Sefton Safer Communities Partnership (SSCP) & Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

Safeguarding Children and Young People at risk of Criminal Exploitation Multi-agency Protocol

April 2017
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Appendix

CARMAC Multi Agency Referral Form

CARMAC Risk Assessment
1. Introduction

The safeguarding risks posed by serious and organised crime and criminal exploitation are a concern for Sefton. Gang culture has become a persistent problem recently and is a major issue for all agencies working to safeguard children.

This protocol refers to children and young people but it is recognised that vulnerable adults may also be targeted by gang members or associates, and require statutory intervention. Adult girlfriends, sisters and mothers of gang members are at particular risk of violence, especially sexual violence, and young people will require protection during transition from child to adult hood.

Sefton’s Local Safeguarding Children’s Board has identified a number of areas for consideration when managing safeguarding concerns relating to the exploitation of children in the context of serious and organised crime. These include:

- A multi-agency approach with joined up planning around the child/young person
- A thorough risk assessment based on the signs of safety model that all agencies understand and support to mitigate risks
- Improved understanding across agencies of the risk factors relating to criminal exploitation of children and how to recognise them.

The most significant and well known gangs are primarily located in the South of the Borough however, there is gang activity in other areas and this often crosses geographical boundaries. What is becoming more apparent is that younger children are being drawn into the gang lifestyle for a number of reasons including; peer pressure, familial connections, protection due to the ir post code and the perception that the lifestyle brings wealth.

Of significant concern in Sefton is the familial impact of gang activity. Many young people report becoming involved in gangs due to experiencing older siblings, fathers or mothers being actively involved or associating with gangs. The risk is also prevalent to younger children who may not be at an age to actively become involved in the activity but are at risk due to their living situation and family members being involved in gangs. This increases the potential risk of harm to these children both in their community and in their homes due to the risks associated with gang activity. Research has identified that poor parenting capacity and chaotic home environments, often linked with indications of neglect (see LSCB Neglect Strategy) are a significant risk factor for young people becoming involved in gangs. Gang members target vulnerable young people by offering them “something” (i.e. food and money) that is absent in the home. The young people may see this person as someone who ‘cares’ as they are providing them with things that they do not get from their parents. This is just one process of recruiting young people into gangs by using grooming methods. Absent fathers and a lack of a positive male role model is also a significant risk factor. Older gang members present themselves to young people as offering ‘guidance’ and they fill the gap in this young person’s life.

Gang related sexual exploitation is a wide-spread national problem and is a growing area of concern which presents significant safeguarding implications for both children and adults. The ROTA report "Female Voice in Violence 2011" recommended that gang related exploitation and violence should be seen as a child protection issue. Many young people are
at risk of being exploited both violently and/or sexually due to their family and peer gang associations. Many of these women do not recognise that they are a risk and may ‘idolise’ the male gang members who they perceive as having ‘status’ and ‘wealth’. Others may not be able to see any safe way out and know that the repercussions of telling anyone about what is happening will result in further rape, physical violence or the lingering emotional effects of being branded or gossiped about by their peers.

There is a common thread of child sexual exploitation running through this work and in recognition of this the Children at Risk Multi Agency Conference (CARMAC) works closely with the Sefton Multi Agency Child Sexual Exploitation Panel (MACSE).

There is also a formal link between the Sefton Safer Communities Partnership, Sefton Multi Agency Response to Serious and Organised Crime (MARSOC), Sefton Children at Risk Multi Agency Conference (CARMAC), and Sefton’s Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB).

Governance Structure:-

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Sefton Safer Communities Partnership
Chair - Sefton Council

Sefton DISARM
Chair – Merseyside Police (Sefton)

Females involved in organised crime
Chair – National Probation Service

Sefton MARSOC
Chair – Merseyside Police (Sefton)

OCG Governance
Chair – Merseyside Police (Sefton)

Sefton CARMAC
Chair – Sefton Council

Sefton/Liverpool Cross Border
DISARM
Chair – Merseyside Police (Sefton)

COMPASS
Chair – Community Rehabilitation Company

Local Safeguarding Children’s Board Chair - Independent
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1.1 Relevant Legislation

This Protocol should be considered as a supplementary tool to be used in conjunction with National Legislation and Guidance. It does not replace existing Safeguarding Procedures.

The following legislation and guidance should be utilised by all agencies involved in safeguarding.

