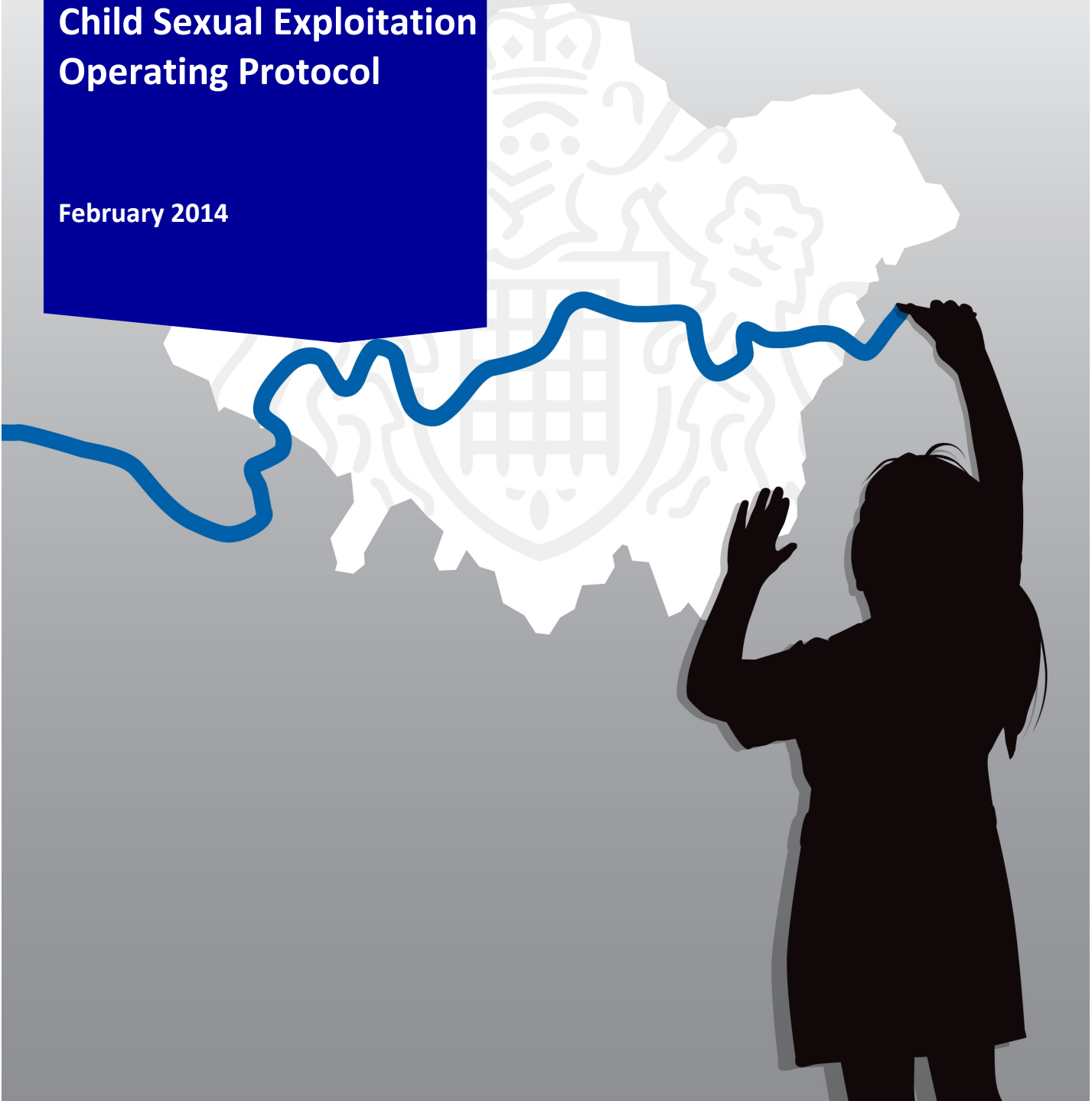


# Pan-London Child Sexual Exploitation Operating Protocol

February 2014



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## **1. Introduction**

This document sets out the procedures for Safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children from Child Sexual Exploitation. It sets out how through our partnerships we assess, challenge and provide an enhanced, effective service to reduce the harm and threats posed to children and young people from Child Sexual Exploitation.

### **Aims**

- To identify those children at risk of being sexually exploited.
- To work collaboratively to ensure the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people who are being, or are at risk of being, sexually exploited.
- To provide timely and effective interventions with children and families to safeguard those vulnerable to sexual exploitation.
- To apply pro-active problem solving to address the risks associated with victims, perpetrators and locations and ensure the safeguarding and welfare of children and young people who are or may be at risk from sexual exploitation.
- To take action against those intent on abusing and exploiting children and young people by prosecuting and disrupting perpetrators.
- To raise awareness and provide preventative education for the welfare of children and young people who are, or may be, sexually exploited.

### **What is child sexual exploitation?**

Sexual exploitation is child abuse, and children and young people who become involved face huge risks to their physical, emotional and psychological health and well-being.

### **How do children and young people become involved?**

The reasons can be due to numerous factors. Often vulnerable children and young people are targeted by perpetrators; however, this is not exclusive to those who are vulnerable. Perpetrators frequently target children and young people at venues such as; hostels, food outlets, taxi ranks and outside schools. Young people who run away from home are recognised as being more at risk. However, statistics show that the majority of CSE victims in London are actually living with their families.

Some children or young people do not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and do not see themselves as victims of exploitation, as they consider they have acted voluntarily. The reality is their behaviour is not voluntary or consenting. It is important to remember that a child cannot consent to his or her own abuse.

There is a link between trafficked children and CSE. Children are known to be trafficked for sexual exploitation and this can occur anywhere within the UK, across local authority boundaries and across international borders.

## **On-Line CSE**

The internet and other forms of communication technology are now firmly embedded within the daily lives of UK children. Often children have developed integration with online activity in their entertainment, education and social lives that is significantly different from and often beyond the comprehension of, older generations. Many children see their online life as inextricably linked to their offline life.

The objectives of those perpetrating online CSE (OCSE) have also evolved in recent years and such conduct can lead to a range of offending outcomes. Most of these take place online, such as deceiving children into producing indecent images of themselves or engaging in sexual chat or sexual activity over webcam. OCSE can also lead to offline offending such as meetings between an offender and a child for sexual purposes following online engagement.

The practice of self generation of indecent imagery raises the issue of criminal offending by children, guidelines to police clearly prioritise the health and well being of the child over any type of legal sanction against them. Where prosecutions do become an option is where these images have not been generated freely or their subsequent circulation becomes a tool to exploit the child in question. This can lead to a range of further offences.

## **2. Definitions**

### Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

This guidance uses the nationally agreed ACPO definition of CSE:

- Sexual exploitation of children and young people **under 18** involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where the young person (or third person/s) receive 'something' (eg, food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.
- Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.

Violence, coercion and intimidation are common. Involvement in exploitative relationships is characterised by the child's or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social, economic or emotional vulnerability.

A common feature of CSE is that the child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation (Association of Chief Police Officers CSE Report - 2013).

**A list of the legislation commonly used in prosecutions connected with Child Sexual Exploitation is shown at [Appendix I](#).**

## Gangs

A relatively durable, predominantly street-based, social group of children, young people and, not infrequently adults who see themselves and are seen by others, as affiliates of a discrete, named group who (Children's Commissioners Report - 2012):

- engage in a range of criminal activity and violence
- identify or lay claim to territory
- have some form of identifying structural feature
- are in conflict with similar groups.

## Gang Associate

A Gang Associate is any individual that has one or more of the following features:

- Offends with or for gang members, either willingly or through coercion or exploitation but does not identify themselves as a gang member and there is no other corroborative information that they are a gang member
- Is shown to associate with gang members by Police, Partner agencies, community intelligence or has displayed through conduct or behaviour, a specific desire or intent to become a member of a gang.

## Groups

Child sexual exploitation by a group involves people who come together in person or online for the purpose of setting up, co-coordinating and/or taking part in the sexual exploitation of children in either an organized or opportunistic way (Children's Commissioners Report - 2012).

## **3. Principles**

The principles underpinning a multi-agency response to the sexual exploitation of children and young people include:

- Sexually exploited children should be treated as victims of abuse, not as offenders. Authorities have previously referred to child victims as 'promiscuous' or 'prostitutes'.
- Sexual exploitation includes sexual, physical and emotional abuse and in some cases, neglect.
- Children do not make informed choices to enter or remain in sexual exploitation, but do so from coercion, enticement, manipulation or desperation.
- Young people who are, or at risk of being sexually exploited will have varying levels of needs. They may have multiple vulnerabilities and therefore an appropriate multi-agency response and good coordination is essential.
- Law enforcement must direct resources against the coercers and sex abusers, who are often adults, but could also be the child's peers. However, it's recognising that these peers may also be victims themselves.
- Sexually exploited children are children in need of services under the Children Act 1989 and 2004. They are also children in need of immediate protection.

- A Multi-agency network or planning meeting/discussion should take place for all children considered at risk of sexual exploitation. Child Protection Procedures should always be followed as appropriate in relation to the risk assessment.

#### **4. Governance**

The MPS Sexual Offences, Exploitation and Child Abuse Investigation Command (SC&O2/5) will have overall responsibility, within the police service, for all Child Sexual Exploitation Investigations. All initial category 1 suspicions/allegations will be managed by BOCU's or Children's Services. The MPS Sexual Exploitation Team will monitor these suspicions/notifications to support B/OCU's and Children's Services to ensure timely interventions are made where appropriate. All category 2 and 3 allegations will be allocated to The Sexual Exploitation Team who will decide upon the appropriate pathway to the police response.

The MPS will also adopt the ACPO Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan to ensure we provide a consistent approach nationally when dealing with child sexual exploitation. This includes on-line child sexual exploitation.

##### Police Governance

- Each Borough Operational Command Unit (BOCU) and the following Operational Command Unit's (OCU's) (SC&O2, SC&O5, SC&O8, SC&O9) will appoint Senior Leadership Team (SLT) SPOC's for CSE to establish an accountability structure within their own B/OCU.
- Each B/OCU will identify an individual of DI/Inspector rank or above to lead the operational delivery of this model.
- Each B/OCU SLT and Children's Services SPOC's will be responsible for ensuring the appropriate interventions and disruptions are delivered in their respective boroughs.

