**Child Exploitation Screening Tool Guidance**

The screening tool can be accessed at: [www.barnsley.gov.uk/contextual-safeguarding](http://www.barnsley.gov.uk/contextual-safeguarding)

*Please ensure that you always access the tool through this link to ensure that you are using the latest version of the tool.*

**Child Exploitation (CE) Screening tool, what is it and when to use it**

* The CE screening tool can help you decide whether a child or young person may be at risk of CE.
* The tool is neither a specialist assessment nor a referral form. It is intended to help you make an initial judgement regarding the risk of child exploitation.
* It should help you focus on the specific evidence, indicators, existing safety and vulnerabilities, and determine whether further investigations are needed (by Children’s Social Care).
* When you are considering making a referral to Children’s Social Care or sharing your concerns with the child’s allocated social worker, the screening tool should form the basis of those discussions and your professional analysis.
* It is designed to be used by any professionals working with children and parents or carers. NB: A child is defined as a person who is under 18 years of age.
* The screening tool works best when used as a multi-agency tool and in conjunction with children and families, where possible.

**How to use the CE screening tool**

* You need to exercise your own professional judgment when completing the tool. Factors such as the child’s age, additional vulnerabilities, their history etc, may mean that they are more vulnerable to CE.
* Professional judgment also includes capturing evidence-based concerns as well as concerns based on your ‘gut feeling’. It is important that you differentiate between the two and provide a rationale.
* You must include the child’s strengths and existing safety so that this can also be considered.
* No box should be left unchecked. Where you have ticked ‘yes’ (in the signs and indicators table) you **must** provide evidence to support this. This can include untested evidence such as information from a third party, but this should be clearly identified as such.

**What process should you follow?**

Do you work for Barnsley Social Care or Early Help? If so, see Page 2 (**orange** flowchart).

Do you work for another agency or service (internal or external to the Council)? If so, see Page 3 (**blue** flowchart).

**Steps to take for, Barnsley Children’s Social Care or Early Help workers, if you have concerns that a child is at risk of exploitation:**

**Complete the Child Exploitation Screening Tool – with the named worker if the case is currently open (also involve other professionals and child or family, where possible)**

**Does the screening tool identify Child Exploitation risk or concerns?**

**Yes**

**No**

**Submit the completed screening tool (via email) to the Contextual Safeguarding** **Team Manager**

**Record the outcome and continue with current plan. Upload screening tool to file, update when appropriate.**

**The Team Manager will screen the identified concerns and advise on next steps, including case consultation, potential referral to MACE and/or Contextual Safeguarding Team.**

**Steps to take for, other agencies or services (internal or external to Barnsley Council), if you have concerns that a child is at risk of exploitation:**

**Complete the Child Exploitation Screening Tool – (involve other professionals and child or family, where possible)**

**Does the screening tool identify Child Exploitation risk or concerns?**

**Yes**

**No**

**Contact Barnsley’s Integrated Front Door by phone, 01226 772423, for an initial discussion about your concerns. They will advise you of the next steps.**

**As appropriate, continue to monitor identified concerns and update screening tool.**

**NB: If concerns increase submit following the ‘yes’ process.**