

# Child Exploitation Multi Agency Audit

November 2022



This audit reviewed the records of eight children to consider how effectively organisations within South Gloucestershire identify and respond to child exploitation. The aim of the audit was to assess whether there were good multi agency standards for managing cases and whether organisations have implemented a robust and consistent response in line with statutory and good practice guidance, SGCP policies and procedures.

Suitable placements for young people at risk of exploitation who are in care are lacking. There are often lots of agency staff in place meaning that children are not always supported by consistent and trusted workers.



Key themes & tips

When there is presence of anti social behaviour which is very visible, it can be more difficult to identify indicators of exploitation. It is important that children are not labelled as perpetrators even when their behaviour in the community is challenging.

Where it is identified that a child is at risk of exploitation or being exploited, consider if it is also appropriate to make a referral to MARAC where there is also presence of domestic abuse.

## Organisations involved were:

- YOT
- Children's Social Care
- Sirona
- Preventative Services (Families Plus and YPS)
- Safeguarding Advisor for Education
- Police
- CAMHS
- BNSSG ICB on behalf of GPs
- BASE
- Educational Psychology
- Unity Sexual Health

## Acronyms:

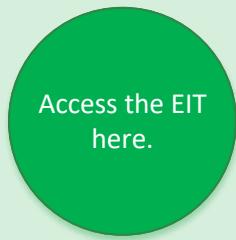
- EIT – Exploitation Identification Tool
- PIMM – Partnership Intelligence Management Meeting
- MARMM – Multi Agency Risk Management Meeting
- MARMP – Multi Agency Risk Management Plan
- SYV – Serious Youth Violence
- CCE – Child Criminal Exploitation



Children were aged from 14-18 years old



4 girls & 4 boys



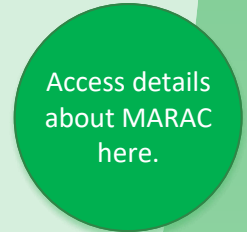
Access the EIT here.

## Good Practice:

- Relevant flags present on Sirona records.
- All of the children had been discussed at PIMM.
- There was good evidence of cross border working as part of PIMM.
- Evidence of good general multi agency working and relationship based practice.
- There was one example of continuation of Risk Management Meetings for a young person who turned 18, with BASE commissioned to continue working with young person post 18 years of age.
- Generally the EIT is used effectively to inform assessments and decision making.
- There was an example of good involvement of the family in decision making around a step up to social care.
- The inclusion of direct quotes from the child in records enhanced the authenticity of these records.

## Concerns Identified:

- BASE are not consistently invited to strategy meetings.
- At times it has been difficult to obtain feedback from the police and regular meetings haven't been taking place between social care and Op Topaz due to staffing changes in the police.
- GPs do not consistently know when a child is at risk of exploitation.
- Virtual School are not invited to MARMMs when there is no school placement and child is in care.
- When a child is not in school a referral to the Educational Psychology service is not always considered.
- There was evidence of use of 'blaming language' in relation to one child.
- There was evidence that incidents were at times viewed in isolation and cumulative impact was not considered.
- There appears, on occasions to be some delay in circulation of minutes and actions from MARMMs.
- There were some examples of delays in completion of return home interviews further to a missing episode, and this impacted on timeliness of information sharing with other agencies.



Access details about MARAC here.

