



North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE)

Practice Guidance

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) and Contextual Safeguarding Procedures

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Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) and Contextual Safeguarding Procedures

1. Background

- 1.1 In November 2013 the Deputy Children's Commissioner published *If Only Someone Had Listened* a report relating to a national inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Gangs and Groups. In August 2014 the *Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitations in Rotherham* was published by Professor Alexis JAY, OBE (also known as the JAY report). The report highlighted serious concerns about how partner agencies had dealt with cases and identified the need for proactive approaches. The findings indicated a "collective failure" by the Council and Police to stop CSE. Senior Managers within Children's Social Care were said to have underplayed the scale and seriousness of the problem. Police were said to have given CSE no priority, regarding many child victims with contempt and had failed to treat the abuse as a crime. The JAY report made a total of fifteen recommendations. In 2015 The *Inspection of the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Report* (also known as the CASEY report) resulted in the Council being deemed not fit for purpose in responding to CSE. CSE has remained of national concern and high profile and was identified by the Home Office as a national priority. In March 2015 in response to the reported failures, the Government produced *Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation* a government action plan.
- 1.2 North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) established a multi-agency CSE protocol in September 2011 and developed a strategy to address issues of CSE countywide. A significant amount of work has been undertaken since this time at both strategic and operational level to identify and effectively target CSE.
- 1.3 In June 2015 the NYSCP approved the introduction of the VEMT (Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked) Procedures and VEMT Practitioner Groups (VPGs) which were then launched across North Yorkshire in October 2015. Due to the on-going level of national concern at the time regarding CSE and the need to have an effective information sharing structure established within North Yorkshire, the initial launch of the VEMT procedure focused on CSE cases only. This ensured a timely implementation programme and a platform to build on once the operational practice was effectively established.
- 1.4 During 2016/17 VEMT and VPG procedure was subject of review and expanded to include additional vulnerabilities. These included CSE, Missing from Home, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, Radicalisation and Extremism, Impacted by Domestic Abuse, Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Honour Based Violence (HBV) as well as other forms of exploitation (coercion and control e.g. being forced to deal drugs and other criminal acts). Further developments at this time, included the development of the North Yorkshire Multi Agency Screening Team (MAST) and resulted in the revision of the procedures to provide clarity in terms of roles, responsibilities and accountability and amendments to operational procedures including the working practice of the VPGs.

- 1.5 In August 2018 the NYSCP established a VEMT Strategic group to review the current VEMT arrangements and to drive a multi-agency response in relation to the VEMT agenda. Upon review of the current arrangements, the decision was made by the group to re-name and re-launch the procedures following the review. The new arrangements aim to ensure that as a multi-agency partnership, we are effectively sharing information; identifying and managing the risk of exploitation; addressing contextual safeguarding; effectively identifying, targeting and pursuing perpetrators of exploitation and harm.
- 1.6 In June 2019 the NYSCP launched the new arrangements under the new name of Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE). These arrangements replaced and enhanced the previous VEMT Arrangements across North Yorkshire.
- 1.7 These procedures and associated documents replace previous VEMT documents.

2. Aims

- 2.1 The aims of this procedure are:
 1. To signpost to the most relevant national and/or local guidance and strategies.
 2. To provide clarity on the procedure that should be followed when a relevant concern is identified.

AND

 3. To outline the local arrangements that are in place that should be followed.
- 2.2 It is important that all agencies ensure that the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Procedures are embedded within their own organisations and day to day practice.
- 2.3 Safeguarding children and young people requires robust and effective procedures and practice and as such the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Group will provide oversight and scrutiny of this procedure and operational activity and feed into the NYSCP Executive.

3. Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) and Contextual Safeguarding Overview

- 3.1 Historically different forms of exploitation have had different approaches and responses, for example child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, child trafficking. However this procedure recognises that whilst there are different forms of exploitation, there exists a child who is at risk of and/or subjected to abuse and harm from exploitation. Therefore this procedure takes a holistic view of exploitation whilst recognising that it can occur through different forms and often occurs in amongst other vulnerabilities that children and young people may be exposed to.

- 3.2 By the very nature of vulnerability and exploitation, the different themes of exploitation are invariably intertwined. This practice guidance considers vulnerability and contextual safeguarding from a holistic perspective. The risks and vulnerabilities of the child are seen as a complete picture, so their needs can be addressed in a way that improves their long term outcomes, as appose to reducing risk in one particular area of vulnerability.
- 3.3 There is no national Child Exploitation definition and as this is a local process the terminology should be used for local purposes only. MACE should NOT to be confused with the threshold for “general concern for child” referrals. (See section 6 below). The very nature of vulnerability and exploitation is that it does not discriminate in aspects such as culture, age, gender or geography (both offline or online) and as such incorporates a number of areas of criminality. Exploitation often occurs without the child’s immediate recognition and/or with the child believing that they are in control of the situation and can therefore be difficult to identify. Further, the nature of life in the 21st Century is that online and offline domains are no longer two distinct and separate areas. The relationship between the two is now fluid and interchangeable and as such we need to be able to recognise and respond to risk both in the online and offline environment.
- 3.4 It is important to note that there is NO specific referral form for MACE and Contextual Safeguarding and any child/children or young person related concerns should be managed and reported using the existing NYSCP procedures and the NYSCP referral process. There are existing statutory meeting structures in place that identify, assess and manage a child/children at risk and child/children in need concerns (Refer to Section 6 below).
- 3.5 Where an exploitation or contextual safeguarding concern has been identified within a safeguarding referral, MACE screening and assessment will take place in the Multi Agency Screening Team (MAST). After an initial screening of any referral has taken place within the Customer Resolution Centre, the MAST role will be to ascertain whether any additional multi-agency intervention or support is required. All other relevant MACE information held by or known to North Yorkshire Police (NYP), North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and Health partners will be shared and managed utilising established MAST procedures.
- 3.6 The vulnerabilities that MACE focuses on are listed below. Although it is important to note that this is not an exhaustive list:
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
 - Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) including County Lines
 - Missing from Home (MFH)
 - Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
 - Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)
 - Online Child Exploitation
 - Wider Contextual Safeguarding

4. Definitions and Related Practice Guidance

- 4.1 The NYSCP has produced a range of practice guidance and supporting documents that cover the vulnerabilities focussed on through MACE. These can be found on the website <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/practice-guidance>
- 4.2 **Child Sexual Exploitation** is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual (CSE perpetrator) 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 of 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 for Education (DfE) (2017)*
- 4.3 The NYSCP Practice Guidance for Child Sexual Exploitation can be found at <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/practice-guidance/>
- 4.4 **Child Criminal Exploitation (including County Lines)** involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where children (under 18) receive or are promised 'something' tangible e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, gifts or money or 'something' intangible e.g. affection, respect, status or protection in return for committing a criminal act for the benefit of another individual or group of individuals or be threatened, coerced or intimidated into committing that criminal act (Home Office, 2018)
- 4.5 **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)
- 4.6 The NYSCP Practice Guidance for Child Criminal Exploitation can be found at <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/practice-guidance/>
- 4.7 OOALAC Protocol for young people arrested at risk of county lines <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/practice-guidance/>

Children Missing from Home

- 4.8 The *APP College of Policing (2017) Missing People* defines missing as 'Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established will be considered as missing until located and their well-being or otherwise confirmed. 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.

