

Overview and Scrutiny Board Exploitation and Serious Case Review

Overview and Scrutiny
January 2021



Exploitation in Torbay

- Introduction and Context
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Exploitation in Torbay

Devon and Cornwall Police

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CHILDREN MISSING TRAFFICKED AND EXPLOITED Torbay Children's Services

Overview and Scrutiny

January 2021



Child Exploitation in Torbay - Overview

- Following the redesign activity for Children's Services, the Exploitation Team is now firmly established within front door services and is resourced with a Team Manager, an Exploitation Coordinator and a Business Support Officer.
- The primary focus of our work in 2020 has been to address the concerns raised in previous inspections and to develop a child centred focus to our practice.
- We are becoming increasingly confident that we have a clearer understanding of the picture of exploitation in the Bay and continue to develop processes and tools to enhance our understanding of exploitation and importantly our responses to children who are victims of exploitation.

Child Exploitation in Torbay - Overview

- The introduction of a revised and fit for purpose Child Exploitation Toolkit has enabled colleagues and partners to address contextual safeguarding concerns in a much broader context. The previous CSE Toolkit very much focussed on Child Sexual Exploitation and gave little opportunity to consider Criminal Exploitation (including gang involvement) or Trafficking.

Child Exploitation in Torbay - Overview

- Since the introduction of the new toolkit we have recorded a significant increase of children at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE).
- The numbers of children being assessed as at risk of CSE has remained fairly consistent since the beginning of the year.
- During lockdown we did see an increase in on-line exploitation and had an increase in the number of new referrals in relationship to this.
- We currently have seven children who have been referred to the Home Office via the NRM (National Referral Mechanism).

Child Exploitation in Torbay - Current Picture

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)	57
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	60
National Referral Mechanism (NRM)	7

Exploitation Screening Tool Data – Q1, Q2, Q3

Qtr 1	
Total number of screening tools	68
Male	31
Female	37
HIGH	8
MEDIUM	38
LOW (No Alert)	22

Qtr 2	
Total number of screening tools	93
Male	48
Female	45
HIGH	13
MEDIUM	58
LOW (No Alert)	22

Qtr 3	
Total number of screening tools	117
Male	52
Female	65
HIGH	17
MEDIUM	65
LOW (No Alert)	35

Totals	
Total number of screening tools	279
Male	131
Female	147
HIGH	38
MEDIUM	161
LOW (No Alert)	79
CCE	57
CSE	60

Missing and Exploitation Forums

Overview of the 3 key forums designed to respond to identified risks.

Triage

Meets on the 1st Tuesday of every month.

- This meeting considers all of the children who have had a missing episode in the last month. It is multi-agency and ensures strong partnership oversight on all children who go missing in Torbay.
- The meeting also considers all of the new Child Exploitation Toolkits that have been completed in the previous month.
- Triage will refer any children that have been looked at in the meeting to CEMOG (Child Exploitation and Missing Operational Group), where it is agreed that additional consideration to addressing the risks to the child is needed.

CEMOG

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month.

- The Child Exploitation and Missing Operational Group meets with social workers of children referred from Triage. Social Workers will present the case to the CEMOG panel to address any potential barriers to progress regarding exploitation or missing episodes.
- Actions to address these will be agreed and subsequently followed up with agreed professionals and or resources to progress.

MACE

Meets on the last Thursday of every month.

- This multi-agency meeting focuses primarily on addressing Adults and Locations that have been referred in, that present a potential risk for young people. Any concerns can be referred in to this forum via the link below and should also be copied in to the Police Intel Online Sharing Form (also linked below).
- <http://www.torbaysafeguarding.org.uk/workers/missing-cse/>
- <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/contact/contact-forms/partner-agency-information-sharing-form/>
- All of these forums continue to (virtually meet) during the lockdown and during these challenging times they remain an important aspect of our ongoing drive to safeguard children from exploitation in the Bay.