##### Children's, Health and Education Services Governance

Governance from these statutory agencies is highlighted within the London Child Protection Procedures on child sexual exploitation [http://www.londoncp.co.uk/pdfs/lcp\\_v4.pdf](http://www.londoncp.co.uk/pdfs/lcp_v4.pdf) Further governance will be provided by the London Safeguarding Children's Board.

#### **5. Role of Multi-Agency Partners in Identifying and Challenging CSE**

Multi-Agency Partners come together from the statutory, voluntary, community and faith sectors. They should follow recognised principles to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and young people.

Identifying the early **warning signs** associated with CSE is vital in reinforcing these principles. To assist all front-line practitioners in identifying and remembering the signs, the mnemonic **S.A.F.E.G.U.A.R.D.** has been created and is shown at [Appendix A](#).

To assist further in identifying the early warning signs it is recommended that daily contact is maintained between:

- Police Sexual Exploitation Team Regional CSE Co-ordinator
- BOCU Missing Persons Unit
- Local Authority Child Sexual Exploitation Co-ordinator
- Local Care Home Managers
- Specialist Provider for CSE within your area

In 2012, nearly a quarter of the 40,000 people reported missing to the police service in London were from local authority care homes. By maintaining daily contact, the early signs of CSE will be identified and investigated in a timely manner. Appropriate support for the child and interventions will also be put in place. **The categories and indicators for CSE are shown in [\(Appendix B\)](#).**

Multi-Agency Partners will also conduct scheduled meetings/discussions to share all relevant intelligence and information in all cases where CSE is suspected. This is to ensure co-ordinated and effective interventions are instigated, reduce harm to victims and provide a greater ability to disrupt and prosecute perpetrators. These meetings/discussions will also prioritise the **groups identified as being at an increased risk** of CSE [\(Appendix C\)](#) and respond accordingly.

The multi-agency meetings/discussions will call upon the diverse skills and experience available from its members to manage the threat posed by CSE. Members should challenge partners, when appropriate, to ensure that each organisation plays its part collectively and effectively to ensure the best outcomes for the child or young person.

## **Meetings Structure**

The type and format of meetings are described below. These enable all agencies to keep a clear overview of child sexual exploitation issues within their area as per 'Working Together' and other statutory guidance. It is also recommended that each Local Authority considers nominating or employing a dedicated CSE Co-ordinator to have daily contact with the police service so that can work together to identify and address the early signs of CSE.

### **Multi-Agency Meetings**

#### **Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Meeting (MASE)**

**Lead Agency - Police** It is recommended these meetings should be convened on a monthly basis. The Chair of the MASE meeting can be from any agency but they must be sufficiently experienced to ensure the meeting remains focused and at the appropriate level to hold agencies to account for activity.

A MASE meeting is not designed to replace the guidance provided in the London LSCB procedures or any other referral and assessment process currently in place.

A MASE meeting may be used solely as a strategic meeting to share information and intelligence or additionally to discuss operational issues on individual CSE referrals.

Depending on the processes that may exist locally, the MASE meeting can be used to assess new cases in relation to identifying the category they fall into and deciding how the case will be managed. This may be particularly relevant to lower level cases that may not have reached the threshold for other interventions (e.g. MAP process) but may require further discussion.

A MASE meeting gives an opportunity for the identified **CSE leads** for each agency to come together and;

- Review progress of cases and ensure action is being taken by whichever agency is involved in individual cases.
- Identify any trends or problem locations and ensure they are dealt with.
- Look at cross border issues and ensure there is a co-ordinated approach with other boroughs.
- Ensure looked after children placed away from the borough and at risk of CSE are being protected by the agencies where they are located.

The MASE meeting draws on the findings of recent SCR's in relation to high profile CSE cases. In some cases these indicated little or no awareness of the issues or problems by the lead agencies and a lack of multi-agency working on an individual and strategic level.

The key purpose of the MASE meeting is to have a detailed overview of the profile of CSE in a locality. The borough problem profile should be commissioned by the MASE meeting once there is sufficient information available and the MASE meeting should then use the profile to enable local diversionary measures to be focused in the right areas and tasking opportunities for disruption. These profiles should also identify any CSE that relate to specific communities.

The MPS Sexual Exploitation Team & Met Intelligence Bureau will provide Pan London support, guidance and intelligence, including problem profiles and a force strategic assessment in appropriate cases.

Should a borough identify high risk cases involving multi victims/perpetrators the MASE group should be drawn together to identify how the case should be managed and be in a position to commit resources to a multi-agency team if one is required.

Named SPOC's from each agency are expected to attend these meetings, as well as any specialist providers. Mandatory Membership for the MASE meetings should include:

- Police - Borough SPOC for CSE
- Police - Sexual Exploitation Team regional CSE SPOC
- LSCB - Chairperson or their representative from the CSE sub-group
- Children Services CSE lead
- Health CSE lead
- Education CSE lead



- Youth Offending Team

Recommended membership should also include:

- Local Care Home Manager
- Any other agency, including voluntary, who are involved in working with children or young people who are, or may be at risk from child sexual exploitation. This should include representatives, either statutory or non statutory, working with gangs.

**A typical agenda for a MASE meeting will include;**

**New Cases** - summary of information, agencies involved, proposed or identified case management.

**Review Cases** - progress of case and any issues in relation to this i.e. agencies not participating in case management. Strategic issues in relation to resources etc.

**Children residing out of borough** - Information from liaison with local area, review of risks identified.

**Cross Border Issues** - identification of trends issues, review of contact/joined up working with neighbouring boroughs.

**Trends/Problem locations** - issues identified from problem profile, progress against issues identified. Identification of other agencies/departments that may need to be involved.

### **Multi-Agency Panels (MAP)**

These panels will be convened by the **Lead Agency, often Children's Services**, as specified by the London Child Protection Procedures. The panel will also include those professionals who are working with the individual victims to coordinate and deliver a child in need or child protection plan. The panel will manage identified cases of CSE and share all relevant information to achieve a positive outcome. Cross borough meetings for those children that are placed out of borough should also be established where required. The CSE lead in Children's Services should have an overview of these cases and feed trends into the Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation meeting. Some boroughs may consider merging this meeting into their MASE meetings but this will depend upon the circumstances in each case.

### **Local Safeguarding Children's Boards Meeting (LSCB) Lead Agency - Children's Services.**

The CSE lead (SPOC) for each agency will report to the Children's Services member on the LSCB or to the chair of the identified LSCB sub-group who oversee child sexual exploitation. The LSCB should directly, or through a sub-group, establish a local strategy which includes a prevention strategy, measures for identifying outcomes for CSE and an agreed approach to obtain a data set of CSE cases across Children's Services and other agencies.

### **Police Meetings**

**Daily Intelligence Meeting (DIM)** CSE should be a standing agenda item for these daily meetings. Any immediate concerns identified by the intelligence meeting must be addressed.

There should be a focus on those reported missing who may be displaying warning signs of being at risk. It is expected that all agencies conduct similar meetings and any new information/intelligence should be passed through the normal channels. Each LSCB should have an identified sub-group and named strategic lead responsible for co-ordinating responses to CSE and able to target preventative work through the Police, Children's Social Care, Non Government Organisations and others.

**Fortnightly Borough Tasking & Co-ordinating Group Meetings** CSE should be a standing agenda item at these Police meetings. Police should review borough activity against CSE activity and task resources accordingly, in order to gather evidence and disrupt perpetrators in identified hotspots.

**Monthly BOCU/OCU Crime-fighters Performance Meetings** CSE should be a standing agenda item at these Police meetings. CSE should include a performance framework once a baseline set of data has been established and agreed. These will show outcomes and be easily retrievable from existing databases to avoid unnecessary abstractions retrieving the information.

**Quarterly Meetings with The Crown Prosecution Service** Police should establish a workable CPS/MPS protocol for CSE and arrange regular quarterly meetings with the CPS to develop best practice.

**Daily Pace Setter Meetings** Police should respond to any immediate concerns identified by the intelligence meeting, ensure child abduction warnings are prioritised and direct patrols to any hotspot locations e.g. outside schools. The Sexual Exploitation Team must maintain a close working relationship with colleagues on BOCU's who manage missing children reports to ensure all available intelligence is obtained to provide effective early interventions.

## **6. Reporting Suspicions of CSE - Multi Agency Responsibilities**

Each organisation will nominate a representative to provide a conduit for information sharing through the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH). This will ensure the information is shared, handled and stored in accordance with the MASH terms of reference.

### **MASH and CSE**

The MASH will provide a key role in establishing those at risk of CSE by identifying the warning signs within referral notifications. These signals will trigger a risk assessment which will then be channeled through the agreed pathways to progress services such as investigations or interventions.

The information gathered from partners within MASH will be assessed by Children's Social care (CSC) and appropriate partner agencies, on a case by case basis. This will contribute towards the assessment and where CSE is identified as a risk within a MASH the relevant information will be passed to an operational team to progress any investigation or intervention.

The MASH product will provide an initial assessment to enable operational teams and professionals to progress the case assessment and plan to reduce the risk, support the welfare of the victim(s) and pursue any offenders.

The operational team dealing will use the information to provide an initial assessment of the level of risk to victims and potential victims of CSE. The information would also be used to further inform investigations and tactical options for existing agencies involved with the child. This assessment and subsequent assessments would also identify any welfare needs for the child.

Children and young people who go missing are acknowledged by the Children's Commissioner as being at a greater risk of CSE. [\(Appendix D\)](#) details the action required when a child who has been reported missing is found.

### **SCO5 Referral Desks**

When a Merlin report is received within in the MASH and the subject is found to have an allocated worker, if there is clear evidence within the report that the subject is at risk of sexual exploitation, then the MASH will create the non crime 587/00 CSE CRIS report. If the allocated worker assesses the information within the Merlin report combined with their own records and this indicates the subject is at risk, then the matter will be referred to SCO5 referral desk. The MERLIN must then be updated with the cross reference to the CRIS and kept until such time a strategy discussion has taken place with the allocated social worker.

An assessment and strategy discussion must take place with the allocated social worker and a decision made as to whether it's a Cat 1, 2 or 3. CRAM **does NOT** need to be completed in these cases.

