



Current Safeguarding Messages August 2020 Workshop

DAVE SARGENT- STRATEGIC EXPLOITATION LEAD

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Aims and Learning Outcomes

- This one hour Microsoft Teams workshop will focus upon the findings and research from the latest local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (aka the 'old' Serious Case Reviews) and Child Criminal Exploitation
- Aimed at front line practitioners from statutory and non statutory safeguarding agency's. Exploring how we can put the 'learning' back into front line practice to ensure the safety of the children, young people and families that we work with



Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

ALISON WALLACE

JACK

- ▶ Published 7th February 2020
- ▶ Link <https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/serious-case-reviews/>
- ▶ Please be aware of :-
- ▶ Pre-Birth assessments
- ▶ Bruising in Pre-mobile Babies Protocol. The protocol should make it clear that when pre-mobile baby who is subject to a child protection plan has any injury it should be referred for a paediatrician's assessment
- ▶ Use of Neglect tools
- ▶ 'Safeguarding Children who have a Parent or Carer with Mental Health Problems. Guidance for Effective Joint Working' ensuring that perinatal needs are appropriately addressed.

Dog resource pack

- ▶ 'never leave a baby or young child unsupervised with a dog, even for a moment, no matter how well you know that dog'
- ▶ https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/professionals/procedures/dangerous_dogs/



Remember;

**Never leave a baby or child
alone with a dog -
no matter how trustworthy
you think they are.**



Multi Agency report

- ▶ Health, Social Care and Education
- ▶ This is from a highlight report in which a serious incident occurred where professionals already had concerns that the family required a child protection framework over a child in need. The report did not give details or context of the family but rather outlined learning points that arose from the discussions held. The authors wanted to highlight the commitment of professionals in the room to seek to do the best for this family and to continue to work together to the best of their ability, within their sphere of responsibility in order to safeguard and support these children and their mother

The purpose -

To review a case after a serious incident to enable learning and shared understanding of perspectives on a complex family from different agencies.

Key topics discussed

- ▶ how we can overcome barriers in escalation
- ▶ how to think about what went well
- ▶ consider what we could do differently for the family as individuals and as a system
- ▶ how we would handle a similar situation in another case

Positives for the family –

- ▶ this included school attendance 98%,
- ▶ whole family are engaging well with professionals now, and the children engaging and responsive with workers.
- ▶ there was a warm and supportive manner in the family relationships despite significant challenges and trauma, with emotional warmth from mum.
- ▶ good regular visits are now occurring with a clear plan for all the family with home improvements being seen with support from charities.
- ▶ mental and emotional support being offered to the family, which overall is being engaged with. Mum does understand the seriousness of her situation and that partners are considering Public Law Outline because maintaining change is where the problems come.
- ▶ partners are providing mum with the chances to unpick her experiences of being parented which shape her parenting now so that she can develop new parenting strategies.

