

# BRADFORD MULTI AGENCY CHILD EXPLOITATION PROTOCOL





# Introduction

This document sets out the procedures in Bradford for safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children from Child Exploitation. It outlines how through our partnerships we assess, challenge and provide an enhanced, effective service to reduce the risks and to ensure that interventions are focussed, co-ordinated and have a positive impact on outcomes for children and young people.

This document sits under the <u>Safeguarding Board Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2017</u>. It sets out operational expectations and direction all practitioners who are involved with children and young people who are vulnerable to, or at risk of exploitation, and those who are being exploited.

Within this protocol we have included the following pathways as we recognise that they all have significance when considering and responding to children and young people who may be at risk of exploitation.

- Children and young people who go missing
- Children and young people who are at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation
- Children and young people who are at risk of Criminal Exploitation
- Children and young people who are at risk of Radicalisation
- Children and young people who have been Trafficked

This protocol is a multi-agency document and staff should be familiar with and refer to the following guidance:

- Missing Person Protocol Tri-x
- Child exploitation disruption toolkit
- Bradford CSC Missing Protocol (Appendix A)
- Child Sexual Exploitation Protocol Tri-x
- BSCB Strategic Response to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- CSE Standards of Practice
- Multi-Agency Forced Marriage/FGM Policies



# **Definitions**

# **Child Exploitation**

"Child Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology." (Home Office, 2017)

The below nationally agreed definitions will be utilised across Bradford:

# **Child Sexual Exploitation**

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group 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 or 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. (Home Office 2017)





# **Child Criminal Exploitation**

Child Criminal Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of a person under the age of 18 and may coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under that age into any criminal activity

- a) In exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or
- b) For the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or
- c) Through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may be exploited even if the activity appears consensual (i.e. moving drugs or the proceeds of drugs from one place to another).

Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. (Home Office 2018)



# **County Lines**

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)

County lines is a form of Child Exploitation (CE). It is a major, cross-cutting issue involving drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and missing persons. The response to tackle it involves the Police, the NCA (National Crime Agency) and a wide range of Government departments, local government agencies and VCS (voluntary and community sector) organisations. County Lines activity and the associated violence, drug dealing and exploitation has a devastating impact on children, vulnerable adults and local communities.



# Home Invasion (sometimes referred to as Cuckooing)

Urban gangs establish a base in the market location, often by taking over the homes of local vulnerable adults by force and/or coercion, in a practice referred to as 'cuckooing'. Urban gangs then use children and vulnerable people to move drugs and money.

## **Human Trafficking**

A person commits an offence if the person arranges or facilitates the travel of another person to exploit them. It is irrelevant whether the exploited person, adult or child, consents to the travel. A person may, in particular, arrange or facilitate another person's travel by recruiting, transporting or transferring, harboring or receiving them, or transferring or exchanging control over them. 'Travel' means arriving in, or entering, any country; departing from any country and travelling within any country. A person who is a UK national commits an offence under Section 2 regardless of where the arranging or facilitating takes place, or where the travel takes place. A person who is not a UK national commits an offence under Section 2 if any part of the arranging or facilitating takes place in the UK, or the travel consists of arrival in or entry into, departure from, or travel within the UK.

In determining whether or not a child is a victim of trafficking, their consent to being trafficked is irrelevant and how they are trafficked is also irrelevant. Only the act and the purpose need to be present. It is not necessary to prove coercion or any other inducement.

Exploitation alone does not constitute trafficking – there also needs to be recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a person. Slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour is, or may be, a crime in its own right under Section 1 Modern Slavery Act 2015.

# **Contextual Safeguarding**

Contextual safeguarding which includes child sexual exploitation, peer on peer violence and abuse (including gangs), modern day slavery, harmful sexual behaviour, criminal exploitation, and going missing should not be seen in isolation as they often overlap, creating a complex set of harmful circumstances and experience for children, young people, families and communities.

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 neighborhoods, 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. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse in a range of social contexts.



# **Organised Crime Groups and Gangs**

Organised crime group means a group that:

- a) Has as its purpose the carrying on of criminal activities, and
- b) Consists of three or more persons who act, or agree to act, together to further that purpose

Gang related violence and drug dealing activity is defined as gang related if it occurs in the course of, or is otherwise related to, the activities of a group that:

- a) Consists of at least three people, and
- b) Has one or more characteristics that enable its members to be identified by others as a group. (Serious Crime Act 2015)

# **Bradford Tackling and Preventing Child Exploitation Guidance**

# **Key Principles**

The principles underpinning a multi-agency response to child criminal exploitation include:

- Recognition that Criminal Exploitation can include sexual, physical and emotional abuse, as well as, in some cases, neglect.
- Recognition that children do not make informed choices to enter or remain in exploitative relationships, but do so from coercion, intimidation, violence, enticement, manipulation or desperation.
- Recognition that CE covers a range of vulnerabilities which will need differing responses from a
  range of agencies; it is a multi-causal issue that needs to be addressed within a multi-agency
  approach.
- Locally it is recognised that CCE, County Lines activity and the Ending Youth Gang Violence (Government Programme) issues and CSE are intrinsically linked and are therefore considered collectively.
- Agreed that criminally exploited children and young people should be treated as victims of modern day slavery under the category of forced labour and potentially trafficking, and this should be used in mitigation during any criminal proceedings.
- Agreed that a multi-agency network or risk assessment and management meeting/discussion should take place for all children and young people considered at risk of Child Exploitation.
- Requirement that Child Protection Procedures should always be followed where:
  - The child or young person is at risk of significant harm and/or has other additional vulnerabilities.
  - There is concern that the criminal exploitation is being facilitated by the child/young person's parent/carer.
  - Child or young person is being exploited within a property of an adult at risk of vulnerability, that has been taken over by an organised crime group.
  - If there is immediate harm to the child, Police should be informed immediately.



### **Factors and involved considerations**

- Pull factors: children performing tasks for others resulting in them gaining affection, accommodation, food, gifts, status or a sense of safety, money or drugs; often the hook is through the perpetrator supplying Class B drugs such as cannabis to the child or young person.
- Push factors: children escaping from situations where their needs are neglected and there is exposure to unsafe individuals, where there is high family conflict or the absence of a primary attachment figure.
- Control: Manipulation, violence and threats of violence by those exploiting the child particularly
  when the child or young person is identified by the police, they are expected to take full
  responsibility for the offences for which they are charged i.e. possession and supply of illegal
  substances.
- Many young people do not recognise that they are being exploited or that they are at risk. The majority of children who are vulnerable to criminal exploitation are male, however the possibilities of female involvement should not be dismissed.
- It is imperative that in recognising CE as a priority, it is co-considered alongside children who go missing, Child Criminal Exploitation, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and modern day slavery, as all are intrinsically linked.

N.B. It is important to note that perpetrators of CE may themselves be children who are criminally exploited and that the victims of CE may also be at risk of becoming perpetrators.

### Consent

The law states that consent is only valid where children and young people make a choice and have the freedom and capacity to make that choice. If a child feels they have no other meaningful choice, are under the influence of harmful substances or fearful of what might happen if they do not comply, (all of which are common features in cases of CE) consent cannot legally be given, whatever the age of the child.



# **Vulnerabilities and Indicators**

There are some factors that can increase the vulnerability that a child or young person will be exploited by others. In order to understand these, it is helpful to draw on the contextual safeguarding hexagon model shown below, helping to picture the child or young person's individual factors, home, peers, school and neighbourhood.

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

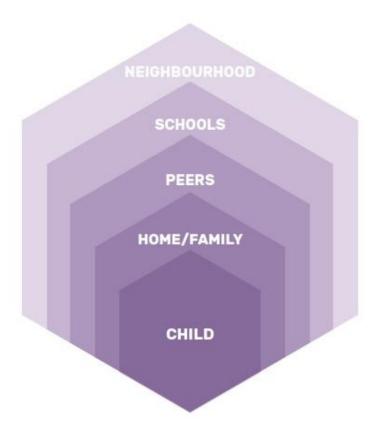


Illustration provided by the University of Bedfordshire, Contextual Safeguarding Team

The following vulnerabilities do not mean that a child or young person will be exploited, but they are factors that could increase the vulnerability that they could be exploited by someone.

**CHILD/INDIVIDUAL:** If a child or young person is Looked After, has learning disabilities, substance misuse issues, or mental health problems or physical/communication additional needs.

**HOME/FAMILY:** If there is neglect/abuse, exposure to or experience of violence, parental substance misuse, mental health and domestic abuse, poverty, lack of a positive relationship with a protective and nurturing adult, homelessness or insecure accommodation status.

**PEERS:** If the child or young person is exposed to other children and young people who are known to be exploited, or exposed to or experiencing peer on peer abuse.

**SCHOOLS:** If the child or young person has been excluded from school and is not in education, training or employment, or is exposed to or has experienced violent crime.



**NEIGHBOURHOODS:** If the child or young person has been exposed to or has experienced violent crime.

# **Warning Indicators**

There are a number of indicators listed in the following table that could alert professionals to a child or young person being exploited.

# **Indicators**

- Frequent missing episodes and being found out of area. Found with large quantities of drugs or weapons. Found with drugs inside rectum or vagina.
- Unexplained amounts of money, mobile phones, credit, clothing, jewellery, new haircuts or other items and gifts.
- Being found out of area when missing, or being arrested out of area especially for drug related offences.
- Multiple referrals for incidents in the same location.
- Returned from missing episodes with injuries, or dishevelled appearance.
- Change in behaviour, i.e. more secretive, withdrawn, or isolated from peers, or not mixing with usual friends.
- Unexplained absences from, or not engaged in school, college, training, or work.
- Increasingly disruptive, hostile or physically aggressive at home or school, including the use of sexualised language and language in relation to drug dealing and/or violence.
- Expressions around invincibility or not caring about what happens to them. Increased interest in making money.
- Reports of being taken to parties, people's houses, unknown areas, hotels, nightclubs, takeaways or out of area by unknown adults.
- Increasing use of drugs or alcohol.
- Fear of reprisal from gang members or violence from young people or adults, on themselves or their family.
- Having multiple mobile phones, sim cards or use of a phone that causes concern e.g. multiple callers or more texts/pings than usual.
- A sudden change in behaviour related to Social Media platforms or online usage.
- Possession of hotel keys/cards, or keys to unknown premises.
- Disclosure of a sexual or physical assault, followed by withdrawal of the allegation.
- Other signs of sexual abuse e.g. Sexually Transmitted Infection , secondary wetting / soiling, new vulvovaginitis/ soreness
- Abduction or forced imprisonment.
- Entering or leaving vehicles/cars with unknown adults. Receiving rewards of money or goods for introducing peers.
- Self harm or significant changes in emotional well-being.
- Agencies unable to engage with the child or young person.



- New peer groups and/or relationships.
- Relationships with controlling or older individuals or groups.

# Language agencies should use to describe a child's behaviour

Inappropriate language	Appropriate language
'Child is being offered drugs	Child is being sexually exploited.
in return for sex'	Concerns that the child has been raped.
	<ul> <li>Perpetrators are sexually abusing the child.</li> </ul>
	- The child is being sexually abused.
	<ul> <li>The child's vulnerability regarding drug use is being used by others to abuse them.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>The perpetrators have a hold over the child due to the fact that they are drug dependant.</li> </ul>
'Involved in CSE'	This implies that there is a level of choice regarding the child being abused. A
	better term would be that the child is vulnerable to being sexually exploited
	or they are being sexually exploited. A five year old would never be referred
	to as being involved in sexual abuse for the same reasons.
'Promiscuous'	This puts the blame on the child and implies the child knows what may be
	happening and is therefore not viewed by practitioners as exploitative and
	abusive. This phrase is often used to describe the behaviour of females. This
	language should <b>not</b> be used for children.
'Prostituting themselves'	This completely misses that the child is being manipulated and controlled.
	Changes in legislation have meant that child prostitution is no longer an
	acceptable term and should <b>never</b> be used.
'Boyfriend/Girlfriend'	Children have been challenged in court with practitioner's recordings where
	their practitioner has referred to the perpetrator as the child's
	boyfriend/girlfriend. This language should <b>not</b> be used.
'Putting themselves at risk'	Child may have been groomed.
	<ul> <li>The child is at an increased vulnerability to being abused/exploited.</li> </ul>
	A perpetrator may exploit the child's increased vulnerability.
	<ul><li>Situation could reduce the child's safety.</li></ul>
	<ul> <li>Location/situation could increase a perpetrators opportunity to abuse the</li> </ul>
	child.
	Child not in a protective environment.
	The location is dangerous to children.
	<ul> <li>Not clear if the child may be being sexually abused.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>It is unclear why the child is getting into cars.</li> </ul>
	Concern that there is a power imbalance forcing the child to act in this
	way.
	<ul> <li>Concerns regarding other's influences on the child.</li> </ul>



'Sexual activity with'	They have been sexually abused.
	<ul> <li>They have been raped.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Allegation of sexual abuse.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Child has described sexual activity, however concerns exist that the child may have been groomed/coerced.</li> </ul>
'Sexually active since (aged under 13)'	– Raped.
	Concerns exist that the child may have been coerced, exploited or sexually
	abused.
	Child may have been sexually abused.
'Drug running He/she is drug running'	Child criminal exploitation (CCE).
	The child is being trafficked for purpose of criminal exploitation.
'Recruit/run/work'	This implies there is a level of choice / control by the child regarding their
	exploitation and does not take into consideration the grooming.
	Coercion, threats or intimidation. A more appropriate description would be
	that the child is being criminally exploited.
'He/she is choosing this	Again, this implies that there is a level of choice or control by the child
lifestyle	regarding their exploitation and does not take into account the grooming,
	coercion, threats or intimidation. A more appropriate description would be
	that the child is being criminally exploited.
'Spending time/associating with 'elders'	The young person says that they are friends with a person and there are
	concerns about the person's age, imbalance of power, exploitation,
	offending.
	The young person has been groomed, exploited, controlled.
	<ul> <li>If the 'elder' is under the age of 18 years – this will need to be considered</li> </ul>
	using child protection processes.

'When I think about that time,
even now I feel very scared.

It was a very hard time.

I felt I had no choices'.

Young male



# **HOW WE WILL DO IT**

Everyone who works with children has a responsibility for keeping them safe. No single practitioner can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances and, if children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action. For CSC to be able to understand the concerns raised for a child fully, they will need to liaise with other agencies involved in the life of the child. There is an expectation that agencies will collaborate to gain the best view of a child's lived experience.

# Children who go missing

Missing children and young people may be at increased risk of Child Exploitation and should be reported as missing to police in-line with the missing guidance and flowchart in Appendix A. Once a missing child is located, it is important that they are spoken to, to identify any risks the child has been exposed to. There are two stages to the process, the Police Safe and Well Check and the Missing Return Home Interview.

Children should be informed of their rights, and encouraged to talk about the incident to someone independent of their parents/carers on their return.

The child must be offered the interview with the independent person within 72 hours of being located or returned.

In Bradford, this service is provided by Children's Services and Advocacy Focus. Providing children with the opportunity to talk is key to safeguarding them. Children's Services undertake Missing Return Home Interviews and Advocacy Focus undertake Missing Return to Care Interviews.

# **Bradford Process**

The Police will, when a child is reported missing, record the missing occurrence and complete a missing from home report. The missing risk will be graded and the Police will undertake timely enquires into locating the missing child.

Once located the young person will be returned to their parent/ carer in accordance with the Joint Protocol for missing children from home or care document complete a safe and well check and complete a Misper 7 return report. These will be shared with Children's Social Care.

Found Notifications (Misper 7 return reports) are received through Children's Enquiries from the Police once a child or young person is located.



If the case is not open to Social Care, then MASH will review the referral information, make any necessary MASH enquiries and hold a strategy meeting or arrange a complex strategy meeting, depending on the risks identified. If the child requires Early Help/Universal Services intervention, it is expected that the lead professional will be responsible for the planning around the child/young person to reduce the risks.

If the case is open, the allocated social worker is notified alongside the Missing Officer who will undertake a Return Home Interview (RHI). The relevant Team Manager will sign off the RHI and ensure that any actions required to safeguard or reduce risk of further missing episodes are implemented.

If the child or young person is Looked After, the allocated social worker, as soon as they receive a Found Notification, will contact Advocacy Focus to request that a Return to Care Interview is undertaken. The relevant Team Manager will sign off the RHI as above and ensure the necessary actions to safeguard or reduce risk are implemented.

Whenever there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, there will be a strategy discussion/meeting. The strategy discussion/meeting will be coordinated and chaired by a Children's Social Care.

Professionals participating in strategy discussions/meetings must have all their agency's information relating to the child available to be able to contribute to the discussion/meeting, and must be sufficiently senior to make decisions on behalf of their agencies. The meeting should take place within 24 hours of the missing episode wherever possible.

If there is any suggestion that a child has been the victim or perpetrator of crime, consideration must be given to the securing of evidence including forensic examination. Where an allegation of physical or sexual abuse is made or becomes evident, the West Yorkshire Consortium Safeguarding and Children Procedures must be followed.

Police and Children's social care will meet at least once a week to discuss cases of concern at an operational level. Strategic leads will meet a minimum of bi monthly to discuss trends and cases of concern. This meeting will discuss issues with placements and care homes that seem to be not providing the appropriate service levels.



# Children who are at risk of Exploitation

# **Child Sexual Exploitation**

Within Bradford there is a clear focus on working with partner agencies to reduce the risks of Child Sexual Exploitation through:

- Reducing children and young people's vulnerability to these risks.
- Improving their resilience.
- Disrupting and preventing the activities of perpetrators.
- Reducing tolerance of exploitative behaviours.
- Prosecuting abusers.

Any practitioner who is concerned or receives information that a child or young person is vulnerable to, or a victim of, sexual exploitation should complete the <a href="Multi-Agency Referral Form">Multi-Agency Referral Form</a>, including as much detail as possible and attach the Child Exploitation Risk Assessment and send it to <a href="Childrens.Enquiries@bradford.gov.uk">Childrens.Enquiries@bradford.gov.uk</a>. **Note** when submitting the CE Risk Assessment form there is no requirement to complete the full MARF merely the demographics and consent sections at the start of the form.

# **Bradford's Response to Child Exploitation**

The Integrated Front door who will then take the lead and review the CE Risk assessment. If the outcome of the MASH enquiry is that the child/young person requires Early Help/Universal Services intervention, it is expected that the lead professional will ensure that the CE Risk Assessment is updated or completed and re-refer if risks have increased. For Emerging risk cases there is an expectation that the risk assessment tool will be reviewed no later than 90 days following its completion.

If the child or young person is open to Social Care, the information will be passed through to the relevant team for safeguarding action to be taken. The CE Risk assessment will be completed in full or updated, ensuring that all involved agencies contribute. This Risk Assessment should be sent to the relevant Team Manager. This should inform the continued or review of the plan for the child/young person to protect and reduce risks for the child/young person. Cases that identify a Moderate Risk assessment should be reviewed no later than 60 days following completion. Cases identified as High Risk should be reviewed no later than 30 days following completion.

# **Criminal Exploitation including Trafficking**

This is what we mean when we talk about criminal exploitation in Bradford:

'We recognise that concerns exists with regard to children and young people who are used, through whatever means, to engage in criminal activity by other young people or adults who are able to



coerce them to do so. The young people involved may not identify themselves as being 'exploited' as such, but it is clearly to their detriment that they are involved in this type of activity'

(Taken from Knowsley Safeguarding Board, 2017)

Within Bradford we are committed to working as partner agencies across safeguarding and Community Safety to:

- To ensure that young people are supported to safely identify ways to exit and withdraw from criminal exploitation.
- To ensure that young people are supported to carefully disclose information so perpetrators are held accountable and brought to justice.
- Where possible, to ensure that young people are not criminalised and prosecuted with such action only being used as a last resort.

It needs to be understood and acknowledged by all professionals that that young people are subjected to significant pressure and coerced into criminal activity and, as such, feel they have no choice other than to follow the instructions of those who are exploiting and therefore subjecting them to abuse.

