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# **Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Hub Operating Protocol**

## **August 2020**

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## Introduction

All agencies across LLR are fully committed to safeguarding children and young people from being exploited whilst disrupting and prosecuting individuals who have exploited them. This protocol provides a set of multi-agency principles for tackling exploitation across LLR.

## Definitions of Child Exploitation

### Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. **(Department of Education, 2017)**

### Child Criminal Exploitation

Child Criminal Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. **(Home Office, 2018)**

### County Lines

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons. **(Home Office, 2018)**

### Trafficked Children

“Trafficking of persons” shall mean 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 of a position of vulnerability or of 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 of organs. **(Article 3 of the Palermo Protocol, 2000)** The internationally recognised definition for human trafficking is the PALERMO PROTOCOL (2000)

For a person to have been a victim of human trafficking there must have been:

Action (recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt, which can include either domestic or cross-border movement)

The means (threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability - however, there does not need to be a means used for children as they are not able to give informed consent)

Purpose of exploitation (e.g. sexual exploitation, forced labour or domestic servitude, slavery, removal of organs)

In the case of all children under the age of 18 the means element DOES NOT need to be proved.

### Missing Children

Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established will be considered as missing until located and their wellbeing or otherwise confirmed. To access the LLR Children and Young People who go Missing from Home or Care: Joint Protocol 2017, please click [here](#)

## Aims of the MACE Hub

The aims of the MACE hub are as follows and are in line with the regional standards for exploited children.

- **Prevent** by raising awareness of CSE and CCE amongst young people, parents, carers and communities, and to work together to provide children and young people with strategies to recognise, avoid, report and exit CSE and criminal exploitation at any stage and to remove opportunities for potential perpetrators across the County. Direct work with children and young people and families using Signs of Safety methodology. Champions in each service area ensuring an expertise within services.
- **Prepare** by providing strong leadership, effective systems, gathering of intelligence and partnership working to tackle CSE and CCE, by recognising the problem of CSE and CCE and criminal exploitation of children and young people.
- **Protect** by safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, supporting professionals, parents, carers, families and communities who may be at risk of CSE and CCE, identifying potential victims, risks, patterns and perpetrators at the earliest opportunity. Daily risk management meetings highlight risks and actions needed. Weekly meetings consider those most at risk to ensure appropriate action is undertaken. A co-ordinated response from the team relating to those children and young people that are missing.
- **Pursue** by investigating, disrupting, arresting and prosecuting those who seek to coerce, criminally exploit and abuse children and young people, whilst supporting victims and their families effectively through the criminal justice system. Disruption tactics continue to be used to consider creative ways of minimising access to children and young people. Mapping exercises are undertaken to ensure perpetrators are identified early.
- **Partnership** – a multi-agency collaborative approach with statutory partners and voluntary agencies demonstrating effective information sharing. Good, well established partnerships are working in the MACE hub. Active participation in multi-agency mapping meetings and high-profile police operations have a strong partnership response.

## Key Principles Underpinning the MACE Hub

1. Exploitation includes sexual, physical, criminal and emotional abuse, as well as, in some cases, neglect.
2. Children do not make informed choices to enter or remain in exploitative relationships, but do so from coercion, enticement, manipulation or desperation.
3. Children under 13 cannot consent to sexual activity; sexual activity with children under the age of 13 is statutory rape.
4. The primary concern in relation to children at risk of exploitation is to safeguard and promote the health and welfare of the child
5. The child should be at the centre of the work; their voice will contribute to ongoing service delivery.
6. Parents/carers play the most important role in safeguarding. While professionals will need to assess the situation and how best to safeguard, it is only in the most exceptional cases that there be compulsory intervention in family life. Parent/carer participation is necessary to ensure they contribute to the overall development of the service.

7. Exploited children should be treated as victims of abuse, not as offenders.
8. Many exploited children have difficulty distinguishing between their own choices around sex and sexuality and the sexual activities they are coerced into. This potential confusion needs to be handled with care and sensitivity.
9. The primary law enforcement effort must be made against the groomers and perpetrators.
10. Regard for factors such as age, disability, race, ethnicity or cultural backgrounds of both victims and perpetrators will be taken into account.
11. Exploitation risks need to be considered for all children who go missing, and the reasons for this needs to be understood.