Exploitation Strategy and Governance

- Following the emergence of the new safeguarding arrangements and governance structures there will be an opportunity for a sub group to sit below the Business Management Group to develop an Exploitation Strategy and associated plan of activity.
- This forum will be responsible for the development of a cohesive strategy clearly outlining our intent and approach and will be accountable to the Business Management Group in reporting progress against the associated plan of activity using the four 'Ps' approach: Prepare; Pursue; Protect; Prevent.

Missing Children in Torbay - Overview

- As we moved through the government's range of responses to emerging risks to the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a fluctuating picture of missing children in Torbay. Numbers vastly reduced in the early stages of lockdown earlier in the year. As restrictions eased we saw a steady increase in missing episode to pre lockdown levels.
- Some intelligence suggested that hidden missing was in all likelihood more prevalent as we moved out of lockdown with some parents indicating a reluctance to report children missing in fear of detrimental outcomes if the police became involved (i.e. fines).

Missing Children in Torbay - Overview

- Checkpoint have continued to deliver a virtual service in responding to undertaking Return Home Interviews (RHIs). Some children have indicated a preference for this and engagement has remained consistent and compliance to the statutory duty to undertake RHIS has remained consistent.
- We had an increase in new contacts during lockdown with many attributed to tensions in the family home as a result of lockdown leading to family arguments (a push factor) which in turn resulted in children leaving and being reported missing.

Missing Children Data – Q1, Q2, Q3

Qtr 1	
Total number of missing episodes	108
Total number of children	49
Males	58
Female	50
CP	15
CIN	23
CLA	47
TH	6
S47	5
Pending ICPC	0
No status recorded	12

Qtr 2	
Total number of missing episodes	159
Total number of children	65
Male	59
Female	100
CP	20
CIN	15
CLA	94
TH	4
S47	6
Pending ICPC	4
No status recorded	16

Qtr 3	
Total number of missing episodes	147
Total number of children	63
Male	83
Female	64
CP	36
CIN	23
CLA	50
TH	10
S47	6
Pending ICPC	2
No status recorded	19

Totals	0
Total number of missing episodes	414
Total number of children	134
Male	200
Female	214
CP	71
CIN	61
CLA	191
TH	20
S47	17
Pending ICPC	6
No status recorded	48

Top 10 Missing Children - Q1, Q2, Q3

Number Of Missing Episodes	Gender	Age	Status
33	M	14	CPP
32	F	17	CLA
31	F	17	CLA
20	M	16	CLA
18	M	16	CPP
14	M	16	CLA
11	F	16	CLA
11	F	14	CLA
10	M	14	CLA
9	M	15	CPP
8	M	14	CLA

Return Home Interviews

- The current pandemic has lead to a change in the way RHIs have been delivered. Throughout lockdown they were conducted by phone via Checkpoint workers who were working from home.
- As we emerged from lockdown there has been a gradual increase and return to face to face delivery. This has created some challenges as some of the venues previously used (e.g. schools) have resisted accepting external visitors to ensure they remain Covid secure environments. This has lead to some delays with conducting RHIs but figures for completing Rhis has remained consistent.
- As further restrictions are being announced we will maintain regular communication with delivery partners to ensure continuity of service delivery.

Trafficking in Torbay - Overview

- We currently have seven children who have been referred to the Home Office through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)
- There is further work to be conducted regarding a more cohesive response to children with NRM status. Initial conversations are underway with Community Safety Partnership to look at a more joined up approach that will be clearer about expectations once NRMs have been made.
- Police have shared some concerns that perpetrators are encouraging children to request an NRM to protect them against prosecution should they be arrested. This does not indicate that the child is not still at significant risk of exploitation and harm.

NRM (National Referral Mechanism) - Data

Age	CCE/CSE	Current Level of Risk (Assessed by most recent Exploitation Screening Toolkit)
17	CCE	GREEN
16	CCE	GREEN
17	CSE	RED
17	CCE	AMBER
17	CCE	GREEN
16	CCE	AMBER
16	CSE	AMBER

Operations and Investigations ongoing

- A review of our screening tool is being undertaken to address the issue of tracking live investigations and CPS decisions in relation to child exploitation.
- We need to strengthen our joined up response to Pursue as this remains an area of work that is still under developed in terms of a partnership approach.
- We currently have one adult awaiting trial for Child Sexual Exploitation with two identified victims. (Exeter Crown Court May 2021)

Locations of Concern/Disruption

- A joint response with partner agencies in South Devon is currently underway following a weaponised assault between rival groups of young people in Teignmouth recently.
- Whilst effective mapping of children has been part of this activity, there has been disappointing progress in identifying the adults who are potentially involved with supplying drugs for the local market.
- In Torbay we have seen a recent increase in violent assaults involving large groups of young people across a variety of our parks and open spaces in Torbay. Multi agency discussions developed to ensure a joined up and strategic response to engaging young people in the community.
- Additional short term resource was given to Love Sport to enhance their detached youth work response to these areas.

Exploitation Team – Engagement and Delivery

- Checkpoint – Enhanced approach to CSE interventions
- IYSS – ensuring clarity regarding, exploitation pathways, managing and understanding risk
- Development of draft Exploitation Strategy
- Vertical Expansion – Bid to Home Office for funding and Research in Practice to develop a strategy to support children identified as at risk of exploitation who are approaching their 18th birthday. This can be seen as a ‘cliff edge’ where often services are not resourced to work with children beyond this age and transition arrangements for exploited children are under developed.
- Exploitation Coordinator is permanent attendee at Targeted Help Panel on a weekly basis to offer advice and support regarding any children referred to the Panel who have been identified as victims of exploitation.

Serious Case Review – Child C Waltham Forest

- Recommendations:

1. D of E – Elective home education. Waltham Forest Concerns raised re safeguarding children educated at home.
2. Reachable Moments – How do we work with other local authorities to share information regarding Children from other LAs picked up in Torbay. Ensure concept of reachable moments is built in to workforce development activity. (Case example)
3. Review of arrangements for recovering Children located out of area and suspected of being exploited. Exploitation sub Group review of recent child missing episode.

Serious Case Review – Child C Waltham Forest

5 & 6 – London Boroughs communique and National System for arrested and detained children.

7. All agencies involved in case discussion – Torbay Strategy Meetings / Risk management Meetings / CEMOG / MACE - Audits regularly conducted

8. Review of multi-agency meetings regarding exploited children in Torbay has included membership of MACE and CEMOG.

9. Review of multi-agency guidance for D of E.

10. Involvement of Housing Services – See 8 above – Housing to be included as permanent member re MACE and invites to appropriate strategy meetings.

11. Audits of Exploitation SCRs to be scheduled in to Exploitation Sub Group and under new arrangements to include Learning Reviews and Thematic Reviews.

Transition and Adult Social Care

Transition: Safeguarding And Exploitation.

14+ information gathering sessions

Multi-Disciplinary

- Attended by Specialist Children and Adult Teams
- Health and Social Care
- Education
- Finance
- Mental Health
- Intensive Assessment and Treat Team (IATT)

Information Sharing

- Known to children's health and social care at age of 14?
- Low level information sharing with adult services with consent from representative

Planning and Preparation

- Develop understanding of care and support needs.
- Start to plan and prepare for smooth transition

Transition – Safeguarding and exploitation

Specialist transition team in adult social care

- Created stronger links
- Good Information sharing

- 17 1/2 yrs
- Risk of exploitation
- Child protection proceedings?

