

Committee: Merton Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 23 April 2013

Agenda item: 10

Wards: All

Subject: Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy

Lead officer: Lee Hopkins

Lead member: Councillor Maxi Martin, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Forward Plan reference number:

Contact officer: Lee Hopkins

Recommendations:

A That the Health and Wellbeing Board to endorse the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and Action Plan

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the operational and strategic arrangements to support potential and actual victims of sexual exploitation.
- 1.2 The strategy includes a description of the fundamental principles in this area of work and describes some of the associated symptoms and concerns that can indicate that a young person is possibly being abused.
- 1.3 The strategy is a multi-agency document based on full consultation and collaboration across both statutory and voluntary sectors. Merton is a leading (confidential) contributor to the University of Bedfordshire 2 year enquiry in to Sexual Exploitation and Gangs and more recently has been commended in a Peer Review of services to address Gang and Youth Violence.

- 1.4 Partnerships are key to success in this work and the recent round of commissioning has secured 3 year funding to support local and national engagement with Jigsaw4u and Barnardos.

2. DETAILS

- 2.1 The CSE strategy and action plan has been endorsed by Merton's Safeguarding Children Board.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 Any alternative options would not be compliant with the National Action plan or the requirements of the Office of the Children's Commissioner as it is leading on research and practice development.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1 There has been full consultation with all partner agencies through the LSCB and the Promote and Protect Young People (P&PYP) Steering Group. Further consultation is planned with young people pending the successful outcome of the local authorities MOPAC funding bid.

5. TIMETABLE

- 5.1 This work is ongoing and developing with new and emerging issues being relayed to senior officers directly from the interim reporting of the research team. It is expected that the P&PYP group will report 6 monthly to the LSCB and annually to the HWB.

6. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Membership of the National Working Group currently only affords a right to attend the NWG meetings. Full GOLD membership would provide access to all of the groups research, intelligence and data to thereby support further service improvements in Merton.
- 6.2 NWG funding would cost £500 per annum.

7. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 See above re Central Governments National Action Plan and the OCC research.

8. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are strong reputational risks for the local authority for any perceived or actual failure to duly assess and support any possible victims of CSE and

their families. Although all the research shows otherwise there may be consequent community cohesion concerns if it is reported that any specific racial or cultural group is associated with any victimisation.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There may be particular concerns in relation to the location of any offending and this may also be linked to the local authorities broader Licensing responsibilities eg for business and trading or for the consumption of alcohol or for music and entertainment licenses.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The strategy provides a framework for practitioners to risk assess all cases they refer and to seek appropriate services proportionate to the risk. Also included in the strategy is an information sharing protocol to support clear recording and collaboration.

11. APPENDICES - THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- Appendix 1 Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1 Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and Action Plan.

Merton Safeguarding Children Board

Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy



2013

Contents

		PAGE
1.	Introduction	1
2.	Definition	1
3.	Protocol	1
4.	Key factors and principles	2
5.	Referral and consultation	4
6.	Strategy meetings	5
7.	Promote and protect young people group	6
8.	The role of partner agencies	8
9.	Commitment to best practice and service development	10
10.	Key documents	10
11.	Key contacts	11
12.	Glossary	11
13.	Action plan	12
	Appendix	
1.	CSE Risk Matrix	
2.	CSE Referral form and flowchart	
3.	Information Sharing Protocol	

1. **Introduction**

This strategy sets out local multi-agency working arrangements under the Merton Safeguarding Children's Board and the Merton Children and Young People's Partnership. This strategy promotes a multi-agency approach to addressing CSE through a shared understanding that supports prevention through better information sharing and improved identification. The strategy also promotes a shared multi-agency response to improve effective interventions and to protect those most at risk of being sexually exploited.

2. **Definition Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

The sexual exploitation of children and young people (CSE) under-18 is defined as that which:

'involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. 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. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability' (Department for Education 2012)

3. **Protocol**

This strategy incorporates the local multi-agency protocol arrangements to support the most effective professional liaison in this work with a focus on improving outcomes for affected young people and their families.

The strategy includes the provision of local procedures in line with the guidance in *'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation'* Action Plan, 2011.

The guidance expects local authorities and their partners to:

- Develop local prevention strategies
- Identify those at risk of being sexually exploited
- Take action to safeguard and promote the welfare of particular children and young people who are being, or may be, sexually exploited and
- Take action against those intent on abusing and exploiting children and young people in this way.

The DfE Action Plan places an equal emphasis on police investigations and activity against those who coerce, abuse and exploit children and young people as well as efforts to protect children and young people at risk of harm.

4. **Key Factors and Principles**

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

- Recognition - Sexual exploitation includes sexual, physical and emotional abuse, as well as, 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.
- Children under sixteen cannot consent to sexual activity; sexual activity with children under the age of 13 is statutory rape.
- Child Sexual Exploitation covers a range of vulnerabilities which will need differing responses from a range of agencies; it is a multi-causal issue that needs to be addressed within a multi-agency filter.
- Sexually exploited children should be treated as victims of abuse, not as offenders.
- Many sexually exploited children have difficulty distinguishing between their own choices around sex and sexuality and the sexual activities they are coerced into.
- The primary law enforcement effort must be against the coercers and sex abusers, who may be adult, but could also be the child's peers or young people who are older than the child.
- Sexually exploited children are children in need of services under the Children Act 1989 and 2004. They are also children in need of 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 be followed where:
 1. The child is at immediate risk of significant harm and has other additional vulnerabilities.
 2. There is concern that the sexual exploitation is being facilitated by the child's parent/carer.
 3. There is concern that the sexual exploitation is facilitated by the child's parent/carer failing to protect.
 4. There is concern that a related or unrelated adult in a position of trust or responsibility to the child is organising or encouraging the sexual exploitation.