- 4.9 The NYSCP have a joint protocol between North Yorkshire Police (NYP), North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and themselves. The protocol relates to all children and young people in North Yorkshire who run away and go missing from home or care. This includes children and young people looked after by another Local Authority and placed in a home, care or residential school within North Yorkshire. Additionally, the protocol applies in parts to children and young people looked after by NYCC and placed in home, care or residential school outside of North Yorkshire. Further information can be sought from the NYSCP Out of Authority Looked After Children Protocol <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/practice-guidance/>
- 4.10 The protocol does not provide for situations where a child has been abducted or forcibly removed from their place of residence. This is a “crime in action” and should be reported to the Police immediately. This document should be read as guidance, which cannot anticipate every situation. Police, Children and Families staff and foster carers should use their professional judgment to take any action they feel necessary to protect the safety of the child based on an assessment of risk for each individual child. Further information can be found at: <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/practice-guidance/>

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

- 4.11 *The Modern Slavery Act 2015* establishes that a person commits an offence if the person arranges or facilitates the travel of another with a view to being exploited, this involves cases where:
- *the person intends to exploit the person being trafficked (in any part of the world) during or after the travel, or*
 - *the person knows or ought to know that another person is likely to exploit the person being trafficked (in any part of the world) during or after the travel*
- 4.12 The NYSCP Modern Slavery Toolkit can be found at: <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/practice-guidance/>

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

- 4.13 This procedure uses the *NSPCC definition* of harmful sexual behaviour whereby ‘*One or more children engaging in sexual discussions or acts that are inappropriate for their age or stage of development. It includes using sexually explicit words or phrases; inappropriate touching; using sexual violence or threats to full penetrative sex with other children or adults. Children young people who develop harmful sexual behaviours harm themselves and others*’. (Hollis & Belton 2017)
- 4.14 The NYSCP Practice Guidance for Children and Young People who Display Sexualised Behaviour can be found at: <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/practice-guidance/>
- 4.15 **Online Child Exploitation**

Children and young people can be exploited online through a wide range of different methods. They can be exploited through cyberbullying, grooming, sexual abuse, sexual or criminal exploitation or emotional abuse

NYSCP are currently developing a practice guidance for professionals around online child exploitation. However further advice, guidance and resources can be accessed through <https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/children-young-people/child-exploitation/>

5. MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Structure

5.1 There are two levels to the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Procedure in terms of how the process is structured across North Yorkshire:

- **Level One – Child/Children or Young Person(s) related** –this involves the identification, risk assessment and risk management of those children identified as being at risk of child exploitation and incorporates three key components:
 1. Initial identification of risk through a safeguarding referral into the MAST
 2. Multi-Agency risk assessment and risk management of children at risk of exploitation through existing NYSCP Procedures
 3. Multi-agency Locality Tasking meeting held weekly to include a review of MFH cases, new CSE/CCE cases, oversight of high risk and complex cases and agreement of cases relevant to share at the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting
- **Level Two – MACE and Contextual Safeguarding** – information relating to the links between children at risk or subject to exploitation, perpetrators or individuals who may pose a risk by exploitation and/or locations and community intelligence. This involves the following four components:
 1. The identification and assessment of perpetrators and/or individuals who may pose a risk by exploitation
 2. The sharing of community intelligence related to perpetrators or individuals who may pose a risk by exploitation as well as locations where harm is being caused within communities.
 3. The sharing of relevant details of children identified as at risk of or subject to exploitation through the Level 1 MACE and Contextual Safeguarding process. The purpose being to identify the community links between victims, perpetrators/individuals who may pose a risk by exploitation and locations through locality mapping exercises. This includes any concerns raised by other Local Authorities and private residential home providers and settings around OOLAC children placed in North Yorkshire
 4. To develop robust locality partnership action plans to develop intelligence, pursue and prosecute perpetrators and disrupt exploitation activity within communities.

6. MACE Level 1- Child Exploitation Risk Assessment and Risk Management

- 6.1 The Level 1 MACE and Contextual Safeguarding process is managed and co-ordinated by the Multi-Agency Screening Team (MAST) which involves NYCC CYPS Children's Social Care, Early Help, Health (HDFT) and North Yorkshire Police (NYP). All child exploitation concerns for a child should come through to the MAST team through the submission of a child safeguarding referral.

Concern for a Child

- 6.2 All individuals working with children have a duty and responsibility to report any child protection allegations and concerns which come to their attention, to the relevant Local Authority.
- 6.3 The Children Act 1989 identifies the Local Authority requirement to provide services for children in need for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Local Authorities undertake assessments of the needs of individual children to determine what services to provide and action to take.
- 6.4 A 'Child in Need' is defined under the Children Act 1989 as a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health and development will be significantly impaired, without the provision of services; or a child who is disabled. In these cases, assessments by a social worker are carried out under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Children in need may be assessed under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 in relation to their special educational needs, disabilities, as a carer, or because they have committed a crime.
- 6.5 Concerns about maltreatment may be the reason for a referral to Children and Families Service/Disabled Children's Service or concerns may arise during the course of providing services to the child and family. In these circumstances, the Children and Families Service/Disabled Children's Service must initiate enquiries to find out what is happening to the child and whether protective action is required. The Local Authority, with the help of other relevant organisations also have a duty to make enquiries under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 if they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, to enable them to decide whether they should take any action to safeguard and promote the child's welfare. There may be a need for immediate protection whilst the assessment is carried out.
- 6.6 Some children in need may require accommodation because there is no one who has parental responsibility for them, or, because they are alone or abandoned. Under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, the Local Authority has a duty to accommodate such children in need in their area. Following an application under Section 31A, where a child is the subject of a care order, the Local Authority, as a corporate parent, must assess the child's needs and draw up a care plan which sets out the services which will be provided to meet the child's identified needs.

- 6.7 In relation to concerns relating to a child/children or young person in North Yorkshire, if it is unclear whether a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, discussions should be held with the lead child protection advisor for the agency where the concern is raised and/ or with the NYCC Customer Resolution Centre.
- 6.8 Effective sharing of information between professionals and local agencies is essential for effective identification, assessment and service provision.
- 6.9 Anyone who has concerns about a child, children or young person's welfare should make a referral to NYCC Customer Resolution Centre, using established procedures. Referrals will not be accepted through any other route. The referral form for a referral to NYCC Customer Resolution Centre can be accessed using the following link: <https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/about-us/worried-about-a-child/>
- 6.10 Further details relating to thresholds and the referral procedure can be found in the Vulnerability Checklist using the following link: <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/practice-guidance/>

Informing Parents of the Need for a Referral

- 6.11 It is good practice to be open and honest at the outset with the parents/carers about concerns, the need for a referral, information sharing between agencies and the accompanying need for making an enquiry in respect of whether a child is subject to a Child Protection Plan.
- 6.12 All reasonable efforts should be made to inform parents/carers prior to making the referral; however, a referral should not be delayed if you are unable to discuss the concerns with the parents.
- 6.13 Where the child expresses a wish for his or her parents not to be informed, their views should be taken seriously and a judgment made based on the child's age and understanding, as to whether the child's wishes should be followed.
- 6.14 Concerns must not be discussed with parents/carers before making a referral where:
- Discussion would put a child at risk of significant harm
 - Discussion would impede a Police investigation or social work enquiry
 - Sexual abuse is suspected
 - Organised or multiple abuse is suspected
 - Fictitious illness or induced illness is suspected
 - Contact with the parents/carers would place you or others at risk
 - It is not possible to contact parents/carers without causing undue delay
 - in making the referral
- 6.15 In such cases advice should be sought from NYCC Customer Resolution Centre and/or the police.

Screening

- 6.16 The NYCC Customer Resolution Centre will identify and submit any relevant contacts and referrals to the MAST. MAST staff will identify their own agency relevant information to be shared and subject of MAST screening and assessment.
- 6.17 The MAST comprises of NYCC Children and Young People Service (CYPS), North Yorkshire Police and Health (HDFT) representatives.
- 6.18 Where there is a concern that a child may be being exploited, the initial level of risk will be established using multi-agency information shared within the MAST team and allocated to the most appropriate service to ensure that the needs of that child are met. This may be NYCC CYPS Children's Social Care or Early Help Service where the threshold is met. The allocated worker will then begin their assessment and seek to gather information to complete the Child Exploitation Risk Assessment.
- 6.19 Where there are exploitation risks identified in a case already open to NYCC CYPS Children's services this will be managed through the existing arrangements for that child, but a Child Exploitation Risk Assessment will be completed by the case worker and sent to the MAST team to consider the risk level. This will include children who maybe subject of North Yorkshire Child Protection Plans, Child in Need (CIN), Looked After Children (LAC) and Early Help cases. New and existing risk(s) will be managed through existing arrangements but additional Core Group, Child in Need or LAC Review Meetings will be factored in, by the case worker, where relevant.
- 6.20 Once the Child Exploitation Risk Assessment has been completed by the NYCC CYPS case worker in conjunction with information gleaned from other partners, it will be submitted to the MAST team for a multi-agency risk assessment.

7. Looked after children (LAC) placed in North Yorkshire from other Local Authorities

- 7.1 The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review statutory guidance (Out of Authority placement of Looked After Children: Supplement to The Children Act 1989 Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement and Care Review Guidance) and the associated regulations updated in 2013, outline the duties on Local Authorities to notify other Local Authorities if they place a LAC within their area.
- 7.2 This legislation also requires children's homes to notify their host Local Authority when a child is placed with them by another authority. Where a child who is not looked after is placed in a health or education placement for three months or more, or with that intention, the placing authority or organisation also has a duty to notify the host Local Authority prior to the placement or as soon as practicable thereafter. The host Local Authority supported by relevant agencies must ensure that education and health partners are provided with information about placements of looked after children into and out of their area.
- 7.3 There are a number of OOALAC who are placed into North Yorkshire by other Local Authorities. North Yorkshire has a number of specialist providers that have established

Private Residential Settings and placements can involve children who have particular MACE and Contextual Safeguarding vulnerabilities.

- 7.4 A list of all notified OOALAC placed in North Yorkshire by other Local Authorities is maintained within the NYCC Children and Young Persons Service (CYPS) Safeguarding Unit. Consultation regarding any placement in North Yorkshire should be made by placing Local Authorities with the North Yorkshire MAST, formal notifications will go to the NYCC CYPS Safeguarding Unit. Upon receipt of the notification the NYCC CYPS Safeguarding Unit will forward that notification to the LAC Health Team, North Yorkshire Police VAT, MAST and additionally the SEN Team if the child has an EHCP.
- 7.5 All OOALAC children placed in North Yorkshire remain the responsibility of the placing Local Authority. Anyone with information relating to a safeguarding concern or risk to any specific non NYCC LAC or Children should notify the relevant responsible authority for that child without delay. The information should also be shared with the North Yorkshire MAST Team in order that local risk determination can take place.
- 7.6 Any professional who has concerns regarding the action or lack of action by any placing local authority to manage an ongoing risk to a child placed in North Yorkshire should escalate this through their own agency child safeguarding leads and the NYSCP Business Unit should be notified. If there is immediate safeguarding concerns relating to a child placed in North Yorkshire then the referral process outlined in Section 6 should be followed.
- 7.7 An overview of information relating to non NYCC LAC emerging trends, themes and analysis will be presented at the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting and can be raised through the relevant MACE core private residential setting provider members. Individuals who may pose a risk by exploitation and/or Community Intelligence relating to non NYCC LAC cases that is known by the MAST team and/or private residential setting providers will be shared with the North Yorkshire Police through the NYP partnership intel sharing form and shared at the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting.

8. Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Process

- 8.1 A Child Exploitation Risk Assessment can be completed at any point from referral or during the journey of a case. The assessment is based on the assessment from the National Working Group which supports '*multi-agency practitioners to better exercise professional judgement and to promote a greater involvement of children, young people and parent (s)/carer(s) in the assessment and planning process. This includes a focus on strengths and protective factors*'. The purpose of the child exploitation assessment is to:
- Understand the level of risk posed to individual children and young people, what level of threat the risks present to the child's well-being and how well these can be managed so the level of risk is reduced and safely managed

- Ensure that risk assessments are robust and timely for young people at risk of exploitation
- Ensure that robust plans are in place to manage and work to mitigate the level of risk
- Ensure consistency for decision making regarding the level of risk across North Yorkshire and resources are allocated in the most proportionate way
- Ensure that Health, Police and Children and Families Service have the right risk status allocated and that this is consistent across the partnership.
- The risk management will be reviewed in line with any statutory plan at CIN or Core Meetings. Where the young person is open to No Wrong Door and subject to the RAISE process, the plan from this meeting should be the Risk Management plan to prevent duplication of process.
- Through the Locality Tasking Multi-Agency Meetings, provide scrutiny and challenge where necessary around the plans.
- Relevant themes, trends and patterns around missing and exploitation will be fed by into the MACE Level 2 meeting by NYSCP Policy and Development Officer from the Level 1 processes and reported into the MACE Operational Group.

8.2 Risk assessment meetings are held within the MAST team four times a week and cases will be added to the agenda and invitations sent via MAST Business Support. Notification of the date and time of the meeting along with details to ring in to the meeting and where to provide updates, will be sent to the NYCC CYPS Case Worker and where relevant the NYP Safer Neighbourhood Inspector for the area the child resides.

8.3 The meeting will be chaired by the MAST Team Manager, MAST Practice Supervisor or the MAST Police Detective Sergeant; there will also be representatives from Health (HDFT), Early Help, Children's Social Care, North Yorkshire Police, the NYCC CYPS case worker and any other person that is identified as appropriate (e.g. a local police representative).

8.4 Partners within the meeting will share appropriate information and challenge one another where appropriate to ensure the right outcomes and interventions for children and young people.

8.5 The meeting agenda includes the assessment from a partnership perspective and agrees the level of risk:

- Exploitation currently not a factor at this time. Concerns relate to age appropriate behaviours.
- **Low** – Evidence of vulnerability to exploitation
- **Medium** – Evidence of being groomed or targeted
- **High** – Evidence that the young person is being exploited

8.6 The risk management plan will be reviewed within the meeting to ensure risk is

Identified, managed and that appropriate interventions are in place to reduce the presenting risks. The MAST Child Exploitation meetings may make recommendations in respect of the child's plan.

- 8.7. Those within the MAST Team will seek assurance where appropriate as to how well any risk management plans have accounted for any transitional safeguarding arrangements for a young person. Adolescents can be exposed to a range of different harms and these do not stop when a young person reaches the age of 18. There can be a number of different factors that make a young person vulnerable and these can persist into adulthood, in some cases resulting in considerable unmet need. The MAST team will seek to ensure that where young people are approaching their 18th birthday and are still considered to be at risk of exploitation that plans are in place to ensure that they are still supported as they enter the adult safeguarding arena.
- 8.8 The NYCC Children and Families Services, North Yorkshire Police and Health (HDFT) will review the exploitation list on a monthly basis to ensure that all relevant children flagged to each agency is accurate and up to date.
- 8.9 Where a child is deemed at risk of or experiencing exploitation in the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 1 process, they will be flagged with their risk level on NYP, Health and NYCC Children and Family Service's systems and will be regularly reviewed within the MAST team. The case status of any specific child will only be removed once the risk assessment has been reviewed and updated by the caseworker and agreed for removal by the MAST Exploitation Assessment meeting. In cases where the risk is not decreasing, this information should be escalated via the MAST Exploitation Assessment meeting Chair to the Head of Children's Social Care Safeguarding. The MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 1 does not replace/duplicate any practices and/or interventions under Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2018 referrals, assessments, strategy meetings, Child in Need/Child Protection Processes. The aim of the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 1 arrangements are intended to complement this.

9. MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 - Multi-Agency Risk Mapping Meeting

- 9.1 Within the Level 1 processes of either the MAST Exploitation Risk Assessment meeting or the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Locality Tasking Meeting, there may be a request to conduct a locality mapping meeting. This alert will be sent to the NYSCP Policy and Development Officer in order to invite relevant professionals in order to convene a MACE and Contextual Safeguarding local information mapping meeting. This may happen as an extension of the monthly Level 2 MACE and Contextual Safeguarding meeting or if a more timely response is required, may be convened as soon as practicable.
- 9.2 The purpose of this a locality risk mapping meeting is to call together professionals around that child or young person to identify the exploitation and contextual safeguarding risks around their peer networks, links to potentially harmful adults and

locations that may pose a risk to that child/children. Furthermore if through the mapping around an individual child or group of children, it is clear that there are other children who may be at risk (but not open to services), consideration will be given to submission of a referral or what further information/intelligence is required to make an accurate assessment on the risk to the child/young person.

9.3 In addition, there may be other circumstances in which a MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Locality Risk Mapping Meeting may be requested by the Chair of the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2:

- There are significant child exploitation concerns being raised by professionals in the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 surrounding a number of key children and it is clear that there are intelligence gaps regarding the harmful adults, other peers and locations that are causing harm.
- There are children open to services who are frequently going missing and/or are believed to be crossing local authority borders. Therefore in order to pull intelligence together as to why those children and young people are going missing and the risks that those in other areas may pose, a mapping meeting may be convened with partners from North Yorkshire and the other local authority areas
- There is a high risk, serial and/or multiple perpetrator/s identified in an area and there is a need to hold a detailed locality risk mapping meeting to identify the intelligence around them to identify any children around them who may be at risk.
- There is a hotspot location that has been identified in relation to a child or children and there is a requirement to map out the individuals linked to the location in order to identify problem solving action.
- There is a child at high risk of exploitation who is linked to a number of individuals both adults and/or children and there is a need to map out what those contextual links are in order to ensure all children are safeguarded appropriate and robust disruption action can be undertaken.

9.4 Those who attend the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding locality risk mapping meeting will be invited by the NYSCP Policy and Development (Chair of the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2) and/or the NYCC CYPS Area Social Care Team Manager. They will include as a minimum the case workers for the identified children of concern from NYCC Children and Families Service, North Yorkshire Police and Health representatives. There may also be invites to Education, Youth Justice Service, Community Safety Partnerships, third sector specialist CSE/CCE providers, Sexual Health Services and/or other partners as identified as required by the NYSCP Policy and Development Officer and/or Area Social Care Team Manager. Most partners attending a locality mapping meeting will be core members of the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 locality group and as such will be signed up to the North Yorkshire Information Sharing Agreement for the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting. For any additional invitees as directed by the Chair, they will be required to do so prior to any engagement in the mapping meeting.

- 9.5 All partners attending the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Risk Mapping Meeting will be required to sign and adhere to the information sharing agreement and the Multi-Agency Risk Mapping Meeting Terms of Reference [Terms of reference for MACE Mapping Meeting.docx](#)
- 9.6 All actions from the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Risk Mapping Meetings that relate to individuals who may pose a risk by exploitation and locations are carried forward into the relevant local area MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting to ensure they completed. Furthermore all actions relevant to individual children who are open cases are fed back to their caseworker to manage those actions through existing meeting structures.

10. MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 – Contextual Safeguarding links to victim, perpetrators, locations and Community Intelligence

- 10.1 The purpose of the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meetings is information sharing meetings that identify the contexts and environments in which children are at risk of/or experiencing exploitation within our communities across North Yorkshire. This includes sharing information across partners within North Yorkshire to identify the links between children at risk and how they connect with perpetrators and/or individuals who may pose a risk by exploitation and locations where exploitation is being, or is likely to be caused.
- 10.2 This may also include information sharing with partners in our neighbouring police force and local authority areas to identify where children may be at risk of being trafficked within and out of our towns and villages and/or subject to exploitation through county lines
- 10.3 The emphasis of the meeting is around facilitating early identification, prevention and intervention to robustly tackle early signs of exploitation.
- 10.4 It is important to note that the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 process is not a pathway to make a child safeguarding referral and the process identified within the Level 1 needs to be followed. However through local intelligence sharing and discussion with partners within the Level 2 arrangements, there may be an identified need to make a child referral and an action may be given by the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 Chair for one to be completed.

11. Contextual Safeguarding

- 11.1 In 2018 the term “Contextual Safeguarding” was inserted into Working Together to Safeguard Children as well as Keeping Children Safe in Education. The Legal Framework for Implementing Contextual Safeguarding 2019 (Contextual Safeguarding Network/University of Bedford/Institute of Applied Social Research) document outlines

current legal tools available for implementing Contextual Safeguarding as well as questions that emerged when trying to test the approach.

- 11.2 These documents have been used in order to develop and strengthen strategic and operational practice in North Yorkshire. We will build on the work undertaken to date and utilise the material referred to above to advance contextual safeguarding within North Yorkshire.
- 11.3 *“Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people’s experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people’s experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships”* (Firmin, 2017, 3)
- 11.4 Children and young people can be vulnerable to exploitation due to their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources as outlined in the definition provided above, as well as in some cases simply just being in the wrong place at the wrong time. However there are certain vulnerabilities and indicators that may make children and young people more vulnerable to being targeted for exploitation. This is often linked to the environments within which they live or socialise. This is often referred to as contextual safeguarding and links not only to a child or young person’s home environment, but also to their peer network, their school/educational environment and/or the neighbourhood within which they live. Figure 1 below taken from Firmin (2013:47) outlines how each of these environments fit within the world the child or young person operates within.

