

## Newcastle Multi-Agency Children and Adults Exploitation Flow Chart

**Exploitation is when a person is controlled by an abuser who might use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to do so.** Victims of exploitation can be children or adults, and any gender. Perpetrators can be any gender or ethnicity. Exploitation can and does happen in all parts of the country, whether in large towns/cities or rural areas. Victims are groomed and exploited in many different ways e.g. online, gangs, street, celebrity, religion, family, friends, partners. Perpetrators may work together in groups or alone. Victims may not recognise that they are victims of exploitation.

### Types of exploitation

**Sexual exploitation** - When someone takes advantage of a person sexually. Through threats, bribes, violence, humiliation, or by telling the victim that they love them, they force the victim to do sexual things for their own or other people's benefit or enjoyment (including: touching or kissing private parts, sex or taking sexual photos/videos, exploitation via social media).

**County Lines** – where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs. The 'County Line' is the mobile phone line used to take the orders of drugs.

**Financial** - including debt and drug bondage, forced begging or criminality, benefit fraud, money laundering, online scams, relationships scams

**Criminal Exploitation/Peer crime group/Organised crime groups**- including manipulates or coerces adult or child into committing crimes for their own benefit, shoplifting, holding weapons, breaking into houses and stealing cars, forced shoplifting, illegal dog breeding.

**Home Takeover** – gangs or individuals using coercion, violence and abuse to target the homes of vulnerable people and use them as bases for crime. Conditions can be squalid. Sometimes referred to as "cuckooing". Children can be exploited to take over people's home and are also victims

**Modern Slavery** – the severe exploitation of other people for personal or commercial gain. People can become entrapped making clothes, serving food, picking crops, working in factories, or working in houses as cooks, cleaners or nannies. It can include forced sex work/sexual exploitation and trafficking.

**Trafficking** – The use of violence, threats or coercion to transport, recruit or harbour people in order to exploit them for purposes such as forced prostitution, labour, criminality, marriage or organ removal.

### Vulnerabilities which may increase risk

Bereavement; social exclusion; poverty/deprivation; personal/family learning disability/mental ill health/drug/alcohol use; physical disability; communication difficulties; prior personal/family experience of abuse/neglect/domestic abuse; personal/family history in the criminal justice system; breakdown of family relationships; low self-esteem; bullying; asylum seekers/refugees/insecure immigration status; Child in care or have children who are care experienced; neurodiversity; unstable accommodation/homelessness: transition into adulthood.

### Signs and indicators

Change in physical appearance/clothing; having money/mobile phones/urner phones/other items without a plausible explanation; becoming involved in criminality; getting into cars with unknown people; increased use of drugs or alcohol/change in drug/alcohol use; sending sexually explicit content via phone/social media; unexplained injuries or other health concerns such as bruising, puncture/stab wounds, sexually transmitted infections; carrying weapons; unsuitable or inappropriate accommodation; inappropriate/unusual relationships/associations; missing from home/care/education/work; self-neglect; unexplained debt; behaviours that communicate distress; changes in levels of engagement with services; concerns about ASB at a home address or increased people attending an address.

### Encouraging people to seek help and support

There are many reasons why victims will not, or feel they cannot, speak about their experiences or seek help and support so it is important to build trust to enable this to happen.

- Put the person at the centre of the action you are taking, hear their voice.
- Be open, honest and transparent about your role and what you can offer.
- Be persistent in your offers of support

- Be aware of the language you use – avoid victim-blaming, stigmatising, or dehumanising language.
- Be approachable and trauma-informed.
- If you are having difficulties engaging the person, consider which professional has the best relationship with the person and whether they could lead conversations.
- Make reasonable adjustments to support engagement

Deal with any immediate risks (risks to others and yourself). Contact emergency services if required. Check records for risk information or warnings. Remember that victims can deny or not recognise the exploitation is happening and minimise the risk and/or harm. Discuss with your line manager, assess the risk level and act accordingly. Some cases may meet multiple criteria described below – e.g. there may be children and adults at risk, multiple referrals will be required. Checklists to be completed to help analyse risk of exploitation