This protocol describes a number of factors which may place children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation. These are sometimes referred to as 'push and pull' factors and may occur singularly or in combination.

The lists below are not exhaustive but are potentially significant influences on a young persons vulnerability to sexual exploitation, since sexual exploitation is often linked to other issues in the life of a child or young person.

Sexual Exploitation is often linked to other types of crime including:

- Child trafficking (into, out of and within the UK)
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual violence in intimate relationships
- Grooming (both online and offline)
- Viewing, creating or distributing abusive images of children
- Organised sexual abuse of children
- Gang related activity
- Immigration-related offences
- Domestic servitude

Significant factors for children and young people who may be at risk of sexual exploitation:

- Running away from home / care and going missing
- Non attendance at school and school phobia
- Being in residential or foster care (especially out of area)
- Drug and alcohol misuse
- Parents / carers with a high level of vulnerabilities
- Sexually risky behaviour
- Sexual health problems
- Domestic servitude, neglect, violence and bullying
- Teenage pregnancy
- Long term sexual, physical and psychological harm
- Forced marriage
- Mental health issues including self harm and para-suicide
- Notable changes in behaviour or habits
- Forced isolation from family, friends, community
- Learning disabilities
- Immigration status
- In “relationship” with older male or female
- Involved in gang culture
- In receipt of goods or money as “gifts” or for which there is no account
- Friendships/peers involved in CSE
- Family involved in sexual exploitation

Attitudes of Children and Young People

Young people may become involved for many reasons and commonly they may suffer with low self esteem. This can then make them vulnerable to unwittingly becoming involved in situations which ultimately exploit them. It is very common for children and young people not to recognise that they are being abused due to the grooming methods often used by the perpetrators.

The needs of children and particularly of young people aged 16 and 17 years are likely to be overlooked for this reason. Although faced with limited choice, they may believe themselves to be acting voluntarily. It may take many weeks or months for practitioners who work with young people to build up their trust, and help them to recognise that they are being sexually exploited.

Gangs

May play a significant part in CSE. They are defined as:

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:

- 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.

Groups

Child sexual exploitation by a group involves people who come together in person or online for the purpose of setting up, co-ordinating and/or taking part in the sexual exploitation of children in either an organized or opportunistic way.

5. Referral and Consultation

Professionals in all agencies should be alert to the possibility that a child/young person they are working with may be being sexually exploited. The professional may already have concerns about the child/young person e.g missing school, missing from home, self-harming. When considering possible exploitation any professional should first discuss the concerns with their agency's designated safeguarding lead (refer to CSE indicators).

If after discussion the concerns remain, a decision should be made about whether a referral should be made to Children's Social Care (CSC). The lead professional for Sexually Exploited Young People in the MASH can be contacted for discussion and further clarity. Once a decision is made that a referral should be completed this should be in the normal way in accordance with Working Together 2010.

Note: Where a child/young person is considered to be at risk or likely to be at risk of significant harm or if the agency's designated safeguarding lead is not available a referral must be made immediately to the MASH, Telephone (020) 8545 4635

Young people under 13 years of age

All cases involving under 13's should always be discussed with the MASH Team Manger or the Child Protection Conference QA Manager. There should always be a presumption that the case will be reported to Children's Social Care.

All cases of children under the age of 13 years believed to be engaged in sexual activity and/or penetrative sexual relationships must be referred to Children's Social Care who will refer to the Police if this has not already happened. This recognises the particular vulnerability of children of this age engaging in sexual behaviours and that they are deemed too young to give consent to any sexual activity.

Young people aged 13-16

Although sexual activity with young people under the age of 16 years remains illegal, 13-16 year olds are considered competent to give consent, in certain circumstances.

Therefore, when making an assessment about risk for this age the professional should take into account:

- The age of the child/young person
- Level of understanding/maturity
- Any key risk factors
- Behaviour of young person
- Any evidence of grooming
- Age of boyfriend/girlfriend or sexual partner

Young people aged 16/17

It is important to consider that just because a young person is 16 or 17 years old and has reached the legal age of being able to consent to sex that they are no longer at risk of sexual exploitation. They are still defined as children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004 respectively and can still suffer significant harm as a result of sexual exploitation. They have the right to appropriate support and protection from harm.

6. Strategy Meetings

On receipt of a referral MASH will consider allocation for the completion of a single Assessment. If the child/young person is considered to be at immediate risk a Strategy Meeting/Discussion will take place and a S47 investigation may be initiated with appropriate steps taken to secure the safety of the child/young person. For all other cases of suspected CSE a Sexual Exploitation meeting should be considered.

Where a child/young person is already known to CSC the Strategy Meeting/Discussion should be chaired by the appropriate Team Manager for the allocated Social Worker. If a S47 investigation is required it should be completed by the allocated social worker or a sufficiently experienced social worker.

All cases of suspected, actual or potential sexual exploitation should be referred to the Promote and Protect Young People Group (P&PYP). If the case is allocated to a Social Worker they must complete the P&PYP referral form. For any cases that do not meet the criteria for social work allocation these should be discussed with the Children's Safeguarding Standards and Training Service Manager to agree who should act as the lead professional and thereby complete the referral to the P&PYP group.

