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**Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Checklist**

**This tool has been developed by the Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) and the Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) to help frontline practitioners identify cases of sexual exploitation of children, young people or adults at risk. This checklist should be used in conjunction with the NSCB and NSAB Policy and Procedures and associated risk assessment guidance.**

**Sexual Exploitation**

Sexual exploitation involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where a victim (or a third person or persons) receives ‘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. Exploitative relationships are characterised in the main by a power imbalance between the perpetrator(s) and victim(s).

* People of all ages may be vulnerable to sexual exploitation. There have been cases involving victims as young as 12 and adults too. It is the vulnerability (whether that be age, disability, illness, poor life experiences, previous victims of abuse, isolation) of the alleged victim that is important, not just their age. Boys and men are just as likely to be targeted as victims of sexual exploitation by perpetrators.
* Young people and adults are groomed and sexually exploited in many different forms, e.g. online, street, gangs, leisure industry, religion, position of authority, celebrity. Perpetrators may work together in groups, or they can work alone. The common theme in all cases is the imbalance of power and the control exerted on the victims.
* Victims may lack the capacity to consent or may be being threatened or coerced into having sex. The process of grooming may have led the victim to become so dependent on the alleged perpetrator(s) that they see sex as something they have to do in order to survive.

**Guidance**

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| **What is this tool?**  This is a checklist that you can use to help you decide whether a child, young person or adult is at risk of sexual exploitation.  **Who should use this tool?**  This tool should be used by frontline practitioners working with children, young people or adults at risk of sexual exploitation.  **What is the tool for?**  This tool is for you to make an initial assessment about the level or risk of sexual exploitation, **it is not intended to be a referral form**. However, the checklist should form the basis of discussions when making a referral into safeguarding procedures and can be added to referral documentation as an appendices.  **How to use this tool**  Consider each individual case in relation to all of the criteria in each of the three segments. The results can be used to determine the risk or presence of sexual exploitation. The results are not a definitive assessment of risk. They should provide you with a structure to inform your judgement, analysis and risk management. If the checklist identifies a risk or presence of sexual exploitation then a referral into safeguarding procedures should be made. If any indicators of critical risk are identified then immediate action needs to be taken to safeguard the individual(s). |

**Details of the person completing this tool**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: |  |
| Job Title: |  |
| Agency / Organisation: |  |
| Telephone: |  |
| Email: |  |

**Details of the child young person or adult that the concern relates to**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name: |  | | | | |
| Date of birth |  | Age |  | Gender |  |
| Address |  | | | | |
| Contact number |  | | | | |

1. **Vulnerability Factors**

**Presence of these factors indicate an increased risk of sexual exploitation taking place.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mark the box if the risk factor is present.** | **Yes** | **No** | **Don’t know** | **Source / Notes** |
| 1. Isolation, lack of strong social networks |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Breakdown of family relationships |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Lack of engagement / inconsistent engagement with support networks (i.e. often misses appointments) |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Friends/peers are victims of sexual exploitation |  |  |  |  |
| 1. History of local authority care |  |  |  |  |
| 1. History of abuse (including as a child) |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Low self-esteem |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Susceptible to grooming |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Bereavement or loss |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Dependency on alleged perpetrator(s) |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Substance misuse/dependency |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Needs for care and support |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Learning Disability/difficulty |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Unstable housing situation |  |  |  |  |

1. **At Risk Indicators**

**Presence of these indicators detect identifiable features of sexual exploitation.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mark the box if the risk factor is present.** | **Yes** | **No** | **Don’t know** | **Source / Notes** |
| 1. Forced or coerced into making decisions |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Going missing for periods of time |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Unexplained increase in goods or monies |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Reduced contact with family, friends and other support networks. |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Concerning use of internet, social media and mobile phone. |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Meeting adults / older peers through the internet |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Evidence of risky/inappropriate sexual behaviour |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Inconsistent use of contraception (risk of STI’s) |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Regular and/or concerning access of sexual health services |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Self-harming |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Change in presentation or demeanour |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Change in appearance and/or sexualised dressing |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Involvement in petty crime |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Funding use of drugs / alcohol / legal highs or tobacco through unknown sources |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Unexplained contact with hotels/taxis/fast food outlets |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Reported to have been in locations where there are known concerns relating to sexual exploitation |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Associating with known perpetrators of sexual exploitation |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Unexplained patterns of engagement i.e. disappearing from support systems with no contact or explanation. |  |  |  |  |

1. **Critical Risk Indicators**

**Presence of these indicators identify critical concerns of sexual exploitation.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mark the box if the risk factor is present.** | **Yes** | **No** | **Don’t know** | **Source / Notes** |
| 1. Groomed or abused via internet or mobile technology |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Physical injuries without plausible explanation |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Controlling partner e.g. preventing access to services |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Fear of partner |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Disclosure of domestic abuse |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Exchanging sexual activity for accommodation |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Being trafficked for the purpose of sex |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Disclosure of sexual assault/ exploitation |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Withdrawing allegations of sexual assault / exploitation |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Abduction and forced imprisonment |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Being bought/sold for sex |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Multiple pregnancies, miscarriages or terminations |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Recruiting others into sexual exploitation |  |  |  |  |

**Professional Assessment**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Please provides any information which you feel is relevant. Consider the victims situation in relation to factors such as needs for care and support, cultural or language barriers and their willingness to engage with services. | | | |
| **What are the primary risks?** | | | |
|  | | | |
| **Are there any protective factors?** | | | |
|  | | | |
| **What are the views of the individual?** | | | |
|  | | | |
| **Professional judgement** | | | |
|  | | | |
| **What needs to happen next?** | | | |
|  | | | |
| **Signed** |  | **Date** |  |
| **Name** |  | | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Key Contacts** | | |
| **Person/Agency** | **When to use** | **Contact** |
| Community Health and Social Care Direct | To raise a safeguarding adults alert. | 0191 278 8377 |
| Children’s Social Care Initial Response Service | To raise a safeguarding children’s alert. | 0191 277 2500 |
| Out of Hours Social Care Duty Team | To raise a safeguarding adults or children’s alert out of office hours. | 0191 2787878 |
| Safeguarding Adults Unit | For advice around safeguarding adults. | 0191 278 8156 |
| Northumbria Police Public Protection Unit | For any concern where a crime has taken place. | 101 |