



## Multi agency self-assessment – responding to children who are criminally exploited

**This multi-agency tool aims to support partnerships consider the effectiveness of responses to children who are at risk of, or being, criminally exploited.**

The self-assessment tool can also be used by individual agencies to consider their own responses to risk of harm to children experiencing extra familial harm, and/or the criminal exploitation of children.

The tool focuses on the following areas:

### **Service response/collaboration.**

Do responses effectively address the needs of children experiencing extra familial harm/criminal exploitation?  
Do agencies have the right tools they need?

### **Information sharing.**

Evidence of effective information sharing between partners that supports early identification, assessment and response?

### **Risk management/safeguarding.**

Evidence that partners are working collectively to understand and address risk of harm to, and by children as a result of extra familial harm/exploitation.  
Are safeguarding responses robust and responsive to the needs of children experiencing extra familial harm/exploitation?

### **Recording.**

Do agency records include all relevant information and use appropriate language about decision making and tools used in assessment of risk for future reference?

Partners should identify the correct forum to consider completion of the self-assessment, making sure there is relevant evidence provided for each area.

Action plans or exploitation strategies are ways of ensuring responses to risk outside of the home/criminal exploitation are progressed and address local needs and priorities.

## Service response/collaboration

		Some evidence	Good evidence	No/minimal evidence (indicate which)
1.1	Is there a shared understanding across the partnership/your organisation of what the criminal exploitation of children is? (Include what definition your organisation works to).			
1.2	Does the partnership/your organisation recognise the signs and vulnerabilities of the criminal exploitation of children?			
1.3	How well does the partnership/your organisation respond to concerns of the criminal exploitation of children?			
1.4	Are there appropriate escalation procedures If concerns are not progressed by relevant agencies?			
1.5	Does the partnership/ your organisation have suitable training and awareness raising to support early identification and intervention with children who are criminally exploited?			
1.6	Does the partnership/your organisation feel confident in how to respond to a child that has been criminally exploited?			
1.7	Are there suitable support services to support children who are at risk of, or being, criminally exploited in your area?			
1.8	Is there evidence of multi-agency collaboration to identify ways to respond to extra familial harm within the partnership?			
1.8	Is there evidence that children and families voices are heard in decision making, service design and are active partners within their plans?			

## Information sharing

		Some evidence	Good evidence	No/minimal evidence (indicate which)
2.1	Are there clear information sharing protocols within the partnership that work well to support children who are at risk of exploitation/at risk of extra familial harm?			
2.2	Does your agency feel able to share information with other agencies confidently as a means of working together to safeguard children.			
2.3	Is there evidence children, families and partners are clear about how exploitation/risk outside of the home will be managed; what needs to happen and by whom?			
2.4	Is there evidence within the partnership/your organisation that information around the criminal exploitation of children/extra familial harm has been shared in a timely way, and at the earliest opportunity?			

## Assessment of risk/child protection

		Some evidence	Good evidence	No/minimal evidence (indicate which)
3.1	Are there clear child protection processes in place within your agency/the partnership to address extra familial harm/criminal exploitation of children?			
3.2	Is there evidence within the partnership/your organisation that children are treated as children who are victims first and foremost – avoiding the unnecessary criminalisation of children?			
3.3	Have all relevant influences been considered when assessing risk of harm to the child? For example, perpetrators, influence of others and ways to address these risks?			
3.4	Does your organisation/the partnership have an agreed approach to the ongoing management of risk to children? This should include individual responses to children as well as responses to groups of children/extra familial spaces.			

## Recording

	Some evidence	Good evidence	No/minimal evidence (indicate which)
4.1	Is there evidence within the partnership/your organisation of how many children are at risk or, or being, criminally exploited (through flag system, marker etc)? Or Experiencing other forms of extra familial harm?		
4.2	Is there suitable evidence of recording within your organisation that captures concerns around criminal exploitation? Or Risk outside of the home?		
4.3	Is there clear understanding within the partnership of how to share information that can be collated and recorded in instances where multi-agency recording is needed?		
4.4	Does your agency record include clear flags/markers for risk of criminal exploitation?		
4.5	Is the voice of children and families accurately recorded by your organisation/the partnership?		
4.5	How does your organisation/the partnership use the voice of children and families?		