

# Child Criminal Exploitation Practitioner Event

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# Introduction

A multi- agency group was formed after A CSE audit to focus on CSE both strategically and support risk with high risk cases this is the MACE group :This now also deals with CE cases

Includes SWP, RCTCBC, Merthyr CBC, Community Safety, Licensing, Health, Housing, Barnardo's CSE Advocacy,

# Aim of Today

- To share real life cases about Criminal exploitation and interventions; to raise your awareness.
- We want to share our and your thoughts about these cases
- To use this to influence your learning
- To improve and develop practice in relation to CE in RCT and Merthyr and Bridgend.
- Highlight what Trafficking means and how working in multiagency ways helps to tackle this Criminal Exploitation.
- Please remember confidentiality

# Definitions of CE

**Is a form of child abuse which involves criminal exploitation and requires a safeguarding response**

Children are involved

- *The movement of drugs or money which results in personal gain for an individual, group or organized criminal gang.*
  - It involves a child- those up to 18
  - It involves enticement and/or force –*It is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation.*
  - *It can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual.*
- Official**
- **Wales safeguarding Procedures**
  - <https://www.safeguarding.wales/chi/c6/c6.p1.html>





By PC 1942

# Perpetrators often target vulnerable individuals

CLA

MH issues

ALN

Experience of ACES

Impact of Covid

# Indicators of Child Criminal Exploitation

- Frequent missing episodes;
- Found with large quantities of drugs or weapons;
- 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;
- Returned from missing episodes with injuries, or disheveled appearance;
- Change in behaviour, i.e. more secretive, withdrawn, or isolated;
- Unexplained absences from, or not engaged in ETE;
- Having multiple mobile phones, Sim cards or use of a phone that causes concern e.g. multiple callers or more texts/pings than usual

## **Risks can include:**

- Physical injuries: risk of serious violence and death
- Emotional and psychological trauma
- Sexual violence
- Debt bondage
- Neglect and basic needs not being met
- Living in dangerous and/or unhygienic environments
- Poor attendance and/or attainment at school/college/university

## A Childs Perspective

Children can :

- fail to recognise their experiences as exploitative.
- understand that they are being exploited but struggle to disclose or seek help.
- understand that they are being exploited but still perceive the exploitation as the best option available to them.

# What is Modern Slavery

Umbrella term used to cover all aspects of trafficking within the UK the Modern Slavery Act, 2015. Categories and crimes within the AC

- Slavery- Ownership is exercised over a person
- Servitude- Obligation to provide services imposed by coercion
- Forced or Compulsory Labour- Work or service extracted from an menace of a penalty
- Human trafficking- Arranging /facilitating the travel of another w exploiting them

## Modern Slavery Act 2015

- ❑ Duty to notify – National Referral Mechanism (s.52)
- ❑ Independent Specialist Child Trafficking Advocates (s.48)
- ❑ Special measures for witnesses (s.46)
- ❑ Defence for victims (s.45)
- ❑ Presumption of age (s.51)
- ❑ Slavery and Trafficking Prevention and Risk Orders (part 2)

# Definition of Trafficking

## **UNHCR (Guidelines 2006, Human trafficking)**

Human trafficking is defined as a process that is a combination of the following components:

- 1) Movement (including within the UK)
- 2) Control, through harm/threat of harm or fraud
- 3) For the purpose of exploitation

## **Palermo Protocol (2000)**





"Trafficking of persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, receipt of person, by means of the threat of or use of force, or other coercion, abduction, of fraud, of deception, of abuse of power, for the purpose of exploitation"

# Human Trafficking is.....

**MOVEMENT** + **MEANS** + **EXPLOITATION** = **TR**

- The 'MEANS' is not required
- Unable to give informed consent to their own exploitation
- A 'Child' refers to children 0-17 years and adolescents up to their 18th birthday