Figure 1 – Contexts of Adolescent Safety and Vulnerability

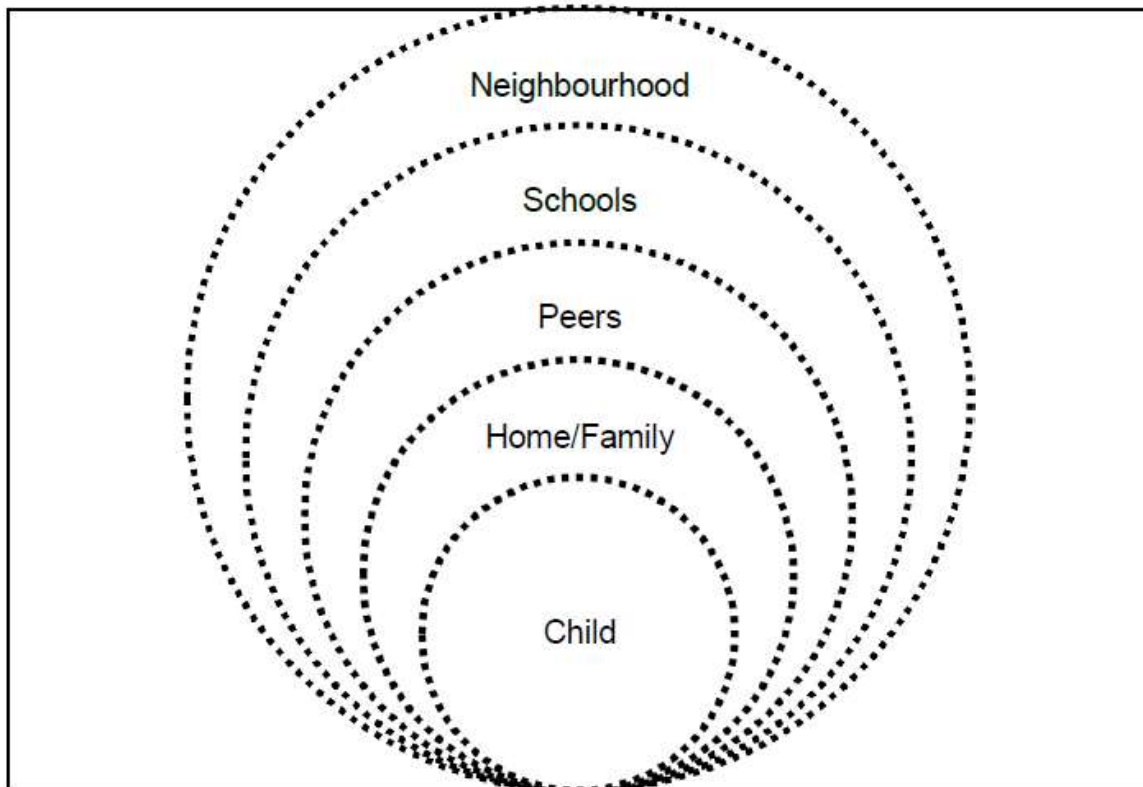


Figure 1: Contexts of Adolescent Safety and Vulnerability(Firmin 2013:47)

11.5 Contextual Safeguarding was first introduced in 2015 to provide a framework for ensuring child protection systems were equipped to respond to abuse that children, particularly adolescents, are exposed to and/or experience in extra-familial settings. The work undertaken in partnership with practitioners by Firmin (2017b) identified four domains to describe child protection approaches that would engage with extra-familial risk or abuse:

- Target – the home, peer group, school, neighbourhood or online contexts where abuse occurs, through assessment and intervention, in addition to the individuals affected
- Do this within a Child Protection Legislative Framework – to ensure that the response is welfare led, is not necessarily triggered by, or dependent upon, a crime being committed or a criminal investigation being conducted
- Build partnerships with agencies who have a reach into extra-familial contexts – such as education, voluntary and community sector organisations, youth work, housing, retail, transport and licensing, in addition to children (particularly adolescents – as peers), and parents themselves
- Measure success by risk reducing in contexts of concern, not solely by a change in the behaviours of any individuals who have encountered or instigated abuse unsafe contexts.

- 11.6 The purpose of the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 process is to understand the contexts within local communities in which exploitation is occurring and to utilise the skills, knowledge and capabilities within our partnerships to tackle and disrupt the perpetrators of exploitation and create safe spaces for children and young people.

12. Transitional Safeguarding

- 12.1 Transitional Safeguarding is a term coined by Research in Practice following recognition of the need to improve the safeguarding responses for older teenagers and young adults. Research by Sawyer *et al.* 2018 identified emerging evidence that adolescence extends into the early/mid-twenties and children who are vulnerable to or being exploited at age 17 do not suddenly become less vulnerable the day they reach their 18th birthday. There is recognition that the support needs of those young people entering adulthood needs to be well planned and requires a fluid transition between child and adult services.
- 12.2 There is also emerging evidence that meeting the needs of adolescents and young adults more effectively early on, can significantly reduce the need for costly later interventions for example involvement in the criminal justice system, access health services, drug and alcohol treatments etc. (Rees et al, 2017).
- 12.3 Young adults can also experience a range of risk and harms that may not be as relevant to younger children and require a different safeguarding response. Hanson & Holmes (2014) outlines these often inter-connected risks including:
- Sexual abuse
 - Physical abuse
 - Neglect
 - Emotional abuse
 - Homelessness
 - Poor mental health and self-harm
 - Criminal exploitation including gang association
 - Substance misuse
- 12.4 The Strategic and Operational MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Groups will build upon the work undertaken to date and utilise the material referred to above to advance out transitional safeguarding response across North Yorkshire.

13. Information Sharing

- 13.1 Information will be shared within the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting under the North Yorkshire Information Sharing Agreement (See Appendix 1 - Annex J Safeguarding Information Sharing Agreement and the NYSCP Information Sharing protocol
- 13.2 All MACE **non** Child or Young Person related information (referral) regarding MACE concerns should be submitted using the NYSCP Police and Partnership Information Sharing Form. The NYSCP Police and Partnership Information Sharing form can be

accessed and downloaded using the following link:
<https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/forms-for-professionals/>

- 13.3 **If there is a risk identified to a specific child/children or young person then the above referral process must be used (see Section 6 above)**
- 13.4 **If the information relates to an individual who poses a risk to a child/children or young person or activity occurring at a particular location then the information should be relayed to North Yorkshire Police without delay.**
- 13.5 For those practitioners who attend the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting in person, they may be asked to submit the NYP Potential individual who may pose a risk by exploitation form to North Yorkshire Police where they have concerns that an individual or group of individuals who may pose a risk by exploitation and requires research and assessment by North Yorkshire Police. [\Potential individual who may pose a risk by exploitation.docx](#)
- 13.6 Where there may be sensitive or restricted information shared in the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting, the person/agency responsible for the information must provide clarity regarding the use of that information in line with the over-arching Information Sharing Agreement and NYSCP Information Sharing Protocol.

14. Screening and Assessment of Perpetrators and Individuals who may pose a risk by exploitation

- 14.1 Upon submission of the NYSCP Police and Partnership Information form or submission of the NYP Potential individual who may pose a risk by exploitation form by a MACE Core Member, the details will be added to the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 agenda and then North Yorkshire Police Vulnerability Assessment Team (VAT) will review and assess the information. The NYP VAT will undertake an intelligence assessment including contact with NYCC Children and Families and Health Services to establish whether there is any additional information known and will then whether there is sufficient information to deem the individual as a Perpetrator of Child Exploitation. If the information indicates a concern, but requires more local information sharing and intelligence development to ascertain the full nature of the risk, NYP will categorised the individual as an Individual who may pose a risk by exploitation and require further intelligence development. The outcome of the NYP perpetrator assessment will therefore be:
1. Assessed as a perpetrator of Child Exploitation
 2. Assessed as an Individual Who May Pose a risk by exploitation and requires further intelligence development
- 14.2 The North Yorkshire Police VAT Team will create an intelligence pack and submit this to the NYSCP MACE Chair and NYSCP Business Support Coordinator to add to the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 agenda.

14.3 The NYP Exploitation Perpetrator and Potential individual who may pose a risk by exploitation Assessment process follows a six step process:

- **Stage 1** – A professional from any agency identifies a concern within the community of an individual they feel may be present risk to a child or young person by exploitation. This will include a potential individual who may pose a risk by exploitation being identified from the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 1 process.
- **Stage 2** – The professional completes the NYP Partnership Intelligence Sharing Form and submits to the Police. Or if this has been identified through a MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Meeting then a professional may be requested by the Chair of that meeting to complete an NYP Potential individual who may pose a risk by exploitation form.
- **Stage 3** – The NYP VAT Team assess the information submitted and undertake an intelligence assessment including a search of all relevant police recording systems
- **Stage 4** – The NYP VAT team will request any additional information of relevance including as a minimum NYCC Children and Families, NYCC Adult Services and Health (HDFT).
- **Stage 5** – NYP VAT team make a determination on the information collected as to whether they adopt the individual as a perpetrator of exploitation or as a Potential individual who may pose a risk by exploitation. In this case, the individual will be flagged on NYP Police Systems and sent to an NYP Area Command Team to take ownership and manage the risk identified. (including disruption tactics). The NYP MACE Core Attendee (SNT Inspector or appropriate representative) will attend the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting with an overview of what NYP police investigations are ongoing and what is required from MACE meeting partners to help manage. Any adopted individual shared with the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting will remain on the MACE agenda until the risk is agreed by MACE partners as no longer a concern.
- **Stage 6** – Should NYP, following their assessment conclude that there is not sufficient information to meet the threshold required to be an adopted perpetrator, but that more information and intelligence is required, they will send the details and a summary of the concerns to the NYSCP MACE Business Support Coordinator to include within the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 agenda. The NYP MACE Core attendee (SNT Inspector or appropriate representative) will attend the meeting with an overview of what police recommended action. The MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting will share any additional partner information and concerns in order to assist NYP in the assessment of any relevant individual. Any individual shared with the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting will remain on the MACE agenda until the risk is agreed by MACE partners as no longer a concern.
- (Please see flow diagram in Appendix 1)

- 14.4 Where the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting determine that the risks have reduced sufficiently to remove them from the agenda, an update will be provided to the NYP VAT team who will then remove any flags and remove the individual from the NYP Tasking and Tactical Coordination Group (TTCG) where appropriate. This will be done by the NYP Core Member within the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting.

15. MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 Locality Meeting Structure

- 15.1 The MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 Locality Meeting will be held monthly within the seven Districts across North Yorkshire:
- Craven
 - Hambleton
 - Richmondshire
 - Selby
 - Harrogate
 - Ryedale
 - Scarborough
- 15.2 The responsibility to manage the calendar, venues, agenda, invites and paperwork relating to the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting will be the NYSCP MACE Business Support Co-ordinator.
- 15.3 The MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting will be chaired by the NYSCP MACE Policy and Development Officer as part of the NYSCP, however the management, responsibility and presentation of perpetrators and/or individuals who may pose a risk by exploitation is the responsibility of the North Yorkshire Police MACE Core Group Member. It is important for continuity and consistency that the same NYP Core Group Member attends and presents relevant information at the monthly meetings. It is the responsibility of the NYP Core Group Member to identify and brief a suitable deputy in the event that they cannot attend. This section of the meeting will not go ahead without an NYP manager in attendance. If due to unforeseen absence/leave the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 Chair cannot undertake Chair of the meeting, an identified NYP Manager with responsibility for Safeguarding or a NYCC Children and Families Team Leader may chair a meeting in their absence. The meeting will only be quorate with representatives from NYP, NYCC and Health in attendance.
- 15.4 Due to the nature of the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meetings sensitive information may be shared and relevant details of specific children who have been identified as at risk of exploitation through the Level 1 MACE and Contextual Safeguarding procedures will be shared along with details of their allocated CYPS worker. This is shared so that any case specific information can be shared directly with the child's caseworker and considered as part of the child's risk management plan (i.e. LAC, Child Protection, Child in Need etc). Only information relating to the context of their exploitation and links they may have to other children identified as at risk or

subject to exploitation; perpetrators or individuals who may pose a risk by exploitation and harmful locations will be shared and discussed within the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting.

15.5 The MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meetings will consist of core membership and all core members will be signed up to the NYSCP Information Sharing Agreement and MACE and Contextual Level 2 Terms of Reference prior to any involvement in the meeting.

15.6 Core membership within the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 will include:

- North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership MACE Policy and Development Officer (Chair)
- North Yorkshire Police (representatives to include Safer Neighbourhood Inspector or Sergeant, Police Community Support Officer Representative and Police Intelligence Officer)
- NYCC Children Social Care Representative
- NYCC Early Help Service Representative (Senior Early Help Consultant or Early Help Practice Supervisor)
- Education – Collaborative Representative and/or Designated Safeguarding Leads from relevant schools in the locality
- Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Lead
- NYCC CYPS Youth Justice Service (YJS) Representative
- NYCC No Wrong Door Raise Representative
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Trust (TEWV) Representative (Mental Health)
- Bradford District Care Foundation Trust (BDFT) – Craven only
- Harrogate District Foundation Trust (HDFT) – Healthy Child Team Nurse
- York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Specialist Community Outreach Team – Sexual Health Nurse
- North Yorkshire & York Child Sexual Assault Assessment Centre (York Teach Hospital NHS Foundation Trust)
- Adult Services Representative
- North Yorkshire Fire Service Safeguarding Officer
- District Council Licencing officer
- Hand in Hand Project (Children' Society) Outreach Worker
- Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation (PACE) – Family Outreach Worker
- Relevant Local Social Housing Provider Representatives
- Private Specialist Care Home Providers
- Independent Domestic Abuse Service (IDAS) Respect Programme Representative
- Other professionals upon invitation by the Chair.

15.7 If at any point during the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 process it is considered that a child or young person is thought to be at risk of or suffering significant harm or requiring intervention from the Early Help Service, an immediate referral to

NYCC Customer Resolution Centre will be triggered. This will be given as an action to whichever core member holds the information.

- 15.8 Issues will not be discharged from the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 until there is a multi-agency agreement the issue has been addressed appropriately.
- 15.9 The MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting will be required to be quorate in order to go ahead. In order for the meetings to be quorate, the three safeguarding partners as a minimum must be in attendance. These include:
- North Yorkshire Police
 - NYCC CYPS Children and Family Service
 - Health
- 15.10 New locations of concern for child exploitation or harmful spaces will be raised with the NYSCP MACE Chair and consideration given by the MACE core members of that locality as to whether they should be adopted and managed on the agenda. MACE Core members will also be responsible for raising any relevant themes/emerging trends and patterns regarding child exploitation at the meeting and have responsibility for disseminating relevant information within their own agency.