- Children's service contact adult transitions team
- Attendance at subsequent meetings

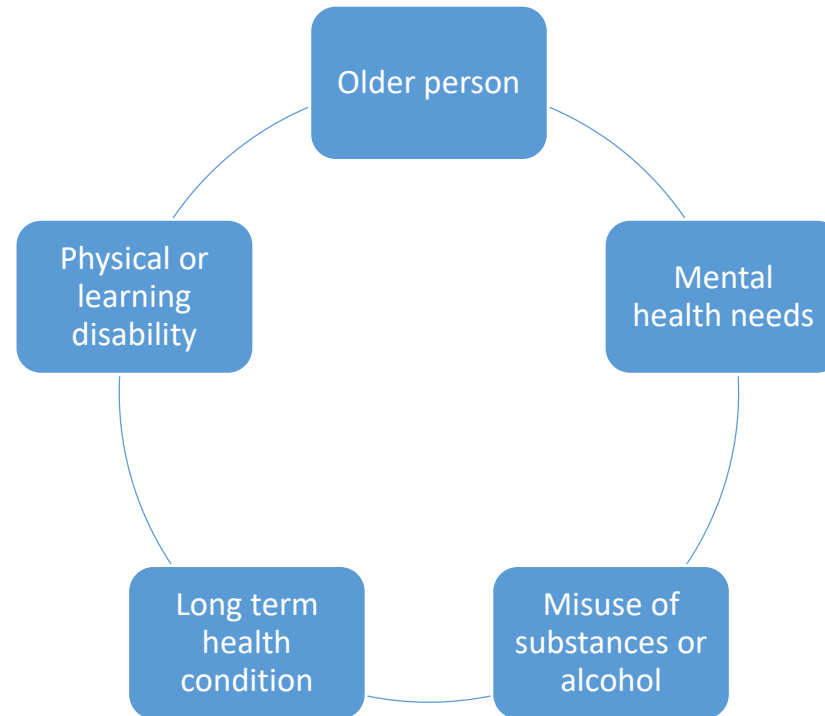
Promotes smooth transition and signposting

- Pathway to adult social care services including safeguarding
- Facilitates signposting to health, social care, voluntary sector prior to 18yrs.

Adults With Care and Support Needs

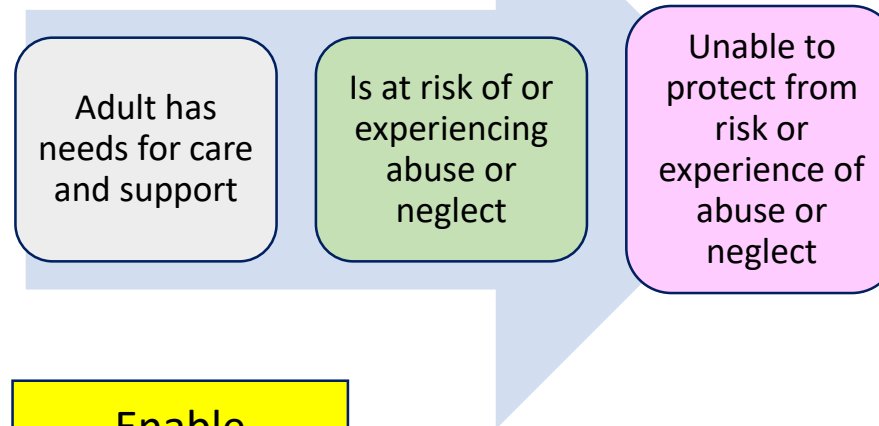
- Particularly vulnerable to exploitation so essential we remain vigilant in our safeguarding approach

An adult with *care and support needs* may be (not exhaustive)

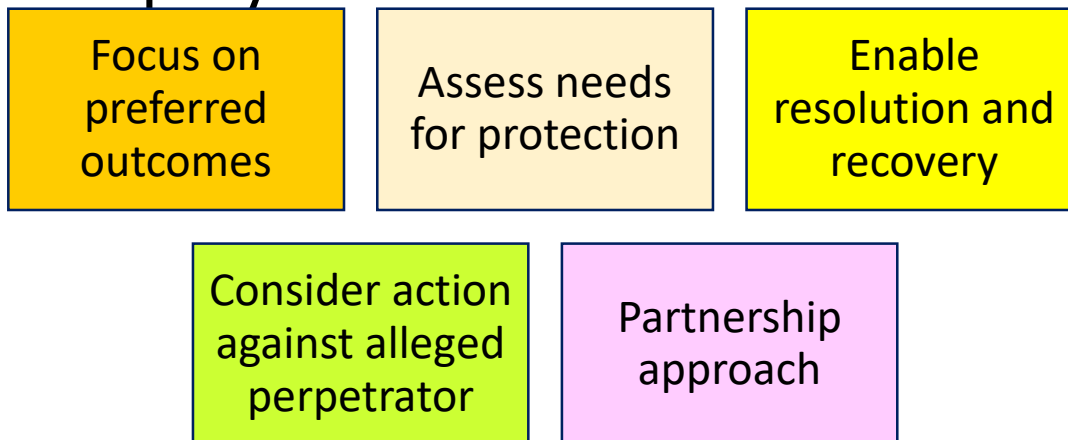


Contributing to the jigsaw

- Statutory Safeguarding duties under s.42 Care Act 2014. Reasonable cause to suspect that



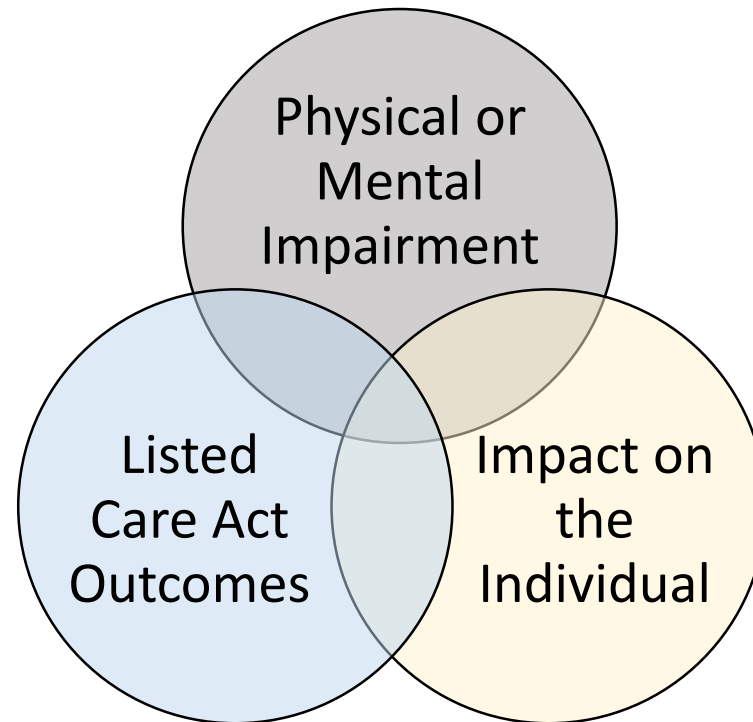
- Enquiry to include



General Duties

- **Duty to promote well being** for adults with care and support needs as defined within the Care Act Statutory Guidance.

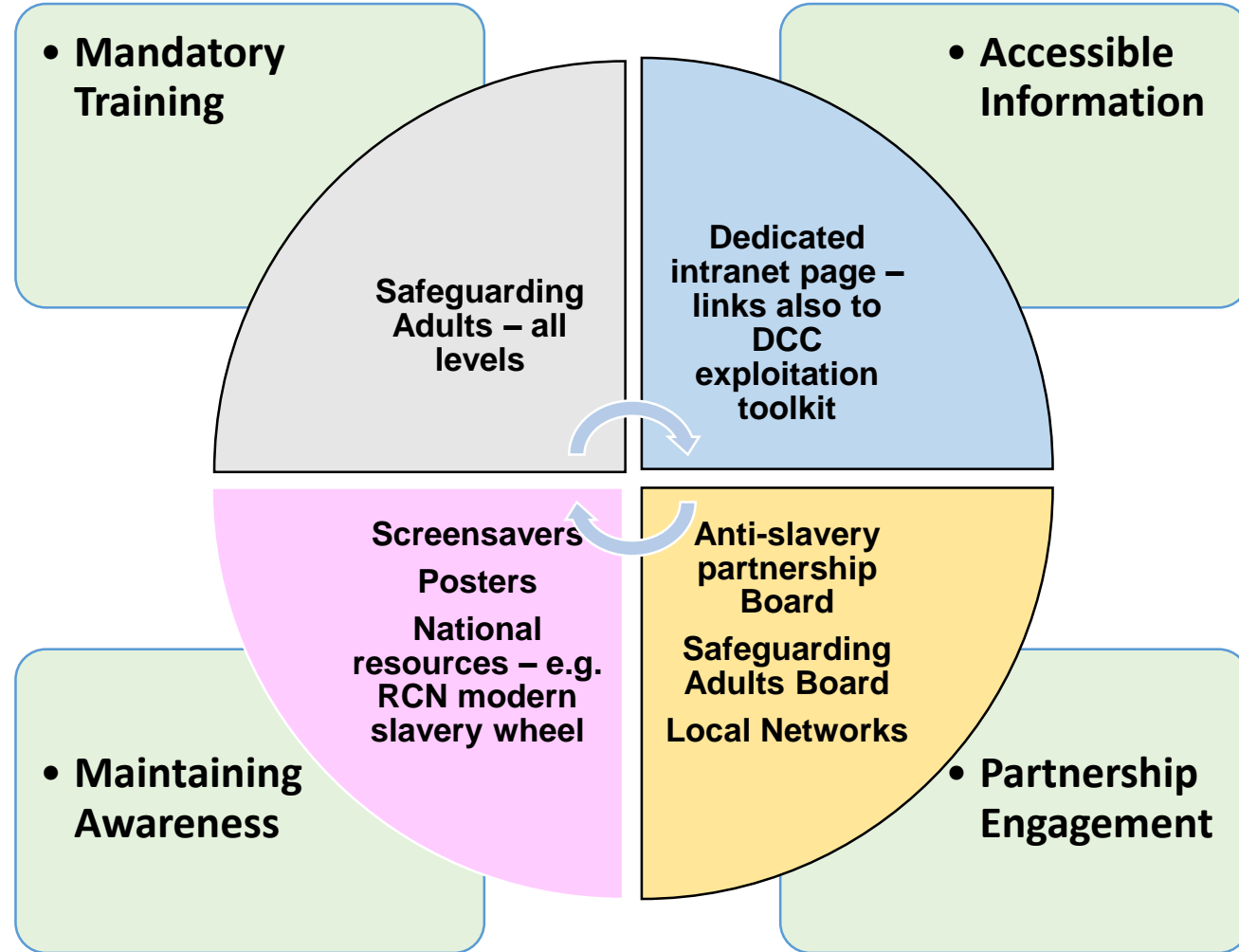
- Focus



- Eligibility not met / no consent

Partnership Intelligence
information sharing / signposting

Keeping Staff Informed



Adult and Child Test Cases

- Adults Test Case – Laura
- Childs Test Case – Brian Mason

Exploitation Delivery Group

- The Exploitation Delivery Group is a subgroup of the Community Safety Partnership Board.
- A key part of the development of Torbay's partnership approach to exploitation is to ensure clear consistent response across the life course.
- This will reduce the risk, vulnerability and impact for all individuals effected by exploitation.

Development of the Exploitation Delivery Group



- In January 2021 partner agencies from the Community Safety Partnership, which includes members of the newly formed Children and Young Persons Exploitation Subgroup, will review the function of the Exploitation Delivery Group to:
 1. Ensure there is a robust strategic link between the Exploitation Delivery Group and Children and Young Persons Exploitation Subgroup, that clearly supports effective operational delivery across the children and adult's systems.
 2. Ensure that the work being undertaken to support children and young people who are being exploited, though their transition into adulthood, is linked and supported by the work being undertaken by the Exploitation Delivery Group to ensure they remain safeguarded and supported.
 3. Ensure that the Torbay approach to exploitation is a whole system approach to support effective, interconnectivity, communication and delivery to generate meaningful and effective change for individuals.