If the notification is assessed at CAT 1 then the CRIS will be allocated to the appropriate operational team to progress via the BOCU or Children's Service SPOC's. If it is assessed as a CAT 2 or 3 then the CRIS will be forwarded to the Sexual Exploitation Team.

There is no expectation for SCO5 referral desks to keep any CRIS reports for CSE.

### **CSE - Multi-Agency Referral Pathway**

Recognising each Borough will have its own referral processes. [Appendix E](#) illustrates the **basic pathway for a non police CSE referral**. Each agency that has CSE concerns about a child in their care should ensure that as much detail as possible is gathered, including what warning signs are identified. The normal Social Care referral pathways should be followed. An assessment must be made by Social Care as to which category (London Procedures) the case falls into and identify the appropriate interventions required. Category 1 cases should go through the local Mash process. Category 2 and 3 cases will be referred to the Child Abuse Investigation Team via the normal referral process.

### **CSE - Front-line Officer Reporting Pathway**

All police officers have a duty to safeguard and protect children under S11 Children Act 2004. The MPS current procedures require all officers to complete a MERLIN PAC for a child that comes to notice when an officer believes that a child is not meeting one or more of the **five key outcomes** [\(Appendix F\)](#). This procedure applies to those occasions when a child is believed to be at risk of CSE. There is a specific category on the MERLIN PAC to highlight a CSE concern. The reporting officer will also complete a CRIS report **EVEN WHERE NO ACTUAL ALLEGATION OF CRIME IS MADE and NO OFFENCE HAS BEEN ALLEGED**. The MERLIN reference number must then be cross referenced onto the CRIS report.

When an officer identifies that a child (any person under the age of 18), is at risk of CSE the first consideration must be their protection and safety and if the officer believes that the child is in immediate risk of significant harm, then police protection must be considered and the appropriate procedures complied with. [Appendix G](#) illustrates the front-line officer's pathway to be followed.

Responsibility for CSE category 1 investigations and interventions will rest with borough police and partner agencies where the child resides. Where the exploitation is taking place away from where the child resides, the borough where the exploitation is taking place will conduct any necessary enquiries on behalf of the owning borough. This will include liaison with Children's Services local to where the risks are apparent. For children who are in the care of Social Services (looked after children) procedures set out in the London CP procedures for their response will be followed. The lead police responsibility will remain with the borough where the child resides.

The MPS Sexual Exploitation Team will provide support through guidance and monitoring of all Category 1 notifications to ensure the necessary enquiries are completed in a timely and effective manner. However, all professionals need to remain vigilant and curious as children and young people can be assessed as category 1 due to a lack of information or engagement at the time. Child sexual exploitation is a very dynamic process, young people can be drawn in and out of CSE and/or the speed in which young people can become involved can on occasions be very short.

### **CSE - Child Abuse Investigation Command (SC&O5) Decision-Making Pathway**

The Sexual Exploitation Team will deal with all Category 2 and 3 investigations. [Appendix H](#) illustrates the pathway to be followed by SC&O5 staff.

### **Recording all suspicions of Child Sexual Exploitation**

Relevant **flags** on Cris, Crimint and Merlin must be used to identify all referrals or intelligence for CSE. This will assist in creating problem profiles and the retrieval of statistical data. Partner agencies are also encouraged to explore effective recording processes to identify CSE trends. The rationale for believing any suspicion of CSE must be entered on the DETS page within the CRIS report. It is recommended the rationale will include any of the CSE warning signs identified.

#### **The MPS 'Branch Flags' are;**

**ES** - Must be entered onto the CRIS report to identify **any** investigation which involves a suspicion of Child Sexual Exploitation.

**GE** - Must be entered to identify criminal investigations where the offence appears to be the responsibility of an 'exploitive group', e.g. the Rochdale scenario.

**GA** - Must be entered to identify criminal investigations where the offence appears to be the responsibility of an 'exploitive gang'.

**LA** - Must be entered onto the CRIS report to identify a Category 1 Sexual Exploitation Enquiry.

**LB** - Must be entered onto the CRIS report to identify a Category 2 Sexual Exploitation Enquiry.

**LC** - Must be entered onto the CRIS report to identify a Category 3 Sexual Exploitation Enquiry.

**A NON-Crime code of 587/00** has been introduced to create a CRIS report where concerns are raised about a child or children who may be subject to sexual exploitation **EVEN WHERE NO ACTUAL ALLEGATION OF CRIME IS MADE and NO OFFENCE HAS BEEN ALLEGED**. This code will be used to record enquiries/investigations and also to record multi agency activity/partnership working and outcomes in such circumstances. The flag **ES** must also be entered onto the CRIS report. However, these reports relate to individual victims and not the number of times they have come to notice. This will reduce the time spent by officers completing repeat Non-Crime 587 reports and will ensure they remain victim focused and not incident focused.

### **Outcome Codes to be entered at the conclusion of the investigation**

**MI** - Must be entered onto the **Victims Code of Practice page** of the CRIS report when a positive **Intervention** for the victim is achieved.

**FP** - Must be entered on the **Suspects page** of the CRIS report when any order is served on the suspect. This includes Section 2 Abduction Notice Orders, Risk of Sexual Harm Orders (ROSHO), Notification Orders, Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBO) and the new Sexual Risk Order which will become legislation in 2014.

**FO** - Must be entered onto the **Suspects page** in the same manner when a Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO's) is served. This is because SOPO's already have a recording mechanism on the CRIS system.

**FQ** - Must be entered onto the **Suspects page** of the CRIS report when a positive **Disruption** to the suspect(s) has been achieved. This will include positive disruptions where a suspect has been charged as a consequence of a sexual exploitation investigation. This is regardless of whether the charge is related to a sexual exploitation offence or not. EG: Suspect charged with drug offences.

**FP, FO and FQ** flags are generated by going to the Suspect Elimination screen - On to Circulation - Click on Circulations title then "look up" - Select Finger and Palm Print Results + SOPO then scroll down, **FP, FO and FQ** flags can be found here.

## **7. Support for Victims & Families**

Child sexual exploitation has a devastating impact, not only on the child victim but on the whole family. Parents and carers will want the perpetrators arrested and prosecuted and can be valuable partners in supporting an investigation by providing intelligence, corroboration and other evidence. Practice has shown that providing effective engagement and support to both the victim and their family can significantly improve criminal justice outcomes.

The actions of alleged offenders or their associates in attempting to intimidate the child can be devastating for a victim. There may be direct action against the victim and family, or subtle threatening messages via social media, or to siblings and friends. Dealing promptly and robustly with any intimidation will help. It may be beneficial for any investigation of intimidation to be managed by officers not involved in the original investigation.

Supporting victims and their families must be based upon a multi-disciplinary assessment of their circumstances. However, evidence has shown how important families are in helping young people in their recovery. Families also need help to deal with the impact of CSE and LSCB's must ensure there is access to appropriate support both on a local basis and through national organisations.

In its work with victims, Barnardo's has adopted a model based on: Access, Attention, Assertive Outreach and Advocacy. Young people need to know and experience the persistence of someone who is genuinely concerned for them. To do so requires a flexible response that can meet with young people and their families on their terms. It requires someone who is committed, comfortable and safe and someone who can get or provide the right help at the right time. To do all this relies on a worker who has strong links with local networks of support and who is well supported and supervised by their own organisation.

Other agencies can help support the victim and their family, for example, Victim Support and the Witness Service. Pace (Parents against child sexual exploitation) is a national charity which has experience of supporting families through complex cases and can provide specialist support to parents and carers.

Official advice and guidance, overseen by the LSCB's, should be delivered in schools and other settings such as Youth clubs or Sexual health clinics. In all cases, it will be important to give young people clear choices about their options for support and wherever possible, formally establish the consent and engagement of the young person.

### **Monitoring concerns of CSE**

Where a risk of CSE has been identified or suspected, the following may assist the parent / carer in pro-actively collating intelligence, information and evidence to prosecute or disrupt perpetrators:

- Ensure mobile phones are subject to a contract and not "Pay as You Go". Obtain itemised statements
- Ensure Oyster-card numbers are registered. Check movements via TfL website
- Log registration numbers of vehicles used to collect children or young person
- Obtain details of names and phone numbers of suspected abusers from mobile phones and SIM cards
- Note whether unaccounted goods enter the home.
- Check bins for receipts of goods which may identify bank / card details of perpetrator
- Maintaining details of social sites used
- Keeping a record of friends / people visiting the home

### **Forensics - Victim Strategy**

In all cases of suspected CSE, (even where there is no disclosure) Rape SOP procedures for recovering evidence should be considered. This is particularly relevant when completing

a missing person de-brief. Consideration needs to be given to the use of Early Evidence Kits, preservation of crime scenes (including the child) seizure of clothing particularly underwear, phones and electronic devices that may hold potential intelligence and evidence to identify adult abusers. Ideally, this should be completed with the consent of the victim or other person responsible for the property in writing i.e. parents if they own the phone etc. However, if a child / young person refuses to give consent or does not wish to engage or cooperate with an investigation, the rationale of any intrusive measures taken to safeguard and minimise the risk of CSE should be documented.

### **Criminal Justice Support for Victims**

Sound preparation and effective witness care can increase the likelihood of an effective trial. Care should be taken in managing the support to a victim and their family before and during the court process.

A victim care strategy should be driven by the victim's needs and include details such as:

- Keeping them updated with trial dates
- Sending reminders
- Ensuring they are ready for court
- Transporting to and from court
- Debriefing them at the end of each day
- Reassuring them of their safety

It is a fundamental aspect of the Crown Prosecution Service policy and the multi-agency practice guidance on pre-trial therapy that the best interests of the child are paramount when deciding whether, when and in what form, therapeutic help is given. Further details can be found in the multi-agency practice guidance entitled 'Provision of Therapy for Child Witnesses Prior to a Criminal Trial'. Other areas of support include:

Use of ancillary orders for disruption

- Bail management of suspected perpetrators
- Use of special measures to support victim/witnesses
- Use of intermediaries
- Encouraging and assisting in pre-trial familiarisation visits
- Victim and Witnesses get provided with Child Witness packs which are age appropriate.
- Pre-viewing of ABE
- Transport to and from court is offered
- Re-housing is arranged through the local authority in extreme cases IE: where there is further risk of CSE or threat to life.
- Facilitation of 1-2-1 with the trial Barrister
- Arrangements for attendance at sentencing as part of the closure process
- Assistance with the CICA (after trial)

**A list of the legislation commonly used in prosecutions connected with Child Sexual Exploitation is shown at [Appendix I](#).**

## **8. Prevention Strategies**

### **Identifying and managing geographic hotspots and venues**

General awareness of CSE amongst key groups of professionals and community organisations is a critical protective factor for children and families. Mapping of potential access points to vulnerable children and young people will assist in targeting those areas where perpetrators prey on children. Police should lead on this but information and intelligence from all agencies will be used to map the 'hotspots'. These areas may include; Hostels, Care Homes, Youth Clubs, Schools, Taxi Ranks, Local Food Outlets etc.