# **Complex Abuse and Strategy Meetings**

Complex abuse strategy meetings on new cases will be chaired by the MASH Service Manager and must take place within one working day of the receipt of the referral and be formally recorded.

Complex abuse strategy meetings on open cases will be chaired by the relevant Service Managers who will formally record their decision that a complex abuse strategy meeting is required and formally record the strategy meeting.

A High Profile incident form should be completed by the relevant Service Manager as soon as the referral is received and then updated following the initial strategy meeting.

If there are a number of children and some are open to Social Care and some not known or previously closed, the MASH Service Manager will chair these and invite the relevant allocated Social Workers and Team Managers.

It should be noted that if there is any suggestion of recent sexual activity the Strategy Meeting should consider the need for a medical for the child concerned.

# **Operational Meetings (Missing and Child Exploitation - MACE)**

Monthly senior multi-agency operational meetings review the patterns and themes in respect of children and young people who go missing and those cases where there are serious concerns regarding exploitation. Children and young people where there are significant concerns and that would benefit from a senior multi-agency review will be timetabled as part of the agenda and the relevant practitioners invited to attend the meeting and present the case.



# National Referral Mechanism form for potential child victims of modern slavery (England and Wales)

# **Duty to notify**

From 1 November 2015, specified public authorities are required to notify the Home Office about any potential victims of modern slavery they encounter in England and Wales. If the potential victim is under 18, or may be under 18, you should complete a child referral form.

Child victims do not have to consent to be referred into the NRM and should be referred to wider child safeguarding processes for support. Separate guidance and forms for child victims can be found using this link <a href="https://www.modernslavery.gov.uk/start">https://www.modernslavery.gov.uk/start</a>. Agencies include The police, local authorities, the National Crime Agency and the Gangmasters Licensing Authority have a duty to notify the Home Office under the Modern Slavery Act 2015. Other organisations can complete this form on a voluntary basis.

Modern slavery, including child trafficking, is child abuse. When an agency comes into contact with a child who may have been exploited or trafficked, Local Authority Children's Services and the Police should be notified immediately. A referral into the NRM does not replace or supersede established child protection processes, which should continue in tandem.

All children, irrespective of their immigration status, are entitled to be safeguarded and protected under the law. Referrals to the NRM should be for all potential victims of trafficking and modern slavery, who can be of any nationality, and may include British national children, such as those trafficked for child sexual exploitation or those trafficked as drug carriers internally within the UK.

Where there is reason to believe a victim could be a child, the individual must be given the benefit of the doubt and treated as a child until an assessment is carried out.

# How to complete the form

Throughout the form, items marked with an asterisk (\*) should be supported by documentary evidence where possible. This form should be completed with reference to the linked guidance available on <a href="www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a>. Completed forms should be sent to the Single Competent Authority via email to <a href="mailto:nationalreferralmechanism@homeoffice.gov.uk">nationalreferralmechanism@homeoffice.gov.uk</a>.

For the most up-to-date guidance please visit: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms</a>