# Types of Trafficking

Forced Labour	Sexual Exploitation CSE	Criminal Exploitation CCE	Domestic Servitu
			



- Children trafficked internally for sexual exploitation, forced labour
- Children trafficked to the UK for sexual exploitation, forced labour, servitude
- Children on route to the UK for sexual exploitation, forced labour, servitude on route. Including organ harvesting
- High numbers of referrals
- Gaps in knowledge of all CSE types, organised and 'county line'
- Reduced Numbers in CSE
- Gap's in knowledge and identification of exploitation types
- Lack of Identification of Trafficking, Slavery on route. UASC exp

# KM- RCT Case Study Early Child hood experiences Age 17

Dad was extremely violent and received a custodial sentence.

Dad used substances

Good attachment to mum.

Mum has MH issues and previous SM issues.

K had a positive relationship with step father

Unknown to Children's Services

# Initial Concerns- K

Deterioration in mood/attitude/behaviour

Using cannabis

Deterioration in attendance at school.

# POST REFERRAL ONGOING CONCERNS



Cwm Taf Morgannwg  
Bwrdd Diogelu  
Safeguarding Board

Staying away from the family home

Deterioration in hygiene

Lost weight

Mum not aware of who he was associating with

Interest in rugby waned

Using cannabis but no way of funding it.

He had a second phone.

Communication between mother and son was difficult.

Behaviour changed in his relationship

# Safety Planning

Sharing of intelligence

Markers place upon him

Professionals worked closely with mum

He was placed on the CPR under the category of emotional harm.

Moved out of area

Police placed a password on the case

# Things that Worked well

Partnership working (Police, CS and YOS)

Professional curiosity

Consultation with ICTG

Moving him out of area when it reached crisis point.

# Barriers

Risks were not a good fit in terms of the child protection categories.

K did not acknowledge the situation was connected to county lines activity.

# R Case Study RCT CBC

## Initial Concerns

Decline in attendance and behaviour in school

Alcohol and substance use – concerns he was  
selling drugs

Associating with older peers

Glorified talks of gangs and fighting with peers.

Stolen from Nan.

Therefore indicators of exploitation

# Ongoing Concerns R

Continued missing episodes

Continued decline in Nan's mental and physical health

Association with other children who have a NRM status.

Further offending.

Nan continues to assist him pay his drug debts

Ongoing substance misuse concerns.

# Safety Planning R

Sharing of intelligence

Markers place upon him

Professionals worked closely with Gran

He was placed on the CPR under the category of neglect.

# Things That Worked Well

Partnership working (Police, CS and YOS)

Consultation with ICTG

Creative thinking and problem solving

# Barriers to R

Risks were not a good fit in terms of the child protection categories.

R did not acknowledge the situation was connected to exploitation.

Nan did not meet threshold for support from adult services.

Difficulties securing alternative accommodation for him.

Nan minimised his behaviour Rahul seemed to be controlling the family situation but really he was being exploited

Nan stopped reporting issues to professionals.

# Merthyr CBC

# Case study of JAMES

James was 15 years old at the time of this period of involvement with Children's services.

James had lived in the care of his paternal great grandparents since he was a very young baby having endured rejection from his mother. James had benefitted from a nurturing and consistent home environment that responded to all his emotional and basic care needs met and his carers secured a legal order in order to provide him with permanence, accessing support from extended family members in a very flexible and natural way. There had been issues in relation to the criminal lifestyle of his father and there were previous assessments in relation to him residing within the same home as James.

As James grew older his behaviour became increasingly impulsive and challenging and from the age of 12 there have been challenges in terms of his escalating behaviours, which the carers had found increasingly difficult to manage. James has a significant history of substance misuse; during 2017/2018 issues relating to his priority being the purchase of cannabis and spice, leading to him becoming intimidating and violent behaviours, which included damaging property within the home and stealing from his family.

Risk factors included substance misuse, missing episodes, engaging in criminal activities with adult offenders and aggressive outbursts.