## MACE Hub Commitment to Diversity

### **Children from black and ethnic minority communities (BAME):**

Blackmail connected to shame and dishonour can be used as a method of control. In addition, if a child or young person from a BAME community discloses they have been sexually exploited, they may face additional dangers from their family and the multi-agency response will need to recognise and respond to these risks, e.g. blaming female victims rather than the perpetrator(s) or so called 'honour-based violence' and risk of forced marriage. These risks can also exist across cultures. Strategies with BAME communities need to anticipate the barriers and have plans in place to counter them. Communities need to feel that they are taken on board rather than 'done to' which could be counter-productive. Materials that are developed should be take into account language needs of the local community.

### **Boys and young men:**

Boys and young men may also find it harder to disclose that they are being abused by other men because of issues about sexual identity and societal stereotypes on masculinity. Research indicates that males are more likely to be identified through the criminal justice system and that generally professional attitudes towards males are less protective than towards females. This should be a key element of training for professionals working with children and young people.

### **LGBTQ:**

LGBTQ is an additional vulnerability that can be exploited by abusers to maintain control and keep exploitative relationships hidden. Openly admitting to a non-heterosexual or gender identity could create additional risks to young people from cultural views held by their family or community that could lead to physical violence or homelessness. Activities such as 'Chem Sex' are often (but not solely) associated with men who have sex with men and would also increase risk of and from exploitation (STIs, addiction, mental health/emotional needs, physical harm and violence). Harmful beliefs about the sexual behaviour of LGBTQ communities could also contribute to a less protective attitude from professionals or create a barrier to the identification of vulnerability to exploitation.

## Gang Definitions

There are a wide range of definitions of gangs. Here in LLR we use three categories of gangs: peer groups, urban street gangs and organised crime groups.

### Peer Groups

It is common for groups of children and young people to gather together in public places to socialise. Crime and violence is not intrinsic to identifying the practice of peer groups. Although some peer group gatherings can lead to increased anti-social behaviour and youth offending, these activities should not be confused with the serious violence of an Urban Street Gang, or criminal activities of an Organised Crime Group.

### Urban Street Gang (USG)

The term 'Urban Street Gang' (USG) has been defined and interpreted by the following definition:

*"A relatively durable, predominantly street based group of young people who see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group, engage in criminal activity and violence, and may also lay claim over territory (not necessarily geographical, but can include an illegal economy territory), have some form of identifying structural feature and/ or be in conflict with other, similar gangs." (ACPO, 2012).*

When applying this definition to a suspected group, credibility must be sustained in order to accurately meet criteria and classify as an Urban Street Gang. Whilst participating in an Urban Street Gang, an individual's involvement is considered fluid and unstable. USG's may only be in operation for a limited period which is evidenced by some groups now being archived. This would be the case if for example, no new intelligence has developed, offending has reduced, or members have distanced themselves. It is also important to consider that membership of a USG is a potential precursor to membership of an Organised Crime Group (OCG).

### Organised Crime Group (OCG)

Individuals, normally working with others, with the intent and capability to commit serious crime on a continuing basis, which includes elements of: planning/ control/ coordination/ structure/ group decision-making. Note – this definition does not require the OCG to have committed serious crime. If the OCG has the intent and capability to commit serious crime, it should be recorded.

Both **USGs** and **OCGs** are known to criminally exploit children and young people and vulnerable adults to carry out illegal activity on their behalf. Gangs dealing drugs is not a new issue but the extent to which criminal exploitation (often organised) of children and vulnerable adults, as well as the increasing use of violence, has become an inherent part of 'County Lines'. County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas (within the UK), using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line". They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move (and store) the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

USGs and OCGs are a socially and intentionally constructed group of individuals with attitudes, thinking and behaviours geared towards criminality. They will use violence and intimidation, social media and weapons as 'tools of power' to violate, challenge and disrespect other gangs. They will also use this level of violence and intimidation against a child that refuses to do particular criminal activities. This may result in threats being made against a child's family, including threats towards siblings and wider family members, to coerce someone into criminal activity.

