 

**Tees wide Child Exploitation**

**VEMT PRACTITIONER SCREENING TOOL / REFERRAL FORM**

**Using the form:**

**Where a professional has concerns about the possibility that a child or young person is being groomed for, or is subject to, Child Sexual Exploitation, Criminal Exploitation, modern slavery or being trafficked, they should complete and submit a safer referral form.**

This form should be used by a social worker or lead practitioner, together with other key professionals involved in the case for the purposes of establishing whether the case should be referred to the respective VEMT practitioner Group (VPG). It is considered good practice to involve the child and parents/carers when completing the domains within the screening tool.

NOTE: Although there are some occasions where consent is not strictly necessary, it is good practice to inform the child and parent and to obtain consent to share information. Due to the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations, this consent should be obtained on the consent form as agreed in the relevant Local Authority.

The form serves as the initial referral to the VEMT Practitioner Group and does not replace a safer referral. It should be completed in full and used for:

a) ALL new cases,

b) ALL cases where closure to VPG is being requested and

c) Where requested by the VPG

Professionals need to be mindful that the indicators could be part of teenage behaviour and should exercise their own judgement when completing the form and capture concerns where they have some evidence AND concerns based on ‘their gut feeling’. Differentiation between the two must be explained in the notes sections.

**Definitions:**

**V**ulnerable:

*Whilst it is acknowledged that there are many forms of vulnerabilities, the term vulnerable used by the VEMT Practitioner Group(s), refers to young people who are ‘Vulnerable to Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation, modern slavery and/or being Trafficked.’*

**E**xploited:

*The latest advice from Government (February 2017), defines child sexual exploitation as:*

*“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.” (CSE - Definition and guide for practitioners”. Available at* [*www.gov.uk*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners)*)*

*While there is still no legal definition of ‘Child Criminal Exploitation’ or CCE, the term CCE used by the VEMT Practitioner Group(s), refers to:*

“the act of using a minor **child** for labour, profit or financial advantage. **It may involve** *gangs and / or organised criminal networks used to store, move, export or deal illegal drugs and / or money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence and weapons.”*

**M**issing:

*Children and Young People who are reported to the police as missing from home, or missing from care. Repeat MFH or MFC can be an indicator of a young person’s vulnerability to CSE/being trafficked.*

**T**rafficked:

*Trafficking relates to the movement of young people for the purposes of modern slavery, sexual or criminal exploitation which is classed as a form of ‘human trafficking’ under the Modern Slavery Act 2015. Although human trafficking is international, trafficking for CSE is often within the UK.*

*Modern Slavery*

Modern Slavery is the term used within the UK and is defined within the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The Act categorises offences of Slavery, Servitude and Forced or Compulsory Labour and Human Trafficking. These crimes include holding a person in a position of slavery, servitude forced or compulsory labour, or facilitating their travel with the intention of exploiting them soon after.

**Please note:** A **National Referral Mechanism** (NRM) referral must be made for any CSE or CCE victim where there are reasonable grounds to believe that they may be a victim of modern slavery (including slavery or human trafficking). NRM referrals can be made by a number of designated first responder organisations. A first responder can make a referral where it is ‘suspected but cannot be proven’ the identified child is a victim of slavery or human trafficking. (Please refer to the NRM legislation).

**IMPORTANT:** Where a child is aged 13 years old or younger the presence of any one high risk factor must be seen as a potential indicator and the child referred to Children’s Social Care.

**Intelligence:** It is essential that all intelligence re CSE is submitted to the Police on a ‘**‘Partnership Information Sharing Report** Form. (Download from: [www.teescpp.org.uk](http://www.teescpp.org.uk))

Should the screening element of this form support the view that the young person is being, or is vulnerable to, CSE or being trafficked, completed forms should be forwarded to the Local Authority where the child resides or if LAC, the home authority.