# Case study

Part of James' extended family have an extensive history in criminal activity and convictions for drug offences including possession with intent to supply. Whilst these individuals had limited contact with James when he was growing up, they lived on the same housing estate and were close family relations such as paternal aunts and uncles. James refused to engage in life journey work or have contact with his mother.

Whilst the family present as committed to caring for James, they had been unable to manage his behaviours and their actions of not reporting/minimising issues are viewed to exacerbate some of the difficulties.

James' name was included on the Child Protection Register and there was attempt to engage the family with services to promote positive change however the risk to James escalated significantly and to the point where the family were unable to keep him safe.

James became increasingly involved in drug use and embroiled with family members that were suspected to have supplied these and James was engaged in 'drug running' and criminal activity such as burglary to fund this habit.

The paternal uncle had implicated James in illicit substances being stolen and this led to information that a gang from the Liverpool area were looking for James. The information led the Police being required to take James to a place of safety and James was swiftly moved out of the Merthyr Tydfil area, which involved planning from the Police and Children's Services.

# intervention

Due to the risk of immediate harm to James from a known gang in Liverpool the Police took immediate steps to safeguard and in conjunction with the Local Authority identified a place of safety.

The Local Authority along with a care provider/support services identified a more longer term care arrangement for James which provided stability for the duration of intervention with James and his family.

Following care proceedings being initiated and James becoming a Child Looked After there was targeted work in relation to self care, keep safe and consequential thinking.

Throughout the transition process this work was ongoing with James and there was direct work with the family members in relation to supportive parenting strategies that do not minimise In preparation for transition to the family home.

There continued to be a significant level of support throughout the planned transition to the family home for James.

# intervention

James' case was discussed at PSG prior to James' return to the Merthyr Tydfil area and partner agencies alerted

Due to the robust level of support it was identified at early stages that James having returned to Merthyr Tydfil was once again becoming embroiled within criminal activity and substance misuse.

Due to the risk factors James returned with care providers to a location outside of the Merthyr Tydfil area

Further direct work with James and his family was undertaken in addition to James completing his formal education and enrolling within college provision.

A second transition plan commenced for James at the age of 17, with a focus of him utilising his learning on a day to day basis within the community which was identified as a risk for him to reside within as it was recognised that this was where he would live in adulthood

YOS Preventative services, YPDAS and local CAMHS services became increasingly involved in addition to Children's Services whilst the care provider followed a gradual reduction plan in their direct work.

# WHAT WORKED WELL

Immediate response from Police and Children's Services to ensure the physical safety of James

The positive networks within the extended family being utilised as support for James and his great grandparents

Due to James being provided with consistent care and support since being a baby there were significant strengths in terms of his attachment relationships.

Due to the significant support following the first transition to family risk factors were identified.

Eventual stability within a home where James felt supported with him having aspirations to engage in continued training and employment.

# Areas of development

This was a lengthy process during later teenage years for James when he had already become significantly involved in risk taking behaviours and there were clear concerns regarding exploitation

The requirement for James to leave the Merthyr Tydfil area due to the gravity of the risks

Parenting support as a preventative measure during some of the challenges faced by the guardian's during James' earlier years

With reflection could the initial transition plan have been lengthened in order that the further move for James was avoided

# OUTCOME

Positive conclusion to education and training for James with aspirations for employment

The eventual transition for James to reside within the community that was assessed as a significant risk for him prior to adulthood and when Children's Services and supports remained involved with the family

No further requirement to accommodate James prior to his 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday and a greater insight from James about the impact of his impulsive behaviours upon the family

The family's ability to implement and adhere to boundaries, support James and maternal great grandparents and discuss risk factors with professionals.

No escalation in relation to criminal activity and a reduction in what had been significant substance misuse

## Safeguarding Children who may have been trafficked

Completing a NRM form or referring to ICTG alone, will **NOT** safeguard

**Child Trafficking is a Child Protection Issue that Requires a Safeguard**

Potentially  
Trafficked  
Child  
identified

Child is  
Safeguarded  
appropriately

NRM is  
Comple

**Referral To Independent Child Trafficking Guardians**

# What is ASB- how it links with MACE

Behaviour which causes, or is likely to cause, HARRASSMENT, ALARM or DISTRESS to a person not of the same household.  
(Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014)

## Local Authority - RCTCBC

ASB Coordinator

ASB Officer (Perpetrators)

ASB Officer (Victims)

## South Wales Police

ASB Coordinator (PC) –

Rhondda & Taff

ASB Coordinator (PC) –

Cynon & Merthyr

No of ASB Referrals - 2021	
Total No of Referrals	2957
Total No of Perps Known	1516

## 1<sup>st</sup> Stage (1A and 1B)– Letter

Parent/Guardian made aware of ASB  
Youth Offending Service offer support

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage – Meeting

ASB involvement discussed with youth and parent/guardian  
Motivations for involvement in ASB discussed  
Referrals made to relevant support services

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage – (ABC) Acceptable Behaviour Contract Meeting

ASB Triggers identified and addressed in a formal contract (voluntary)  
Referral made to relevant support services

## 4<sup>th</sup> Stage – Civil Injunction

ASB behaviours addressed by a formal Court Order with prohibitions and positive requirements  
Referral made to relevant support services

## No. of Youths dealt with in 2021 by Stage

2021	
Stage 1 (A)	411
Stage 1 (B)	62
Stage 2	37
ABC	7
Civil Injunction	0

**Provide information to parents/guardians – Protective factor**

**CI information Gathering and Contextual Safeguarding**

**Fortnightly ASB Meetings**

Individual youths discussed and hotspot locations identified

**MACE**

Included in discussions re youths vulnerable to CE and CSE - Referrals made to MACSE

**Information Sharing**

# Resources

- Home Office Guidance
- Barnardo's 'Exploited and Criminalized' October 2021
- Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship Service (ICTGS)
- Wales Safeguarding Procedures

## ICTG Adopter Sites

The Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTG) is outlined within the Modern Slavery Act (2015).

ICTG's (direct) and Regional Practice Coordinators (indirect) are those who support children who may have been **potentially** trafficked. Any professional who holds information on a child must share this with the ICTG and take 'due regard' to the advice they provide.

# ICTG'S and RPC Role

## THE ROLE OF THE **ICTG Direct Support:**

Independent ChildTrafficking Guardians will provide one-on-one support to trafficked and potentially trafficked children within the Early Adopter Sites where there is no-one with parental responsibility for that child.

## THE ROLE OF THE **ICTG Regional Practice Coordinator (ICTG RPC):**

The RPC will work with professionals to support them in recognising and responding to exploitation and trafficking for children with someone with parental responsibility for them. They will offer individual case consultation for professionals who are in direct contact with the child, focusing on safeguarding within the context of exploitation; and will support in referrals to the National Referral Mechanism.



## 24/7 ICTG S

Available 365 days a year  
Early Adopter Sites provide  
guidance to professionals  
any young person who is  
including guidance on im

**CALL OUR 24/7**  
We will help you disc

**0800**

Or send a completed  
secure mailbox (for c  
**trafficking.ref**

# Referrals and Contacts

- Referrals to the NRM are done online [here](#)
- Referrals to us are made online [here](#)
- Professionals can access advice 24/7 via our Guardianship[p Assessment Team- 0800 012 3456]
- Wales Safeguarding Procedures- [All Wales Practice Guides](#)

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# Learning

Community risk of harm to children also needs to be addressed with CE Young people in MACE now have ASB, Housing Licensing representatives to help us link up with such cases and necessary actions such as a particular hotspot or home.

Young people at risk of neglect DV and lack of parental control may be at risk of CE due to vulnerabilities these factors create. ( see WALES SAFEGUARDING Procedures Practitioners guide)