Lessons Learned -

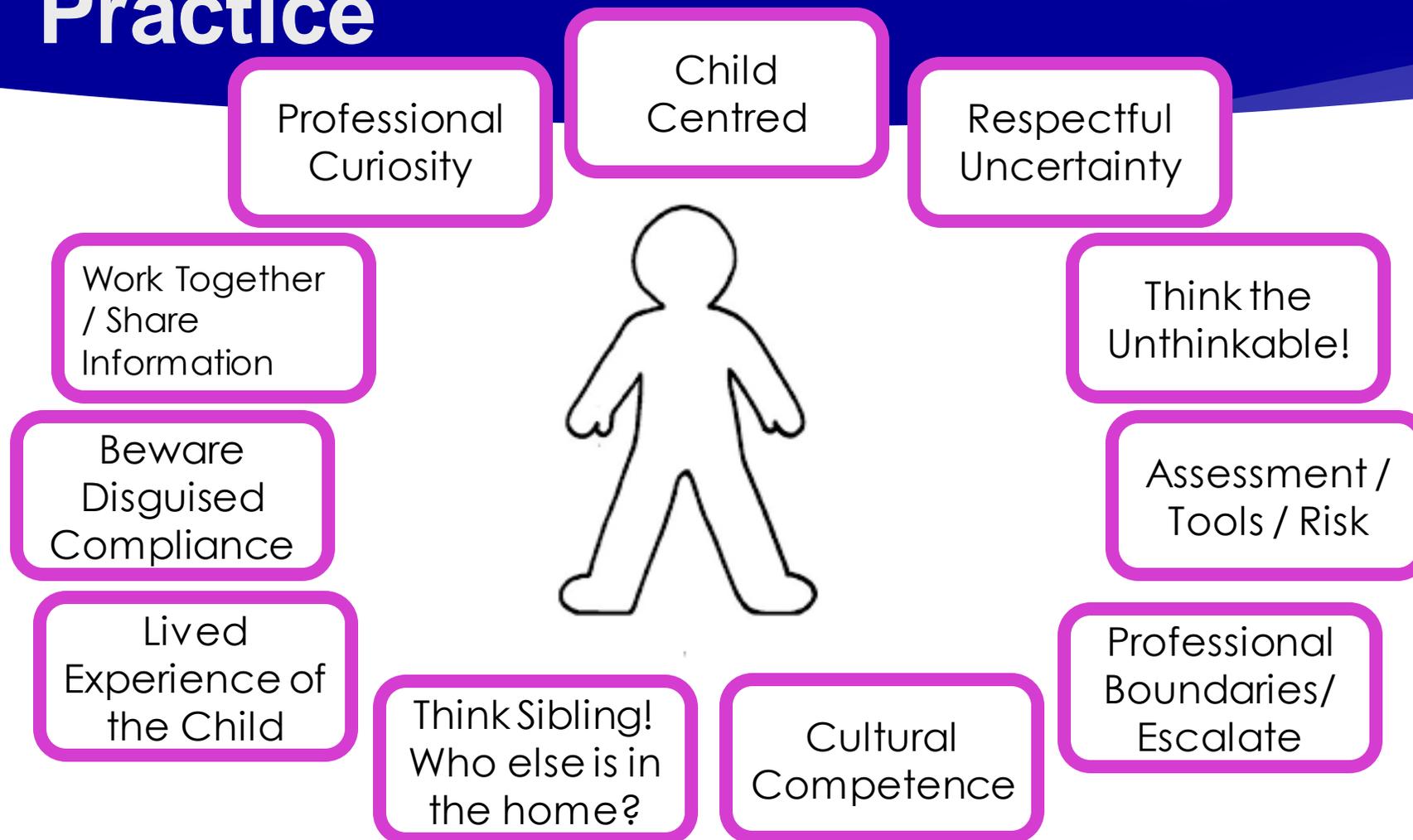
Lessons learned –

- ▶ **“Sustaining Change”**
- ▶ **“Safe to them”**
- ▶ **“Escalation”** and use of place based meetings
- ▶ **“False reassurance “** or disguised compliance and use of “reflective space discussions”
- ▶ **“Expectation of each other”** and use of “reflective space discussions”
- ▶ **“Decisions about adolescents”** thinking about 16 year olds
- ▶ **“Professional Honesty with families”**

Actions to take forward -

- ▶ **Reflective spaces:** Facilitated by the District Safeguarding Manager or CSC Head of Safeguarding, with representation multi-agency partnership. A reflective discussion of a case to enable a shared understanding to be developed.
- ▶ **Contact Details:** A directory of contacts is to be shared regularly across the partnership to enable people to know who to contact and to help with escalation
- ▶ **Place Based Networks:** Safeguarding professionals in districts to be given the opportunity once a year to meet face to face, in order to enable them to keep a knowledge of who they are working with and support escalation. The opportunity to network would enable trust to be built between professionals and a greater understanding of the context within which people are working, this would also help to shape expectations which can be achieved by each other. **You should be informed about these meeting via your standard safeguarding communication methods.**
- ▶ The co-chairs would like to acknowledge how positive it was to have a significant number of professionals committed to helping this family to thrive and thank everybody for their contribution to this process.

Pre-requisite Tools for Practice



Cultural Competence Resources

- ▶ Cultural Competence related resources:
<https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/professionals/safeguarding-and-community-inclusion/>
- ▶ <https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/professionals/hba-forcedmarriage/>
- ▶ The Lived Experience of the Child Guidance mentions cultural competence as well:
<https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/professionals/lived-experience-of-the-child/>
- ▶ Cultural Competence is regularly mention in briefing sheets, here:
<https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/resources-for-practitioners/>