**Referral:** If the child **does not have a worker** this form should be used to assist evidence gathering in making a SAFER referral and can be **submitted alongside a SAFER referral form** to**:**

**Middlesbrough:** [MiddlesbroughMACH@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:MiddlesbroughMACH@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

**Redcar-Cleveland:** [RedcarMACH@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](mailto:RedcarMACH@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk)  **Stockton:** [childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**Hartlepool:** [childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**Direct referral to VPG:** If the child is open to services and already **has a worker,** send this form to:

**Middlesbrough:** [vpg@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:vpg@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

**Redcar-Cleveland:** [missingchildren@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](mailto:missingchildren@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk) **Stockton:** [VEMT@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:VEMT@stockton.gov.uk)

**Hartlepool:** [VEMT@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:VEMT@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**PART 1: CHILD DETAILS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date this form was completed: | Click and use pull down to add date. | Version: (that is: v01, v02, v03 etc.) | Choose a version. |
| **Child / Young Person’s Details.** | | | |
| First name(s) |  | Surname |  |
| Alias / Known as: |  | Age  DoB | Choose Age  Click here to enter a date of birth. |
| Gender: | Male  Female | Legal Status: | Open to Early Help  CIN  CP  LAC  Leaving Care  Private Fostering No LA involvement |
| Ethnicity:  Language Spoken: |  |
| SEN status | Special Educational Needs support  Education Health Care Plan  Primary Need :-  Communication and Interaction, Cognition and Learning,  Social Emotional Mental Health, Sensory and Physical |
| Home Local Authority |  | Local Authority Currently Living in (Host LA): |  |
| Address |  | | |
| School / College (current) / Year Grp |  | % Attendance (if known) |  |
| GP |  | Is young person subject to Education, Health Care Plan | Choose Yes or No |
| **From completed by:** | | | |
| Name: |  | Date: |  |
| Role: |  | Agency: |  |
| Contact Number: |  | e-mail: |  |
| CONSENT: | Choose an item. | | |
| Agencies involved  Agencies consulted: |  | | |
| Scoring updated:  Yes or No  **An updated score is mandatory.** | Choose an item. | Date Scoring Updated | Click here to enter a date. |
| **MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT: (If completed by Children’s Social Care this section must be completed by the manager of person completing the form)** | | | |
| I confirm that I have read this form and agree that the case should be referred to/reviewed by VPG. | | | |
| Name: |  | Date |  |
| Contact Number: |  | e-mail: |  |
| Position: |  | Signed: |  |

**PART 2 – supporting evidence**

**(Please note: the risk levels indicated in the tables below demonstrate both the level of risk each indicator represents (High, Medium, Low) as well as the category of risk that each indicator could be signifying (Vulnerable, Sexually Exploited (CSE), Criminally Exploited (CCE), Missing or Trafficked). Practitioners are not expected to choose which category each indicator is signifying; this will be decided during the VEMT Practitioner Meeting. The categories are identified simply to make clear that some indicators can point to more than one aspect. Practitioners are also advised that the indicators may point to other categories not listed and that many may interlink.)**

**GOOD FORM FILLING: Where a risk is present please build the updates for each risk at each VPG by VPG – See exemplar in red**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **Risk Level**  **DO NOT Change** | **Observed**  **or Evidenced** | **Believed to be taking place** | **Evidence / Comments / Details / Context (BRIEF)** |
| **CLICK TO SELECT IF RELEVANT  LEAVE BLANK IF NOT** | |
| **Exemplar**: Physical injuries such as bruising suggestive of either physical or sexual assault. | **HIGH** |  |  | **01/03/2020 VPG:**  [Name] attended A&E on **[date]** with bruising around genitals – refused to say who caused these  **01/04/2020 VPG:**  No further update:  **01/05/2020 VPG Update:**  [Name] has provided name of assailant who caused injuries (see additional information box) |