Any planned referral of the case to the Promote and Protect group should not prevent more immediate case planning and intervention.

If the case involves a suspect within the child or young person's family or is a carer or person in a position of trust then the Form 87A should be directed to the Police Child Abuse Investigation Team office (secure email, SPOC etc). The referring social worker must always check that the email has been received. All such communications should be through secure emails.

7. Sexual Exploitation and the role of the Promote and Protect Young People (P&PYP) Group

There are scheduled monthly operational P&PYP meetings at the Chaucer Centre. There is also a strategic P&PYP meeting every quarter. They are attended by a core group of professionals from Children's Services and all relevant Sexual Exploitation Leads from Police, Safeguarding Standards and Training team, Health, Education, Youth Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Youth Justice Team (YOT) and important partners in the voluntary sector eg Barnardos, Jigsaw4u and Catch22.

All follow up reviews are scheduled into these meetings. The meetings are chaired by the Local Authority Child Sexual Exploitation Lead. A record of the meeting is completed and sent to all participants securely.

Purpose of P&PYP meeting

- Establish exact nature of concerns
- Establish risks and protective factors for the child/young person
- Establish risks and protective factors for any other children/young people, including siblings
- Systematically gather information regarding links with known or suspected offenders and young people to support cross-referencing of associates and show relationships between groups of people on a borough wide and cross-borough basis.
- Consider any action to support the likelihood of prosecution alongside the impact on the child of any possible criminal proceedings.

- Agree on action and make recommendations to address the concerns and risks.
- Develop a multi-agency support plan for the child/young person and parent/carer and keep this under review.
- Share and clarify information across all agencies
- Ensure coordination with the MASH.
- Ensure there is effective cross border liaison with other LSCB's and CSE leads.

Outcomes of P&PYP Operational meeting

1. There is no need for enhanced services and single agency to monitor
or
2. A Team Around the Child approach is taken to **prevent** potential sexual exploitation. This can be under a CASA with a lead practitioner or under Children In Need.
or
3. Concerns require a coordinated Safeguarding assessment/Disruption plan with an allocated social worker and possible specialist support
or
4. S47 investigation and possible Initial Child Protection Conference with specialist support.

Children Looked After

The P&PYP Group also ensures there is a focus on the particular vulnerability of Children Looked After.

The following factors should be taken into account when considering concerns about a looked after child:

- The risks to other children in placement
- Whether the child should remain in placement
- The feasibility of controlling the child's movements and the whether the placement can keep him/her safe
- The child's parents should be informed. Any decision not to inform the parents must be recorded on the child's file with clear reasoning signed off by the manager
- Other children in the placement should be monitored to identify whether they are also at risk of harm or involved in sexual exploitation
- Foster carers and residential care workers should be asked to take positive action to clarify and record suspicions and minimise the child's involvement in sexual exploitation
- If there is knowledge or suspicion that looked after children are involved in sexual exploitation together or are controlled by the same person there will need to be additional planning and consideration given to using child protection and /or organised abuse procedures
- Our approach is to work inclusively and in partnership with families and carers, acknowledging their concerns and stress factors

- For young people placed in Merton by a different Local Authority any action to safeguard them must be led by the placing authority

Working with Parents / Carers

Parents and carers play the most crucial role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of their children. If a child or young person is suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm through sexual exploitation by someone outside the family, this may not necessarily be as a result of parents or carers having difficulties in meeting their child's needs. Involving parents/families early in interventions can be a significant way forward in protecting and supporting their children.

In some cases parents and carers will be complicit in the exploitation of their children and this would be a theme to explore in depth through the process of any assessment and plan to safeguard the young person.

8. The Role of Partner Agencies

Police

There are various police teams who may become involved with a young person who is at risk of being sexually exploited. This includes CAIT, Sapphire Team, Missing Persons Unit, Public Protection Desk, C.I.D. and Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Police coordination of a Safeguarding/Disruption Plan towards targeted and identified individuals can be effective. The MPS CSE protocol will establish a local Single Point of Contact for all CSE matters and a pan-London investigative team to lead on significant enquiries.

Whenever a young person is the subject of a strategy meeting the details will be recorded on the appropriate Police indices alerting officers to their vulnerability. This allows any information regarding that young person to be collated, enabling any links between the young person and suspected offenders and other young people to be identified.

If the young person is found with an offender, or potential offender, this will be entered as an intelligence record. Incidents of concern at the address to which the young person goes missing can be collated and addresses can be recorded systematically for the police to check if the young person goes missing again. If the young person is willing to make a formal complaint/allegation a statement/ABE interview will take place.

The young person's situation will be monitored and prior to any review meetings being held a report will be forwarded to the relevant professionals. Police schools officers are particularly well placed to gather and share this intelligence.

The police can also use Restraining Orders, Anti Social Behaviour Orders, Child Abduction Notices (The Child Abduction Act 1984, Section (2) to disrupt incidents of sexual exploitation.

Children's Social Care Action Following P&PYP Operational meeting

Following the P&PYP Operational meeting, the case will be supported either by a Team Around the Child (TAC) approach with an agreed and identified lead professional or where appropriate the Social Worker will complete an assessment and this may lead to a Child Protection Conference.

A TAC meeting should be convened to agree:

- The development of a Child's Plan which meets the young person's developmental needs and develops a strategy to support the young person in avoiding potential sexual exploitation. The Child's Plan will be informed by the multi-agency assessment (CASA)
- Services necessary to support the young person and address any further needs he/she may have.