The Children Act 2004 (sections 10 and 11) outline the statutory requirements each agency working with Children and Families must adhere to, to ensure that there is a co-ordinated approach to safeguarding.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 Statutory Guidance emphasises the necessity for interagency work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The previous Department for Children, Schools and Families produced supplementary guidance to “Working Together to Safeguard Children” in 2010 entitled ‘Safeguarding Children and Young People who may be affected by Gang Activity’. Anyone working with young people involved in, or at risk from, gang activity should use this tool for guidance.

Information sharing is critical in multi-agency working and should be made explicitly clear under the terms of section 29 of the Data Protection Act 1998 and sections 5, 17 and 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

In January 2016 the Home Office produced the “Ending Gang and Exploitation” guidance. The previous “Ending Gangs and Youth Violence” (2014/15) programme demonstrates that there is a much better understanding of the issues, and how to tackle them. There is a clearer picture of the challenges surrounding gang culture and exploitation and how best to target action. Partners have shared information, for example, that many gangs are changing and that street gangs are becoming less visible to the public and more fluid in terms of organisation. In particular, it is important that local partners are able to respond to the exploitation of vulnerable people by gangs especially as the problem is often hidden and not always understood in many of the local areas where it is taking place. Partners are concerned with both reducing gang related violence and preventing the exploitation of children by gangs.

The guidance tells us that early intervention can stop young people from becoming involved in gang and youth violence in the first instance.

1.2 Protocol

This protocol has been developed to ensure consistency in the management of children and young people who are Criminally Exploited or affected by gang activity either as victims or perpetrators.

The protocol will aim to:

- Ensure the delivery of a partnership response in safeguarding young people affected by gang activity whilst outlining the accountability of each agency involved.
Identify young people at risk of involvement in anti-social behaviour, emergent criminality and gang activity and identify an appropriate response.

Enable professionals to empower young people, individuals and families to make safe choices and improve the outcomes for all people identified at risk.

In 2013 the Sefton Safer Communities Partnership promoted the multi-agency approach required to tackle the issue of Serious and Organised Crime and Gangs in Sefton. The method was to identify, disrupt and focus upon high risk individuals involved in such criminality using the Police model of Prevent, Protect, Pursue and Prepare.

In doing so the Multi-Agency Response to Serious and Organised Crime (MARSOC), chaired by Merseyside Police was established to discuss individuals and their involvement within Serious and Organised Crime and Gangs. The Children at Risk Multi Agency Conference (CARMAC) sub group was introduced to focus on children and young people either on the periphery or already involved in criminal activity. In addition Sefton has a ‘Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub’ (MASH) to ensure effective multi-agency safeguarding risk management, information sharing and intervention.

Referrals are sent from the core agencies involved (i.e. Children’s Services, Integrated Youth Support, National Probation Services, Community Rehabilitation Company and Merseyside Police) to the co-ordinator responsible for CARMAC. Together the multi-agency conferences can identify the cases considered high risk, not just based on the level of criminality but primarily based on the safeguarding concerns that a young person’s behaviour presents to him/herself, their family and the local community. Professionals from schools, health and our voluntary sector partners can also approach the partnership for prevention work via the referral process.

Early Intervention and Prevention is a crucial element to this approach. To successfully challenge the future of gangs and reduce the exploitation of children and young people in Sefton we need to skill up and support parents to identify concerns with their children and enable them to appropriately challenge the behaviour within the home environment. Where it is identified that parents are not discharging their responsibilities this needs to be addressed by the appropriate Child Protection Process.

Legal Framework

This protocol has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children. It is not a substitute for professional legal advice. This is not an exhaustive list but includes:

- The Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
• Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice: 0-25 years – Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities; HM Government 2014
• Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers; HM Government 2015
• Working Together to Safeguard Children; a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; HM Government 2015
• Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016

1.3 Identification and Risk Factors

Sefton has adopted the following definition which states that a gang is:

A relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people

1) See themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group,
2) Engage in a range of criminal activity and violence,
3) Identify with or lay claim over territory,
4) Have some form of identifying structural feature, and;
5) In conflict with other, similar, gangs.

The current definition is supported by the “Dying to Belong”(2009) document from the Centre for Social Justice.

A gang member:

Is someone who has self-identified themselves as being a member of a gang (as above), e.g. through verbal statements, correspondence, graffiti etc and this is corroborated by police, partner agencies or community intelligence.

