

Appendix 3 – Emerging, Significant, Experiencing

Buckinghamshire Missing & Exploitation Category of Risk

Emerging – The child/young person/Care Leaver is at increased vulnerability to exploitation.

Significant – The child/young person/Care Leaver is significantly likely to be being exploited, but the evidence is not clear.

Experiencing – The child/young person/Care Leaver is known to be experiencing exploitation and requires immediate protection.

Response required at each stage:

Emerging – Access to universal services for the child/young person/Care Leaver. This is likely to include some of the following:

- Substance misuse services (SWITCH, One Recovery Bucks)
- Health services (BSaW, CAMHS)
- Education services
- Mentoring/support services (there are a range of services available on the Family Information Service website)
- Early Help (parenting support, youth-based intervention)

Significant – A consultation request should be sent to the Hub duty worker at exploitationreferrals@buckinghamshire.gov.uk to discuss current concerns, support services, safety plans and whether a referral to the Missing and Exploitation Hub is required.

Experiencing – A referral should be made as soon as practically possible to the Missing and Exploitation Hub. Strategy meetings should be convened to ensure immediate safety for the child/young person. Hub to consider a referral to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

Missing

Please note, if a child is reported missing on a number of occasions; and/or has a significant missing episode of 24 hours or more, it is important to consider if they are being exploited. Missing is a key indicator of a child/young person potentially being trafficked out of the County.

<i>Scenario</i>	<i>Assessment of risk</i>		
	Emerging	Significant	Experiencing
Missing (whether reported or not)	Regularly reported missing/one significant episode but whereabouts and associates known, triggered by emotional health needs and/or push factors from the home.	Regularly reported missing/one significant episode where they have travelled out of County, in the presence of others known to be exploited.	Disclosure of being exploited whilst missing. Police arrests for abduction/modern day slavery offences. Located with a known perpetrator of exploitation.
Illegal substances	Known to use alcohol and/or illegal substances (Class A and B) – perhaps without legitimate means, items going missing from home, talks about interest in substances and has knowledge of terminology linked to County Drug Lines, motivated by money. This can include ‘dealing’ vapes. Debt.	Has large amounts of money that cannot be accounted for, seen with items/goods that cannot be accounted for, increased secrecy, items located by parents/carers indicative of drug supply, significant value items missing from home. Disclosure of substantial drug debt. Mapping of associates identifies links to County Drug Lines	Has been arrested for PWITS Class A or B drugs, located in a cuckooed property, disclosure of being exploited. Has a substantial drug debt (over £1000). Threats to kill received.
Receiving items	Items such as; clothing, video-games, jewellery, food of lower value being seen without legitimate means to afford. Items temporarily provided by peers. Items in the absence of other indicators.	Items of significant value (new designer bags/clothing) with no clear explanation. Significant escalation in frequency of items, new significant relationship where there is evidence of concern from partner agencies.	Disclosure of being exploited. In a relationship with a known perpetrator/person of concern. Police arrests/stop searches suggesting criminal exploitation.
Change in behaviour and/or appearance	Escalation in secretive, avoidant, withdrawn or hostile/aggressive behaviour; where this behaviour is out of character.	Escalation in secretive, avoidant, withdrawn or hostile/aggressive behaviour; where this out of character and triggered by a particular key	Escalation in secretive, avoidant, withdrawn or hostile/aggressive behaviour; where this is out of character; and present highly

		event suggestive of exploitation i.e. arrest, threat.	anxious/fearful. Disclosure of being exploited.
Sexual health	Sexual activity with peers a few years older (even if under-age), arranging to meet for dates (where this is age appropriate), pregnancy or STI.	Multiple pregnancies or STI's (where there is no confirmed medical rationale), disclosure of rape/sexual assault within the context of group interactions (or individuals with identified links to sexual exploitation)	Disclosure of being sexually exploited. Evidence of being trafficked for the purposes of sexual intercourse by someone who has control over them.
Safety online	Multiple accounts on Instagram, Snapchat etc. Accessing dating sites. Sharing images of self partially undressed. Disclosing an older age than is actually the case. Meeting individuals who have only spoken to online.	Sharing naked and indecent images of self-online, and outside the context of a consensual relationship. Meeting individuals from online without informing others beforehand and safety measures in place. Engaging with known perpetrators.	Disclosure of being exploited. Evidence of blackmail in relation to images shared. Coerced/forced to send images against will.
Travelling out of County	Talking about areas they have no local connection to and are out of area	Being found in areas that they have no explanation of how they got there. Being found a significant distance from home with no plausible explanation.	Disclosure of exploitation. Repeatedly being found across different County's with no explanation, and following missing episodes.
Mobile phones	Has access to more than one phone/SIM card with clear rationale from young person/carers as to why this is / in the absence of any other risk indicators.	Has multiple phones and/or SIM cards which are answered often, for short calls, and young person leaves immediately after receiving a call.	Disclosure of being exploited. Evidence on phone of setting up drug deals and advertising drugs for sale.
Peer relationships	Some friends known to services for antisocial/criminal behaviour and/or vulnerability to criminal or sexual exploitation. Peers not always known. Peers who use illegal substances. Parents/carers raising concern about who their child may be	Peers are known to services for being exploited. Mapping meetings have identified links to known locations of concern and/or key networks. Fearful of friends/associates.	Disclosure of being exploited. Evidence of a relationship with a perpetrator of exploitation and/or gang networks. Disclosure of feeling unsafe and at immediate risk of harm.

	associating with. Disclose feeling indebted to friends.		
Access to weapons	Known to carry a weapon, talks about having peers that do, is interested in photos/imagery of weapons.	Threats made to substantially harm an individual, concealing weapons, behaviours suggestive of feeling unsafe within the overall context of the young person.	Disclosure of being exploited. Has been arrested/involved in a weapons offence where there are known links to County Drug Lines.
Grooming	Prolonged contact with a groomer but without any intention to meet	Arranging to meet a person, following them being groomed	Meeting with a person, following being groomed by this person
Vulnerability factors	<p>Factors such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - school absenteeism - services have not been effective at engaging - mental health concerns - learning/communication needs - reduced self-esteem/confidence - relationship breakdown or unstable home environment - homelessness <p>Should be considered in light of the above emerging/significant/experiencing factors as they may serve as additional push factors toward</p>		

Note: these are indicators only of where risk may lie. For example, a number of 'significant' indicators could suggest enhanced risk. The indicators need to be considered within the individual context of the young person.