Where identified concerns do not meet the threshold for Children's Social Care (CSC) involvement the TAC should be coordinated by the agreed lead professional for the child/young person

If the young person remains at risk of significant harm because of continuing involvement in sexual exploitation the P&PYP Group will support the multi agency response led by the social worker under either a Child in Need plan; Child Protection Plan; or Looked After Care Plan.

Health

There are many health services that may work with young people at risk of sexual exploitation such as school nursing, teenage pregnancy services and sexual health services to name but a few. For Looked After young people the role of the Looked After Nurse is especially important in ensuring their health needs are met and carers are made aware of concerns to look out for and where to seek help.

Education

Transition and adolescence can be a difficult time for young people. Schools through their PSHE and SRE programmes play a key role in raising awareness about healthy relationships and the healthy development of sexuality. Through a robust PSHE programme that includes work around understanding and managing risk, students are supported in developing their own strategies to keep themselves safe. Schools are most often best placed to see patterns of concern in a young person's behaviour.

School systems including Targeted Youth Support Panels (TYSP) highlight vulnerable students and ensure referrals to appropriate agencies.

Some schools have developed their practice in identifying students at risk of sexual exploitation and run groups with trained staff to support the most vulnerable. Staff coordinating these groups will require consultation time with mental health professionals to ensure that they are able to manage the strong and sometimes overwhelming feelings that working with these vulnerable students sometimes elicits.

Schools need to have a clear response to unknown adults collecting young people or arriving in school to make contact and they must make sure all staff including reception are aware of the protocols.

Voluntary Organisations

As part of a multi-agency response to child sexual exploitation Merton has commissioned specialist support for Missing Children and Young People as well as specialist work with those most at risk of Sexual Exploitation through two Voluntary Organisations: Jigsaw4u and Barnardos.

9. **Commitment to Best Practice and Service Development**

Merton is committed to developing its response to concerns of Child Sexual Exploitation in line with local, regional and national examples of Best Practice and is an active participant in the National Working Group for CSE. The forum shares information on initiatives and developments in this area of work.

10. **Key documents**

- Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation – Action Plan (DfE)
<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/safeguardingchildren/a00200288/tackling-child-sexual-exploitation>
- Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation 2009 (DCSF)
<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DCSF-00689-2009>
- London Child Protection Procedures for Safeguarding Children abused through Sexual Exploitation
http://www.londoncp.co.uk/procedures/supp_6.html
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010 (Department for Children, Schools and Families)

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DCSF-00305-2010>

- Safeguarding Children and Young People who may be affected by Gang Activity 2010 (Department for Schools, Children and Families)

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DCSF-00064-2010>

- Sexual Offences Act 2003 Sections 47-51 (appendix 5)

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/contents>

CSE KEY CONTACTS

NAME	AGENCY	TEL.	EMAIL (secure)
Lee Hopkins	CSC (CSST)	0208 274 4993	Lee.hopkins@merton.gov.uk.cjism.net
Joanne Belton	Police CAIT	0208 247 7800	Joanne.belton@met.pnn.police.uk
Amanda Sadler	Health (Comm Services)	0208 254 8459	Amanda.sadler@smcs.nhs.uk
Bev Selway Yvonne Wilkins	Education	0208 288 5624	Bev.selway@merton.gov.uk.cjism.net Yvonne.wilkins@merton.gov.uk.cjism.net
Jane Coppock	Barnardos	0208 688 1079	Jane.coppock@barnardos.org.uk
Pam Byfield	Jigsaw4u	0208 687 1384	Pambyfield@jigsaw4u.org.uk Mertonjigsaw4u@merton.gov.uk.cjism.net
John Shelley	Y.O.T.	0208 274 4943	John.shelley@merton.gov.uk.cjism.net

Glossary

Acronym	In full
CAIT	Child Abuse Investigation Team
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CSC	Children's Social Care
A&A	Access and Assessment Service
P&PYP Group	Promote and Protect Young People group
CSST	Children's Safeguarding, Standards and Training

TAC	Team Around the Child
YOT	Youth Justice Team
SESM	Sexual Exploitation Strategy Meeting

CSE ACTION PLAN

2013-2014

1 CSE Promotion Strategy

Action	Lead Officer/Agency	Timescale	RAG	Comments
1.1 Raise awareness of CSE, training, briefings, definitions to partner agencies	Lee Hopkins CSC	Sept'2013		
1.2 Map prevalence and hot spots including victim, locations and perpetrators	(Police) Missing persons officer; CSE lead (Barnardos); Missing lead (Jigsaw4u)	Dec'2013		

2 CSE Prevention Strategy

Action	Lead Officer/Agency	Timescale	RAG	Comments
2.1 Consult with young people on CSE issues to inform service delivery and development including consultation with local communities	Jane Coppock (Barnardos) Pam Byfield (Jigsaw4u)	June'2013		
2.2 Deliver awareness raising programme across young peoples settings, eg schools, youth clubs, street based activities include guidance on case of risk assessment tool	Bev Selway (VBS) Keith Shipman (PRU)	Sept'2013		

3 CSE Protection Strategy

Action	Lead Officer/Agency	Timescale	RAG	Comments
3.1 Integrate work to prevent gang and group offending with victim support and recovery	Lee Hopkins (CSC) Jo Belton (Police) Chris Giles(YOT)	April'2013		
3.2 Skill workforce to support information sharing and increase potential for prosecution and criminal justice support for victims	Jane Coppock (Barnardos) Jo Belton (Police)	July'2013		
3.3 Utilise longitudinal work with victims to inform effective recovery approaches and family support	University research group Lee Hopkins (CSC)	April'2013		

4 CSE Governance

Action	Lead Officer/Agency	Timescale	RAG	Comments
4.1 Review and evaluate promotion, prevention and protection services	Strategic leads for CSE across agencies	Sept'2013 and March'2014		
4.2 Quality assure effectiveness of risk management safety planning and harm minimisation for victims	QA Manager (CSC)	Dec'2013		

MERTON RISK MATRIX FOR CASES WHERE IT IS BELIEVED A CHILD/YOUNG PERSON IS OR MAY BE SEXUALLY EXPLOITED.