Case meets safeguarding adults criteria (Aged 18 or over) <a href="#">Adult exploitation checklist</a>	Case meets MARAC Criteria (People aged 16 or over and the exploitation involves high risk domestic abuse)	Cases where children are involved	Case does not meet safeguarding/MARAC criteria
<p>Exploitation is a form of abuse covered by multi-agency safeguarding adults policy and procedures. Where the victim of exploitation is an <b>adult at risk</b> as defined by the Care Act 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• aged 18 or over; and</li> <li>• has needs for care and support (whether or not those needs are being met); and</li> <li>• as a result of those needs is unable to protect him or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">A safeguarding adults referral must be made.</a></p> <p><b>CONSENT IS NOT NEEDED</b> for a Safeguarding adults referral where exploitation is a concern</p> <p>Follow your individual agency safeguarding process for making a referral or:</p> <p>1. Complete an <a href="#">online referral form</a> (or safeguarding forms directly on Eclipse for Adult Social Care staff). Decision made whether Safeguarding Adults Enquiry needs to progress and a Safeguarding Adults Plan developed.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be clear with the victim/survivor about confidentiality and MARAC information sharing procedures.</li> <li>2. Complete a <a href="#">DASH Risk Identification Checklist</a> with the victim/survivor, at first disclosure if possible.</li> <li>3. Where the case is visible high risk (14 ticks on the checklist); or based on your professional judgement you have serious concerns about a victim/survivor's safety you <b>must</b> make a referral to MARAC with or without their consent.</li> <li>4. Complete a MARAC referral form.</li> <li>5. Contact your agency's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for MARAC.</li> <li>6. With the victim/survivor's consent, make a referral to NIDAS for an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) or Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA). <a href="#">Access to services - NIDAS</a></li> <li>7. Your agency SPOC will make the referral to the MARAC Coordinator at Northumbria Police.</li> <li>8. An IDVA or ISVA will contact the victim/survivor.</li> <li>9. MARAC meetings take place every week during which key agencies share relevant information and agree an action plan to manage the risks posed by the perpetrator. The victim/survivor's views and safety concerns are presented by an IDVA.</li> </ol>	<p>-A child is aged between 0 - 18 years. Exploitation of children is a form of abuse that is covered by legislation and multi-agency procedural guidance.</p> <p>-Where a child is a victim of, or potentially a victim of exploitation, they are either at risk of, or suffering significant harm.</p> <p>-If you have a concern that a child has been exploited, you should complete <a href="#">online referral</a> to Children services and the -Risk outside the home (ROTH) checklist.</p> <p>Children services to complete SGA referral for 17.5 year old where exploitation is a concern.</p> <p>-Children services to consider PREM referrals and ROTH panels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider immediate and long term risks.</li> <li>• Signpost/refer the victim to relevant support/specialist services (see over).</li> <li>• Share information with relevant agencies.</li> <li>• Regularly revisit level of risk in terms of MARAC and safeguarding action.</li> </ul> <p>If no victim is identified but you have information that suggests exploitation may be occurring you can inform the Police by completing and submitting the <a href="#">Partnership Intelligence Form</a> to <a href="mailto:forceintelligence@northumbria.police.uk">forceintelligence@northumbria.police.uk</a></p> <p>Consider Potentially Dangerous Persons and MAPPA referrals for perpetrators of exploitation or contact with Probation. Victims may also require this parallel process as they can be exploited to be violent towards others</p>

**In all circumstances:**

- **Document** decision-making, actions taken and reasons for sharing/not sharing info.
- Be aware of your **professional role** and consult with other partners to: clarify roles and responsibilities and share information
- Consider **NRM** referral or duty to notify route if you are a First Responder. Adults seek consent unless best interest decision is made. Children must be referred, seeking consent for transition ages is best practice.

