



Good Practice Guidance

Child planning meetings for children with an identified risk of child exploitation (CE) and or serious youth violence

Quick guide

What is the purpose of a CPM (child planning meeting)

A child planning meeting is the overarching term for a meeting in which a child's risk of exploitation and or serious youth violence is reviewed and plans to mitigate and reduce risk are discussed and agreed. Child planning meetings should ensure effective, coherent multi-agency plans.

Child planning meetings are a key element of the [multi-agency child exploitation \(MACE\) procedures](#) in Norfolk.

Frequency

For children identified at high risk, a child planning meeting should take place at least every two weeks and are likely to be stand-alone meetings. For children identified at medium and standard risk, a child planning meeting should take place at least every six weeks and exploitation risk review and planning is likely to be incorporated into review meetings relating to the child's overarching plan. Where this is the case ensure exploitation risk is discussed at the beginning of the wider review to enable key professionals to attend the relevant section.

Who should contribute?

All key professionals involved in supporting the child and family around extrafamilial risk should be included in a child planning meeting:

- Children's Services case holding team manager (all high risk CPMs);
- Case holding Social Worker or family practitioner;
- Youth Justice Service (YJS);
- Youth worker;
- Education Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL);
- Health;
- Placement key worker;
- For medium and high-risk cases the MACE police officer should always be included;
- Children and families should always be supported to contribute to CPMs. Parents should be considered key partners in reducing extrafamilial risk and harm.

Ensure the following elements are considered as part of any CPM

1. Professionals only section

This short section of the meeting may be required to share key pieces of intelligence that cannot be shared with the child and or parents because sharing would place a child or any other person at risk of harm and or jeopardise a police investigation or operation. Careful consideration and agreement should be made about the requirement or otherwise to share with parents information that would support them to protect their child.

Please ensure parents and children are invited to the meeting at the appropriate time – it is not appropriate to leave them waiting in any real or virtual ‘Lobby’ while professionals share intelligence.

2. Introductions

Avoid acronyms and professional jargon ensure all participants understand the role of each person in the meeting.

Confidentiality – ensure all participants at child planning meetings are aware of the parameters of confidentiality. Professionals should be mindful that risk to individuals (including children families and professionals) can increase particularly when they are the only possible source of information or intelligence. Children and families should know in advance of the meeting that information they share may be used in order to safeguard the public or prevent a crime.

3. Overview

Who are we here to talk about? Summary of strengths and concerns current CE risk level.

4. Review of actions from previous meeting

5. New and significant updates including factors that may impact risk for the child

Remember perceptions of risk will differ, clarify what is current risk, future risk and ensure plans are not formulated on the basis of professional anxiety or service risk.

6. Establish whether any information shared raises concerns for anyone else (safeguarding and public protection)

7. What are the views of the child?

8. Establish goals and objectives for next period (parents, child, professionals)

9. Establish actions and interventions linked to objectives (ensure multi agency working that avoids overwhelming the child and family , duplication or confusion)

Safeguarding plans cannot be solely focussed on the child making changes to create safety. The investigation, disruption and charging of offenders should always be a key factor when formulating the safeguarding plan.

10. Agree current risk level

The group should be reminded of the descriptors for exploitation risk level in Norfolk below:

Non CCE/CSE (child criminal exploitation (CCE)/child sexual exploitation (CSE))
No evidence of exploitation or exposure to serious youth violence.

Standard At this stage there is no evidence or reasonable cause to suspect that the child is exposed to exploitation or serious youth violence.

However, there are concerns that without support the child could be exposed to exploitation or serious youth violence in the future due to the presence of identified vulnerability factors or warning signs.

The child/young person requires support to increase resilience.

Medium

There is evidence or reasonable cause to suspect that the child is at risk of being targeted for exploitation or exposed to serious youth violence.

The risk to the child is such that they would be unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable level of health or development without the provision of support or that the child/young person's health and development is likely to be significantly or further impaired, without the provision of support.

High

There is evidence or reasonable cause to suspect that the child is currently exposed to exploitation or serious youth violence.

The risk to the child's safety is significant and immediate provision of support is needed to safeguard the child.

Use a scaling question to gather the rationale for current risk level.

11. Agree date of next child planning meeting

Supporting children and families to contribute

Parenting an exploited child is exhausting and bewildering, the levels of trauma parents themselves experience can be high.

Parents being treated as safeguarding partners means that they are kept informed by services, are included in the safety planning for their child and are regularly consulted regarding their child's case.

Parents usually have a fount of information about offenders, locations and other young people who may be involved. Such information needs to be utilised by professionals to inform intelligence building alongside the ongoing safeguarding of the child.

Parents should be asked what they want and need to support them in protecting their child.

Children are experts in their own lives. It is of utmost importance that they are supported to contribute to any plans and decisions that are made about them. Where a child does not wish to attend their meeting, consider why this might be and think creatively ahead of time about how their views can be shared. A key trusted professional should be tasked with ensuring this happens.

Remember

Children who are being exploited may not identify that they are victims and may reject the use of 'exploitation' terminology. Consider simplifying the language used ensuring it feels relevant to the individual child. E.g. 'how safe would you say you are when you are out in the community?'

Children cannot be held responsible for their own abuse – avoid victim blaming, adultifying and dehumanising language – [**The Children's Society Child – exploitation language guide**](#).

Perpetrators of exploitation may groom children to avoid engagement with services.

People who groom children are often experts in identifying unmet need and vulnerability in children. Plans to support exploited children should consider root cause as well as presenting risk.

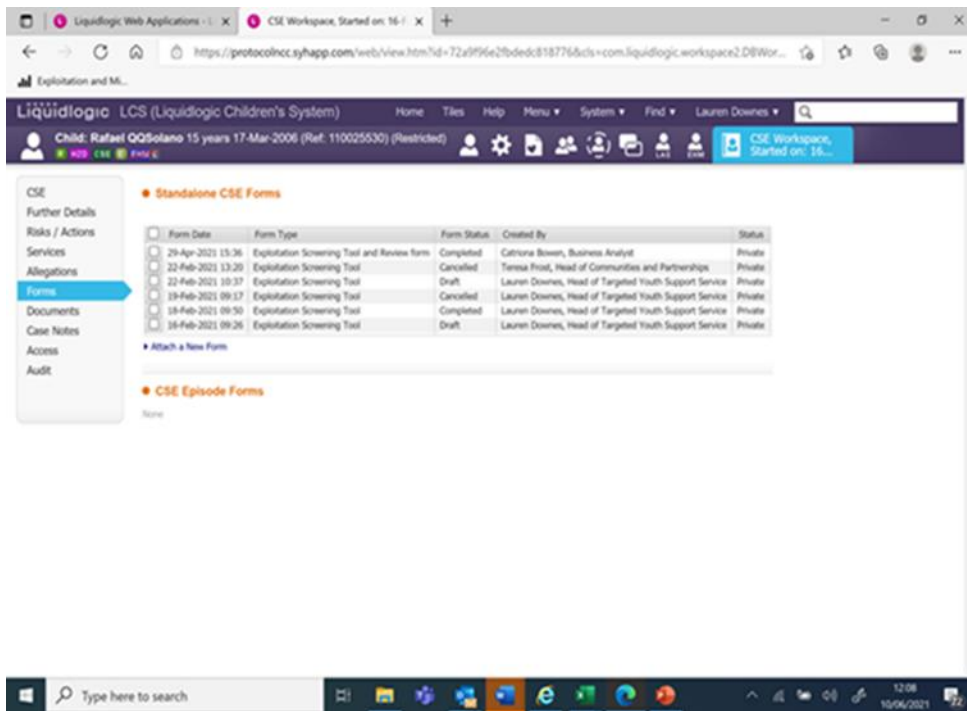
Children who are being exploited may behave in ways which appear to put them at risk however they may consider their actions are keeping them safer. Children may justifiably fear consequences of exiting exploitative relationships.

Children should be asked what they want and need to keep them safer in the community.

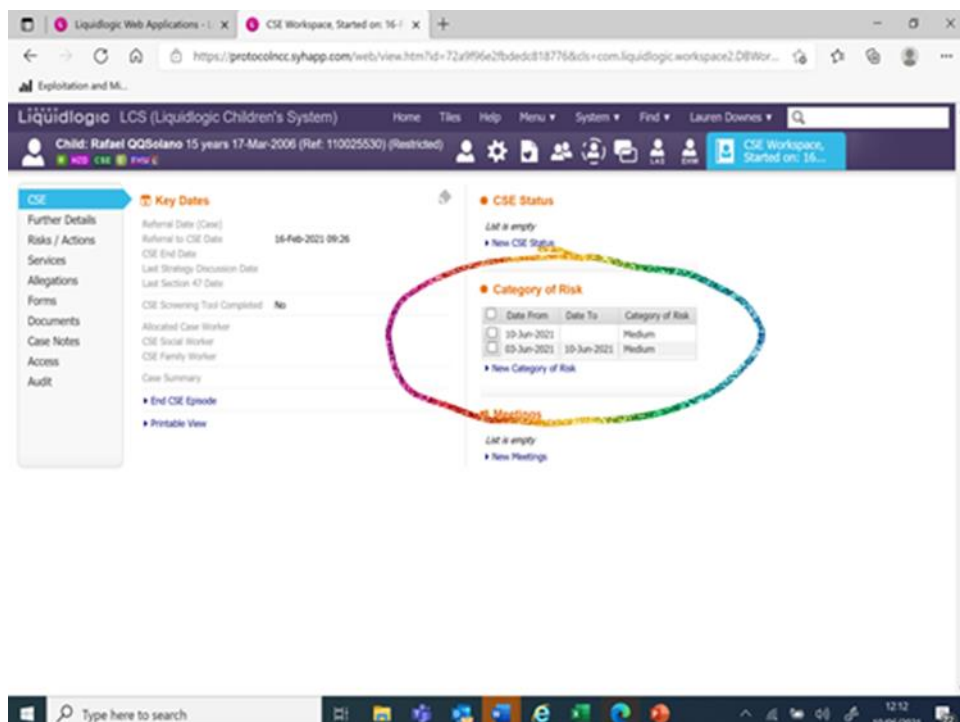
Risk taking is a normal part of adolescent development. We need to carefully consider how we assess likely harm and evidence/probability of exploitation.

Recording

Every time risk level is reviewed an exploitation screening (review) form must be completed (CSE workspace).



Ensure the Category of risk box (CSE workspace) shows accurate risk level and date of last review – this feeds the dashboard and must be updated every time the risk level is reviewed regardless of whether the risk level has changed.



When a cases closes to CS completely (excluding step down) the category of risk box should have an end date added and the CSE episode should be ended.

The screenshot displays the Liquidlogic LCS (Liquidlogic Children's System) interface. The user is logged in as Rafael QG Solano, 15 years, 17-Mar-2006 (Ref: 110025030) (Restricted). The interface shows the following sections:

- Key Dates:**
 - Referal Date (Case): 16-Feb-2021 09:26
 - Referal to CSE Date
 - CSE End Date
 - Last Strategy Discussion Date
 - Last Section 47 Date
 - CSE Screening Test Completed: No
 - Allocated Case Worker
 - CSE Social Worker
 - CSE Family Worker
- CSE Status:**
 - List is empty
 - New CSE Status
- Category of Risk:**

Date From	Date To	Category of Risk
09-Jun-2021	10-Jun-2021	Non-CSE
03-Jun-2021	10-Jun-2021	Medium

 - New Category of Risk
- Meetings:**
 - List is empty
 - New Meetings

Hand-drawn annotations include a blue circle around the 'End CSE Episode' button in the 'Further Details' section, a blue circle around the 'Category of Risk' table, and a blue number '2' next to the 'End CSE Episode' button.