The purpose of this guidance is to offer a clear and practical action plan for social workers and other practitioners in cases where there is suspected child/Young person sexual exploitation. The guidance offers three levels of risk and the appropriate action to take. This should be read in conjunction with guidance on the definition and risk indicators of child sexual exploitation please refer to the London Child Protection Procedures; Section 5.40; *Safeguarding Children Abused Through Sexual Exploitation (London Board, 2006)*, accessible at: www.londonscb.gov.uk. See also the *Sexual Offences Act 2003*: section 5.39 and Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation; Supplementary guidance to working together to safeguard children; DCSF..

RISK CATEGORIES	INDICATORS	RESPONSE
<p>1 (at risk) – A vulnerable child who is at risk of being targeted and groomed for sexual exploitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccounted for monies and/or goods. • Reduced contact with family/friends. • Poor self image • Expressions of despair – internal • Cutting • Overdosing • Eating disorder • Sexualised risk taking • Overt sexualised dress/attire • Getting into adults car's • Meeting adults through the internet • STIs • Truanting from school • Regularly coming home late. • Absent without permission and returning late. • Experimenting with alcohol/drugs. • Associating with unknown adults and/or other sexually exploited children. • Gang group association 	<p>Intervention may be based on preventative diversionary work ie CAF co-ordinated response from the following key agencies;</p> <p>YOS Youth Service Education Sexual Health worker Young Persons Drug & Alcohol Service Housing Voluntary sector Faith based community support</p>

<p>2 – (medium risk) : A child who is targeted for opportunistic abuse through the exchange of sex for attention, accommodation, food, gifts and drugs. The likelihood of control and coercion is significant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited contact with family/friends. • Disclosure of physical/sexual assault followed by withdrawal of allegation. • Physical injuries – external/internal. • Getting into men's cars • Meeting adults through the internet • Clipping (offering to have sex and then running upon payment) • Older boyfriend (5+ years) • Non school attendee/excluded • Regular breakdown of school placements due to behavioural problems. • Frequently staying out overnight without permission. • Episodes of running/going missing. • Persistently running/going missing from placement. • Looking well cared for despite having no known base. • Regular breakdown of placements due to behavioural problems. • Unaccounted monies and/or goods, especially jewellery and mobile phones • Multiple STIs • Miscarriages • Terminations • Chronic low self esteem • Expressions of despair: internal – self harm. Cutting • Overdosing • Eating disorder • Sexualised risk taking • External – Intensive Acting out 	<p>Statutory intervention may be required to protect the child and a support package arranged to help them with exit strategies and recovery. If this is the case a CSE Strategy meeting / CSE Multiple Children and Young People Strategy meeting should be convened.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following core agencies should be invited; police, education, health and any other agencies involved with the family such as DAS, CAMHS, YOS. (Please see section 4.a below for list of nominated representatives for the key agencies). • The meeting should follow along the same lines as a strategy meeting. • The meeting is to be chaired by the Safeguarding Standards & TS at IRO Operational or Service Manager level for the allocated social worker. • The Strategy meeting should be recorded on ICS by downloading the appropriate Strategy meeting form. Information discussed at the meeting should not be shared with other agencies without the knowledge of the chair. • As stated in the pan London Child protection procedures a child/young person and their family should not be invited to the Strategy meeting in case they are unduly coerced or bribed into making a statement that does not reflect the true situation (5.40.15). <p>The outcome of meeting may be that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no need to proceed further, using a CAF & liaising with a CAF worker the young person can continue to be offered support through agencies listed in Level 1. • There is a need to invoke Safeguarding Child Protection procedures. • The child is defined as in need and therefore further assessment and intervention by Children Social Care is required. • There is a possibility of criminal action against an adult (See Sexual Offences Act 2003 which provides the legal framework regarding the ages at which consent to sexual activity can be given and the circumstances where any consent given by the child / young person will be considered void because it has been obtained through duress or coercion). • Direct work is required to divert the child from involvement • There is justification for criminal action against the child / young person. • There is insufficient information at this stage, but concerns remain, and
--	---	--