- **Follow up** any referrals.
- When **signposting** to other agencies always consider the risks associated with the perpetrator finding leaflets/letters etc. Consider how best to communicate and engage with the victim so not to increase risks
- Remember to ask the person their views and wishes and consider risk levels and impact of any actions taken

Exploitation support services In an emergency always call 999	Good practice guidance when responding to victims of exploitation	Missing
<p><b>Changing Lives</b> "Supports individuals aged 16+ who have experienced Modern Slavery, Exploitation or involved in Sex Work. 07940535765 / <a href="mailto:exploitationteam.referrals@changing-lives.org.uk">exploitationteam.referrals@changing-lives.org.uk</a>"</p> <p><b>Housing Advice Centre (HAC)</b> Emergency/temporary accommodation. 0800 1707 008</p> <p><b>Sexual Health Service 4 Newcastle</b> Sexual health clinic and contraception information and advice. 0800 500 3019</p> <p><b>Angelou Centre</b> Specialist support for Black and minoritised women and children 0191 226 0394</p> <p><b>National Referral Mechanism (NRM)</b> Referral system for potential victims of modern slavery/human trafficking</p> <p><b>InformationNOW</b> The information website for people living and working in Newcastle. You can find local information, organisations, events and activities. Website</p> <p><b>Safeguarding Adults Unit Advice Line</b> The Safeguarding Adults Unit provide advice and guidance to professionals from all organisations. There is Safeguarding Adults Manager with a dedicated role around adult exploitation who can be consulted.</p> <p><b>Childrens Partnership</b> To ensure that children are protected from abuse &amp; neglect.</p> <p><b>NIDAS</b> Working with high risk victims of domestic abuse, IDVA/ISVA Service, advice and support NIDAS 24hr helpline: 0191 226 3688 IDVA/ISVA Service: 0191 481 4132.</p> <p><b>Karma Nivana</b> charity supporting victims of honour-based abuse and forced marriage</p> <p><b>Newcastle Treatment and Recovery Service (NTaR)</b> All-age service for people needing support with drug and alcohol use. 0191 206 1117</p> <p><b>Mental health services</b> Urgent help for Adults – 0800 652 2863 Psychological wellbeing services (adults) – 0330 0534 230</p> <p><b>Streetwise</b> Confidential advice, counselling, and support services for young people aged 11-25 0191 230 5400</p> <p><b>Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board</b> Website includes multi-agency safeguarding adult policy and procedures and resources for practice.</p> <p><b>Other support and services to consider:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General health or social care services</li> <li>• <a href="#">Financial inclusion services</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Trading Standards</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Environmental Health</a></li> <li>• Housing providers/landlords. Including the <a href="#">Private Rented Service</a> and <a href="#">Your Homes Newcastle</a>.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Community safety</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Side step</b> The Side Step service will seek to identify and support young people involved in, or at risk of criminal exploitation and serious organised crime.</p>	<p><b>If you suspect that exploitation is happening but it is not directly reported:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is important that you act on your suspicions. You could provide the only opportunity for the victim to tell someone.</li> <li>• Ensure privacy – you are unlikely to receive a report from a victim if someone might overhear.</li> <li>• Show the person you have time to listen – if you appear rushed or uninterested you are less likely to receive a report.</li> <li>• Reassure about confidentiality and explain the limits of this, e.g. "I want you to know that whatever you tell me will go no further without your permission, unless I believe there are risks to others or a serious crime has or may be committed."</li> <li>• Begin with open questions, e.g. "tell me how things are going".</li> <li>• Follow up with direct questions, e.g. "I notice that you seem anxious/have some bruises/often miss appointments (whatever your concern is), is there anything happening that you are worried about? Is anything happening in your life that is making you feel unsafe? Is someone hurting you?"</li> <li>• It may be necessary to ask more than once, as many victims do not identify that they are experiencing abuse.</li> <li>• Ensure professional interpreters are used, never use family members, children or friends where exploitation is known or suspected.</li> </ul> <p><b>Responding to an initial report of exploitation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be sensitive, respectful, listen carefully, and believe what you are being told.</li> <li>• Remain non-judgemental, reassure them that the abuse is not their fault and never imply that the victim is to blame for the exploitation. Give key messages, e.g. you are not alone, you do not deserve to be treated like this, there is help available for you.</li> <li>• Seek to empower victims, not to take over or make decisions for them. Ask them what they want you to do. Ask them if they have any questions – they have told you a lot, they might have a lot to ask.</li> <li>• Validate the victim's experience; tell them you are glad they told you.</li> <li>• Take particular care in your recordings, avoid victim blaming language. Recordings can influence how you and others perceive current and future risk and it also impact upon court cases. For more information, please read the <a href="#">Exploitation Language Guidance documents</a>.</li> </ul> <p><b>If the person doesn't want you to take any action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider mental capacity, coercion, public interest, risks of significant harm. The Mental Capacity Act applies 16 years +. Focus on whether the person is able (understand, retain, weigh-up and communicate) to make the relevant decision first and if unable, then think about why this might be (impairment/disturbance of the mind/brain, control, coercion)</li> <li>• Remember that exploitation is a serious crime and professionals have a duty to share information with the Police if they believe it may be occurring (even if this is reported via a third party).</li> <li>• Always leave the door open for future discussion e.g. "You can contact me in the future if you feel you need help and support".</li> <li>• Consider whether anything might be impacting upon a child or adult stating that they don't want anything to happen – e.g. could they be subject to threats or fear of serious harm; under the influence of alcohol or drugs, mental illness or disability.</li> <li>• <b>public interest / prevention of serious crime</b> is a lawful basis for sharing without consent (GDPR)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reporting exploitation and serious violence anonymously</b></p> <p>Concerns can be reported anonymously to <a href="#">Crimestoppers</a> on 0800 555 111 or <a href="#">online</a>.</p>	<p>A person going missing can often be a feature of exploitation cases. There are specific procedures in place to respond to adults who go missing. These closely align with multi-agency safeguarding procedures. For more information, please see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Missing Adults Protocol - Northumbria</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Evidence gathering</b></p> <p>The Police will always be responsible for the gathering and preservation of evidence to pursue criminal allegations against people causing harm. However, other organisations and individuals can play a vital role in the preservation of evidence to ensure that vital information or forensics are not lost:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try not to disturb the scene, clothing or victim if at all possible.</li> <li>• Secure the scene, for example, lock the door.</li> <li>• Preserve all containers, documents, locations, phones etc.</li> <li>• Evidence may be present even if you cannot actually see anything.</li> <li>• If in doubt contact the Police and ask for advice.</li> </ul> <p><b>Transition</b></p> <p>Children are vulnerable to exploitation due to their age, as children approach and enter early adulthood they remain at risk of exploitation, this does NOT stop when they turn 18. It is important that transition arrangements for children approaching their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday are robust. Adolescence continues up to age 25 and young adults remain at risk due to this period in their development. Information related to exploitation must be shared with the relevant adult services. Where a child is subject to safeguarding children procedures aged 17.5 years, the <a href="#">NSAB/NSCP Safeguarding Transition Protocol</a> must be followed and a formal handover of the safeguarding concerns considered and agreed.</p> <p><b>Alleged perpetrator considerations</b></p> <p>There are not always clear distinctions between those experiencing and those who are perpetrating exploitation. There can be complex hierarchies and dynamics which need to be considered. For example, a person may have been controlled or coerced into carrying out a criminal act or recruiting/facilitating someone else to be exploited. Practitioners should be professionally curious and avoid labelling a person as a perpetrator and/or a criminal until this has been established.</p> <p><b>Location of the exploitation</b></p> <p>Consider where the exploitation is taking place and what action could be taken to disrupt. Information could be shared with the Police by completing and submitting the <a href="#">Partnership Intelligence Form</a> to <a href="mailto:forceintelligence@northumbria.police.uk">forceintelligence@northumbria.police.uk</a> and further advice could be sought from the <a href="#">Safeguarding Adults Unit Advice Line</a> on disruption options available.</p> <p><b>Children's Social Care advice</b> – 0191 277 2500 <a href="mailto:ROTH@newcastle.gov.uk">ROTH@newcastle.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Public safety and Regulatory service</b>- enforces compliance with laws regarding environmental health, trading standards, and licensing. They handle food safety, noise complaints, pollution, and taxi licensing, aimed at protecting residents and supporting fair trading <a href="mailto:psr@newcastle.gov.uk">psr@newcastle.gov.uk</a></p>