16. MACE Documents and Meeting Information

- 16.1 All North Yorkshire Safeguarding Partners are responsible for ensuring that organisation owned databases and management recording systems contain up to date, accurate and relevant information including the appropriate case flagging procedures.
- 16.2 MACE Core members are responsible disseminating any relevant information where it is proportionate and appropriate to do so with in their teams, they are also responsible for the information recorded on their individual databases in accordance with the North Yorkshire Information Sharing Agreement. Any intelligence/information shared with in the MACE meeting must not be shared with families or agencies not signed up to the information sharing agreement without prior agreement of the chair. Furthermore all core members must maintain the confidentiality of the information shared and ensure the secure and confidential disposal of all MACE associated documentation.
- 16.3 The NYSCP MACE Business Support Co-ordinator will upload the agenda to the NYCC Drive at least 5 working days before the meeting in order that attendees are prepared and bring relevant information regarding cases to inform discussion. The agenda will cover the following areas:
- a) Children identified as at risk of exploitation or vulnerable due to concerning MFH reports through the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 1 process
 - b) Details of Perpetrators of Child Exploitation (intel summary)
 - c) Details of Persons of concern requiring further intel development (intel summary)

- d) Locations of concern for child exploitation
 - e) Themes/emerge trends for child exploitation
- 16.4 MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 agendas and minutes will be accessible via a secure NYCC Drive. Core members will have their own individual organisation login and password. All MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 attendees must not download, print or share the information with third parties without the express permission of the Chair of the meeting. They will also be asked to agree to the confidentiality agreement that will be read out at the start of each MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting [MACE Confidentiality Statement + signing in sheet.docx](#).
- 16.5 Any information known by MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 core members relating to the child or young person's voice and/or the parents or guardians should be shared and considered during the meeting. Where professionals are presenting information regarding a child or young person they are working with, wherever possible they should ensure that the parents/carers of that child are aware of the MACE process and are given the opportunity to share their views in the meeting via the professional core group member who attends the meeting.
- 16.6 Where there are concerns identified through discussion within the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting around a child or young person who is not currently open to services, consideration will be given in the meeting as to whether the concerns require a safeguarding referral to be submitted. Where parents/carers have not been made aware of the concerns and may not have had the opportunity to consent to support the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 Chair will allocate a Core member to go to speak to the family to share concerns and then to submit a referral.
- 16.7 All MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meetings will be minuted by the NYSCP MACE Business Support Coordinator and professionals will be responsible for any actions allocated to them which will be recorded along with the expected timescale for completion. Core group members will then be expected to complete their action by the next meeting and have updated the NYSCP MACE Business Support Coordinator unless it is not practicable to do so. The NYSCP MACE Coordinator will upload the MACE minutes and action log onto the NYCC Drive for partners to access.

17. MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Oversight

- 17.1 The strategic oversight and governance of the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Procedure falls under the NYSCP MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Group which is supported by the NYSCP MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Operational Group. The structure is shown below:

NYSCP MACE Strategic Group

- 17.2 The purpose of the NYCB MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Group is to provide strategic oversight, scrutiny and challenge of the NYSCP MACE Procedure

through analysis of performance management data to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of the operational activity.

17.3 The NYSCP MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Group is made up of the following core members

- NYCC Safeguarding Unit Manager (Chair)
- NYP - Detective Superintendent
- NYSCP Partnership Manager
- NYSCP MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Policy and Development Officer
- NYCC CYPS Head of Safeguarding
- CCG - Designated Nurse
- NYCC Head of Engagement and Governance (Safeguarding Adults)
- Head of Practice, Personalisation and Safeguarding (Health and Adult Services)
- NYCC Head of Safer Communities, Policy and Partnerships
- North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioners Office

17.4 The purpose, roles and responsibilities and terms of reference for the NYSCP MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Strategic group can be accessed below:

[Terms of reference for MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Group -. .docx](#)

NYSCP MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Operational Group

17.5 The purpose of the NYSCP MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Operational Group will be to drive the operational delivery of the MACE and contextual safeguarding arrangements across North Yorkshire. The group will monitor the MACE arrangements through analysing multi-agency data and outcomes to influence practice and co-ordinate approaches. Multi-agency partners ensure that the MACE process is embedded into day to day operational practice within their own organisations. The group will also undertake scoping and research of local, regional and national developments in policy, practice and legislation surrounding the MACE vulnerability themes and feed those findings into the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Group where required.

17.6 The Operational Group will lead on the identification of themes, patterns and trends around Exploitation and vulnerability across North Yorkshire, as well as co-ordinating the findings from single and multi-agency audits to share learning across the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Partnership partners (NYSCP). Members will also take the lead on in designing, coordinating and delivering MACE and Contextual Safeguarding campaigns and raising awareness around MACE and Contextual Safeguarding themes across North Yorkshire.

17.7 The Chair of the Operational Group will be rotated across the three statutory safeguarding partners of the Local Authority, Police and Health. Each partner will chair

for 12 months in rotation starting with NYCC CYPS Children and Families Team Leader whilst the group is established then NYP and then Health Core Group members in rotation.

17.8 The MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Operational Group is made up of the following core members:

- NYCC – CYPS Children Social Care - Group Manager
- NYP –
- HDFT - Named Nurse Sarah Neale
- NYSCP - MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Policy and Development Officer
- Youth Justice Service - Service Manager
- NYCC Education Lead Advisor for Social and Emotional Mental Health
- NYCC Community Safety Partnership
- NYCC Early Help Group Manager
- Children's Society – Hand in Hand Manger
- PACE – Area Manager
- Trusted Relationships – Project Coordinator
- Drug and Alcohol services rep

17.9 The group will provide quarterly updates to the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Group through the Operational Group Chair.

17.10 The terms of reference for the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Operational Group can be found at

[..\Terms of reference for MACE Operational Group.docx](#)

NYSCP MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Locality Tasking meeting (Pilot June 2019):

17.11 The purpose of the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding locality tasking meeting is that within each locality area there exists senior management oversight of current threat and risk, new and emerging issues and local partnership agreement and activity regarding MACE and Contextual Safeguarding vulnerability.

17.11 The locality tasking meeting will review provide multi-agency operational oversight, accountability and challenge around the following areas:

- Children reported MFH
- New cases of Child Sexual and Child Criminal Exploitation
- Overview of high risk and/or complex cases of Child Exploitation
- Escalation of cases to this group by local teams
- Review actions from previous meetings

- Agree cases for discussion and information sharing at the local monthly MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Level 2 meeting

17.12 The locality tasking meeting is held on a monthly basis and is attended by:

- North Yorkshire Police Area Commander (Chair)
- NYCC Social Care Team Manager
- NYCC Social Care Specialist Exploitation Social Worker
- HDFT **
- NYSCP MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Policy and Development Officer

17.13 The Terms of reference for the NYSCP MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Locality Tasking Meeting can be accessed [Terms of reference for MACE Mapping Meeting.docx](#)

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP)

17.14 The NYSCP Practice Development Subgroup will undertake a yearly audit of the NYSCP MACE procedure including a deep dive involving 10 cases and present the findings and any recommendations to the NYSCP Executive and MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Groups.

18. Glossary

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) - are stressful events occurring in childhood including domestic abuse, parental abandonment through separation or divorce, having had parents with a mental health condition, being the victim of abuse or neglect, having someone in your household having been to prison, growing up in a household in which adults are experiencing drug and alcohol misuse issues. Research has shown that the prevalence of ACES and the higher number of ACES a child may have, increases the likelihood not just of psychological and mental health problems, but also physical illness.

Child in Need – A ‘Child in Need’ is defined under the Children Act 1989 as a child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health and development will be significantly impaired, without the provision of services; or a child who is disabled. In these cases, assessments by a social worker are carried out under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Children in need may be assessed under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 in relation to their special educational needs, disabilities, as a carer, or because they have committed a crime.

Common Assessment Framework – Early help assessments such as the Common Assessment Framework, identify what help the child and family need to prevent their needs escalating to a point where intervention would be needed via statutory assessment under the Children Act 1989

Complex Safeguarding – is an approach and term emerging from Greater Manchester. It articulates their recognition that the current child protection systems, legislation and practice does not adequately address the extra-familial harm and risk facing many young people. It is

a term applied to encompass a range of safeguarding issues that adolescents face, in particular those related to criminality and exploitation.

Contextual Safeguarding - is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships

Developmental age – A child or young person's social, emotional, physical and intellectual maturity compared with typical behaviours and characteristics for their chronological age.

Disruption – Tactics used to divert or stop perpetrators exploiting young people where there is little or no evidence to prosecute

Early help assessments – Early help assessments identify what help a child and family may need to prevent their needs escalating. They are for children and families who may need targeted support from several agencies.

Gang - Organised groups with an element of status, membership and criminality or 2 or more young people involved in delinquent peer groups.

Hotspot - Specific areas, streets or houses used to target young people

Information Sharing Form - Template for sharing information about risks to Children and Young People which will inform multi-agency responses and intelligence gathering / Police Problem Profiling

MAST – Multi-Agency Screening Team comprises professionals from Children Social Care, Early Help, Police and Health staff.

NRM – National Referral Mechanism

NYSCP – North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Perpetrator - Any person who poses a risk or commits crimes against a young person

S47 - Section 47 of the 'Children Act 1989' (indicative of concerns about significant harm)

Safeguarding – All organisations that work with or come into contact with children and young people should have safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure that all, regardless of their age, gender, religion or ethnicity, can be protected from harm.

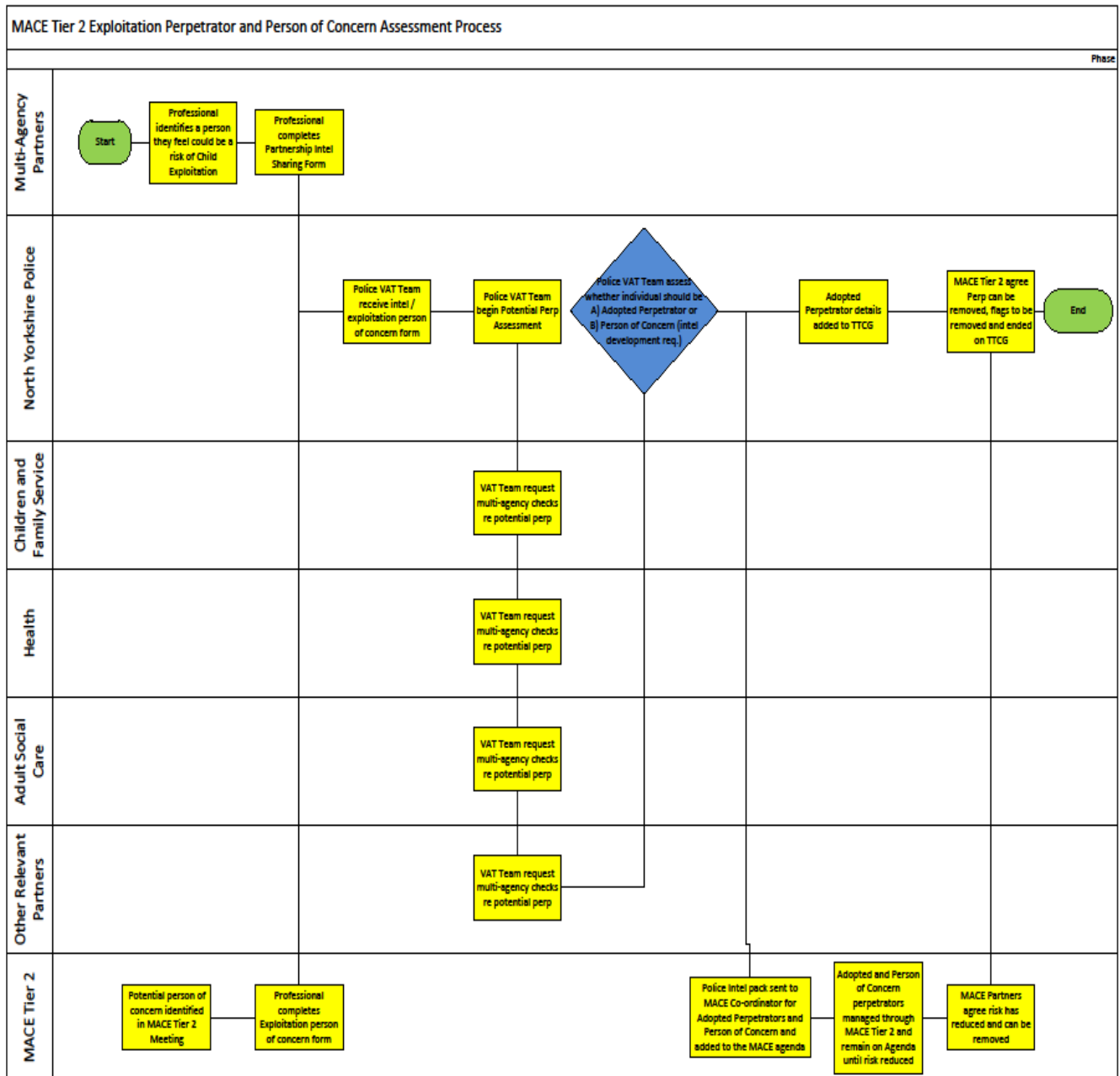
Sexually abusive – A term mainly used to describe sexual behaviours initiated by a child or young person in which there is an element of manipulation or coercion, or the subject of the behaviour is unable to give informed consent.

Transitional Safeguarding – is a term that has been used to highlight the need to improve the safeguarding response to older teenagers and young adults in a way that recognises their developmental needs. The term relates to the need to ensure that there is a fluid and transitional safeguarding approach needed for young people entering adulthood.

Universal Services – Universal services are those provided to all children and young people such as schools, health visiting, GPs.

Youth Criminal Justice – The youth criminal justice systems is for those aged 10 – 17 years of age' people aged 18 and over go through the adult criminal justice system

Appendix 1 – Flow chart for person of concern



Appendix 2 – References

Hanson E and Holmes D (2014) *That Difficult Age: Developing a more effective response to risks in adolescence*. Dartington: Research in Practice.

Home Office (2018) Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults', Home Office, 2018; www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines

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Sawyer S, Azzopardi P, Wickremarathne D and Patton G (2018) 'The age of adolescence'. *The Lancet Child*