

Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF) 2024

Crib Sheet Document

This document should be used to assist in the completion of the CERAF. For any further support or guidance, please contact CERAF@swindon.gov.uk

1. General guidance

The Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (CERAF) 2024 is a professional tool developed to aid practitioners in their assessment of harm outside the home for children and young people. This tool was re-developed in 2024 to better accommodate the needs in Swindon based on the current available trend data, and feedback from practitioners.

A CERAF should be completed by the Lead Professional as soon as potential concerns regarding any form of child exploitation are identified. This may include Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), County Lines (CL), Modern Day Slavery (MDS), or child trafficking concerns. These concerns may arise off the back of a missing episode, a disclosure, or intelligence.

It is best practice to include **information from multiple sources**; this means working with multi-agency partners to ensure that no important information is missed that all relevant information is being shared appropriately. It is important to also include any relevant information that has come directly from the child/young person and their family.

Where possible, **include time-frames** for the indicators you have answered 'yes' to. This will help other professionals in understanding the recency and frequency of the likelihood of harm outside the home.

For any indicator you have answered 'yes' to, you **must** include narrative information in the relevant free-text box below in order to contextualise your concerns – consider whether a professional reading this with no prior knowledge of the child/young person would be able to fully understand the concerns.

Throughout this document, you should **be mindful of the language you use**; children and young people are not responsible for the abuse or exploitation they suffer, and often they do not recognise the harm we may be concerned about. Children who are groomed are unable to give consent to their abuse. For further guidance on what language is appropriate to use here, [please visit this SSP resource](#).

Likelihood of harm outside the home can develop and change very quickly, therefore **we would advise completing a new CERAF every 2 months at the latest**, or sooner if there are any notable changes in risk, for children who are on the cusp of experiencing or experiencing harm outside the home this should be updated at least every 4 weeks along with the My Safety Plan as part of your regular multi-agency meetings (Team around the family, child in need or core group meetings). You should continue with new CERAF's every 2 months until you are satisfied that the risk has reduced significantly.

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2. Pathways in response to harm outside the home

[request for support](#) via Contact Swindon – The Integrated Front Door by email to contactswindon@swindon.gov.uk. Contact Swindon will consider next steps.

Where a child is allocated to a social worker or a Lead Professional a completed [child exploitation assessment \(CERAF\)](#) and submit to CERAF@swindon.gov.uk.

Should a Lead Professional submit a CERAF that indicates that a different level of need is present that Opal will submit to Contact Swindon – The Integrated Front Door along with the recommendation as to next steps.

Where a child has been reported missing and there are concerns about harm outside the home then the missing coordinator will request that the Lead Professional/ Social Worker complete a [child exploitation assessment \(CERAF\)](#) and submit to CERAF@swindon.gov.uk.

Where there is no Lead Professional / Social Worker, the missing coordinator will complete a [request for support](#) to be made for the child via Contact Swindon – The Integrated Front Door by email to contactswindon@swindon.gov.uk. Once allocated to a Lead Professional, they will complete a [child exploitation assessment \(CERAF\)](#) and submit to CERAF@swindon.gov.uk

3. Vulnerability factors

3.1 Neglect by parent, carer, family member

Consider the impact neglect may have had on the young person's vulnerability to exploitation. Do they feel wanted and loved within their family? If not, might they seek that sense of belonging from groups outside of the home?

3.2 Physical abuse from parents, carers, or other family member

Consider the impact physical abuse in the home may have had on the young person's vulnerability to exploitation? Does this make returning home less desirable? Consider the push/pull effect of such a relationship.

3.3 Historic sexual abuse

Consider if the young person has suffered sexual abuse in the past. This is NOT about current sexual abuse or exploitation, but specifically historical incidents of sexual abuse which may have increased their vulnerability to being exploited. You should consider any previous concerns that have been raised around sexually transmitted infections (STI's) and/or pregnancy.

3.4 Breakdown in family relationships

Consider if the young person has experienced a breakdown in family relationships which may cause

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them to avoid going home, or leave the vulnerable to seeking risky friendships in the community. Consider whether the young person has experienced conflict within the home, bereavement, or family separation, and how these may impact on their vulnerability to exploitation.

3.5 Family history of domestic abuse

Consider whether there is a known history of domestic abuse within the family, and whether this is likely to have impacted on the young person's emotional wellbeing and understanding of healthy relationships. If the abuse is ongoing, consider whether the young person is likely to avoid returning home and whether the parents' abilities to safeguard their child may be compromised.

3.6 Family history of substance misuse

Consider whether there is a history of significant substance misuse by family members and how this may affect the young person's perception of drugs and drug culture. If this misuse is ongoing, consider whether the parents' abilities to safeguard their child may be compromised and whether this is giving the young person more access to drugs or drug paraphernalia.

3.7 Family history of mental health difficulties

Consider whether there is a history of significant mental health concerns for family members of the young person and whether this is likely to increase their vulnerability to exploitation. Consider whether there is a genetic component that may be passed on to the young person. If the concerns are current, consider whether the parents' abilities to safeguard their child may be compromised.

3.8 Physical or learning disabilities

Consider whether the young person has any physical or learning disabilities which increase their vulnerability to exploitation. Consider whether the disability is visible, and therefore whether an exploiter is likely to target them as a result.

3.9 Indications of neurodivergence or undiagnosed additional needs

Have professionals ever raised concerns for additional needs or neurodivergent conditions, such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)? Consider how any symptoms or behaviours associated with these concerns may increase their vulnerability to exploitation.

3.10 Young carer

Is the young person a carer for a parent, guardian, or other family member? Consider the impact this has on their social circle and their mental health.

3.11 Low self-esteem

Consider how the young person views themselves and how they value themselves. Consider whether the young person sees themselves as 'unlovable', 'inferior', 'unworthy', or whether they believe that they deserve bad things to happen to them, perhaps they accept when bad things happen to them as a sign of their lack of self-worth.

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3.12 Unsuitable or inappropriate accommodation

Consider the young person's living arrangements, are they in a stable accommodation or perhaps are they sofa-surfing, sleeping rough, experiencing placement breakdowns, or multiple moves? Consider if their accommodation is suitable for their needs – if they are in supported accommodation, are they placed with others who could negatively impact on their vulnerability to exploitation?

3.13 Detached from age-appropriate activities

Has the young person become withdrawn from their normal age-appropriate activities such as sports, gaming, after-school clubs, etc.? Consider whether this has been a sudden or gradual change – has this been explored with the young person? Could there be external factors or persons influencing this change?

3.14 Isolated from peers or social network

Consider the young person's friendship group, is this stable or fluid? Consider whether the friends are age-appropriate. Does the young person struggle to maintain appropriate friendships? Consider whether they are expressing feelings of loneliness.

3.15 Regularly staying out late or all day with whereabouts unknown

Consider whether the young person has demonstrated a pattern of staying out late, and whether this has been a gradual or a sudden change. Consider the time of day or night they have been unaccounted for and how far they may have travelled during this time. Consider how they presented when they returned, have they disclosed who they were with or where they went? Did they appear under the influence of alcohol or drugs?

3.16 Multiple callers

Consider who visits or contacts the young person – are they age appropriate? How are they making contact? Are they coming to the address? How does the young person know them? Do these people pose an exploitation risk to the young person?

3.17 Concerning use of a mobile phone

Consider whether the young person has more than one phone – are the parents aware of this? How did they get the second phone? Consider who they may be communicating with, and whether these communications are happening during the day or night. Is the young person overly secretive about their phone? Have any changes in this been gradual or sudden? Please bear in mind that it is usual for teenagers to have sole control of their phone and be private about its contents, so this in itself should not be the sole reason for concerns, so you should consider how these concerns link to possible exploitation.

3.18 Feelings of despair

Consider if there has been a change in the young person's emotional wellbeing and/or behaviour which could be a reaction to undisclosed trauma, such as self-harming, suicidal ideation, acting aggressively, withdrawn, or taking overdoses. Is the young person carrying weapons because they

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feel threatened or at risk of harm from others? Consider the context around the behaviour and any potential triggers – consider any other likely explanations which may be non-exploitation related.

3.19 Not in education, employment, or training (NEET)

Consider if the young person is out of education, training, or training and whether their whereabouts are known during this time. Consider how the reduction of ‘professional eyes’ on the young person may impact our ability to recognise additional risks and safeguarding opportunities.

3.20 Sexual activity

Consider if the young person is sexually active and, if so, are they practising safe sex. Consider also the age of their sexual partners, and how they are meeting. Has the young person been offered sexual health support? Have there been any concerns regarding sexually transmitted infections (STI’s) or pregnancy/terminations?

3.21 Misuse of drugs or alcohol

Consider whether the young person consumes drugs or alcohol and, if so, does this extend beyond usual teenage experimentation? Consider where they are sourcing the drugs/alcohol and how they are funding it. Are they using alone, or with others? Consider whether a referral to a substance misuse service may be required. Consider whether the drugs or alcohol may have been supplied in an attempt to groom the young person. Consider whether the young person is becoming intoxicated to the point where they can no longer keep themselves safe.

3.22 Living independently and not staying in touch with professionals

Consider whether the young person is living independently, for example in supported accommodation, and how they respond to attempts by professionals to get in touch. If they are not responding well to these attempts, consider whether this is unusual for the young person – has there been a change in their behaviour which could be the result of exploitation? Are they engaging with anyone else? Could there be a cuckooing risk?

3.23 Lacking a positive relationship with a protective and nurturing adult

Consider the relationships the young person has with adults in their life (e.g. parents, grandparents, carers); are these positive relationships? Are these adults demonstrating their ability to safeguard and protect the young person?

3.24 Associating with children known or suspected to have been exploited

Consider the young person’s child associates; are any of them known to professional services? Have there ever been concerns raised for these associates around sexual or criminal exploitation? Consider whether there is a transferrable risk from them to the young person. Consider whether the concerns are ongoing or historical.

3.25 Missing overnight or longer

Consider whether the young person has ever been reported missing and, if so, whether they have been missing overnight, or into the early hours of the morning. Consider the distance travelled, and

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what you know about where they were and who they were with during this time. Remember that being missing overnight in isolation may not indicate exploitation, however it should be considered.

3.26 Relationship(s) with older or controlling individual/group

Consider the relationships and associations the young person has had in the last six months, either offline or online; the *controlling* aspect is important when considering this risk factor – an exploitative relationship between a perpetrator and their victim will always involve an imbalance of power to some degree, and this may involve the use of control, intimidation, threats, and violence. Consider the romantic relationships of the young person; do they have an older girlfriend or boyfriend that gives cause for concern? Has the young person ever mentioned being indebted to somebody, or a group of people? It is important to provide in the free-text box any details of the relationship, how long it has been going on for, where they met and continue to meet, what they do together, what explanations have been given for their relationship, and any details of control.

3.27 Phone answered by an unknown adult

Has anyone ever tried to call the young person's phone and had an unknown adult answer the phone? Consider who this may have been, where the young person was supposed to be during this time, and whether they identified themselves or explained where the young person was. Could this unknown adult pose a risk to the young person? Is the young person able to give a reasonable explanation about this when asked?

3.28 Met with someone they met online

Has the young person ever physically met up with somebody they met online? Consider the meeting location, was it near to home or further away? What app or website did they meet? How much do trusted adults know about this person – are they age appropriate, are their parents/trusted adults aware of this too? Could this person pose a risk to the young person?

3.29 Physical abuse from controlling person or unexplained injury

Consider any injuries or medical treatment the young person has experienced in the last six months; has there been evidence of physical abuse from a controlling person? Consider whether an exploiter may be using physical abuse as a means to control or punish them. Consider the explanations, or lack thereof, the young person has given for such injuries. Consider whether the young person has withdrawn support from any allegations made and include details of this.

3.30 Emotional abuse from controlling person

Consider any emotional abuse or trauma the young person has experienced in the last six months; can you identify who has inflicted this? Consider whether the young person has been emotionally abused by a controlling person who may be seeking to sexually or criminally exploit them. Consider whether the emotional abuse could be part of a grooming process. Consider factors such as the young person being made to feel humiliated, embarrassed, put down, overly-criticised, ignored/excluded, blackmailed, dominated, isolated, or controlled. Also consider factors where the person inflicting this abuse is showing signs of jealousy (overly-so) or threatening behaviour

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towards the friends or family of the young person. Consider whether the young person has withdrawn support from any allegations made and include details of this.

3.31 Sexual abuse from controlling person

Has the young person made any disclosures of sexual abuse from a controlling person? Consider the age and relation of the suspect and whether there are any power imbalances (i.e., position of power, age difference, etc.). Is the young person still in contact with this person, and could they pose a continued risk? Have the police been made aware of these disclosures?

3.31 Financial abuse from controlling person

Has the young person made any disclosures of financial abuse from a controlling person? Consider the amount of money the young person has on their person or in their bank account(s). Do they appear to have more money than you would expect them to? Are they losing money with no reasonable explanation as to why it is going? Have the police been made aware of any disclosures?

3.32 Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown people

Consider whether the young person has been seen entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown people or people of concern. In the free text, detail the time, date, and locations known, as well as any information on the driver, other passengers, or description of the vehicle(s). Consider the time of day or night this occurs and where they may be travelling to.

3.33 Possession of unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothing, or other items with no plausible explanation

Consider the amount of money the young person has; is this more than you would expect? Does the young person receive any kind of income, perhaps through pocket-money or a part-time job? Consider the young person's possessions; is there anything that they cannot account for or give a plausible explanation for? Consider where these may have come from and whether it may have been a gift, or perhaps provided as part of an exploitation or grooming process. You should consider also whether the young person has been benefiting from social or beauty activities, such as hair/make up appointments, or attending social events, without any clear explanation as to how they have funded them.

3.34 Frequenting areas known for exploitation or associated with drug dealing/cultivation

Consider the locations the young person frequents; are there any existing concerns with these locations relating to young people being targeted and groomed for sexual or criminal exploitation, or where exploitation is taking place? Consider the type of location, is it an abandoned property, a commercial property, a residential property? The terms 'trap house' and 'bando' are sometimes used to refer to addresses used as a base for drug supply, but can also refer to other locations including B&B's, hotels, parks, etc. which may be linked to exploitation concerns.

3.35 Seen in adult places

Has the young person been seen in or near to 'adult places', such as pubs, clubs, bars, etc.? Do they have a legitimate reason to be in these places? Consider whether they are carrying keys that

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parents or trusted adults don't recognise – could these be for an adult place? If the young person has been seen in or near these places, were they alone or were they accompanied by others? If they had company, what is known about them (i.e., age, gender, did they have vehicles, etc.)?

3.36 Been abducted or subject to false imprisonment for the purposes of exploitation

Being for the purpose of exploitation is key here – this should not be ticked if the young person was abducted, for example, by a parent disputing custody.

3.37 Travelling or located outside of Local Authority jurisdiction

Travelling outside of the area could be an indicator of county lines involvement. Consider where the young person travels, whether they've been arrested outside of the area, or whether they have been located out of area during a missing episode. Consider if any train or bus tickets have been found in the young person's room or possession, or if they have phone tracking that shows them leaving the area.

3.38 Found with large quantities of Class A or B drugs, or suspected involvement in the movement or selling of drugs

A young person in possession of large quantities of drugs could be an indicator or evidence of criminal exploitation. Consider what and who may have led the young person to become involved in such a high-risk situation, and who may be gaining from their involvement – in such cases, it is common for the young person to gain very little from these set-ups.

3.39 Displaying risk taking behaviour without recognition of the consequences

Consider the young person's behaviour – have they been taking more risks (e.g., taking new recreational drugs, engaging in criminal behaviour, getting into fights, etc.)? If so, is this a new/sudden change? Consider the frequency and severity of these behaviours, and what the pull factors to these may be. Are they engaging in these behaviours alone? Consider the young person's response to professional concerns – do they acknowledge and recognise the same risks, or do they believe that professionals should not be worrying?

