

PAN Merseyside Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Protocol 2018

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**PAN Merseyside Multi-Agency Protocol
Safeguarding children & young people from Child Exploitation (CE)**

Contents

Sections		Page
1.	Introduction	3
2.	Protocol Aims and Purpose	3
3.	Principles for consistently tackling Child Exploitation across Merseyside	44
4.	Governance	6
5.	Definitions	6
6.	Multi Agency Child Exploitation meeting (MACE)	7
7.	MACE Process and Terms of Reference	8
8.	Role of Children's Social Care	8
9.	Role of Merseyside Police	9
10.	Role of Health Services	10
11.	Role of Schools and Colleges	10
12.	Role of Youth Offending Service (YOS)	11
13.	Role of the Probation Service	11
Appendices		
Appendix 1	Referral flowchart for concerns of Child Exploitation	12
Appendix 2	Warning Signs and Vulnerabilities Checklist	13
Appendix 3	CE1 Referral Form - concerns a child is being exploited	14
Appendix 4	CE2 Multi-Agency Assessment Tool	17
Appendix 5	Child Exploitation Multi Agency Plan (a Lead Practitioner Plan can be used)	24
Appendix 6	MACE decision on risk level and rationale	25
Appendix 7	Web links to Referral forms and safeguarding processes for each Local Authority in Merseyside	26
Appendix 8	Flowchart - key questions for information sharing	27
Appendix 9	Language agencies should use when describing a child's behaviour and/or presentation	28
Appendix 10	National Referral Mechanism for potential (child) victims of trafficking	30
Appendix 11	Information Sharing Agreement	38
Appendix 12	Signatories to the Protocol	49

Appendix 9

Language agencies should use to describe a child's behaviour and/or behaviour

'Child is being offered drugs in return for sex'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child is being sexually exploited. • Concerns that the child has been raped. • Perpetrators are sexually abusing the child. • The child is being sexually abused. • The child's vulnerability regarding drug use is being used by others to abuse them. • The perpetrators have a hold over the child due to the fact that they are drug dependant.
'Involved in CSE'	<p>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 5 year old would never be referred to as being involved in sexual abuse for the same reasons.</p>
'Promiscuous'	<p>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.</p>
'Prostituting themselves'	<p>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 never be used.</p>
'Boyfriend/Girlfriend'	<p>Children have been challenged in court with practitioner's recordings where their practitioner has referred to the perpetrator as the child's boyfriend/girlfriend.</p>
'Putting themselves at risk'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child may have been groomed • The child is at an increased vulnerability to being abused/exploited • A perpetrator may exploit the child's increased vulnerability. • Situation could reduce the child's safety. • Location/situation could increase a perpetrators opportunity to abuse the child. • Child not in a protective environment. • The location is dangerous to children. • Not clear if the child may be being sexually abused. • It is unclear why the child is getting into cars. • Concern that there is a power imbalance forcing the child to act in this way. • Concerns regarding other's influences on the child.

'Sexual activity with...'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have been sexually abused. • They have been raped. • Allegation of sexual abuse. • Child has described sexual activity, however concerns exist that the child may have been groomed/coerced.
'Sexually active since (age under 13)'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child criminal exploitation (CCE) • The child is being trafficked for purpose of criminal exploitation
'Recruit/run/work'	<p>This implies there is a level of choice or control by the child regarding their exploitation and does not take into consideration the grooming,</p> <p>Coercion, threats or intimidation. A more appropriate description would be that the child is being criminally exploited.</p>
'He/she is choosing this lifestyle'	<p>Again, this implies there is a level of choice or 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.</p>
'Spending time/associating with 'elders''	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The young person says that they are friends with a person and there are concerns about that person's age, the imbalance of power, exploitation, offending. • The young person has been groomed, exploited, controlled. • If the 'elder' is under the age of 18 years old- this will also need to be considered using child protection processes.