	<p>Bullying/threatening behaviour Violent outbursts Offending behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular use of substances • Concerns for drug dependency • Associating with unknown adults and/or other sexually exploited children/young people. • Extensive use of phone particularly late at night • Having access to premises not known to parent/carer. • Reports from reliable sources, suggesting involvement in sexual exploitation. • Seen in known red light districts. 	<p>further work is required to clarify them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A referral is made to a voluntary project/organisation, Jigsaw4u or Barnardos. • A referral is made for a Family Group Conference
<p>3 – (High risk) A child whose sexual exploitation is habitual, often self defined and where coercion and control is implicit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistently running away/going missing from placement. • Pattern of street homelessness. • Disclosure of physical/sexual assault followed by withdrawal of allegation. • Abduction and forced imprisonment (described by young people as 'locked in'). • No contact with family/friends. • Disappear from system (no contact with support systems) • Physical injuries – external/internal. • Non school attender/excluded • Regular breakdown of school placements due to behavioural problems. • Multiple STIs • Miscarriages • Terminations • Older boyfriend (5+ years) • Clipping (offering to have sex and then running upon payment), • Unaccounted for monies and/or goods. 	<p>As above and also;</p> <p>In cases where there are significant safeguarding concerns a strategy meeting should be held.</p> <p>In very complex cases the concerns should be discussed with the senior lead Safeguarding Officer, (Lee Hopkins, Tel: , 0208 274 4993, E-mail: lee.hopkins@merton.gov.uk; lee.hopkins.net]</p> <p>In very high risk cases [which are not known to JIGSAW4U] to support recovery a social worker can request funding for the Barnardos sexual exploitation project through the PPYP group</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male / female grooming. • Chronic low self esteem • Expressions of despair: Internal – self harm Cutting Overdosing Eating disorder • Sexualised risk taking • External – intensive acting out • Bullying/threatening behaviour • Violent outbursts • Offending Behaviour • Picked up in red light district • Having access to premises not known to parent/carer. • Chronic drug dependency (particularly crack/heroin). 	
--	---	--

Key agencies that may be invited/ consulted when convening a CSE Strategy meeting

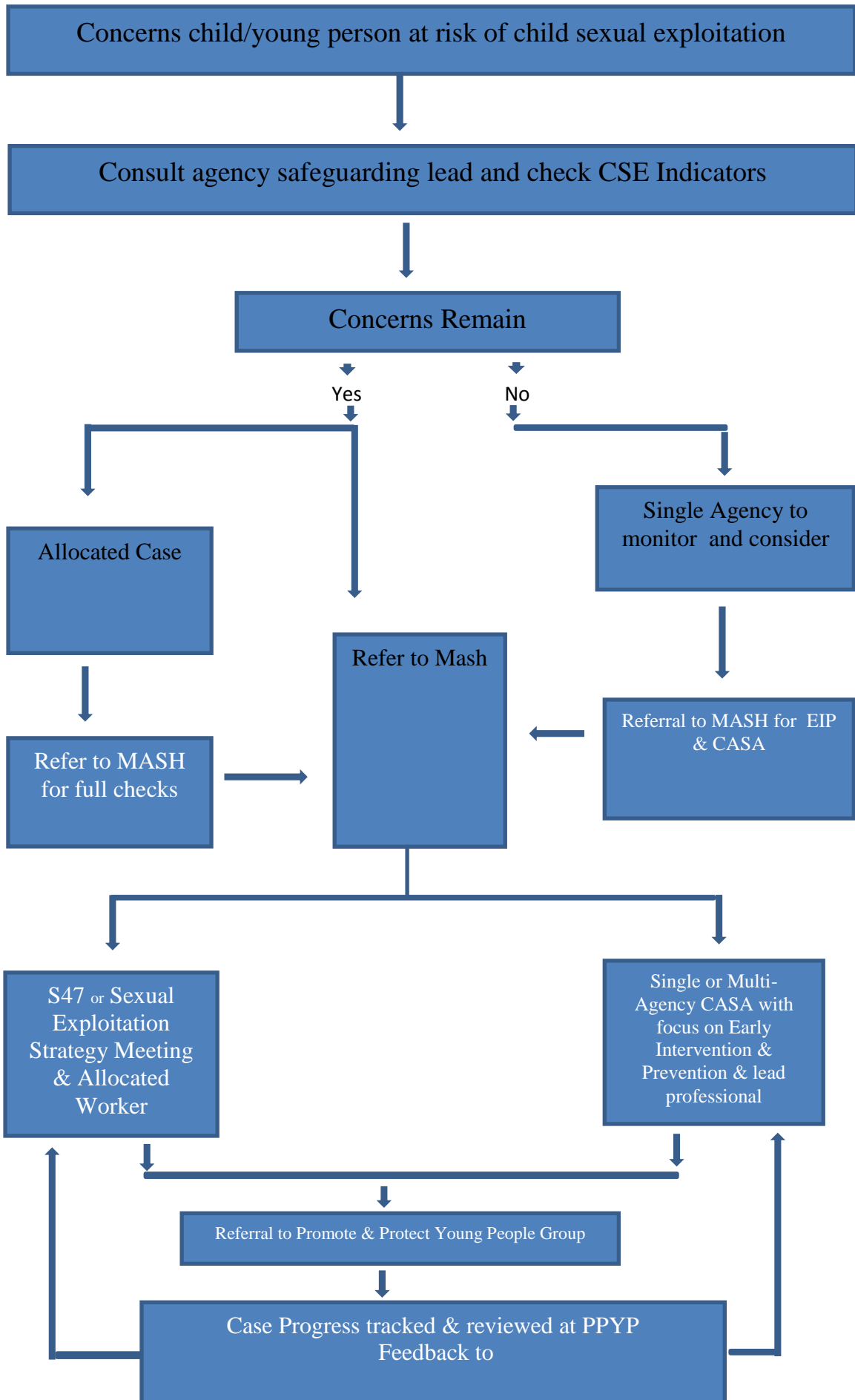
Childrens Social Care, Police, Health, Education, CAMHS, Housing, YOS, Drug & Alcohol Services, Voluntary agencies and others.