A gang associate:

Is someone who offends with gang members (as above); or who is associated (by police, partner agencies or community intelligence) with gang members; or who has displayed, through conduct or behaviour, a specific desire or intent to become a member of a gang.

1.4 The Tell Tale Signs

Below are some of the signs that indicate that a young person maybe involved or at risk of becoming involved in serious and organised crime via criminal exploitation:

• Withdrawn from family
• Sudden loss of interest in school, decline in attendance or academic achievement
• Use of new or unknown slang words
• Holds unexplained money or possessions or cannot explain where large sums of money have gone (financial exploitation)
• Staying out unusually late without reason
Sudden change in appearance – dressing in a particular style or ‘uniform’ or colour similar to that of other young people they hang around with

Dropped out of positive activities

New nickname

Unexplained physical injuries

Graffiti style ‘tags’ on possessions, school books, walls

Constant mention of other young people or adults who seems to have a lot of influence over them

Broken off with old friends and hangs around with one group of people

Increased use of social networking sites

Use of certain codes of group behaviour e.g. ways of talking and hand signs

Expressing aggressive or intimidating views towards other groups of young people, some of whom may have been friends in the past

Signs of sexual exploitation e.g. pregnancy, abortion (perhaps forced), sexually transmitted infections and injuries

Signs of psychological effects of exploitation – depression and suicide attempts for example

Fearful when entering certain areas

Concerned by the presence of unknown youths in their neighbourhoods

(DCSF, Safeguarding Children & Young People who may be affected by Gang Activity, 2010)

2. Protocol Guidance

2.1 Early Identification

The most effective method to prevent children becoming criminally exploited is **early intervention and prevention**. This enables preventative services to be implemented at an early stage to support the young person and their family to make positive life choices and distance themselves from serious and organised crime.

Early Help Assessments are a key tool that can be used for early intervention. The Early Help Assessment can be used by all practitioners to holistically assess, share information and implement appropriate support at an early stage to prevent the escalation of any risk factors or concerns. In undertaking an Early Help Assessment if it is identified that a young person is demonstrating some of the ‘Tell Tale Sign’ behaviours, and there are concerns that they may be on the periphery of serious and organised crime activity, then it is recommended that the assessor of the Early Help Assessment refers to the CARMAC.

Any lead professional undertaking an assessment can contact the chair of the CARMAC for advice and guidance. In undertaking the early help assessment if it is identified that the young person is at risk of or has suffered significant harm then an online Multi-Agency Referral Form (**MARF**) should be made.

The decision to undertake Statutory Intervention will be made by the MASH team manager. In circumstances where the risk of harm is immediate and imminent Merseyside Police
should be contacted via 999. If a safeguarding referral is required to Children's Social Care then a MARF is completed.

Any level of assessment from early help to child protection may identify the presence of a vulnerable adult in the family. They may not be experiencing abuse directly but are exposed to it in their family environment – for example, adult children with a learning disability or an older person who is living in the family home where another family member is the primary victim and is experiencing abuse. It is crucial to recognise that exposure to abuse can, as with children, still present serious short and long term harm to adults. It is also an important reminder that a whole family approach is optimum where both adults and children’s professionals not only address the needs of the person on a care plan but also those of the wider family members by firstly recognising the issue and secondly making appropriate referrals to support vulnerable adults in the household.

2.2 Children at Risk Multi-Agency Conference (CARMAC)

The purpose of CARMAC is to: (1) co-ordinate actions to support children and young people identified as being involved in criminality, (2) identify those who are at risk of becoming involved in criminality, (3) identify those individuals who are at risk of being exploited by such activity, and; (4) take action to prevent them from doing so.

This will be done via a multi-agency conference that aims to:

- Reduce the use of firearms and the number of firearm discharges in Sefton
- Divert Children and those at risk of being involved in criminality back into education, or on to employment, training and effective diversionary programs
- Minimise the risk of harm to the general public, partner agencies, the children themselves, their associates and their family members
- Protect children, young people and the vulnerable
- Reduce victimisation
- Maximise opportunities to reassure the public in relation to serious and organised crime, gang crime, firearms and associated criminality
- Share information to increase safety, health and wellbeing in Sefton
- Improve agency accountability
- Offer services which provide support to individuals and their families which address the reasons behind their offending behavior

The principles that govern this process are to:

- Identify who may pose a risk of harm or exploitation
- Share relevant information about them
- Assess the nature and extent of that risk
- Find ways to manage the risk effectively, protecting victims and reducing further harm or exploitation
- Risk assessments complete at the beginning and end of the process

The agencies who attend the meeting are as follows:
- Sefton Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU)
- Integrated Youth Services (YOT and Targeted Youth Prevention)
- Children's Services
- Named Nurse Safeguarding Children
- National Probation Service
- Merseyside Police
- Connexions
- Turnaround Families
- Education Welfare and Attendance
- Catch 22

Agencies currently involved with the young person or agencies who have previously worked with the family and have appropriate contributions to make will be invited to attend.