**HEALTH DOMAIN**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **Risk Level**  **DO NOT Change** | **Observed**  **or Evidenced** | **Believed to be taking place** | **Evidence / Comments / Details / Context (BRIEF)** |
| **CLICK TO SELECT IF RELEVANT  LEAVE BLANK IF NOT** | |
| Physical injuries such as bruising suggestive of either physical or sexual assault. | **HIGH**  CSE / CCE |  |  |  |
| A sexually transmitted infection (STI), that is recurring or there are multiple STI’s | **HIGH**  CSE |  |  |  |
| Repeat/unplanned pregnancy or pregnancies (including ending in termination/miscarriage(s) |  |  |  |
| Sexually risky behaviour | **MEDIUM**  CSE |  |  |  |
| Eating Disorders |  |  |  |
| Self-harming | **MEDIUM**  CSE / CCE |  |  |  |
| Thoughts of or attempted suicide |  |  |  |
| Evidence of misuse of drugs/alcohol, including associated health problems |  |  |  |
| Change in appearance including losing weight, putting on weight |  |  |  |
| Learning Disability | **MEDIUM**  Vulnerable |  |  |  |

**..................**

**BEHAVIOUR DOMAIN**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **Risk Level**  **DO NOT Change** | **Observed**  **or Evidenced** | **Believed to be taking place** | **Evidence / Comments / Details / Context (BRIEF)** |
| **CLICK TO SELECT IF RELEVANT  LEAVE BLANK IF NOT** | |
| Sexually offending behaviour | **HIGH**  CSE |  |  |  |
| Obsession with postcodes, knowledge of areas with no legitimate links, use of false identities / dates of birth / addresses. | **HIGH**  CCE |  |  |  |
| Truancy/disengagement with education (possibly leading to exclusion / attendance at a PRU or alternative education provision), or considerable change in performance at school. | **MEDIUM**  CSE/CCE |  |  |  |
| Isolation from peers and / or withdrawal & detachment from family. |  |  |  |
| Volatile behaviour exhibiting extreme array of mood swings or abusive language which is unusual for the child. | **MEDIUM**  CSE/CCE |  |  |  |
| Physical aggression or violence towards parents, siblings, pets, teachers or peers. |  |  |  |
| Becoming angry, hostile if any suspicions or concerns about their activities are expressed or plans are disrupted. |  |  |  |
| Detachment from age-appropriate activities. | **MEDIUM**  CSE/CCE |  |  |  |
| Secretive behaviour. |  |  |  |
| Change in social group; particularly change in age (older associates) or size of group (gangs). | **MEDIUM**  CCE |  |  |  |
| Viewing family as enemy and associates as family. |  |  |  |
| Wearing two layers of clothing from home (one to shed to avoid police detection) |  |  |  |
| Young offender or anti-social behaviour. | **MEDIUM**  CCE |  |  |  |
| Change in behaviour – from lack of eye contact to bravado, arrogant, squaring up, rudeness or aggression. |  |  |  |
| Change in language / vocabulary – use of coarse and offensive language and/or terminology / unusual nicknames. |  |  |  |
| Change in appearance – smart to ‘street’ or wearing expensive/ designer labels (no explanation). |  |  |  |
| Sexualised language. | **MEDIUM**  CSE |  |  |  |
| Known to be sexually active. |  |  |  |
| Low self-image, low self-esteem. |  |  |  |
| Hostility in relationship with parents/carers and other family members. |  |  |  |
| Getting involved in petty crime such as shoplifting or stealing. | **LOW**  CSE/CCE |  |  |  |