### **Reducing vulnerabilities through support and education**

Raising awareness includes sending out regular material to all places where children and young people gather e.g. Youth clubs. This should be general material telling 'stories' to engage children and young people in discussions, with a focus on safety and safe relationships and should also contain material aimed at professionals to recognise the signs of CSE and how children and young people can access advice and services. Umbrella services such as Childline, CEOP or other signposting sites should be included with all material.

Training/Awareness packages should be identified for schools/other settings that deal with large numbers of children or those agencies that offer targeted services to vulnerable children and young people such as Pupil Referral Units or Residential Children's homes. Ideally, this training should be delivered under the auspices of the Safeguarding Boards supported by officers such as Schools officers and specialist professionals to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation.

Local faith groups should be encouraged to join awareness raising or training and messages given to congregations.

Workshops aimed at parents and professionals within Children's Centres, schools and similar settings are an effective method of raising awareness.

Prevention requires a coordinated systematic approach across a LSCB area and prevention is critical to the identification and protection of children and young people from CSE as well as raising awareness amongst agencies and communities about child sexual exploitation and its indicators. Patterns and prevalence should be understood about how child sexual exploitation can operate in an area and strategies adjusted in accordance with this knowledge. Prevention work related to CSE should be part of community engagement and safety planning. There are clear overlaps with work already being done with other vulnerable individuals such as teenage pregnancy, gangs, youth justice and Drug/Alcohol groups.

### **Secondary Prevention**

These preventions should be targeted at those who may be vulnerable to exploitation to ensure they are identified as early as possible, particularly with primary school age children, as they move to secondary school. Staff aware of any transitional difficulties should alert the Designated Teacher for Safeguarding at the earliest opportunity. These could include; signs of poor attendance or bullying via sexting, BBM messaging, distribution of indecent images or allegations of a sexual assault.



These preventions should also be targeted at professionals such as residential care home staff/foster carers. All staff in direct contact with children should receive awareness training on CSE annually, preferably in a multi-agency setting to enable new staff to be kept up to date with the latest information on the subject.

Educational Welfare Officers, Attendance Welfare Officers, Head Teachers and Health Professionals connected to LAC or Schools hold a significant amount of information on children within their respective areas. They must be made aware of any significant low attendance, truanting, sudden changes in performance/behaviour/well-being as these could be possible indicators of child sexual exploitation. If these circumstances they must act promptly by alerting Child Protection leads, children's services and/or police.

Children or young people identified as 'at risk' via a common assessment framework (CAF) or Common Shared Assessment (CASA) may also be 'at risk' of CSE. In these circumstances, the CAF or CASA must be reviewed to establish whether the child or young person is also 'at risk' of CSE.

## **9. Intervention Strategies**

The following is a list of Intervention Strategies for information purposes only. This should not be viewed as an exhaustive list:

- Obtain as much information as possible to identify associates and those who pose a risk to children and young people. Good information includes full names, nick names, telephone numbers, addresses and car registrations etc.
- Keep accurate records and retain the information on children's personal files; it is important to date and time the information and note who is involved in incidents and any interventions.
- Consider removing mobile phones at night for the purpose of charging the batteries and monitor internet, call and text use.
- Secure mobile phones and Sim cards, particularly if supplied by abusers and pass to the Police.
- Promote positive relationships with family, friends and carers.
- Build the young person's self-esteem.
- Raise the young person's awareness of CSE and the dangers of risk taking behaviours.
- Consider health needs of young person.
- Involve the young person in diversionary activities.
- Improve the home environment for the child.
- Consider the child's educational needs and circumstances.
- Plan on positive change for the future and set small targets to achieve monthly.

- Activity weekends or team building exercises through multi agency provision.
- Arrange work experience opportunities or vocational training.

## **10. Disruption Strategies**

The following is a list of Disruption Strategies for information purposes. However, this should not be viewed as an exhaustive list:

- Consideration should always be given to using Child Abduction Warning notices under Sec 2 of the Child Abduction Act 1984 and Sec 49 of the Children's Act 1989.
- Any 'hotspot' locations identified through debriefing missing children, patrolling officers or other intelligence sources must be policed accordingly. These locations may include night time economy venues, hostels, food outlets, taxi ranks, outside schools, addresses frequented by missing children or other venue's where perpetrators may prey on victims. Appropriate information must be provided to patrolling officers, especially Safer Neighbourhood Teams to enable disruption and intelligence gathering to take place.
- Consideration should also be given to placing a **Locate Trace Marker on the PNCID** for all children and young people identified at risk of CSE. Therefore, if stopped, sighted or dealt with in any circumstances or at any unsociable hour, the officer is immediately alerted that the child or young person may be at risk of CSE and can take the appropriate action to safeguard the child. The officer should update the working CRIS report with details of this stop. ([Appendix J](#)).
- Use of licensing laws/powers including licensing of private hire vehicles.
- Court orders should be considered to manage identified perpetrators, these include, Sex Offence Prevention Order (SOPO), Risk of Sexual Harm Order (ROSHO) or Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBO).
- ANPR - any vehicles linked to CSE through evidence or intelligence should be linked to the ANPR system
- Special schemes - should be included on the CAD system for victims and perpetrators addresses (e.g. addresses where mispers are frequently found etc)
- Targeting of identified perpetrators to put the fear of crime back onto the offender
- School networks - sharing of information/intelligence regarding perpetrators and suspected perpetrators with teachers/pupils
- Non Government Organisations - sharing information/intelligence regarding perpetrators with NGO's e.g. NSPCC, Barnardo's, Women and Girls Network and Safer London Foundation.
- Information to local Hotel/B&B's etc - consideration should be given to providing local Hotels/B&B's with photos of children who frequently go missing believed to be at risk of CSE and identified perpetrators.

## **11. Outcomes Framework for Child Sexual Exploitation**

The outcomes framework consists of two areas:

- Long-term outcomes for children and young people
- Criminal Justice outcomes

### **Long-Term outcomes for children and young people**

The following is a list taken from Barnardo's outcome framework. Barnardo's direct work with sexually exploited children demonstrates that focussing on the following factors contributes most effectively to their safety and recovery in the long-term. However, this list should not be viewed as an exhaustive list:

- Reducing episodes of going missing
- Improving school attendance
- Reducing alcohol and drug consumption
- Enhancing relationships with parent/carer
- Providing stable and secure accommodation
- Assisting the child to recognize abusive / exploitative behaviour
- Encouraging the child to remain in regular contact with the service
- Improving knowledge of sexual health strategies
- Reducing association with risky peers/adults
- Improving ability to express feelings
- Improving knowledge of safety strategies
- Providing the family with access to support services
- Ensuring child becomes aware of own rights and those of others

Each outcome has a set of specific guidance to help practitioners measure distance travelled by individual children. Interventions are normally between six months and a year with weekly sessions.

The impact of the services provided should be evaluated at regular intervals. This evaluation will assist in providing an accurate assessment as to whether the action plan has been successful or not.

### **Criminal Justice Outcomes**

These criminal justice outcomes aim to support victims and bring individuals and organised criminal networks involved in CSE to justice. They measure how these offenders are dealt with by the police and CPS. Data of these outcomes should be routinely gathered and monitored including, and specifically the attrition rates for cases referred to the CPS to ensure learning captured.

These measures ensure positive interventions for victims and where suspects are identified, they are prosecuted or appropriate disruptions are put in place. These measures are key in establishing an accurate picture for tackling CSE across London. They will be included on police performance frameworks across both territorial policing and specialist crime areas of the MPS in order to focus police priorities on these often unseen and hard to reach-out to victims.

- Interventions delivered to safeguard vulnerable children
- Arrest of individuals involved in CSE
- Charging of offenders for CSE related offences
- Convictions of offenders for CSE related offences
- Identification and disruption of individuals and organised criminal networks (OCN) engaged in CSE

## **12. Communication**

### **Aims**

- Provide a national narrative and key messages around CSE for proactive and reactive communication through the media.
- Provide guidance on identifying opportunities to communicate CSE key messages.

### **Objectives:**

- Raise public awareness and understanding of CSE and the warning signs with the aim of increasing reporting.
- Raise awareness and understanding of CSE and the warning signs within the police service and with partner agencies to ensure a proactive approach to identification and investigation.
- Aid accurate, informed and balanced reporting of CSE and the police response.
- Promote best practice across London and nationally via each agency's respective media outlets.

### **Communications approach**

- Consider use of news pieces, opinion and comment pieces, features, documentaries, training videos, education resources, ACPO and force websites, blogs, Twitter, campaigns and awareness days.
- Build relationships with journalists with an interest in CSE. Hold background briefings with these journalists to aid accurate, informed and balanced reporting of CSE and the police and partners response. Each agency should nominate a CSE expert available to speak with media.
- Identify ways of communicating the CSE definition, warning signs and key messages to the public. This could be through:
- Responding to reactive media enquiries- as a result of operational activity, court cases, or speculative enquiries as a result of news reports, documentaries, specific interest of the reporter or comments made by a stakeholder, politician or campaigner.

- Proactive media engagement- responding to CSE reports or publications, during a court case of a CSE offender, during an arrest operation, when there has been a national or local success in tackling CSE or on the back of wider discussions on CSE in the media or a link to other events such as Universal Children’s Day or Safer Internet Day.
- Identify ways of reaching potential victims and parents- articles in teen magazines, videos on You Tube, targeted campaigns on Facebook and Twitter and creating education packages for schools.
- Identify ways of reaching those who work with potential victims- pieces in trade press for teaching, social services and health services.
- Identify best practice in dealing with CSE and build case studies of their success.