YOUNG RUNAWAYS / CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION REFERRAL FORM

Panel Date:	Referral Date:	Family Details:	
Name of Referrer:		Child/rens Names & Date of Birth:	
Role:			
Organisation:		Mother's Name & Date of Birth:	
Agencies Involved:		Siblings / Other Family Members:	
		Ethnicity:	Language Spoken:
Family GP's Name & Address		Family Address:	
Name of School:			
Summary of Concerns:			
<p>Has consent been given to share information Y/N</p>			
Actions to Date:		Risk Matrix Assessment::	
1.		<i>High Level</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	
2.		<i>Medium Level</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	
3.		<i>Low Level</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	
4			
Lead Practitioner:			

Monthly Panel Update:			
Actions / Decisions	Timescale	Who	Risk Level

CSE DECISION MAKING AND CASE MANAGEMENT FLOWCHART



Appendix 3

CSE INFORMATION SHARING PROTOCOL

Who does the Information Sharing Protocol affect?

The protocol affects all staff engaged with work that requires information to be shared with or is given to them by other organisations.

The benefits of this Information Sharing Protocol

- Help remove barriers to effective information sharing
- Provide guidance to assist in complying with legislation
- Help to ensure that consent to share personal information is obtained whenever it is required
- Help to ensure that information is shared when there is a requirement to do so
- Help to ensure that all agencies comply with relevant legislation
- Raise awareness amongst all agencies of the key issues relating to information sharing and give confidence in the process of sharing information with others

Principles of Information Sharing

Effective information sharing underpins integrated working and is a vital element of both early intervention and safeguarding. Each partner can hold different pieces of information which need to be placed together to enable a thorough assessment to be made.

To share information about a person you need a clear and legitimate purpose to do so, as this will determine whether the information sharing is lawful. For partners working in statutory services, the sharing of information must be included within the powers of the service. This will also apply if partners from the voluntary sector are contracted to provide a service on behalf of a statutory body.

Obtaining and sharing information

The sharing of information must have due consideration with the law relating to confidentiality, data protection and human rights. Having a legitimate purpose for sharing information is an important part of meeting those legal requirements. It is important only to share as much information as is needed and records should be accurate, relevant and up to date.

Confidential information

Confidential information is:

- Private or sensitive personal information
- Information which is not already lawfully in the public domain or readily available from another public source
- Information that has been shared in circumstances where the person giving the information could reasonably expect that it would not be shared with others

This is a complex area and you should seek advice from your organisation's Information Manger, if you are unsure about confidentiality

Signatories to the protocol may lawfully share confidential information without obtaining consent if this can be justified in the public interest. Judgement is required on whether there is sufficient public interest using the facts of each case individually. Public interest can arise when protecting children from significant harm, promoting the welfare of children or preventing crime and disorder.

Proportionality and necessity are factors to be taken into consideration when deciding whether or not to share confidential information. In making the decision, practitioners must weigh up what might happen as a result of the information being shared against what might happen if it is not and apply their professional judgement.

The nature of the information to be shared is also significant where the information is sensitive and has implications for the practitioner's relationship with the individual, recognising the importance of sharing information in a timely manner if it is in the child best interest to do so.

Where there is a clear risk of significant harm to a child the public interest test will almost certainly be satisfied

Obtaining consent ³

Consent must be informed, in other words the person giving consent needs to understand:

- Why the information needs to be shared
- Who will see it
- How much will be shared
- What are the purposes and implications of sharing

It is good practice for signatories to set out their policy on sharing information when clients first join a service and when securing information, the process should be transparent and respect the individual. Consent must not be obtained by coercion and must be sought again if there are to be significant changes in the use to be made of the information.

A child or young person, who is able to understand and make their own decisions, may give or refuse consent to share information. This would generally include children aged over 12, although younger children may have sufficient understanding. The child's view should be sought as far as possible. If a child is competent to give consent or refusal but a parent disagrees each individual case should be considered and again professional judgement should be applied.

When assessing a child's ability to understand, practitioners should explain in a way suited to their age, language and likely understanding. Where a child cannot consent, a person with parental responsibility should be asked to do so, on their behalf, although there are circumstances where this might be inadvisable. Where parenting is shared only one person with parental responsibility for a child needs to give consent.

It may not be appropriate to let a person know that information about them is being shared nor to seek their consent to share the information. For example, this would arise when sharing information is likely to hamper the prevention or investigation of a serious crime or put a child at risk of significant harm. In these circumstances, practitioners need not seek consent from the person or their family nor inform them that the information will be shared.

Similarly, consent need not be sought when practitioners are required to share information through a statutory duty or court order. However, in most circumstances they should inform the person concerned that they are sharing the information, why they are doing so and with whom.

Sharing Information Appropriately and Securely

Information should be shared in accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 and follow the policy and procedures of the signatory service.