The CARMAC does not take over the responsibility of the case. This remains with the case manager or original Referrer.

2.3 Support and Interventions

The multi-agency response will be led by the most appropriate lead officer who will work with the children and their families/carers to support them moving on from criminal exploitation and their involvement in serious and organised crime. This may include supporting children and their families to access education, employment, housing and positive diversionary activities. The lead officer will also be able to identify and signpost young people and families on to the most appropriate services including community interventions to meet their holistic needs. This will include services such as family support, parenting groups and positive youth provisions.

2.3.1 Targeted Youth Prevention (TYP)

Targeted Youth Prevention works with children, young people and their families where additional support is required to support them under an Early Help Assessment. Referrals are received through the Early Help Gateway, Social Care or the Youth Offending Team.

To access TYP the following criteria must be met:

- The young person is between 10 and 18 years old
- Level of risk and/or vulnerability is a minimum of Level 3a as per the Continuum of Young People’s Needs
- Consent is obtained from the Parent(s)/carers

The risk or behaviours of the young person must include one of the following:

- Risk of becoming a First Time Entrant
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Child Sexual Exploitation (where CAS or Catch 22 are not involved)
- Criminal Exploitation
- Low level mental health
- Drug misuse
- Exposure to domestic violence
- Perpetrator of domestic violence

There is a range of interventions and programmes to support young people who are exposed to the risks listed above.

### 2.3.2 Youth Offending Team (YOT)

The purpose of the Youth Offending Team is to prevent young people entering the Youth Justice System. Should they offend the aim of the team is to prevent reoffending. A critical part of this process is to holistically assess individuals and develop plans that include relevant interventions to address a young person's risk taking behaviour.

The YOT’s key priorities are to:

- Ensure young people are safeguarded
- Prevent first time entrants into the youth justice system.
- Divert young people away from criminality
- Reduce re-offending
- Reduce custody rates
- Improve sustainable outcomes for young people aligned with the Children and Young Peoples Plan (2015 – 2020) for Sefton
- Protect the public from harm
- Understand, support and protect victims
- Understand young people and support them to increase their chances of desistance
- Work to ensure custody is limited to those young people whose risk cannot be managed in the community
- Promote health outcomes, welfare and safety of children within the youth justice system

Principles underpinning the YOT service are:

- Regard for the safety of the public as a priority
- Provision of a fair and equitable service to young people, parents/carers, staff, victims and the wider community
- Respect for young offenders as young people
- Ensure the voice of the child and the parents / carers are heard and understood
- Respect for diversity whilst respecting the needs and rights of victims, children, young people and their families
- Valuing staff and ensuring their wellbeing through support and supervision
- Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, each Local Authority must have a Youth Justice Plan that sets out how local Youth Justice Services will be delivered within the available resources
2.4 Significant Harm and Statutory Intervention

Where there is concern that a child is at risk of or has suffered significant harm as a consequence of gang related activity then a Safeguarding Referral should be made to the MASH using the online form.

The concept of significant harm should be considered as outlined in The Children Act 1989. However, the Home Office has outlined ‘harm’ within a gang context in their supplementary guidance “Safeguarding Children and Young People” who may be affected by gang activity.

The key definitions are as follows:

- Not involved in gangs but living in an area where gangs are active, which can have a negative impact on their ability to be safe, healthy, enjoy and achieve, make positive contribution and achieve economic wellbeing
- Not involved in gangs, but at risk of becoming victims of gang activity
- Not involved in gangs but at risk of becoming drawn in, for example, siblings or children of known gang members
- Gang involved and at risk of harm through their gang related activities (e.g. drug supply, weapon use, sexual exploitation and risk of attack from own rival gang members)

(DCSF, 2010)

If it is identified that any of the above applies to a young person then a Safeguarding referral should be made to the MASH.