### **Tone**

- Emphasise the positive work being done in tackling CSE but make it clear there is more to do and a plan is in place to further improve all agencies response in tackling CSE.
- Highlight some children do not see themselves as victims of sexual exploitation. A common feature of CSE is that the child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and do not see themselves as a victim of exploitation. Misplaced loyalty to the perpetrator is common.
- Awareness of CSE and the response from all agencies are the key messages for all of the target audiences.
- Language is important. Authorities have previously referred to victims as ‘promiscuous’, ‘prostitutes’ or ‘consenting’, which is completely unacceptable. A child abused by an adult or a peer in a position of power is not able to consent. The term historic has also been debated as it has been seen to undermine the victim’s experience. Remember they are still living with it. A more appropriate word to use is ‘Non- recent’.

Emphasise that some children may present themselves as not in need of any support. This may sometimes cloud professionals from recognising them as victims of child sexual exploitation.

### **Key Messages**

#### **Raising Awareness of CSE**

- Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child abuse where victim is given something- food, money, drugs, alcohol, gifts- in exchange for sexual activity with the abuser. Offenders target vulnerable young people and use their power- physical, financial, emotional etc- over the child to sexually abuse them.

- A common feature of CSE is that the child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation. This means that they are unlikely to report the abuse so police and partners must be alert to the signs of CSE and actively look for victims.
- CSE can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post images on the internet/ mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.
- There is not one type of victim or offender of CSE. CSE can take many forms in many settings. If we look at just one model, such as group or gang CSE, we risk missing other victims who do not fall into that category. There is also a risk that victims don't recognise their abuse as CSE because it doesn't fit a particular model.
- CSE is not an indictable offence but police and prosecutors can charge offenders with rape and other sexual offences as well as kidnapping and trafficking.

### **Multi-Agency Media Response to CSE**

- CSE is a top priority for the police and partner agencies. Nothing is more important than protecting vulnerable people.
- Awareness and understanding of CSE has increased a huge amount in the last few years. All agencies have stepped up to face the challenges involved in tackling CSE and are investing considerable resources to fund major investigations into CSE.
- ACPO has created a CSE Action Plan that aims to raise the standards in tackling CSE in all forces so that the police service are providing a consistently strong approach to CSE and protecting vulnerable young people from this crime.
- All chief constables have committed to delivering this action plan. The action plan includes all forces creating a problem profile of CSE in their area to tailor their response and guide national strategy and all forces identifying a lead officer for CSE to act as a single point of contact and drive forward the action plan in their area.

### **13. Protocol Agreement**

The agencies signing this protocol accept the procedures laid down in this document provide a secure framework for tackling Child Sexual Exploitation in London. Any information shared between parties in respect of this protocol will be compliant with their statutory and professional responsibilities.

As such they will:

- Implement and adhere to the standards for procedures and structures set out in this protocol.
- Engage in a review of this protocol with the other signatories twelve months after its implementation and thereafter annually.

**We the undersigned agree that each agency/organisation that we represent will adopt and adhere to this information disclosure protocol:**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Post Held</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Metropolitan Police Service</b>	<b>Assistant Commissioner</b> <b>MPS Lead for Specialist Crime and Operations</b>	<b>Mark Rowley</b>
<b>London Safeguarding Children's Board</b>	<b>Chief Executive of Havering Borough and Chairperson of The London Safeguarding Children's Board</b>	<b>Cheryl Coppell</b>
<b>Local Safeguarding Children's Board</b>	<b>Chairperson for Newham's Local Safeguarding Children's Board and nominated Chairperson representing all Local Safeguarding Children's Board across London.</b>	<b>David Sanders</b>

# Appendix A

## CSE Warning Signs

Often children and young people who are victims of sexual exploitation do not recognise that they are being abused. There are a number of warning signs that can indicate a child may be being groomed for sexual exploitation and behaviours that can indicate that a child is being sexually exploited. To assist you in remembering and assessing these signs and behaviours we have created the mnemonic 'SAFEGUARD'.



### **S**exual health and behaviour

Evidence of sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy and termination; inappropriate sexualised behaviour



### **A**bsent from school or repeatedly running away

Evidence of truancy or periods of being missing from home or care



### **F**amilial abuse and/or problems at home

Familial sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, as well as risk of forced marriage or honour-based violence; domestic violence; substance misuse; parental mental health concerns; parental criminality; experience of homelessness; living in a care home or temporary accommodation



### **E**motional and physical condition

Thoughts of, or attempted, suicide or self-harming; low self-esteem or self-confidence; problems relating to sexual orientation; learning difficulties or poor mental health; unexplained injuries or changes in physical appearance identify



### **G**angs, older age groups and involvement in crime

Involvement in crime; direct involvement with gang members or living in a gang-afflicted community; involvement with older individuals or lacking friends from the same age group; contact with other individuals who are sexually exploited



### **U**se of technology and sexual bullying

Evidence of 'sexting', sexualised communication on-line or problematic use of the internet and social networking sites



### **A**lcohol and drug misuse

Problematic substance use



### **R**eceipt of unexplained gifts or money

Unexplained finances, including phone credit, clothes and money



### **D**istrust of authority figures

Resistance to communicating with parents, carers, teachers, social services, health, police and others



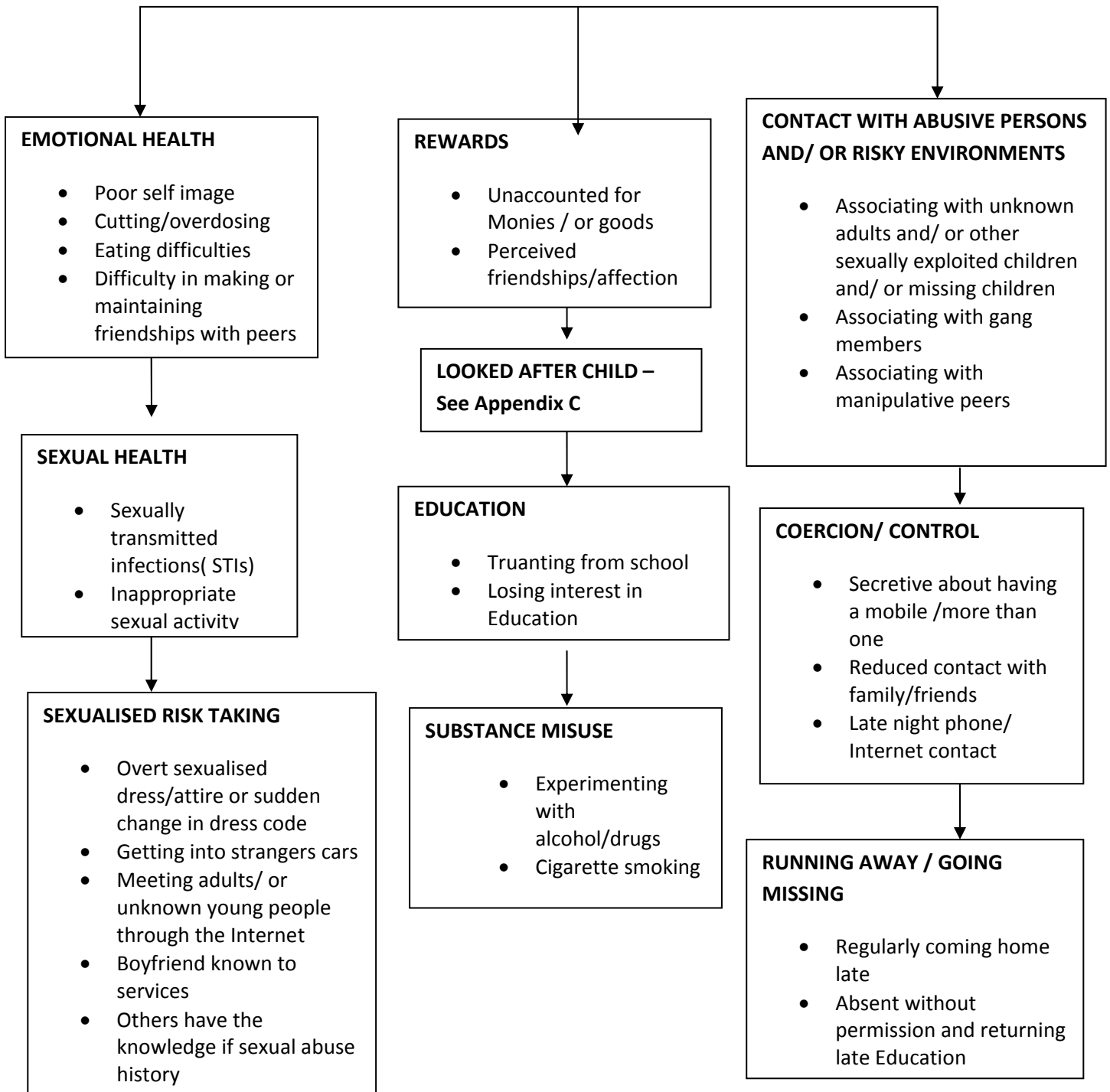
# Appendix B

## Category 1 - Risk Assessment Framework for Safeguarding Children Abused Through Sexual Exploitation

**Category 1**

A vulnerable child or young person, where there are concerns they are being targeted and groomed and where any of the CSE warning signs have been identified. However, at this stage there is no evidence of any offences