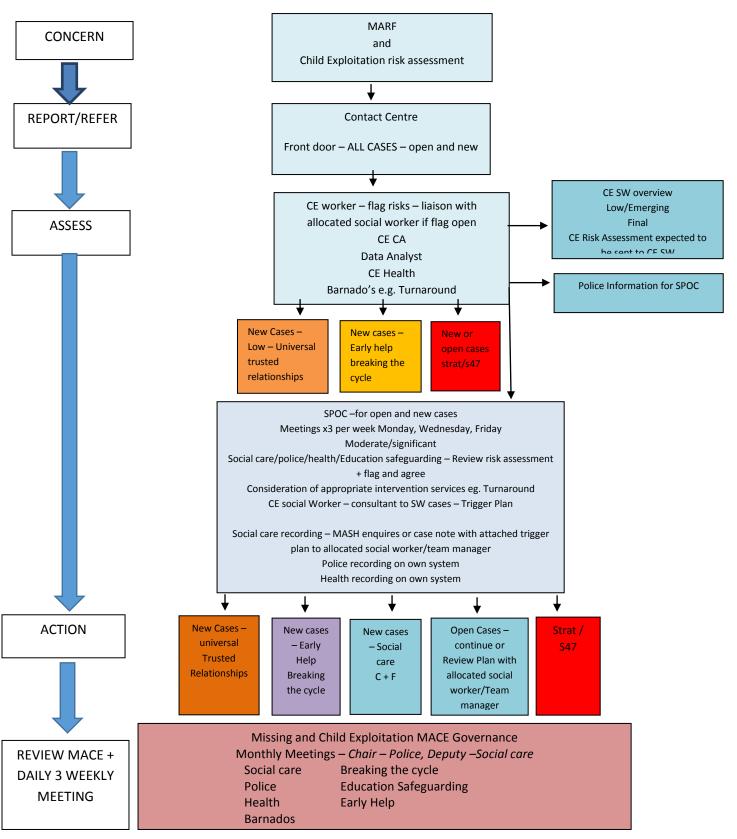
'Everything kind of started to go
wrong for me. I felt the need to just
isolate myself from everyone.'

Young female

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# Referral process for Children at risk of being exploited





# **Prevent Referral Process**

Prevent is part of the Government's CONTEST counter-terrorism strategy, now enshrined in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. Prevent focuses on mitigating the risk and raising awareness of radicalisation and <u>all forms</u> of extremism that may promote or lead to terrorism. It is about identifying people who are at risk of radicalisation and working with them, on a voluntary basis, to reduce their vulnerabilities.

The Prevent referral pathway is a single process across the whole of Bradford and has been ratified by the Local Safeguarding Boards for both children and adults. Any professional who has a Prevent related concern should look into this thoroughly before submitting a referral – advice and support is available from the Prevent Team at Bradford Council. Following this, should they feel there is a safeguarding concern, then a Prevent Referral form should be submitted. This is found on both the Safeguarding Adult and Children Board websites, as well as on Bradford Council website and on the Bradford Schools Online website. It is sent to Counter Terrorism Policing for de-confliction and to be assessed against the '3 Ms' - malicious, misinformed or misguided. They then undertake information sharing, vulnerability and risk assessment work, before bringing the case to the Channel Panel if applicable or directing for other support

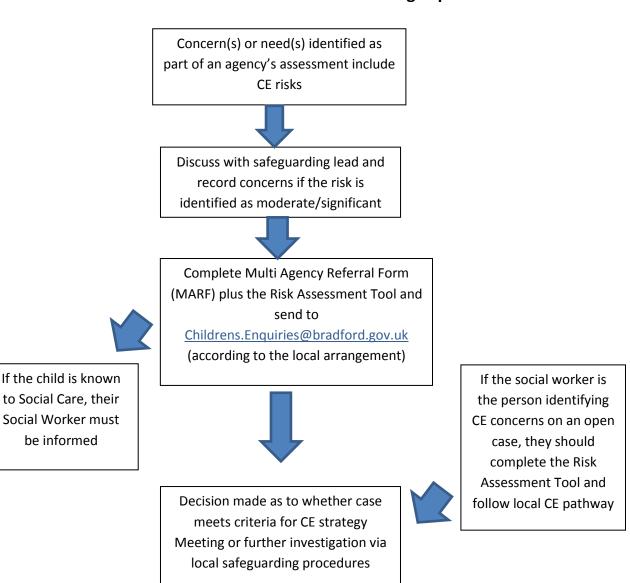
The Bradford Channel Safeguarding Panel is a multi-agency group, chaired by the Local Authority. They accept referral cases if there is sufficient evidence of a terrorism concern. The Panel will formulate an action plan of support, which can include deployment of a Home Office intervention specialist, with the consent of the individual. All cases are reviewed monthly and closed cases are reviewed at 6 and 12 months to ensure no further concerns have been raised.

BSCB Prevent in Bradford District Prevent Guidance and Referral Form



# **Referral Process to the Integrated Front Door**

# Referral Process re: Concerns a child is being exploited



Please see each local area Child Exploitation Pathway for further information.

be informed



# **Bradford CSC Missing Protocol**