2.4.1 Visit/Letter of Concern

Merseyside Police or Sefton Children’s Social Care will visit the home of, or issue a letter of concern to, a child and their parent/guardian advising them that they are at risk of harm due to their behaviour.

In order to be eligible the person must be a child and either:

- A (suspected) gang member
- A gang associate
- At risk from serious and organised crime
- At risk of criminal exploitation

If it is determined that a child is to be issued with a letter of concern the best practice approach is for this to done through a joint visit from the Police and Sefton Children’s Social Care.

If the child / young person is believed to be involved with Child Sexual Exploitation, this will be addressed by the LSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Pathway, see http://www.seftonlscb.co.uk/media/11984/section-16-cse-procedure-dec-2015.pdf
2.4.2 Gang Injunctions

Gang injunctions are a legislative power created by the Policing and Crime Act 2009 which enable the police and local authorities to apply for an injunction against an individual age 14 -17 years old to prevent gang-related violence.

The objectives of the injunctions are to:

- prevent acts of serious violence occurring
- break down gang culture
- Prevent young people’s behaviour escalating
- Provide an opportunity for local agencies to engage with at risk young people and develop effective strategies for them to exit the lifestyle.

One element of the injunction is to enable agencies to implement Positive Requirements as part of the order. This could include engagement with education, employment or other services deemed appropriate dependant on the young person’s needs assessment. When a young person receives or is considered for an Injunction, a referral should be made to Children’s Services and any other agencies working with the young person informed not only to advise of the risk but to enable agencies to contribute to a support plan.

2.4.3 Threat to Life Warnings

If a child receives a Threat to Life warning and is not open to Children’s Social Care, MASH will convene a meeting to make decisions whether this is a child at risk or a child in need. That decision will determine the level of assistance required. If the child has an allocated social worker the responsible manager will organise a multi-agency meeting to ensure there is a safety plan in place for the young person.

2.4.4 Police Protection Powers

Section 46(1) of the Children Act 1989 enables a police officer, who has reasonable cause to believe that a child would be likely to suffer significant harm, to place the child under Police Protection and remove them to a place of safety. A Designated Officer, inspector rank or above will need to authorise the use of police protection powers and where possible consult with Children’s Services as part of the decision making process. Where a young person is involved or at risk of harm due to criminal exploitation concerns consultation should take place with the MASH regarding appropriate places of safety for the young person to be taken to. This will enable an assessment of the young person’s gang affiliation, age and holistic needs to be considered when identifying an appropriate place of safety wherever possible, the child or young person’s home will be the place of safety. In exceptional circumstances the police station may be deemed the appropriate place of safety.

Child Criminal Exploitation is unique in comparison to Child Sexual Exploitation where the children make up 99.9% victims. Generally the criminally exploited have committed crimes which will still have to be investigated and then dealt with as a suspect. Although safeguarding and protection are important it comes with the caveat that Police are duty bound to investigate criminal offences where committed.
2.4.5 Media and Internet Risks

A significant development in gang culture has been the use of social networking. The numerous social networks allow gang members and their associates the opportunity to declare ‘cyber-war’ on each other, providing a vehicle which fuels inter-gang rivalry. This allows gang members to access forums, whereby, their violent crimes and sexual assaults continue to cause pain and suffering to their victims.

Sefton LSCB have engaged in wider work to promote e-safety in schools and colleges and to develop awareness amongst children and parents. Sexual exploitation and control of children can be threatened and steered through the internet by posting sexual pictures and video clips of females in particular.

2.4.6 Exploitation by Gangs

Both males and females can be exploited by gang members criminally, sexually and/or violently. In Sefton the experience of practitioners has found that females are very rarely granted ‘gang member’ status and are more likely to be pressurised into associating with gang members through intimidation and pressure or their perception that it will give them status. In some cases, females have been exploited for sex, forced to carry weapons and/or drugs.

Once a child or young person is involved in gang activity it can be very difficult for them to exit due to the knowledge they may have obtained about criminal activities. This makes them a threat to the gang or them being perceived as belonging to a gang or gang member. This is particularly so if their family member belongs to a gang. The individual may be isolated by both male and female peers and often there is more than one perpetrator involved. In addition to this, there may be a sense of shame from the knowledge that they have been associated with criminal activity and poor self-worth which results in a low number of reports about exploitation.

If it is identified that a child or young person has been exploited in any way or is the perpetrator of the exploitation this should trigger an automatic referral to the MASH

3. Children Social Care Response

3.1 Assessment

In undertaking assessments professionals should always assess the needs of both the young person and the family collaboratively. Assessing a young person in isolation from their family will limit the success in enabling a young person to distance themselves from gang activity and to make positive life choices. Family members may be a protective and/or a risk factor and this needs to be considered as part of any assessment. When undertaking assessments and it is identified that the young person requires support and intervention but has not met the threshold for social care intervention, the allocated social worker will identify an appropriate lead practitioner to support the whole family on an early help plan. If it is assessed that the family require support under S17 Children Act 1989, the family will be supported under a Child in Need Plan. Should the threshold be met for initiating child
protection procedures then an Initial Child Protection Conference will be convened. In some circumstances it may be assessed that the young person is at imminent harm within their home environment and consequently a decision made for them to be placed under Police Protection or to become a Looked after Child under s20 the Children Act 1989.

3.2 Child in Need

Where it is assessed that a young person requires support and intervention to enable them to develop to their full potential but they have not or are not likely to suffer significant harm, they can be supported through the Child In Need plan. The allocated social worker will hold multi-agency child in need meetings at a frequency that is determined by the level of risk. These meetings will discuss the support required and ensure there is an appropriate support plan in place based on the signs of safety methodology. Any support plan will need to be focused on both the young person’s needs and the needs of the family to provide a holistic plan. All agencies, the young person and family will be required to attend the meetings to contribute to the plan.

3.3 Child Protection Conference

Where a young person is considered to be suffering, likely to suffer or has suffered significant harm a Child Protection Conference provides a multi-agency forum to implement an appropriate support plan around the young person and the family in the format of a Child Protection Plan based on the signs of safety methodology. All the core agencies involved with the young person and family will be invited to attend to share information and contribute to the plan. Family members and wherever possible the young person, will also be invited to attend and contribute to the plan. In considering harm within the gang context it essential to recognise that a young person’s own behaviours can place them at risk of significant harm. Furthermore, the harm that is presented may be a consequence of someone’s behaviour who resides outside of the home environment for example a parent’s partner or the young person’s peer group.

3.4 Looked After Children (LAC)

Where it is assessed that a young person is at risk of imminent harm due to gang related activity and therefore needs to be removed from their home environment to ensure their safety, the allocated social worker will need to follow Local and National procedures. Compatibility Assessments must be undertaken regarding a known gang member / individual being exploited by a gang. With all LAC the local authority will exercise its corporate parenting with a proactive response. The young person will be subject to LAC care planning multi-agency response and looked after children review meetings to ensure information is shared appropriately in a timely manner to minimise risks to the young person and ensure there are appropriate support plans in place.
4. Other Support

4.1 Youth Offending Service

Young people who enter the youth justice system are thoroughly assessed and risk management is escalated where there are concerns around criminal exploitation and involvement in gangs. Partners will be invited to attend the Risk Management Panel for each young person where there are risks and vulnerabilities known or suspected. Young people are treated as young people first and their safeguarding needs are paramount as well as the duty to protect the public.

YOT manage a risk register for those with increased risk of offending, at risk of causing serious harm or are at risk of being harmed and are therefore vulnerable. Where it is appropriate, specific interventions will be implemented with the young person as part of their plan.

Examples of these interventions are:

- My knife story" DVD “
- Stabbed the truth Behind Knife Crime, documentary
- Unity Theatre – The Y Project – An Anti-youth violence, gun and knife crime resource(DVD)
- Bite the Bullet – Weapons and Gangs
- YouTube – Various clips – Adult Hood/Kid Hood full programmes
- YouTube – Various clips – Panama Guns and Gangs on our streets
- IMPACT RESOURCE: Effective Practice manuals
- Crime Challenging Thinking Programme 1 & 2
- Weapon & Gang Programme
- MINDSET Tackling Offending Programme
- Violence in Prison Programme
- Peer Pressure Programme

Targeted Youth Prevention

TYP delivers ‘Stay Safe’ group based programmes with girls which supports them to make positive choices and understand healthy relationships. For girls, especially or those who are associated with gangs, TYP will receive referrals from the Early Help Gateway and other services who identify this risk. TYP will also deliver specific programmes of 1-2-1 work with young people who at risk of criminal exploitation and gang involvement.