Audit Activity

Thematic Review of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough SCRs

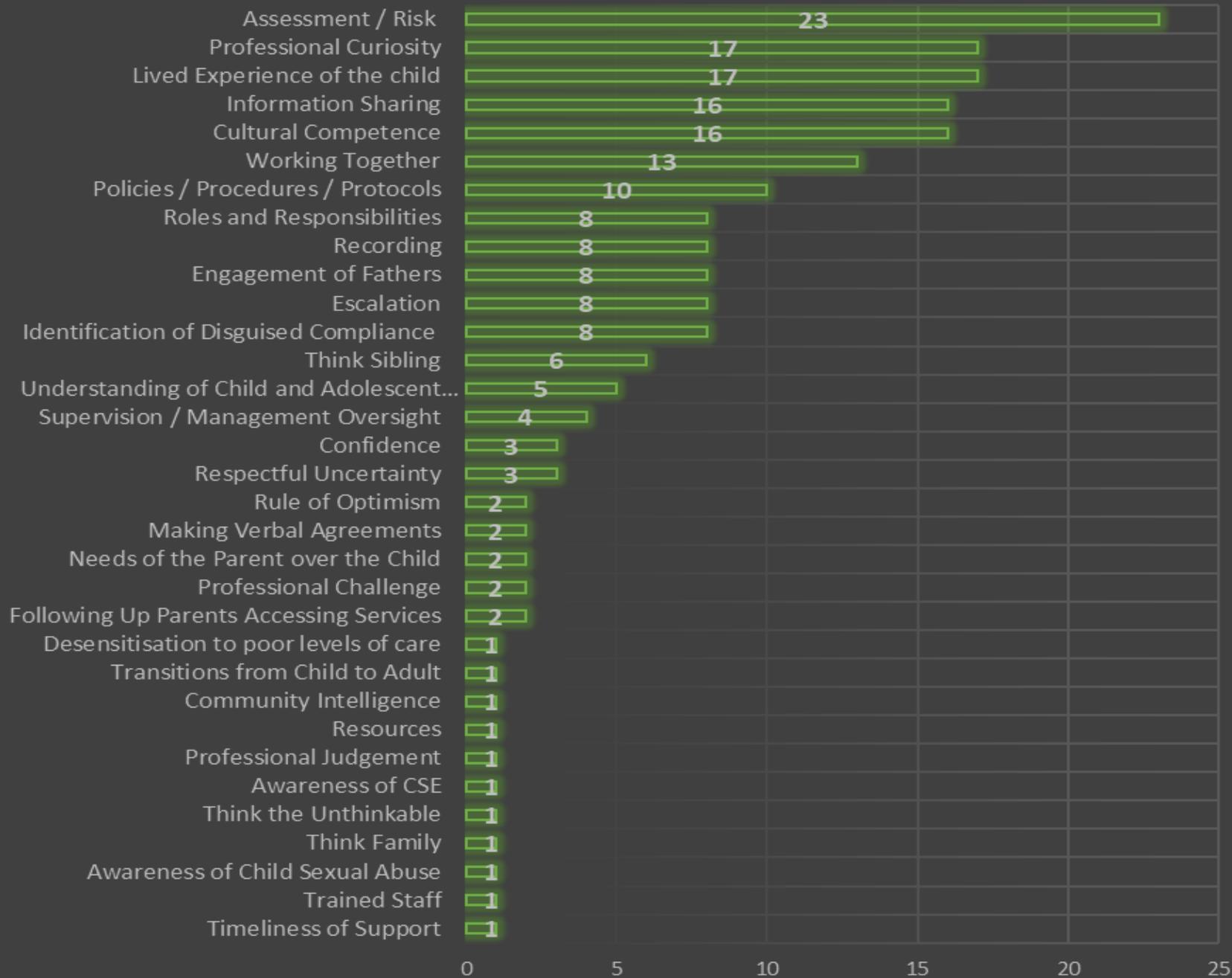


Methodology

- ▶ The focus for this review was solely on '**professional practice**'. Both the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire electronic recording systems were accessed during October – November 2019 and either full SCRs or executive summaries, from 2006 to 2019, were located.
- ▶ A **thematic review** was undertaken, whereby each report/summary was read in turn and all professional themes referred to within the SCRs were noted. Some SCR's included a number of children, either in relation to an issue being investigated (i.e. child sexual abuse / child sexual exploitation) or are a number
- ▶ In total both boards undertook **27** Serious Case Reviews during the period **2006 to 2019**

What do you think the professional themes were that recurred the most times within all of the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire SCR's ?

- ▶ It is interesting to note that; in **85%** of SCR's during this time period, it was ascertained that professional's either made poor **assessments/risk assessments** or they were not completed, in **63%** of SCR's there was no reference made to the **lived experience of the child** and in **63%** of SCR's practitioners lacked **professional curiosity**. Whilst at the other end of the scale there were 11 identified professional themes that occurred minimally in 4% of SCR's (i.e. those themes that were present in one SCR – see table above)
- ▶ These themes are similar findings to the national research as referenced with Peter Sidebotham et al's (2016) Pathways to Harm, Pathways to Protection, Triennial analysis of SCR's from 2011 – 2014 and other SCR research literature. The only differing factors found from our local picture is that of verbal agreements and community intelligence, that do not feature at large within the SCR research.



Bar Chart 3 to show pictorially the amount of professional themes in SCR for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough



Venn diagram 1 to show the top three recurring professional themes found in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough SCRs during 2008 – 2019

Practitioner Factors

Assessment / Risk
 Professional Curiosity
 Cultural Competence
 Information Sharing
 Working Together
 Policies/procedures/ protocols
 Escalation
 Recording
 Roles and Responsibilities
 Respectful Uncertainty
 Confidence
 Professional Challenge
 Rule of Optimism
 Awareness of child sexual abuse
 Think the Unthinkable
 Awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation
 Professional Judgement
 Desensitisation to poor levels of care
 Trained Staff

Child Factors

Think Sibling
 Understanding child and adolescent development
 Lived experience of the child

Professional Themes

Parental Factors

Identification of Disguised Compliance
 Needs of the Parent over the Child
 Following up parents accessing services
 Making verbal agreements
 Think Family
 Engagement of Fathers

External Factors

Supervision / Management Oversight
 Timeliness of support
 Resources
 Community Intelligence

Pictorial Chart to show the professional themes found within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Serious Case Reviews, split into coded areas

Findings from Development and Consultation Group- Embedding the learning from Serious Case Reviews



- ▶ Professionals – Managers and Practitioners **are not aware** of what the recurring themes are within SCR's for the child, parents and their own practice
- ▶ Professionals **are not aware** of where to find SCR's – or are aware of partnership board resources and briefings
- ▶ Professionals **do know** and can identify where local and national SCR's have made a difference to practice, policy and safeguarding legislation
- ▶ Not everyone knows what the new term and process is for the new SCR....
- ▶ Learning from the lessons of SCR's nationally and locally **is** within all agencies children safeguarding training

Updated and Relunched Practitioner Guidance

- **Lived Experience of the Child Guidance**

www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/professionals/lived-experience-of-the-child/



**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Safeguarding Children's Board**

**Lived Experience of the Child (Voice of the
Child) Practice Guidance**



“COVID 19” and the impact on County Lines

National Drugs Market

- ▶ The availability of drugs has reportedly reduced due to COVID-19 restrictions disrupting supply lines into the country. Suppliers are reportedly having to find other more creative routes into the UK.
- ▶ Generally the price of drugs has increased as a result, some reporting states by 2 or 3 times the usual street value. Some dealers however are believed to be looking to gain territory by either maintaining or cutting their prices.
- ▶ Networks and dealers are believed to be adapting their methods to maintain their drug lines and evade social distancing rules during the lockdown period, with the following reported so far:

Method

Out-sourcing of dealing to drug users	-	Reported decline in the use of trap houses (reported by the NCA)
Dealers offering collections	-	Several customers made to collect in groups at the same time/location
Dealers using post	-	Dealers offering delivery by car to avoid meeting in public spaces
Dealers offering bigger minimums	-	Increased adulteration of drugs due to low supplies
Sourcing of supermarket uniforms	-	Sourcing of fake NHS ID cards on social media

Issues

- ▶ The COVID-19 social distancing restrictions together with the increased police presence on public transport, and reduced train services, is believed to be affecting county lines activity and exploitation.
- ▶ Some county lines are reportedly shutting down. Believed due to lack of drug availability, difficulty with travel and a high demand in their local London boroughs which dealers want to ensure they continue to meet.
- ▶ Runners that were being used on county lines are reportedly now being used locally in London instead. This may lead to a reduction in reported missing episodes despite continuing exploitation at a local level.
- ▶ Some young people may now no longer be being exploited by drug networks at all, with one young person from the county lines cohort reporting they've been told to lay low until after the lockdown period.

Impact

- ▶ Some dealers are reportedly having to withdraw from the market in certain parts of London. This may present opportunities for rival dealers to gain new territory in London and the counties, **creating the potential for violence.**
- ▶ The lack of availability of drugs may lead to dealers with low supplies **robbing drugs** from networks with healthier supplies, creating the potential for violence.
- ▶ Increased drug prices may be leading drug users to commit other crime to help them afford the increased drug prices. There is a report of drug users attempting to trade stolen goods with dealers for drugs.
- ▶ It is believed that networks with low drug supplies may be looking to commit other criminality in order to make more money, with talk of possible disorder and looting being reported.
- ▶ Online recruitment and grooming may increase as networks can no longer recruit in schools, PRUs (Pupil Referral Units), fast food outlets etc.

Impact

- ▶ A reduction in the number of reported missing episodes of young people is being seen generally, but one London borough has reported that their core missing cohort still continue to go missing.
- ▶ This is mirrored in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- ▶ Some drug users may be seeking prescription drugs to replace their usual highs.
- ▶ The NHS have issued a warning around the security of controlled drugs to pharmacies.
- ▶ The NCLCC have reported an increase in self-referrals to drug treatment programs, including from long term drug users who have never sought treatment in the past.

What's happening here?

- ▶ Confusing picture as to how many lines are still operating , this may be down to lack of opportunity for professionals to engage.
- ▶ Drug prices appear stable indicating a steady supply.
- ▶ Covid restrictions make face to face meetings difficult.
- ▶ The age group has shifted and we are now seeing children as young as 11 actively involved in the lines.
- ▶ Recruitment is more localised.
- ▶ Violent Crime involving young people is on the increase, especially in Peterborough.
- ▶ Police activity to disrupt/dismantle the lines increased significantly at the start of lockdown.
- ▶ Debt significantly increased.

The role of Girls and women in Gangs

- ▶ Clean skin
- ▶ Information trading
- ▶ Fixers and mixers
- ▶ Switch to sexual strategies (honey trap)
- ▶ Sexual Violence
- ▶ Hiring cars
- ▶ Money Laundering
- ▶ Banking

Risk Management Tool

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Multi-agency Exploitation (CSE / Criminal Exploitation) Risk Assessment and Management Tool

Exploitation (CSE / Criminal Exploitation) Risk Assessment and Management Tool



Name/Role of Person Completing this Assessment		
Date		
Child or young person's name		YOS Involvement (Yes / No / Previous)
Gender		Known to Police (Yes / No)
DOB & AGE		CAMH (Yes / No / Previous)
Ethnicity		Education Placement (Name of School)
ICS No		Current Attendance (%)
Legal Status (i.e. S17, S47 CP Plan, S31, Targeted services)		SEND (Yes/No)
Home Address (Address / Postcode)		Alcohol Misuse (Yes/No, Suspected)
Accommodation Type (i.e. Home, Residential, Foster Care, Friends & Family, Supported Lodgings)		Substance Misuse (List any known drugs used)
EXPLOITATION RISK CATEGORIES		
1. Running Away / Going Missing	EMERGING	Regularly coming home late / Absent without permission / Returning late to care home / Absent from school / Whereabouts often unknown
	MODERATE	Frequently staying out overnight without permission / Episodes of running away, MFH, missing from placement / Looking well cared for despite having no known base? / Regular breakdowns of placement due to behavioural problems
	SIGNIFICANT	Persistently running away, going Missing from House or placement / Pattern of street homelessness / Whereabouts often unknown or of significant concern, talks about and/or known to travel to different areas or cities
	Evidence/Professional judgement	
2. Coercion / Control	EMERGING	Recent change in peer group / Reduced contact with family/friends / Late night phone/internet contact
	MODERATE	Secretive about having a mobile phone or more than one / Extensive use of mobile phone/internet / Late night phone/internet contact / Limited contact with family/friends /
	SIGNIFICANT	Secretive about having a mobile phone/more than one / Disclosure of or police intelligence regard physical/sexual assault followed by withdrawn allegation/relevant to report / No contact with family/friends / Disappear from system (no contact with support systems) / Disclosure of or police intelligence relating to county lines/gang activity involvement or links, talks about having drug debts and an urgent need for money, Family report hostile acquaintances coming to the door or telephoning/messaging and making threats.
	Evidence/Professional judgement	

For more information about CCE

- ▶ You can check out the Child Criminal Exploitation information on our website here: <https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/professionals/criminalexploitation/>
- ▶ We have created a sway on online harms and safeguarding, available here: <https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/home/covid-19/e-learning-during-covid-19/>



www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk