

Scrutiny Additional Report – Exploitation

The Adolescent Safety Framework (ASF) is the Devon response to Contextual Safeguarding where the threat is from outside the family. This is across the Devon Childrens and Families Partnership and the Safer Devon Partnership. It ensures we can respond to young people's experiences of harm beyond their families, within their communities; recognising they are vulnerable to abuse in a range of different places, social contexts, and environments. This framework covers Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), gang activity and modern slavery.

The Exploitation Hub is located within the MASH. This ensures there is a single point of access, coordination and subsequent intelligence gathering for any rising threats or themes. The Hub also receives wider referrals for individuals and groups of children at different levels of risk of exploitation, including Peer Group Conferences (schools), Neighbourhood Conferences (Community) and Complex Strategies (held by QARRS).

From the 1st Jan 2020 – 31st December 2020 there were 140 specific exploitation-related referrals into MASH. Exeter had the highest number of referrals (32%), South (26%), North and Mid and East 21%. Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) including County Lines was the most prevalent category.

The ASF Framework operates two levels of assessments and plans, the 'Safer Me' which is at child in need level and the 'Safer Me Plus's at the child protection level. April 2020 to Feb 2021 - there have been 248 completed Safer Me Assessments. 118 of them were initial assessments and 130 reviews. The 248 completed Assessments were for 175 unique children.

Safer Me

As a snapshot on the 3/3/21 there were 98 children subject to Safer Me with 48% at risk of criminal exploitation, 27% sexual exploitation, 19% multiple forms, 3% modern slavery, 1% gangs and the last 12% still under assessment.

Childrens Social Care monitors the outcomes for young people who have been subject to exploitation, through the Exploitation Tracker. In Q1 and Q2, 13 young people (under 18's) and 6 Care Leavers were deemed to have gained good outcomes and were removed from the tracker. With outcomes noted against the following benchmarks

U18

Reduced risk	Reduced missing	Sustained/ EET	Trusting relationship	Stability in living arrangements	Improved emotional well being	Engaged with services	Positive peer network activities
3	3	5	4	5	1	8	2

Care Leavers

Outcomes for these care leavers removed from tracker

Reduced risk	Reduced missing	Sustained/EET	Trusting relationship	Stability in living arrangements	Improved emotional well being	Engaged with services	Positive peer network activities
2	0	3	2	4	0	3	0

Safer Me Plus

Up to December 2020, there has been 36 Safer Me Plus plans enacted, 9 have stepped out of childrens services due to improved outcomes, 5 were accommodated, 24 remain currently on plan (2 over 12 months).

Community Response through MASH

Intervention is targeted at a wider level where the abuse has occurred. Creating, and increasing, safety in the places and spaces where young people spend their time through partnerships with the wider community and agencies. This is achieved through planning via the Context Pathway in Peer Group, Neighbourhood (Location) and School Context Conferences. Any adult or persons of concern will continue to be discussed via the MACE. These forums are not designed to focus on individual planning but intervening to increase the safety for young people by focusing on locations, environments, activity, groups, and persons of concern.

Up to Dec 2020 there had been 18 conferences in total with CCE the most common risk category, present in nearly all the context conference referrals. There have been 7 peer group conferences, 3 neighbourhood conferences and 2 school conferences.

Any intelligence themes and concerns raised across this framework are discussed at the local MACE (Multi Agency Child Exploitation meetings) within which all intelligence is shared with coordinated action and disruption activity. We are unable to provide wider data, as the police analyst was redeployed during the pandemic.