The Youth Bus is deployed to areas where there are reports of anti-social behaviour and crime to offer positive diversionary activities for young people. Workers engage with young people who may be at risk of exploitation by other young people.
4.2 Health

Within Sefton MASH - a health representative (Safeguarding Children Specialist Nurse - SCSN) collates all health information in relation to a child referred into MASH. This information is shared with partner agencies as part of the MASH process. The SCSN has clinical oversight with regards to the child's health information. This information is collated from 7 health providers.

Health practitioners from School Health Service will provide information with regards to:

- The child's health
- Immunisations status
- Urgent care attendance (Walk in Centres / Accident and Emergency Departments) which can be significant regarding unexplained injuries, self-harm and emotional/physical well-being.

If there have been recent or historical referrals to Child Health and Adolescent Services, a history of substance misuse, referral to Community Paediatrician or health appointments with community/acute services, the School Nurse will provide relevant information in relation to any known diagnosis if the information is contained within the child health records. The SCSN will feed back to the School Nurse and if there are specific health needs identified the School Health Service may refer the child to the appropriate services for intervention.

LAC Child:

If the child is looked after in Sefton the School Health Service will complete the child's Review Health Assessment (RHA) from which a Health Action plan will be formulated to meet the health needs of the child.

If the child is 16 - 18 years old and is looked after the child will have an identified LAC Link Nurse employed by the Trust. The child's LAC RHA will be completed by the LAC Link Nurse.

A YOS Link Nurse is responsible for completing an assessment when a young person is subject to an order. Case managers can refer the child to YOS Link nurse for assessment to meet the child's health needs.

Named Nurse Safeguarding Children attends Sefton MACSE, MARSOC and CARMAC and acts as a conduit with regards to the collation of health information to share at the Multi-Agency meeting and in turn provide feedback to the appropriate health practitioner.
4.3 Catch22 Pan Merseyside Criminal Exploitation Service

Catch22 provide one to one support for young people who are at risk of, or are already, being criminally exploited. Support is offered on both a short and long term basis aiming to help the young person cope with their situation and hopefully leading to them moving on and regaining control of their life again.

Young people will be provided with specialist interventions aimed at raising the awareness of CE such as:

- Signs and indicators
- Push and pull factors
- Vulnerability factors
- Stereotypes
- Grooming
- Gang ID
- Consequences

Diversion strategies to assist young people to exit a gang and no longer be a victim of Criminal Exploitation will also be discussed.

Catch22 are also commissioned to deliver pan Merseyside group work which includes targeted and preventative work, bespoke training to professionals and parents and outreach work in the community to increase the awareness of Criminal Exploitation.

Catch22 also offers consultations to professionals and parents to assist them with referrals, pathways and reporting concerns and can offer resources for young people and families.

5. Training

The SSCP commission programmes to work in schools and with professional organisations to raise awareness of the issues surrounding CCE
Children at Risk Multi-Agency Conference (CARMAC) Referral Form

Full Name (Inc. any aliases/nicknames):                      Date of Birth:

Address (Inc. Postcode):

Telephone Contact Details:                  Gender:                  Ethnicity:

School/College:                                Known OCG associations (if yes, which OCG):

Details of Family Members (inc. Parents/Carers and Siblings):

Name of Person making Referral:         Referring Agency:         Date of Referral:

Referrer’s Contact Details (phone number and email):

Criteria met by referral: Please check box

Involved with Criminal Activity         At risk of being exploited into Criminal Activity
Risk of exploiting others into Criminal Activity:

GOLD                                      SILVER                       BRONZE

Current Identified Risk Level: Please circle

Has a Safeguarding referral been made? If not, why not?
Current concerns and reasons for referral:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current concerns and reasons for referral:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Family Relationships:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is significant understanding and good communication between the young person (YP) and their parent/carer. Parent/carer has no concerns about YP's whereabouts and behaviour in the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is some mutual understanding and positive communication between the YP and their parent/carer. Parent/Carer are confident of YP whereabouts and behaviour when in the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is some mutual understanding but poor communication between the YP and their parent/carer. Parent/carer are unsure or concerned about YP's whereabouts and behaviour in the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is some warmth within the relationship between YP and parent/carer but poor and negative communication. Parent/carer minimises YP's whereabouts and behaviour in the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is poor communication, low warmth, attachment or trust within the relationship between YP and parent/carer. Parent/carer has no idea/does not accept YP's whereabouts and behaviour in the community</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education:</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YP is engaged in full time education, training or employment</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP is registered in full time education but has irregular attendance /</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP is attending PRU/receiving private tuition (full time equivalent) /</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP is attending college/training scheme (part time or irregular attendance) or is employed part time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP is excluded from school and no alternative provision is being made /</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP is undertaking some education or training part time but has poor attendance /</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP is attending PRU/receiving private tuition on a part time basis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP is not engaged in full time education, training or employment BUT shows an interest in accessing opportunities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP is not engaged in any education, training or employment and shows no interest in accessing educational or training opportunities</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

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<tr>
<th>Drug Use:</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are no concerns in relation to YP using drugs</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are some concerns in relation to YP potentially using drugs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP has problematic non-regular drug use which is of concern</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP is suspected of regular drug use or dependency</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP has disclosed regular drug use and appears dependent on drugs</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>ASB:</th>
<th>Score</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are no concerns in relation to the YP being involved in ASB</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are some concerns of YP being involved in minor ASB but no evidence or intelligence</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP is involved in some acts of minor ASB or there is evidence/intelligence of YP regularly committing ASB</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP is involved in frequent minor acts or occasional significant acts of ASB</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP is involved in persistent and significant acts of ASB with evidence/intelligence available to support this</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Engagement with Agencies/Support Services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YP has good engagement with agencies/support services</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP has reasonable engagement and regular contact with agencies/support services</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP has had some engagement and occasional contact with agencies/support services</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP has had brief engagement or is in early stages or sporadic contact with agencies/support services</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP is not engaging or has not had contact with any agencies/support services</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Offending Behaviour:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are no concerns in relation to offending behaviour</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP has been involved with EIP Interventions to prevent offending behaviour</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP has recently received a Triage Referral/Caution/Conditional Caution</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP has received a Youth Referral Order</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP has served a custodial sentence</td>
<td>4</td>
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### Risk to Others:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are no concerns about YP negatively influencing or placing others at risk</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are reduced concerns about YP’s influence on other young people</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There have been some concerns raised about YP’s negative influence on other young people</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There have been concerns raised that YP may be recruiting others to OCG/USG/criminal activities / There is evidence that YP is dealing or transporting drugs for other offenders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is evidence that YP is actively recruiting others to OCG/USG/criminal activities / There is evidence that YP is directing other young people to deal drugs on their behalf</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Use of Weapons:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are no concerns/intel in relation to YP having access to or using weapons</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP does not carry weapons but associates with others who do</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is some intelligence that YP carries a weapon</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP has a conviction for carrying a bladed article</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP has a conviction for carrying a firearm</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Associations with Gangs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Score</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YP does not live in a gang area or associate with gang members</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP lives in a gang area, is not aware of gang member and does not associate with them</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP lives in gang area and is aware of gang members but does not associate with them</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP lives in gang area and there is evidence/intelligence of mild/moderate association with gang members</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP does not live in gang area but actively travels to problem areas to participate in gang activity</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP has previous convictions for or there is evidence of, current significant association with gang members</td>
<td>5</td>
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</table>
Involvement with Criminality:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YP has previously been involved with criminality but has stopped this behaviour and no longer places them at risk. The concerns highlighted in the referral appear to relate to ‘normal teenage behaviour’.</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP has previously been involved with criminality but there are now significant protective factors in their life which have created a reduction in the previous level of risk</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP remains vulnerable to involvement with criminality but is not at immediate risk of being involved. There are some protective factors in place but other factors in the YP’s life put them at risk of becoming involved with criminality e.g. YP has family members involved in criminal activities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP has been known or suspected of being involved in criminality in the past e.g. YP has previously been arrested or accessed services to prevent criminal behaviour. There are concerns about risk as the YP’s lifestyle places them at high risk of offending e.g. they are associating with peers involved in criminality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP has disclosed current criminal behaviour (does not have to have recognised it as such). There is evidence of significant involvement with serious offending behaviour. Serious gang involvement has not been confirmed but behaviours and information given strongly suggest significant participation in gang related offending or directing others to offend</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP has previous convictions or there is evidence of current significant criminal activity and/or association with gangs</td>
<td>5</td>
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Total Risk Assessment Score:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RISK THRESHOLD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRONZE (LOW)</td>
<td>0 to 14 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>SILVER (MEDIUM)</td>
<td>15 to 29 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOLD (HIGH)</td>
<td>30 to 42 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current Identified Risk Level: