



Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Checklist



This tool has been developed by the Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) and the Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) to help frontline practitioners identify cases of sexual exploitation of children, young people or adults at risk. This checklist should be used in conjunction with the NSCB and NSAB Policy and Procedures and associated risk assessment guidance.

Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where a victim (or a third person or persons) receives 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Exploitative relationships are characterised in the main by a power imbalance between the perpetrator(s) and victim(s).

- People of all ages may be vulnerable to sexual exploitation. There have been cases involving victims as young as 12 and adults too. It is the vulnerability (whether that be age, disability, illness, poor life experiences, previous victims of abuse, isolation) of the alleged victim that is important, not just their age. Boys and men are just as likely to be targeted as victims of sexual exploitation by perpetrators.
- Young people and adults are groomed and sexually exploited in many different forms, e.g. online, street, gangs, leisure industry, religion, position of authority, celebrity. Perpetrators may work together in groups, or they can work alone. The common theme in all cases is the imbalance of power and the control exerted on the victims.
- Victims may lack the capacity to consent or may be being threatened or coerced into having sex. The process of grooming may have led the victim to become so dependent on the alleged perpetrator(s) that they see sex as something they have to do in order to survive.

Guidance

What is this tool?

This is a checklist that you can use to help you decide whether a child, young person or adult is at risk of sexual exploitation.

Who should use this tool?

This tool should be used by frontline practitioners working with children, young people or adults at risk of sexual exploitation.

What is the tool for?

This tool is for you to make an initial assessment about the level or risk of sexual exploitation, **it is not intended to be a referral form**. However, the checklist should form the basis of discussions when making a referral into safeguarding procedures and can be added to referral documentation as an appendices.

How to use this tool

Consider each individual case in relation to all of the criteria in each of the three segments. The results can be used to determine the risk or presence of sexual exploitation. The results are not a definitive assessment of risk. They should provide you with a structure to inform your judgement, analysis and risk management. If the checklist identifies a risk or presence of sexual exploitation then a referral into safeguarding procedures should be made. If any indicators of critical risk are identified then immediate action needs to be taken to safeguard the individual(s).

Details of the person completing this tool

Name:	
Job Title:	
Agency / Organisation:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

Details of the child young person or adult that the concern relates to

Name:			
Date of birth	Age	Gender	
Address			
Contact number			

1. Vulnerability Factors

Presence of these factors indicate an increased risk of sexual exploitation taking place.

Mark the box if the risk factor is present.	Yes	No	Don't know	Source / Notes
1. Isolation, lack of strong social networks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Breakdown of family relationships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Lack of engagement /	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

inconsistent engagement with support networks (i.e. often misses appointments)				
4. Friends/peers are victims of sexual exploitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. History of local authority care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. History of abuse (including as a child)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Low self-esteem	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. Susceptible to grooming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Bereavement or loss	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Dependency on alleged perpetrator(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Substance misuse/dependency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Needs for care and support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. Learning Disability/difficulty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Unstable housing situation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

2. At Risk Indicators

Presence of these indicators detect identifiable features of sexual exploitation.

Mark the box if the risk factor is present.	Yes	No	Don't know	Source / Notes
15. Forced or coerced into making decisions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16. Going missing for periods of time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17. Unexplained increase in goods or monies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18. Reduced contact with family, friends and other support networks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19. Concerning use of internet, social media and mobile phone.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20. Meeting adults / older peers through the internet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
21. Evidence of risky/inappropriate sexual behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
22. Inconsistent use of contraception (risk of STI's)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
23. Regular and/or concerning access of sexual health services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
24. Self-harming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
25. Change in presentation or demeanour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

26. Change in appearance and/or sexualised dressing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
27. Involvement in petty crime	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
28. Funding use of drugs / alcohol / legal highs or tobacco through unknown sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
29. Unexplained contact with hotels/taxis/fast food outlets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
30. Reported to have been in locations where there are known concerns relating to sexual exploitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
31. Associating with known perpetrators of sexual exploitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
32. Unexplained patterns of engagement i.e. disappearing from support systems with no contact or explanation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

3. Critical Risk Indicators

Presence of these indicators identify critical concerns of sexual exploitation.

Mark the box if the risk factor is present.	Yes	No	Don't know	Source / Notes
33. Groomed or abused via internet or mobile technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
34. Physical injuries without plausible explanation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
35. Controlling partner e.g. preventing access to services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
36. Fear of partner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
37. Disclosure of domestic abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
38. Exchanging sexual activity for accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
39. Being trafficked for the purpose of sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
40. Disclosure of sexual assault/ exploitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
41. Withdrawing allegations of sexual assault / exploitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
42. Abduction and forced imprisonment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
43. Being bought/sold for sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
44. Multiple pregnancies,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

miscarriages or terminations				
45. Recruiting others into sexual exploitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Professional Assessment

Please provide any information which you feel is relevant. Consider the victim's situation in relation to factors such as needs for care and support, cultural or language barriers and their willingness to engage with services.

What are the primary risks?

Are there any protective factors?

What are the views of the individual?

Professional judgement

What needs to happen next?

Signed		Date	
Name			

Key Contacts

Person/Agency	When to use	Contact
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Community Health and Social Care Direct	To raise a safeguarding adults alert.	0191 278 8377
Children's Initial Response Service	To raise a safeguarding children's alert.	0191 277 2500
Out of Hours Social Care Duty Team	To raise a safeguarding adults or children's alert out of office hours.	0191 2787878
Safeguarding Adults Unit	For advice around safeguarding adults.	0191 278 8156
Northumbria Police Public Protection Unit	For any concern where a crime has taken place.	101