Practitioners should:

- Only share the information which is necessary for the purpose
- Understand the limits of any consent given, particularly if it is from a third party
- Distinguish between fact and opinion
- Only share it with the person or people who need to know and check that the information is accurate and up to date
- Record decisions on sharing information and the reasons for doing so or not
- If deciding to share the information, record what was shared and with whom

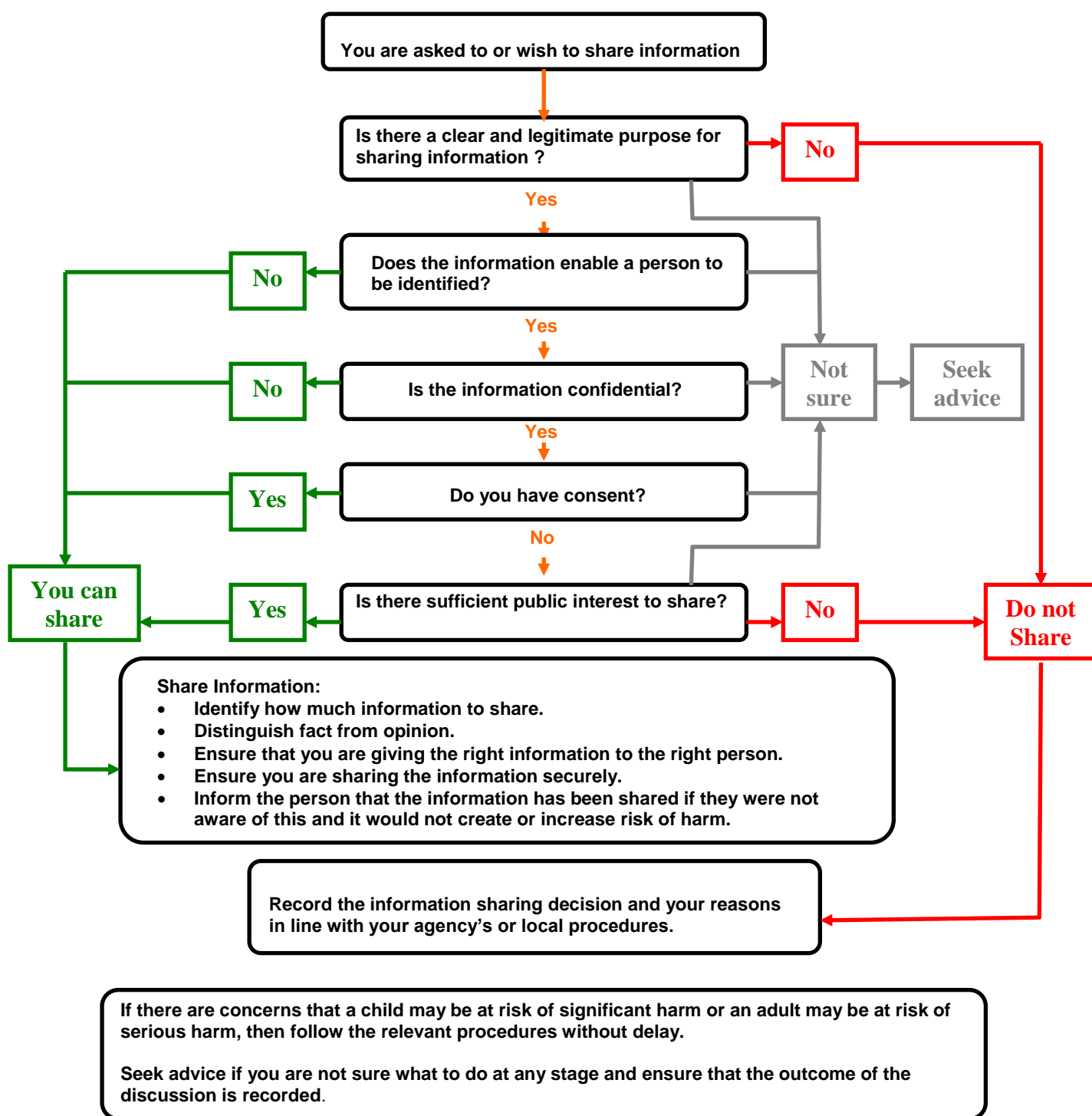
Retaining and storing Information

Information must not be retained for longer than necessary for the purpose for which it was obtained. Signatory services should ensure that they have physical and electronic security in place for the stored data and that there is awareness, training and management of the systems where the information is stored.

Regular review

This protocol will be reviewed at least annually and amended to take account of changes in law, guidance and lessons learned from sharing data.

Flowchart of key questions for information sharing



Signatories to the Protocol

This protocol is provided to meet the needs of partners and it is intended that all signatories will use the protocol. More detailed information on the parties to this protocol is set out below.

ORGANISATION	SIGNATORY PERSON AND POSITION	NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE	CONTACT DETAILS (Include telephone number and e-mail address)

Information Sharing

Checklist ²

- Do I already have informed consent to share this information?
- Is the information sensitive and personal?
- Do I need consent to share the information?
- Have I a legal duty or power to share the information?
- Whose consent is needed?
- Whose information is this?
- Would seeking consent place someone at risk, prejudice a Police investigation, or lead to unjustifiable delay?
- Would sharing the information without consent cause more harm than not sharing the information?
- How much information is it necessary to share in this situation?
- Am I giving this information to the right person?
- Am I sharing this information in a secure way?
- Does the person I am giving it to know that it is confidential?
- What will they do with it?
- Is the service user aware that the information is being shared (where this would not place someone at risk or prejudice a Police investigation)?
- Have I distinguished between fact and opinion?
- Does the person who is giving consent understand the possible consequences of sharing the information?

Legislation/Guidance

The Data Protection Act 1998

The Human Right Act 2000

The Children Act 2004

The Crime & Disorder Act 1998

Freedom of Information Act 2000

NHS Act 2006

Working Together 2010

Notes

³ Refer to the Fraser Guidelines

⁴ Seven golden rules for Information Sharing, HM Government