**GROOMING DOMAIN**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **Risk Level**  **DO NOT Change** | **Observed**  **or Evidenced** | **Believed to be taking place** | **Evidence / Comments / Details / Context (BRIEF)** |
| **CLICK TO SELECT IF RELEVANT  LEAVE BLANK IF NOT** | |
| Entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults and / or in unexplained areas. | **HIGH**  CSE/CCE  /Trafficking |  |  |  |
| Excessive use of mobile phones including receiving calls/texts late at night. | **HIGH**  CSE/CCE |  |  |  |
| Phone call, texts or letters from unknown adults / mobile phone being answered by unknown adult. |  |  |  |
| Unexplained relationships with older adults. | **HIGH**  CSE/CCE |  |  |  |
| Reports that the child/young person has been seen in places known to be used for sexual / criminal exploitation. |  |  |  |
| Associating with other young people who are known to be sexually / criminally exploited, including in school. |  |  |  |
| Inappropriate use of the Internet and forming relationships, particularly with adults, via the Internet. Note adults may pose as peers to entrap the child. |  |  |  |
| Accounts of social activities with no plausible explanation of the source of necessary funding. |  |  |  |
| Having keys to premises other than those they should have. |  |  |  |
| Appears to be ‘controlled’ or influenced by others (behaviour, movement, communication). |  |  |  |
| Acquisition of expensive or sexual clothes, mobile phone or other possession without plausible explanation. |  |  |  |
| Having new mobile phone, several mobile phones, especially Blackberry or I Phone – (because messages cannot be traced). Always have credit on their mobile phones, despite having no access to money or having no credit so phone can only be used for incoming calls. |  |  |  |
| Returning after having been missing, looking well cared for in spite of having no known home base OR looking dirty, dishevelled, tired, hungry, and thirsty. |  |  |  |
| Possession of money with no plausible explanation. |  |  |  |
| Adult loitering outside the child/young person’s usual place of residence or school. |  |  |  |
| Persistently missing, staying out overnight or returning late with no plausible explanation. | **HIGH**  CSE /CCE  /MISSING |  |  |  |
| Presence of unexplained items such as scrunched up cling film / foil, debit cards (unknown identities), lighters, train tickets, more than one mobile phone / chargers, weapons/knives, drugs. | **HIGH**  CCE |  |  |  |
| Sexual relationship with a significantly older person. | **HIGH**  CSE |  |  |  |
| Recruiting others into sexual exploitation. |  |  |  |
| Frequenting public toilets to meet adults or adult venues (pubs and clubs). |  |  |  |
| Leaving home/care setting in clothing unusual for the individual child (inappropriate for age, borrowing clothing from older young people). |  |  |  |
| Wearing an unusual amount of clothing (due to hiding more sexualised clothing underneath or hiding their body). |  |  |  |
| Possession of excessive numbers of condoms. | **MEDIUM**  CSE |  |  |  |
| New contacts with people outside of town. | **MEDIUM** CSE / CCE |  |  |  |

**E-SAFETY / DIGITAL SAFETY DOMAIN**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **Risk Level**  **DO NOT Change** | **Observed**  **or Evidenced** | **Believed to be taking place** | **Evidence / Comments / Details / Context (BRIEF)** |
| **CLICK TO SELECT IF RELEVANT  LEAVE BLANK IF NOT** | |
| Evidence of sexual bullying and/or vulnerability through the internet or social networking sites. | **HIGH**  CSE |  |  |  |
| Concern that inappropriate images of the young person are being circulated via the internet/phones. | **HIGH**  CSE |  |  |  |
| Exchanging inappropriate images for cash, credits or other items. |  |  |  |
| Receiving gifts through the post from someone the young person does not know. |  |  |  |
| Concern that a young person is being coerced to provide sexually explicit images. |  |  |  |
| Concerned that a young person is being bribed by someone for their inappropriate online activity. |  |  |  |
| Concern that a young person is selling sexual services via the Internet. |  |  |  |
| Accessing dating agencies via mobile phones. | **MEDIUM** CSE |  |  |  |
| Concerns that young person’s online friendship has developed into an offline relationship. |  |  |  |
| Sharing of inappropriate images amongst friends. |  |  |  |
| Concern that a young person is having an online relationship. |  |  |  |
| Increased time on web cam, especially in bedroom. |  |  |  |
| Unexplained increased mobile phone/gaming credits. | **MEDIUM**  CSE / CCE |  |  |  |
| Going online during the night. |  |  |  |
| Being secretive using mobile phone for accessing websites etc., more than computers. |  |  |  |
| Unwilling to share/show online or phone contacts. |  |  |  |
| New contacts with people outside of town. |  |  |  |
| Spending increasing amount of time with online friends and less time with friends from school or neighbourhood. | **LOW**  CSE |  |  |  |
| Spending increasing amount of time on social networking sites including Facebook or on shared gaming sites. | **LOW**  CSE |  |  |  |