3.40 Been involved in robberies or thefts with no or limited signs of personal gain

If a young person is involved in crimes such as robberies or thefts, it could be an indicator of criminal exploitation – consider whether they may be being drawn into criminal behaviours by another person/group of people. They may be being 'tested', looking to pay debts, or acting for the benefit/gain of someone else.

3.41 Had a drug debt

Consider whether the young person owes any money, or has any repeated debts that they are unable to pay. They may be required to run drugs further or in larger quantities as a means of paying it off. They may also seek to commit robberies or other thefts to pay off this debt, possibly from family and friends. Consider that confiscating drugs or cash from a young person may put them at further risk, and so planning will need to be considered around their personal safety. If know, please specify the amount the debt is.

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3.42 Dealt drugs online, sold stolen goods online, accessed the dark web, or been coerced to take/share indecent images

Consider the young person's internet use – does this raise concerns in relation to exploitation? Has their use of the internet changed recently? Are they using the internet to communicate with someone of concern? Consider whether they may be using the internet to share or receive indecent images with others. Have they made any arrangements to meet with people they've met online? Consider whether they may be being groomed online.

3.43 Been witness to, or the subject of, cuckooing

Has the young person been the victim or witness to cuckooing? Cuckooing historically refers to situations associated with county lines whereby suspects, usually adults from out of area, target a vulnerable adult and supply them with drugs in exchange for letting them stay in their home which they then take over. More recently, cuckooing can also refer to adults or other young people moving into the home of another young person and taking over the home. This is usually a gradual process and may start with the young person asking parents if a friend(s) can stay the night, and then over time they continue to stay, sometimes without permission, or showing up unexpectedly. This form of cuckooing can also involve the use of threats or threatening behaviour towards the parents or responsible adults in the property.

4. National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is the UK's framework as set out by the Home Office to identify and support potential victims of **modern slavery/trafficking/exploitation**.

Wiltshire & Swindon are part of a devolved decision-making pilot for children, funded by the Home Office. The pilot is designed to give local authorities the decision-making power to assess whether a child is a victim of modern slavery. Fortnightly NRM panels are held for children's referrals with representation from health, the local authority, and police. There are two thresholds for the panel to consider: 'are there **reasonable grounds** to believe the child is a victim of modern slavery/human trafficking/exploitation?' or 'are there **conclusive grounds**, on the balance of probability, that the child is a victim of modern slavery/human trafficking/exploitation?'. Representatives will make a joint decision as to whether one of these thresholds are met.

The NRM covers several exploitation types including forced criminality, sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude, organ harvesting, and financial exploitation. When considering an NRM referral, it is beneficial to think about what type exploitation the child may have experienced.

If a child receives a positive conclusive grounds decision they will be offered support through the Escapeline charity. Escapeline supports children who have experienced, or are at risk of, exploitation, tailoring expert intervention that draws on the mentor's own personal experience.

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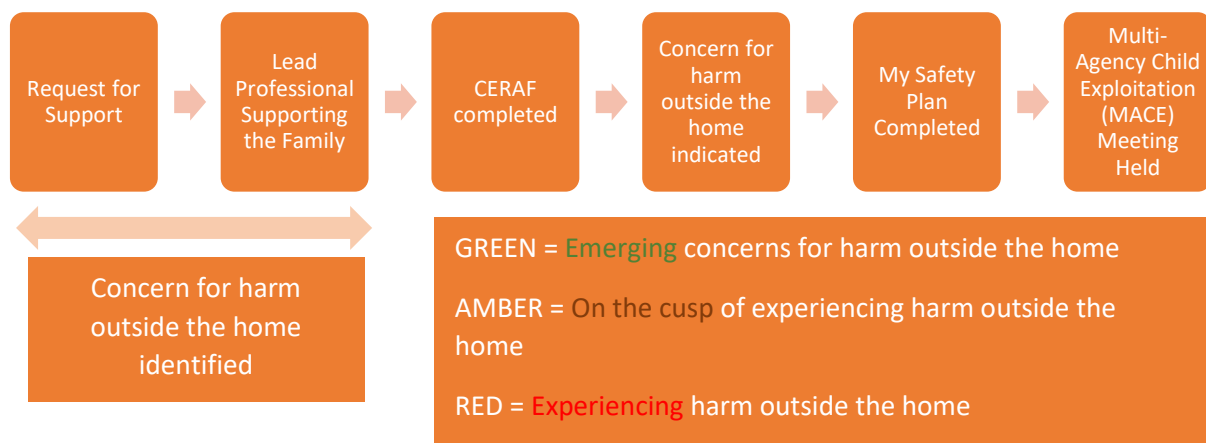
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If there are concerns that a child has been a victim of exploitation, please complete an NRM referral [here](#). Alternatively, if you have concerns but are unsure whether to submit an NRM referral, please contact James Biggs (NRM Coordinator for Wiltshire & Swindon) at james.biggs@wiltshire.gov.uk or jbiggs@swindon.gov.uk.

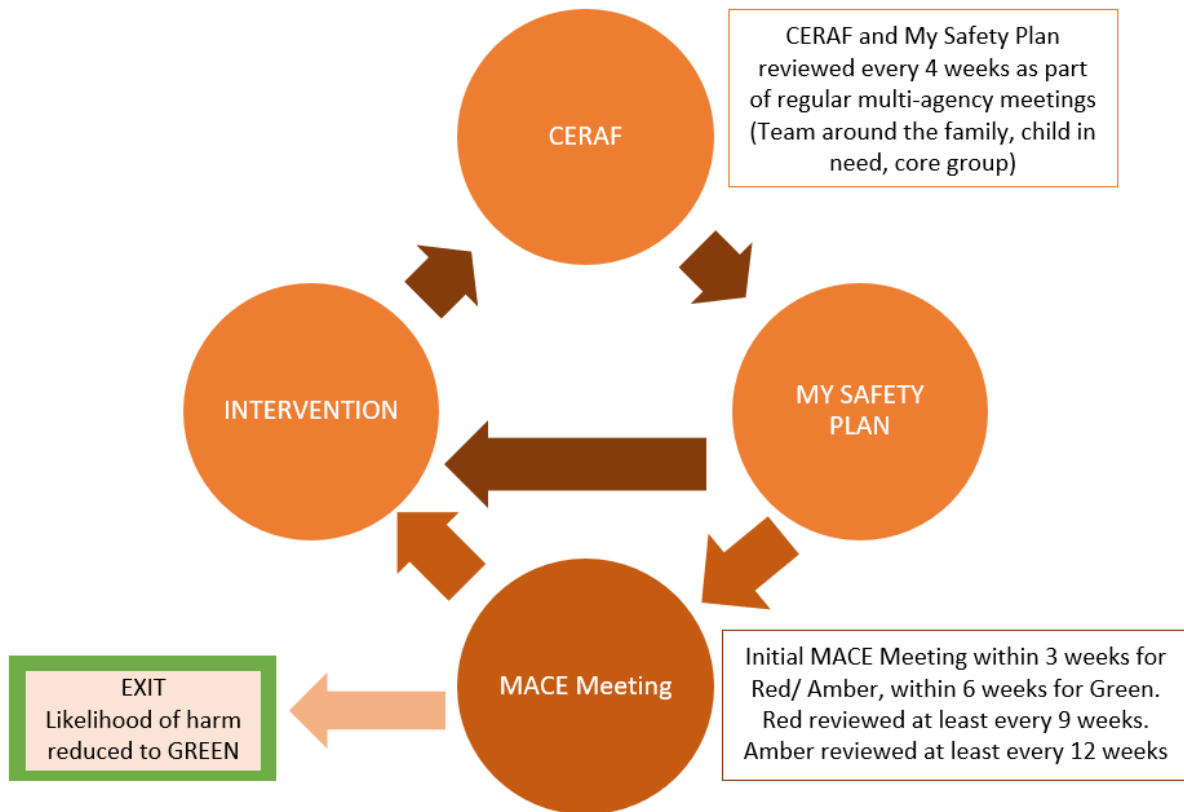
5. Opal Oversight

All CERAFs should be submitted by email to CERAF@swindon.gov.uk for Opal oversight and recommendation as to likelihood of harm outside the home.