People involved in USGs and OCGs exploit organisational and geographical vulnerabilities since they know there are weaknesses in the way different organisations and services operate. It is important these risks and associated threats are reduced by working effectively to share intelligence in a timely manner.

In the LLR we are strongly committed to tackling criminal exploitation and gang and organised criminality, where we will disrupt those who are exploiting children.

## Relevant Legislation

**Working Together 2018** - Department for Education (DfE) (2018) [Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children \(PDF\)](#).

**Crime and Disorder Act 1998** - Local Authorities and other local partners have a statutory responsibility to do all that they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in their area and share information to protect communities from serious and organised crime. Publicly commissioned private and voluntary sector providers, including LLR Children's Trust, must also contribute to prevention efforts through due diligence and information sharing to protect communities from serious and organised crime.

**Children's Act 2004** – outlined the statutory requirements each agency working with Children and Families must adhere to, to ensure that there is a co-ordinated approach to safeguarding.

**Serious Crime Act 2015** – improved the legislative powers available to local partners to tackle serious and organised crime. This Act gave effect to a number of proposals and commitments made in the Government's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy (2013) and updated existing law dealing with the cyber-crime, serious crime prevention orders, gang injunctions, child cruelty, female genital mutilation (FGM) and the commission of certain terrorism offences abroad. When this Act was introduced it included a new offence of participating in the activities of an organised crime group and a strengthened preventative capability through Serious Crime Protection Orders. Councils should work alongside law enforcement agencies, sharing relevant intelligence, to make the best use of these new powers to disrupt and halt such crime.

**Modern Slavery Act 2015** - provides the legislative framework to equip law enforcement agencies and local partners to effectively prosecute and convict the perpetrators of modern slavery. The Act consolidated and simplified previous slavery and human trafficking legislation in England and Wales into a single statute and introduced provisions to strengthen law enforcement and afford better protection to victims.

**Criminal Finances Act 2017** - introduced new powers to help law enforcement agencies tackle money laundering, corruption, terrorist finance and recover the proceeds of crime.

**Children and Social Work Act 2017** – safeguarding partners are required to make arrangements to work together and with relevant agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the area. This Act strengthens this already important relationship by placing new duties on key agencies in a local area. Specifically, the police, clinical commissioning groups and the Local Authority are under a duty to make arrangements to work together, and with other partners locally, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. whilst supporting those children and families being exploited. Our focus will raise awareness that these children are victims first and their offending should be seen in that context. We know that these children and their families can be groomed in a similar dynamic to child sexual exploitation.

We have reviewed Home Office Tools, existing research and other Local Authorities' approaches drawing on the existing knowledge base to create this guidance for LLR.

## Agency offer from the MACE Hub

### Leicester City Council - Children's Services:



Leicester City  
Council CE Offer an

### Leicestershire County Council - Children's Services:



Leicestershire  
County Council CE C

### Rutland County Council - Children's Services:



Rutland County  
Council CE Offer.pd

### Leicestershire Police:

Terms of Reference (TOR) document to be inserted here once amended/ finalised (PDF).



### **Child Exploitation Specialist Nurse:**

- To work within the MACE team with police and social care colleagues providing an expert health resource. Take referrals in the MACE team via LA children's services or the police, including partners within the LLRSCB partnership, voluntary and third sector providers and therapeutic service providers.
- To provide a point of contact for expert advice, training and support to a range of health staff and health providers working to support children and young people at risk of/being sexually exploited.
- Support children and young people at risk of being exploited by ensuring health professionals involved in the child's care are informed of the concerns and link closely with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Sexual Health Services to ensure joined up working with children and young people at risk of/being exploited. Including General Practitioners (GP), Sexual Health Services, Out of Hours Services (Emergency Departments, Urgent Care Centres, Walk in Centres), Acute Services.
- Ensure health services are fully engaged with the local strategy around the 5 standards – Prevention, Protection, Pursue, Provision and Partnership.
- Maintain the flagging system for all children and young people at risk/being sexually/ exploited across all health systems in order to highlight their vulnerability and to ensure their specific health needs are met.
- Collect and manage data related to key performance indicators. Identify and map any patterns or trends across the health partnerships which could support partner agencies in the police and social care to develop greater local child exploitation knowledge.
- The CE Specialist Nurse can analyse health information related to children and young people at risk of/being exploited and judge what confidential information can be legally shared with the MACE team in order to best safeguard the particular children and young people.
- Ensure accurate documentation of all aspects of the health journey of children and young people giving clear descriptions of why decisions were made, and actions taken to provide safe evidenced based practice. Ensure the child or young person is flagged across health systems as a child exploitation risk.
- During information gathering, strategy meetings and direct casework ensure the monitoring and tracking of risks and issues and seek proactive resolution and escalation processes.
- Support and ensure timely access by health staff to the LLRSCB interagency procedures and escalate cases where the needs of a child or young person are not being met as per procedures.
- Offer direct or indirect advice and support to parents and carers of children and young people at risk of/being exploited.
- Where the child or young person is a LAC the practitioner will work with the Looked After Children's Team – Designated Nurse for LAC and the Specialist LAC Nurses to ensure the health needs are being met.
- Provide quarterly reports, annual report and audit activity to monitor the outcomes of the service and report via the Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults and Children to the CCGs Boards.
- See [Appendix A](#) for the Leicestershire Partnership Trust (LPT) CE pathway

## Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Partnership Meetings

Terms of Reference (TOR) document to be inserted here once amended/ finalised (PDF).

### Exploitation Intelligence Gathering

Collation of concerns, information, intelligence from all partner agencies, the profiling of exploitation activity, and informing the development of action plans and services are key activities for the MACE team. This includes:

- Identifying and sharing information in relation to the level and nature of CE within individual gangs and groups
- Utilising information provided by the wider partnership in relation to young people vulnerable to CE

It is important that relevant concerns, information and intelligence are passed on. This can be done using the LLR CE Information Sharing Tool, which can be accessed [here](#) (See [Appendix B](#): Information Sharing Tool).

### Supporting Victims and Witnesses through Court Processes

The MACE Hub will devise a bespoke witness/victim care strategy for victims of CE where a prosecution is being pursued and they are a witness. This could include:

- Victim Impact Statements
- Victim Support
- Witness Support

### Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Peer Group Mapping Information Sharing Protocol

Sharing information is vital for safeguarding & promoting the welfare of children and young people and for providing effective and efficient services that are coordinated around the needs of a child or young person and their family. In LLR we encourage a culture where information is shared with confidence as part of normal service delivery.

#### What is Peer Group Mapping?

A peer group is a social group of people with similar social status who share similar interests and are often close in age. In LLR, in certain defined circumstances as outlined in this paper, we collect, record and share information about the peer group relationships of the young people we work with: this is what is meant by *peer group mapping*.

Peer relationships are most often a protective factor and a source of support, lessening or managing the risks that a young person may face in adolescence. But for some young people, peer relationships may be a source of risk. For instance, they may be vulnerable to bullying, violence, or sexual or criminal exploitation by their

peers. When working to safeguard young people and to promote their welfare, the Council may need to consider the impact of peer group relations, rather than simply looking at the child in the context of their family. Through carrying out peer mapping exercises, practitioners can identify and understand peer group strengths and risks. Peer mapping achieves this by:

- Giving an understanding of the nature, scale and seriousness of the risks posed by or to identified peer groups, individuals and locations
- Providing a picture of the roles and relationships between individuals, including the amount of influence and control individuals have within a network
- Supporting the identification of effective safeguarding interventions and other suitable multi-agency opportunities (e.g. group work; disruption; environmental change)
- Focusing awareness on information gaps, and how to inform these by information gathering
- Providing a foundation for the ongoing support to the peer group/location within a multi-agency partnership context

A practitioner may decide to map a peer group of young people already known to CFS or a peer group not previously known to the service following notification of a significant event that presents a safeguarding concern to a group of young people.

### **Information Sharing**

Information sharing in relation to peer group mapping may take two forms:

- Within the Council. For instance, between social workers working with different young people that are all part of the same peer group
- Outside of the Council, where information may be shared with or by multi-agency professionals, such as health, education, and the police. Personal data that may be used includes, but is not limited to:
  - Name, address, age, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, disability (as relevant)
  - Details of harmful or high-risk relationships (e.g. gang affiliation, suspected perpetrators of child sexual exploitation)
  - Criminal convictions or offences
  - Publicly available social media information, such as posting on the internet
  - Social care history

### **Parental Notification**

A record will be made on the Children and Families Service recording system of young people deemed relevant on a peer group map. Relevant young people and their parents will be notified of the personal data used for peer group mapping and any identified risks to that young person unless;

- there is good reason to do otherwise: for instance, there would be a risk to their immediate safety if the information were shared with their parents
- where to do so will be impossible or would involve disproportionate effort
- where to do so would render impossible or seriously impair the objectives of the plan to safeguard

Information regarding young people appearing on the peer group map will only be shared with parents of other children that appear on the map *if* consent is given *and* it is safe and appropriate to do so for the purposes of a peer group intervention.

### **Lawful basis for processing information in peer group mapping**

The MACE hub may map peer groups insofar as it supports its statutory function to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and as detailed in The Children Act 1989, The Children Act 2004 and as per any applicable national frameworks as to how such duties are to be carried out, such as *Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018)*.

Seeking the consent of children, young people or others to process their information for the purposes of peer group mapping may alert them, thereby contributing to the identified risk(s) or diminishing CFS' ability to safeguard.

The lawful basis on which CFS may process information regarding peer groups without consent is Article 6 (1) (e) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR):

Young people connected or involved in the peer group who are at risk of harm or who present a risk of harm to others.

*Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller.*

This lawful basis applies to the processing of information that supports the aforementioned statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

Information used in peer group mapping may constitute special category data, defined in Article 9 of GDPR as *'personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation...'*

Special category data processed for peer group mapping will only be processed without the subject's consent where it is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest as per Article 9 (2) (g) of GDPR and in accordance with provisions in the Data Protection Act 2018.

## **Missing Children**

The following definitions apply to this protocol and relate to children who go or have gone missing. Missing person: New APP (Authorised Professional Practice) definition:

The new definition for a 'missing person' is as follows: "Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established will be considered as missing until located and their wellbeing or otherwise confirmed".

Child: A child or young person under the age of eighteen years with the exception of a former relevant child within the meaning of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000; these young people continue to be the responsibility of the Local Authority.

All reports of missing people sit within a continuum of risk from 'no apparent risk (absent)' through to high-risk cases that require immediate, intensive action.

**Child in care/ looked after child/ accommodated:**

Looked after by a Local Authority if s/he is “in care” by reason of a court order, or if s/he is provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by agreement with her/his parents or with the child if s/he is aged 16 or more.

(Children accommodated under Sect 20 of the Children Act 1989, children subject to Care Orders including Interim Care Orders, Sect 31 and 38 Children Act 1989, and children who are otherwise provided with accommodation by Sect 21 Children Act 1989. These include PACE transfers and children on remand (bailed to reside as directed by the Local Authority).

The Local Authority looks after her/him with the voluntary agreement of his/her parents or with the child if s/he is over 16 years old. Please view the [Joint Children and Young People who go Missing from Home or Care Joint Protocol 2017](#) for additional Guidance.

A Protocol has been agreed across the East Midlands LLRSCBs and Local Authorities which can be accessed [here](#)

This website also includes LAC pack which can be accessed [here](#)

**Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)**

In summary, in the East Midlands and LLR, UASC missing from care will remain the responsibility of the Council as Looked After Children until they reach the age of 18 and remain subject to the scrutiny of regular Looked After Children’s Reviews.

At age 18, decisions to close are on a case-by-case basis (following legal advice being taken); where risks of trafficking or other vulnerabilities are identified, cases remain open. Cases that remain open past 18 are thereafter closed on a case-by-case basis.

When a missing unaccompanied child or young person returns or is found, they remain the responsibility of the originating local authority either as a Looked After Child or are offered leaving care support (if eligible) including where their case has been closed.

Refer to the following:

<https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/missing-persons/#definition-of-missing>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-who-run-away-or-go-missing-from-home-or-care>

## Modern Slavery and Child Trafficking

Modern slavery, including child trafficking, is child abuse. When an agency comes into contact with a child who may have been exploited or trafficked, Local Authority Children's Services and the police should be notified immediately. A referral into the NRM should be made as well as an ICTA referral. This does not replace or supersede established child protection processes, which should continue in tandem.

All children, irrespective of their immigration status, are entitled to safeguarding and protection under the law. Referrals to the NRM should be for all potential victims of trafficking and modern slavery, who can be of any nationality, and may include British national children, such as those trafficked for child sexual exploitation or those trafficked as drug carriers internally in the UK

Where there is reason to believe a victim could be a child, the individual must be given the benefit of the doubt and treated as a child until an assessment is carried out.

This form should be completed with reference to the linked guidance available on gov.uk.

Go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms/guidance-on-the-national-referral-mechanism-for-potential-adult-victims-of-modern-slavery-england-and-wales>

## Communications Plan

### **Introduction / Background**

A joint communications strategy for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) has been agreed by all representatives.

This communications plan sets out how the agreed strategic aims will be delivered.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is not a new issue. However, the understanding of it as agencies as a form of vulnerability is a new and continuing journey. CCE is considered to be a major child protection issue nationally and is a local and national policing priority. It is essential awareness-raising continues with evidence-based, targeted communications to educate our communities, enabling them to spot the signs of vulnerability, encourage reporting and help bring offenders to justice.

Across Leicestershire, all partners are committed to tackling CCE and to ensuring evidence and information are used to understand what is happening locally, to develop our tactical and strategic response, to support victims and to facilitate police disruption activity and prosecutions. The launch of the violence reduction network will support this ongoing work in a variety of ways and will include the supporting of multi-agency training on contextual safeguarding and adverse childhood experiences to develop our workforces' understanding of the issues and potential causes.

This is a working document, setting out the activity which will be coordinated by DI Helen Schofield and Holly Bremner, Head of Communications from Rutland Council with additional support from Leicester and Leicestershire communication officers. New work streams may be added in response to local and national issues as they are identified.

All partnership agencies are expected to support and deliver the agreed CCE Communications strategy with their own focused tactical communications activity.

## Communications Priorities

Communications activity will focus on three specific themes:

### 1) Creating awareness amongst 'trusted adults' to the signs of CCE and signposting to guidance and support

This activity will include:

- Reviewing and implementing the #LookCloser campaign across LRR
- Developing and appropriately launching a video that highlights the potential behaviours of a young person who is getting involved/is already involved in CCE
- Amplifying messages communicated on key awareness days, i.e. Exploitation Day (18<sup>th</sup> March)

### 2) Implementing a campaign to create awareness amongst young people, particularly those who are vulnerable, of the mechanisms employed by criminals to engage them in CCE and the long-term negative impacts of being involved in that world

The campaign will be co-designed by young people across LLR to ensure message and the approach reach the young people it is aimed towards.

### 3) Creating awareness and understanding amongst health professionals of the signs of CCE

Activity will include the development and roll out of a 'crib card' to be inserted into ID badges worn by health professionals

A '7 minute briefing' to all GP's on the issue of Child Exploitation

Further awareness work to be carried out with emergency department and CAMHS

## Other Communications Objectives

During the lifetime of this plan, communications activity will also focus on:

- Encouraging increased reporting, particularly from young people and trusted adults
- Ensuring all target audiences (see below) are alert to the early warning signs in order to intervene and prevent young people from being engaged in CCE.
- Increasing publicity for court outcomes in order to warn potential offenders of the implications of committing CCE and reassuring the public that offenders are being brought to justice.
- Continued training of frontline staff to ensure warning signs and risk factors of child exploitation are identified and how to respond using child protection procedures which includes promoting an understanding of "*elements of grooming and coercion so that a child or young person's behaviour is not dismissed as rebellious or consenting to the abuse*". (National Working Group for CSE). Training sessions for practitioners will include exposure to the experiences of CCE survivors.

These objectives support the wider operational strategy to tackle CCE, in line with recommendations in the following documents:

- LLR partnership profile/performance data (via the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub monthly meeting and the CE Operations Group)
- LLR CCE delivery plan
- NWG/NCA Advice and guidance
- Barnardo's research
- Home office guidance
- County Lines co-ordination centre

## Target audiences

Communications activity will be targeted at all key hotspots (see strategy) and will be responsive to specific 'coldspot' areas too, where under-reporting is a feature.

### Key audiences

- Trusted adults, including:
  - Parents
  - Carers, including residential staff, foster carers
  - Grandparents
  - Godparents
  - Aunts/Uncles
  - Teachers
- Vulnerable young people
- Health practitioners
- Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Media, including BBC East Midlands Today, ITV Central News, Rutland Times, Rutland Radio, The Leicester Mercury, and local newspapers and radio stations such as the Harborough Mail and HFM
- Local bloggers
- Community groups
- The night time economy plus: Taxis, hotels, on and off-licence trade, park wardens, GP surgeries, chemists, STD clinics and youth clubs
- Street Pastors

### Internal

- All frontline workers, across all agencies

### Voice

The hub will always consider the voice of children and families. Aspirationally we strive to develop our service and resources alongside young people reflecting their lived experience.

### Key messages

While key messages will be designed and tailored to support different priorities at different times, some core messages will run throughout all communications activity.

These could include:

- Any young person can be affected by CE, know the signs
- Don't be fooled into a life of crime
- Agencies alone cannot tackle CE – we need the public to keep their eyes open and spot the signs a child could be at risk.
- We will not tolerate those who seek to harm our children.
- Make sure you are aware of the key warning signs which could indicate a child is at risk.
- If you are a victim of CCE or online grooming, report it now - there is help and support available, whoever you are.
- The internet is a fantastic resource but does not come without risks – make sure you know what they are.



## Protocol Agreement

Child exploitation refers to the use of children for someone else's advantage, gratification or profit often resulting in unjust, cruel and harmful treatment of the child. These activities are to the detriment of the child's physical or mental health, education, moral or social-emotional development. It covers situations of manipulation, misuse, abuse, victimisation, oppression or ill-treatment.

The agencies signing this protocol accept the procedures laid down in this document provide a secure framework for tackling Child Exploitation in LLR. 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.

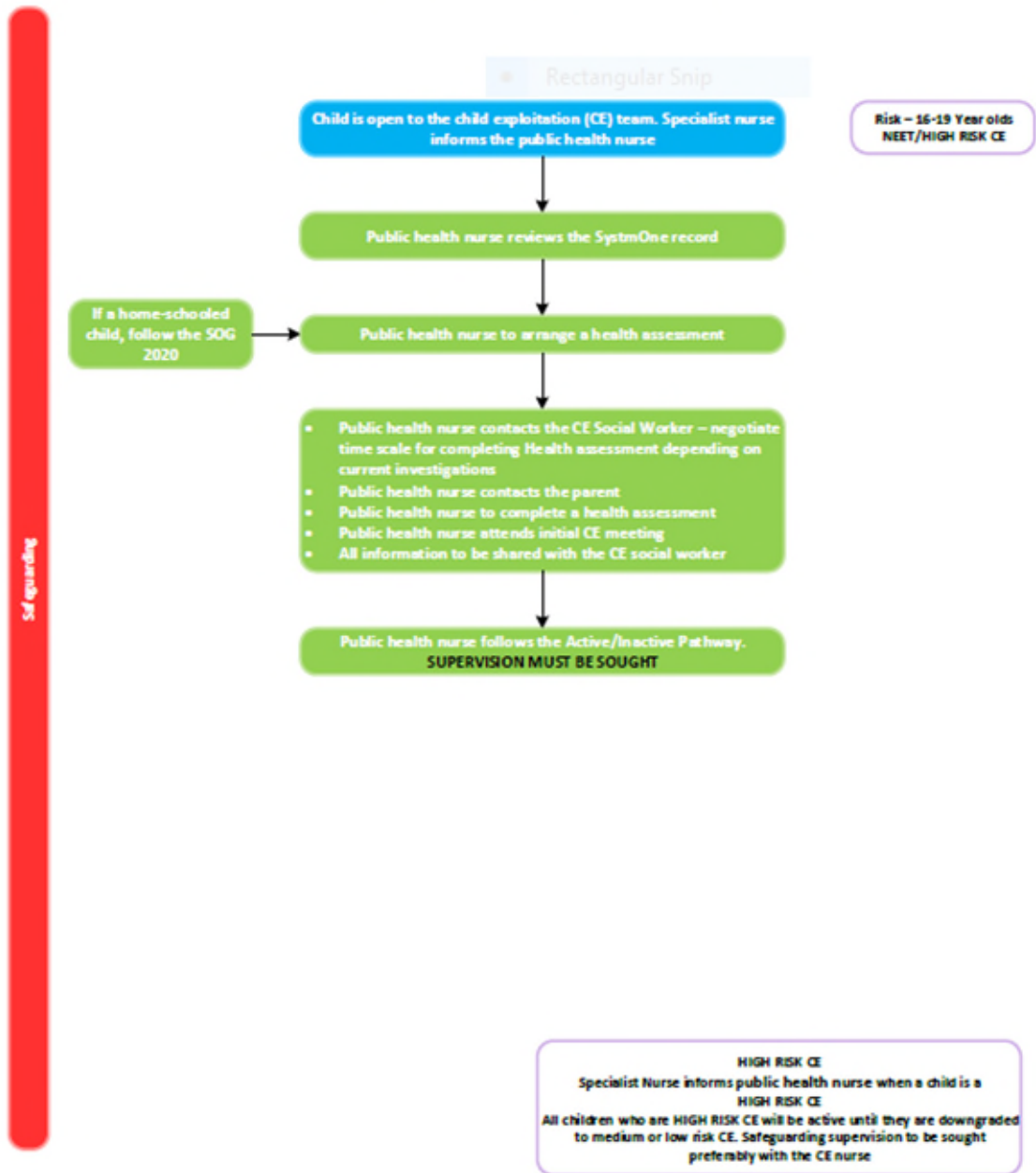
We the undersigned agree that each agency/organisation that we represent will adopt and adhere to this information disclosure protocol:

| <b>Agency</b>                     | <b>Post</b>  | <b>Name</b>     |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Leicester Children's Service      | Director Children's Social Care & Early Help                       | Caroline Tote   |
| Leicestershire Children's Service | Assistant Director Targeted Early Help and Children's Social Care  | Sharon Cooke    |
| Rutland Children's Service        | Deputy Director Children's Services                                | Dawn Godfrey    |
| Leicestershire Police             | Detective Superintendent, Serious Crime, Head of Public Protection | Matthew Ditcher |
| Health                            | Head of Safeguarding – Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust        | Neil King       |

# Appendix A: Leicestershire Partnership Trust (LPT) CE Pathway



## Families, Young People and Childrens Services Child exploitation care pathway



## Appendix B: Information Sharing Tool

### Share what you know with the MACE Team

All professionals in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland have a duty to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation.

It is important that any non-urgent information you think is important and could be relevant to the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Multi-agency CE Team is passed on in order to help build intelligence. This could include:

- Vehicle details including registration numbers, make, model and colour
- Details or descriptions of suspected perpetrators – names, phone numbers, addresses
- Details of unusual or regular callers to a children's home
- To make it simpler and easier for you to pass on information directly to the MACE Team, Leicestershire Police has created a new information sharing form.

The form can be accessed online and the details you provide will be sent directly to the relevant team <https://leics.police.uk/contact/community-partnership-information>

You can also make an anonymous report through Crimestoppers from this page too.

The information sharing tool can also be accessed through the LLRSCB websites.

This process should not be used to report concerns about a specific child. The process to report concerns that a child may be at risk of harm and/or immediate danger can be found on the LLRSCB's website: <https://lrsb.org.uk/childreport>

**MACE Safeguarding Hub – Organisation Chart**