**LOOKED AFTER DOMAIN**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **Risk Level**  **DO NOT Change** | **Observed**  **or Evidenced** | **Believed to be taking place** | **Evidence / Comments / Details / Context (BRIEF)** |
| **CLICK TO SELECT IF RELEVANT  LEAVE BLANK IF NOT** | |
| Living in residential care. | **HIGH**  Vulnerable |  |  |  |
| Frequently missing from placement. |  |  |  |
| Multiple placement breakdowns. | **MEDIUM**  Vulnerable |  |  |  |

**FAMILY / HOME DOMAIN**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator** | **Risk Level**  **DO NOT Change** | **Observed**  **or Evidenced** | **Believed to be taking place** | **Evidence / Comments / Details / Context (BRIEF)** |
| **CLICK TO SELECT IF RELEVANT  LEAVE BLANK IF NOT** | |
| A family member or known associate working in the adult sex trade/drugs trade. | **HIGH**  CSE/CCE |  |  |  |
| Unsure about their sexual orientation, or unable to disclose sexual orientation to their family. | **HIGH**  Vulnerable |  |  |  |
| History of physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse; neglect. | **MEDIUM**  Vulnerable |  |  |  |
| Witness to domestic abuse at home. |  |  |  |
| Parental difficulties; drug and alcohol misuse, mental health problems, physical or learning difficulty. Being a young carer. |  |  |  |
| Pattern of street homelessness or sofa surfing. |  |  |  |
| Living in a Hostel, B&B or Foyer accommodation. |  |  |  |
| Conflict at home around boundaries, including staying out late. |  |  |  |
| Recent bereavement or loss. |  |  |  |
| Lacking friends their own age. |  |  |  |

**TOTAL NUMBER OF HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW CONCERNS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LEVEL OF CONCERN** | **NUMBER OBSERVED OR EVIDENCED** | **NUMBER BELIEVED TO BE PRESENT** |
|  | Click here to enter NUMBER. | Click here to enter NUMBER. |
| **Medium** | Click here to enter NUMBER. | Click here to enter NUMBER. |
| **Low** | Click here to enter NUMBER. | Click here to enter NUMBER. |

|  |
| --- |
| **PROFESSIONALS SUMMARY OF CURRENT RISK** |
| **Professionals believe the existence of the above risks indicate that:**   1. This Young Person is **Vulnerable** to:   Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)  Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)  Being Trafficked   1. This Young Person **HAS ALREADY BEEN:**   **Sexually Exploited**  **Criminally Exploited**  **Trafficked:**   1. **The known or alleged / suspected perpetrator(s) is: Click here to enter Names and known details e.g. DoB, Address, Nickname etc.** 2. **The following locations where the young person and other young people are at risk, require disruption activity and/or Contextual Safeguarding: Click here to enter details of any premises or locations that require disruption activity or contextual safeguarding.**   What has been the impact of current risk factors? What could potential future impact be?  What has been the impact of the VEMT Process So Far?  What additional assistance or advice do you want from VPG partners? |
| **EXISITING PLAN TO REDUCE RISK** |
| What is already in place? What is already being done and by whom? |

**VOICE OF THE CHILD / PARENT / CARER**

|  |
| --- |
| Child Informed: Yes  / No  Date: Click here to enter a date.  **Comments / views of the Child:** |
| Parent Informed Yes  / No  Date: Click here to enter a date.  **Comments / views of the Parent Carer:** |

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

|  |
| --- |
|  |