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Scenario	Assessment of Harm outside the Home		
	Emerging (Level 2 The Right Help at the Right Time guidance)	On the cusp (Level 3 The Right Help at the Right Time guidance)	Experiencing (Level 4 The Right Help at Right Time guidance)
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. Attendance at school is below 85%	Regularly reported missing/one significant episode where they have travelled out of County, in the presence of others known to be exploited. Attendance at school is below 50%	Disclosure of being exploited whilst missing. Police arrests for abduction/modern day slavery offences. Located with a known perpetrator of exploitation. Attendance at school is well below 50% or not attending school
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.

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<p>Change in behaviour and/or appearance</p>	<p>Escalation in secretive, avoidant, withdrawn or hostile/aggressive behaviour; where this behaviour is out of character.</p> <p>Has the child's attendance at school suddenly changed or dropped below 85%?</p>	<p>Escalation in secretive, avoidant, withdrawn or hostile/aggressive behaviour; where this out of character and triggered by a particular key event suggestive of exploitation i.e. arrest, threat.</p> <p>Has the child's attendance at school suddenly changed or dropped below 50%?</p>	<p>Escalation in secretive, avoidant, withdrawn or hostile/aggressive behaviour; where this is out of character; and present highly anxious/fearful. Disclosure of being exploited.</p> <p>Has the child's attendance at school suddenly changed or dropped well below 50% or have the stopped attending at all?</p>
<p>Sexual health</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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)</p>	<p>Disclosure of being sexually exploited. Evidence of being trafficked for the purposes of sexual intercourse by someone who has control over them.</p>
<p>Safety online</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Disclosure of being exploited. Evidence of blackmail in relation to images shared. Coerced/forced to send images against will.</p>
<p>Travelling out of County</p>	<p>Talking about areas they have no local connection to and are out of area</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Disclosure of exploitation. Repeatedly being found across different County's with no explanation, and following missing episodes.</p>
<p>Mobile phones</p>	<p>Has access to more than one phone/SIM card with clear rationale from young</p>	<p>Has multiple phones and/or SIM cards which are answered often, for short calls, and young person leaves immediately after receiving a call.</p>	<p>Disclosure of being exploited. Evidence on phone of setting up drug deals and advertising drugs for sale.</p>

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	person/carers as to why this is / in the absence of any other risk indicators.		
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 associating with. Disclose feeling indebted to friends.	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.
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 / education attendance – if they are not in school, where are they? - services have not been effective at engaging the child and family - mental health concerns - learning/communication needs - reduced self-esteem/confidence - relationship breakdown or unstable home environment - homelessness/ sofa surfing - being a young carer <p>Should be considered in light of the above emerging/on the cusp/experiencing factors as they may serve as additional push factors</p>		

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

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Emerging

- Access to universal services and early intervention for the child (Level 2 [The Right Help at Right Time guidance - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)).
- Consultation with Opal Navigator as to whether discussion is required at MACE
- If required, Opal Navigator will support Lead professional with completion of My Safety Plan

On the Cusp of Experiencing

- If child is not already open to Children's Social Care, referral to be made to Contact Swindon – IFD, ensure a copy of the CERAF is shared (Level 3 [The Right Help at Right Time guidance - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#))
- Consultation with Opal Navigator to progress to MACE pathway and Opal Allocation
- Share information/ concerns with the Police using the Police Intel Sharing Form

Experiencing

In the event that the child is in danger or you need an immediate police response, call 999.

- If child is not already open to Children's Social Care, referral to be made to Contact Swindon – IFD, ensure a copy of the CERAF is shared (Level 4 [The Right Help at Right Time guidance - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#))
- Consultation with Opal Navigator to progress to MACE pathway and Opal Allocation
- NRM pathway
- Consider whether threshold is met for a strategy discussion
- Share information/ concerns with the Police using the Police Intel Sharing Form