**CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION AND GANG AFFILIATION**

**RISK ASSESSMENT SCREENING TOOL**

**PROMPT SHEET**

**Purpose:** This is an additional tool to be used by referring agencies and practitioners to fully articulate the nature of gang affiliation and criminal exploitation issues involved with children and their families.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Missing Episodes From Home/Care/School/College*** Frequent short / prolong missing episodes and been found out of area
* Unexplained absences from, or not engaged in school/ college/ training/ work
* Occasionally goes missing, whether for short or prolonged episodes

**Education/Training/Employment Concerns*** Is on a reduced timetable
* Is persistently absent from school/college/work
* Sudden noticeable change in attendance, performance or behaviour
* Carer’s engagement with services to improve attendance but no evidence of improvement
* Not attending school/training or employment (NEET)

**Accommodation and Home Relationships*** Unstable or unsuitable accommodation
* Homeless / unknown whereabouts
* Frequent Placement Changes (Child in Care)
* Living in a chaotic / dysfunctional household.
* Current or historic abuse / neglect in the family
* Carer does not implement age appropriate boundaries or recognise
* negative behaviour
* Child is not responding to boundaries, routines or consequences
* Financial vulnerabilities affecting the family

**Peer and Adult Association*** Reports being taken to parties, people’s houses, unknown areas, hotels, nightclubs, takeaways or out of area by unknown adults.
* Fear of reprisal from “gang” members or violence from young people or adults
* Entering or leaving vehicles cars with unknown adults
* Relationships with controlling /older individuals or groups
* Increase referrals to agencies for other known peers
* Associating with known criminals / gang members or other children who have been criminally exploited
* Is known to services and is engaging in ASB and other forms of offending
* Evidence that s/he is coerced by others to recruit children for gangs.
* People demanding money or sex or to perform sexual acts to pay off drug debts

**Misuse of drugs or alcohol*** Substance use known and part of daily life. Not known how substances are financed.
* Increasing use of drugs or alcohol
* Started to associate with negative peer influence where substance use is known to be used
 | **Mental Health/Physical Health Concerns** * Increasingly disruptive, hostile or physically aggressive at home or school Including use of sexualised language and language in relation to drug dealing and/or violence
* Returned from missing episodes with injuries, or dishevelled
* Disclosure of sexual/ physical assault followed by withdrawal of allegation
* Injuries – physical / sexual
* Significant decline in physical and emotional wellbeing
* Self-harm and / or suicidal thoughts/attempts

**Sexual Health Activities and Awareness*** Sex is non consensual
* Child feels pressured to have sex or to perform sexual acts in exchange for status, protection possessions, substances or affection
* Repeated STI’s and/or pregnancy
* Child is under the age of consent for sex / sexual acts
* Previous CSE concerns
* Associating with known sexually exploited children

**Ability to Identify Exploitative Behaviour*** Can recognise risks but unable to apply to themselves to keep safe
* Cannot identify or recognise the risk of exploitation

**Social Media (Internet and Mobile Phone Usage)*** Multiple mobile phones and sim cards
* Unexplained mobile phone credits. Not known how mobile phone credits are financed.
* Regularly changing phones
* Child receives texts / calls from unknown or concerning people.
* In possession of a mobile phone which parent / carer have no or only limited knowledge of.
* Child has become more secretive about internet usage
* Child has been exploited online
* Child plans to meet face to face person they know online
* Evidence that s/he is coerced to recruit other children.

**Appearance and Possession of Articles*** Unexplained amounts of money, mobiles, clothing, jewellery, new hair cut or other items/gifts. Receiving rewards of money or goods for introducing peers
* Possession of hotel keys/cards or keys to unknown premises
* Found with large quantities of drugs or weapons
* Found with drugs inside their mouth, rectum or vagina
* Found in possession of class A drugs more than once.
 | **Ability to Safeguard – Carers/Family** * Parental / carer concerns in making appropriate authorities aware their child is at significant risk of harm due to gang affiliation and / or criminal exploitation.
* Carer fails to report young person as missing and struggles to understand the risk around missing and exploitation.
* Sporadic or limited engagement with services and breakdown in relationship with child.
* Carer doesn’t have knowledge of exploitation or child’s social media activity.
* Carer fails to report young person as missing and to recognise the risk of missing episodes. Disengagement from services.
* Carer/Family is affiliated to exploitation
* Parent has been groomed by perpetrator exploiting the child
* Carer needs to be prompted to report young person as missing and/or has limited understanding of exploitation/ child’s social media activity

**Substance Misuse, Physical and Mental Health – Carers/Family*** Alcohol dependent parent / carer
* Drug dependent parent / carer
* Increasing use of drugs or alcohol
* Significant decline in physical and mental wellbeing
* Self-harm and / or suicidal thoughts/attempts
* Parents acknowledge concerns but refuse to seek treatment or support
* Parents do not acknowledge concerns and refuse to seek treatment or support

**Criminality amongst Family and Extended Family Members*** Evidence of parental/carer involvement in guns, gangs or drug supply
* Historical/current criminal exploitation of others, including their child/ren
* Family or / and Extended Family known to be involved in criminality or Organised Crime Groups

**Young Person’s Engagement with Appropriate Services*** Services cannot engage the child, no contact
* Services have been able to sporadically engage the child
 |

**[End of Prompt Sheet]**