### POSSIBLE INDICATORS

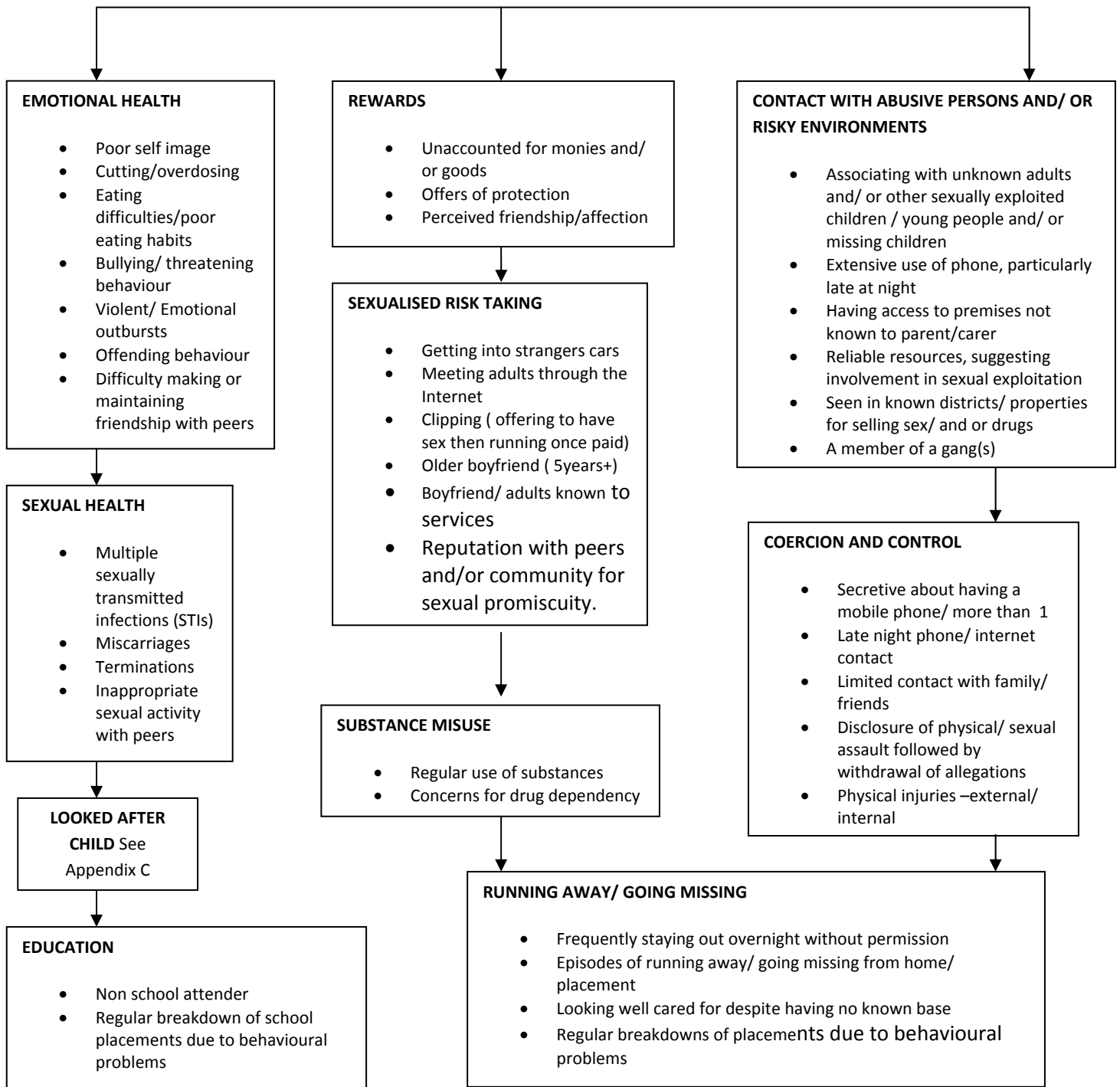


## Category 2 - Risk Assessment Framework for Safeguarding Children Abused Through Sexual Exploitation

**Category 2**

Evidence a child or young person is being targeted for opportunistic abuse through the exchange of sex for drugs, perceived affection, sense of belonging, accommodation (overnight stays), money and goods etc. The likelihood of coercions and control is significant.

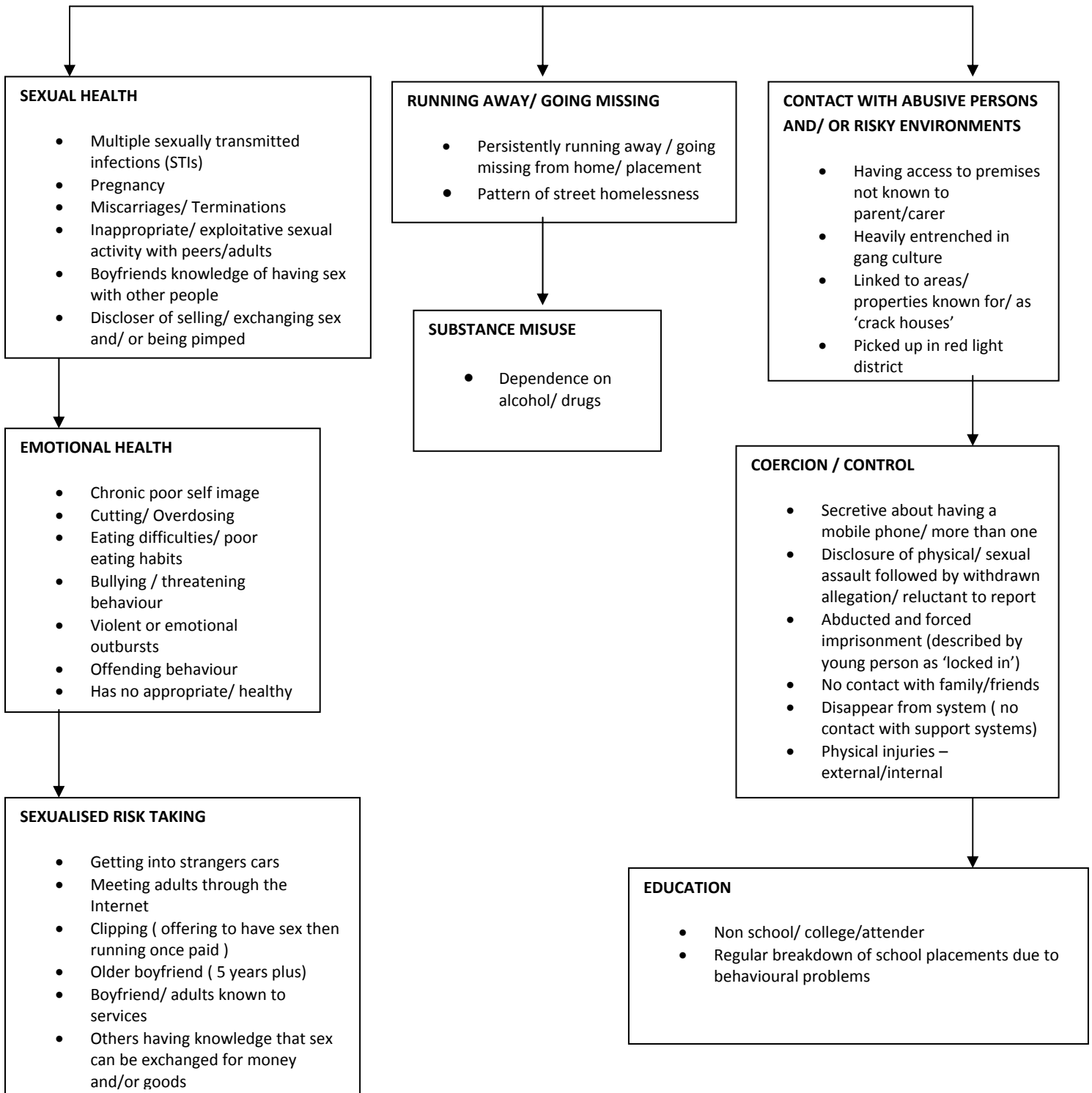
### POSSIBLE INDICATORS



## Category 3 - Risk Assessment Framework for Safeguarding Children Abused Through Sexual Exploitation

**Category 3**  
 A child or young person whose sexual exploitation is habitual, often self denied and where coercion/ control is implicit

### POSSIBLE INDICATORS



## Appendix C

### Groups at Increased Risk of CSE

- There is a recognised link that children who go missing (particularly from Care) and children associated with gangs are more vulnerable to being sexually exploited.
- Nearly 40,000 missing person incidents were reported in London last year. Almost a quarter of these were children reported missing from care. This results in thousands of hours of police time being used in reporting the child missing, tracing the child, returning them to care and then debriefing them. It is strongly recommended relationships with local care homes are instigated for early identification of potential CSE victims.
- Children who are already deemed vulnerable, particularly children looked after by the local authority, are at disproportionate risk of being sexually exploited.

*Children Looked After are primary the responsibility of the Local Authority where they are ordinarily resident (Home Authority). If, as may often be the case, they are placed outside of the Home Authority area they then become the responsibility of the Host Authority for many services e.g. education & health. Nevertheless, they always remain the primary responsibility of their Home Authority. The Home Authority has the continued responsibility to provide a social work service to the child and to independently review those care arrangements. The role of the Independent Reviewing Officer is central in such cases with a duty to scrutinise the child/young person's care plan and make sure there is a thorough risk assessment with appropriate links to local support agencies. The allocated social worker should establish the name and contact details for the CSE lead in the Host Authority so that it can be included in the care plan for help and assistance as appropriate.*

- In some cases children may be drawn into sexual exploitation by peers who are already involved. Girls in particular can be coerced into sexual exploitation by an older man, who poses as, and who they view as their boyfriend.
- Children who have suffered a bereavement or some other form of trauma may also be vulnerable and an increased risk to being sexually exploited.
- There is a link between trafficked children and CSE. Children are frequently trafficked for sexual exploitation and this can occur within the UK and across local authority boundaries.

*“Trafficking in Persons” of children and young people under-18 is defined as that which: ‘The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power, or a position of vulnerability, or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal or organs’. (Article 3 UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and*

*Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organisational Crime.* This is also commonly referred to as 'the Palermo Protocol')

- Disabled children - as their disability increases they could become more vulnerable and children with learning difficulties should also be seen as vulnerable.
- Children with low self-esteem as they are more vulnerable to being targeted by exploiters.
- There is an overlap between the definitions of CSE and domestic abuse, particularly in relation to peer abuse and lone perpetrator models. Children aged between 16-18 years are particularly vulnerable to both CSE and being caught up in relationships where abuse may occur. Each case should be initially assessed through the child sexual exploitation protocol described here and receive a child protection response, but decisions about the best policy and intervention will vary for individual young people. Careful consideration should be given to which framework would offer the most appropriate response to the victim, for example it may be better for a young person to be referred to a specialist domestic abuse service but it is important that children and young people are assessed within a child protection filter in the first instance.

## Appendix D

### Missing children

Missing children and young people must be considered at an enhanced risk of CSE. They should be reported as missing to police at the earliest opportunity. Once a child is located, it is important that they are properly debriefed to identify any risks the child has been exposed to. There are two stages to the process, the Safe and Well Check and the Return Interview.

### Police Safe and Well Check

This is carried out by the police as soon as possible after the person has returned. Its purpose is to check for any indications that the young person has suffered harm; where and with whom they have been; and to give them an opportunity to disclose any offending by, or against, them.

### Return of Missing Child - Debriefing Interview

This is a more in-depth interview and is usually best carried out by a person who is trained to carry out these interviews. Good practice from around the country has identified that partner agencies, in particular, Barnardo's, Safer London Foundation and any other voluntary agency specialising in CSE within your area can conduct effective debriefs. Many young people who run away or go missing need to build up trust with somebody before they will discuss in depth the reasons why they decided to run away. The interview should:

- a) Identify and deal with any harm the child has suffered – including harm that might not have already been disclosed as part of the Safe and Well Check (his/her medical condition should be discussed and any need for medical attention assessed).
- b) Understand and try to address the reasons why the child or young person ran away.
- c) Try to prevent it happening again.

It is good practice that this interview takes place within 72 hours of the young person being located or returning from absence. It is especially important that a Return Interview takes place when a child:

- has been missing for over 24 hours;
- has been missing on two or more occasions;
- is at a known risk of sexual exploitation;
- has engaged (or is believed to have engaged) in criminal activities during their absence;
- has been hurt or harmed whilst they have been missing (or this is believed to have been the case);
- has mental health issues and/or
- has contact with persons posing risk to children.

**Information obtained from the return interview must be submitted onto a Merlin report**

# Appendix E

## CSE - Multi-Agency Referral Pathway

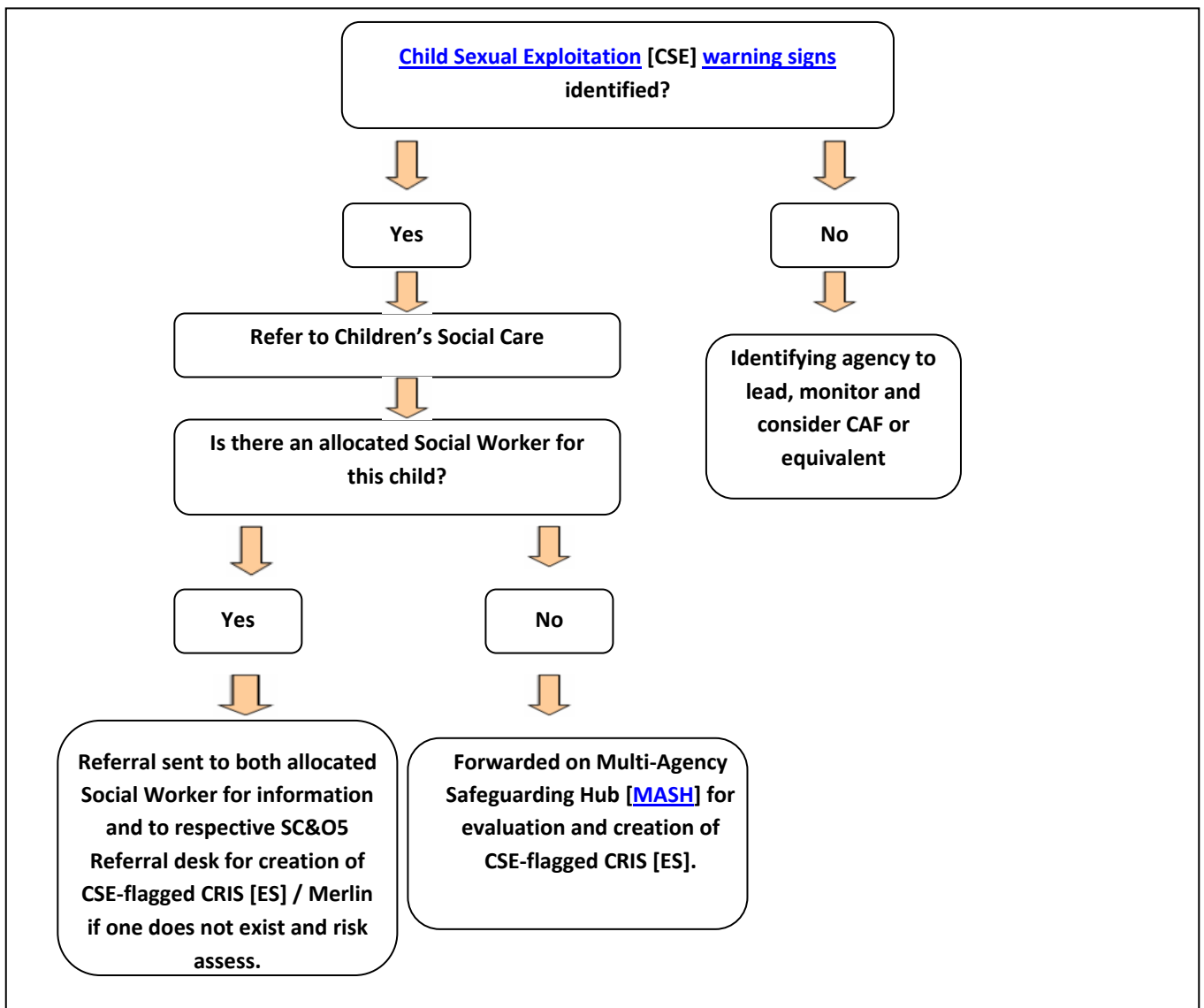
The following flowchart illustrates the pathway by which agencies such as education, health, probation and non-government organisations identify and refer cases of CSE, or suspected cases CSE.

### Categories

**Category 1** - A vulnerable child or young person, where there are concerns they are being targeted and groomed and where any of the CSE warning signs have been identified. However, at this stage there is no evidence of any offences.

**Category 2** - Evidence a child or young person is being targeted for opportunistic abuse through the exchange of sex for drugs, perceived affection, sense of belonging, accommodation (overnight stays) money and goods etc. The likelihood of coercions and control is significant.

**Category 3** - A child or young person whose sexual exploitation is habitual, often self denied and where coercion / control is implicit.



## Appendix F

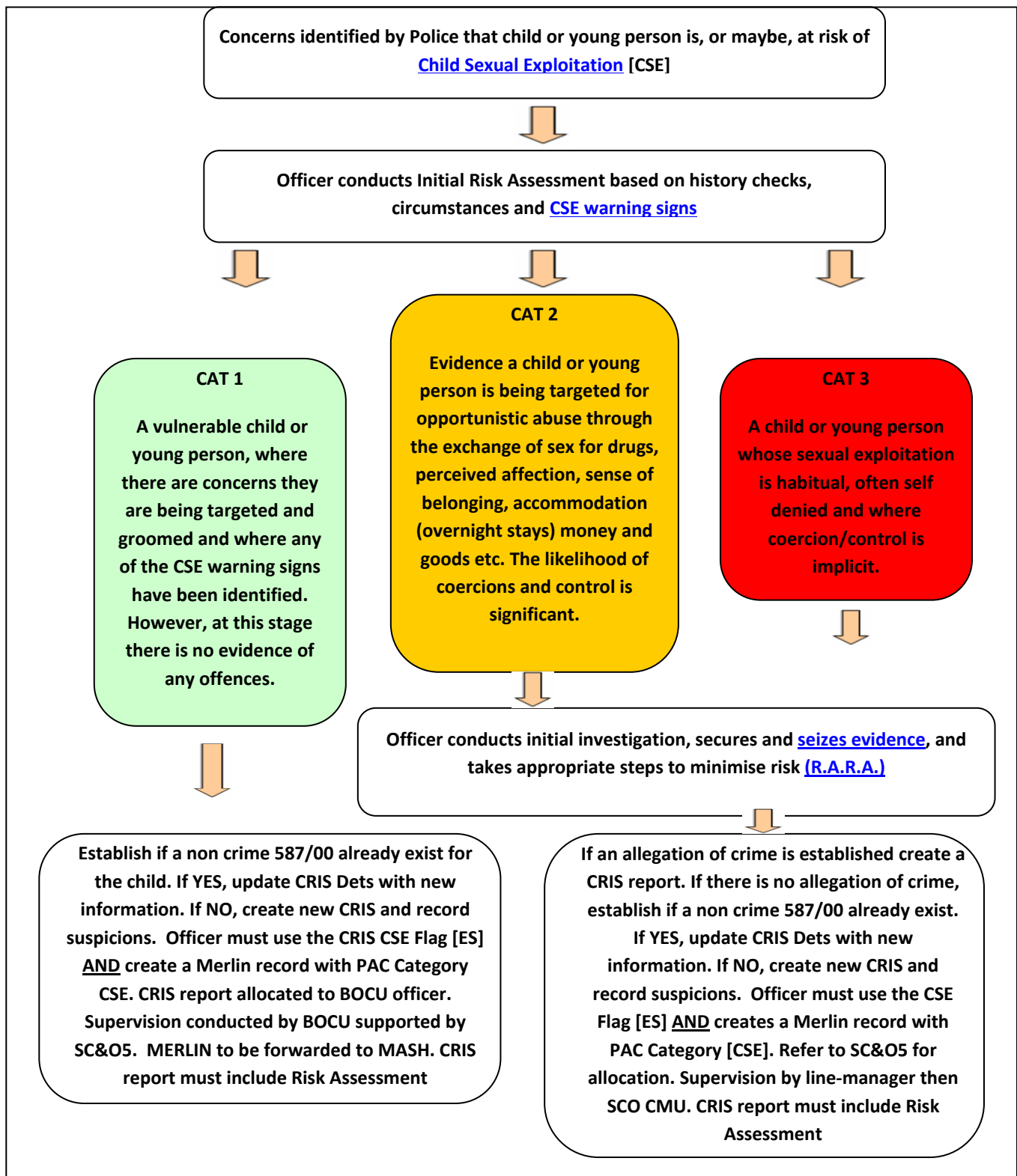
Be Healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physically healthy</li> <li>• Mentally and emotionally healthy</li> <li>• Sexually healthy</li> <li>• Healthy lifestyles</li> <li>• Choose not to take illegal drugs</li> <li>• Parents, carers and families promote healthy choices</li> </ul>
Stay Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation</li> <li>• Safe from accidental injury and death</li> <li>• Safe from bullying and discrimination</li> <li>• Safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school</li> <li>• Have security, stability and are cared for</li> <li>• Parents, carers and families provide safe homes and stability</li> </ul>
Enjoy and Achieve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ready for school</li> <li>• Attend and enjoy school</li> <li>• Achieve stretching national educational standards at primary school</li> <li>• Achieve personal and social development and enjoy recreation</li> <li>• Achieve stretching national educational standards at secondary school</li> <li>• Parents, carers and families support learning</li> </ul>
Make a positive contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage in decision-making and support the community and environment</li> <li>• Engage in law-abiding and positive behaviour in and out of school</li> <li>• Develop positive relationships and choose not to bully and discriminate</li> <li>• Develop self-confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges</li> <li>• Develop enterprising behaviour</li> <li>• Parents, carers and families promote positive behaviour</li> </ul>
Economic Well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage in further education, employment or training on leaving school</li> <li>• Ready for employment</li> <li>• Live in decent homes and sustainable communities</li> <li>• Access to transport and material goods</li> <li>• Live in households free from low income</li> <li>• Parents, carers and families are supported to be economically active</li> </ul>



# Appendix G

## CSE - Front-line Officer Reporting Pathway and Template for Initial Investigation

The following flowchart illustrates the procedure by which frontline police officers identify, and respond to cases of CSE or suspected cases of CSE. The nominated BOCU officer for Category 1 enquiries will be decided upon by each BOCU as procedures may vary.



## **Template for initial reporting officer**

1. Record circumstances for the child or young person coming to notice.
2. Record the reasons why you suspect the child or young person maybe at risk of CSE in line with the CSE warning signs (Appendix A - SAFEGUARD).
3. Review of risk after research on subject and any other persons known and take immediate action to protect the child, if necessary.
4. Complete MERLIN PAC number inserting CSE flag.
5. Include any other initial investigative information e.g. is the child a repeat missing person.

## **Initial Supervisors Review**

1. Review Initial Allegation.
2. Review Current Classification.
3. Initiate action plan to address any intelligence gaps and/or omissions.
4. Ensure Merlin is completed
5. Review CSE Risk factors to ensure appropriate victim protection and support strategy.
6. Review category assessment. If appropriate conduct a Threat to Life Risk Assessment.

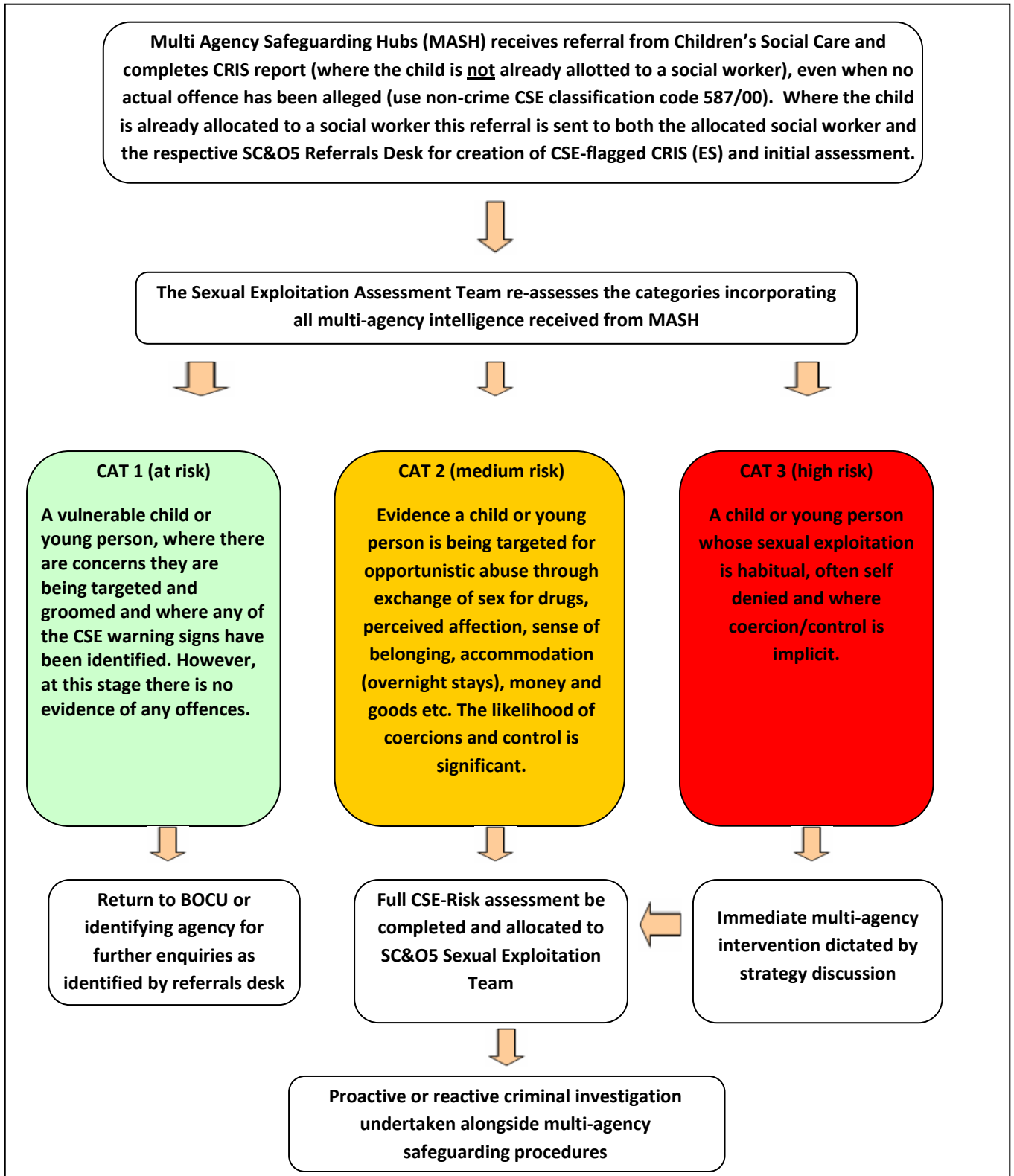
## **Essential investigative steps to be taken in every concern of CSE**

1. The first consideration must be the protection and safety of the child or young person and if the officer believes that the child is in immediate risk of significant harm, then police protection must be considered and the appropriate procedures complied with.
2. Ensure Locate/Trace marker is on PNC for children believed to be at risk of CSE.
3. Refer child to BOCU Monthly Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) meeting for discussion or update them with any new event for a previously referred child then add outcome code MI.
4. Rationale when decision taken not to intervene or refer to support agencies.
5. Review of category assessment to be made by SOECAC initial assessment team and appropriate flag entered.

# Appendix H

## CSE - SC&O5 Decision-Making Pathway

The following flowchart illustrates the pathway by which the MPS assesses the category level of all CSE-flagged CRIS reports and the appropriate response required.



# Appendix I

## Legislation

- Rape of a child under 13 years - Section 5 Sexual Offences Act 2003.
- Assault of a child under 13 years by penetration - Section 6 Sexual Offences Act 2003.
- Sexual assault of a child under 13 years - Section 7 Sexual Offences Act 2003.
- Causing or inciting a child under 13 years to engage in sexual activity - Section 8 Sexual Offences Act 2003.
- Sexual activity with a child - Section 9 Sexual Offences Act 2003.
- Causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity - Section 10 Sexual Offences Act 2003.
- Engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child - Section 11 Sexual Offences Act 2003.
- Causing a child to watch a sexual act - Section 12 Sexual Offences Act 2003.
- Arranging or facilitating a child sex offence (child under 16) Section 14 Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Meeting a child following sexual grooming (child under 16) Section 15 Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Paying for sexual services of a child Section 47 Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Causing or inciting child prostitution or pornography Section 48 Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Controlling a child prostitute or a child involved in pornography Section 49 Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Arranging or facilitating child prostitution or pornography Section 50 Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Trafficking into, within or out of the UK for sexual exploitation Section 57,58,59 Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Section 2 Child Abduction Act 1984 to be used as standard with all under 16s identified as missing with named perpetrator where an address is known.
- Section 58 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 must be used for all identified and trafficked under 18 year old children within the UK, and a referral made to the National Referral Mechanism which is a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking and ensuring they receive the appropriate protection and support.

# Appendix J

## **Initial risk assessment**

The recommended risk assessment tools address two areas; rationale for suspected sexual exploitation and the management of the risk. The recommended template should include:

### **Rationale for risk/evidence of exploitation (Child)**

**S - exual health and behaviour**

**A - bsent from school or repeatedly running away**

**F - amilial abuse and/or problems at home**

**E - motional and physical condition**

**G - angs, older age groups and involvement in crime**

**U - se of technology and sexual bullying**

**A - lcohol and drug misuse**

**R - eceipt of unexplained gifts or money**

**D - istrust of authority figures**

### **Risk Management**

**R - emove**

- Arrest suspect(s).
- Take child or young person into Police Protection.
- Place child or young person into temporary placement with relatives or foster parents on a voluntary (S20 Children's Act) basis.
- Relocate child or young person to different address.

**A - void**

- Enable the child or young person to make safer choices e.g. staying away from problem locations
- Enable the child or young person to effectively manage their social media and safely use their mobile telephones.

**R - educe**

- Police patrols of geographic hotspots.
- Raise the young person's awareness of CSE and the dangers involved.

- Raise awareness of other Professionals
- Raise awareness through support and education
- Encourage others to be vigilant e.g. teachers
- Ensure suspect(s) vehicles are placed on PNC (ANPR)
- Ensure Locate Trace Marker is put onto PNCID for young persons at risk of CSE.
- Use of abduction warnings to disrupt/control offenders

#### **A - ccept**

- Hold MAP meetings to share information, manage risk and apply interventions.
- Use civil orders to control suspect(s)
- Use special schemes to be added to victims address
- Ensuring young person has access to Sexual Health Services and other specialist support provisions
- Advice to families of available support
- Ensure information around victim and suspect are briefed to patrolling officers