

Child Exploitation Multi-Agency Audit

December 2023

Read more about the TCE Practice Principles

Organisations involved were:

- YJS
- Children's Social Care
- Sirona
- Preventative Services
- Safeguarding Advisor for Education
- Police
- VRP
- CAMHS
- BNSSG ICB on behalf of GPs
- BASE
- Educational Psychology
- Unity Sexual Health
- Probation
- Pathways Learning Centre

The audit group met in December 2023 to undertake a benchmarking exercise for the Children's Partnership against the Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) Practice Principles to consider our local Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. This learning brief shares the headline information and key discussions which were varied and wide-ranging.

- **Key Strength:** The knife crime survey by the VRP identified areas where children feel unsafe and an action plan was created.
- **Headline Weakness:** Limited recognised safe spaces for children in South Glos.
- **Opportunities:** A new Youth Bus is coming to South Glos in 2024.

- **Key Strength:** There was a parent group about drill music organised by Exploitation Team.
- **Headline Weakness:** Sometimes, the premise of the MARRM means that it pushes the onus on creating safety for children from parents on to children's services.
- **Opportunities:** Can the script read by MARRM chairs at the start of the meeting be altered to ensure parents view themselves as partners?

- **Key Strength:** General consensus that the EIT is useful to consider risk of exploitation and distance travelled.
- **Headline Weakness:** EITs are not widely used by partner agencies.
- **Opportunities:** VRP are planning to purchase specialist mapping software.
- **Threat:** Agencies are not confident that their workforce have a good understanding of the RMP.

- **Key Strength:** Agencies identify with and advocate for a child centred approach in their work.
- **Headline Weakness:** Understanding of the RMP not embedded.
- **Opportunities:** Develop a culture whereby professionals are empowered to challenge use of language to maintain focus on the child.



- **Key Strength:** PIMM is good example of services working together to address the multiple ways in which children have experienced trauma.
- **Headline Weakness:** Not all agencies offer trauma informed training to their workforce.
- **Opportunities:** The VRP are trialling a trauma profiles system.

- **Key Strength:** Education Inclusion Project (EIP) is responsive to children's needs when they are at risk of permanent exclusion from school.
- **Headline Weakness:** Victim blaming language is still used by professionals when referring to children at risk of exploitation.
- **Opportunities:** Consider opportunities to raise awareness around indicators of CSE in males in particular.
- **Threats:** Instability of funding for EIP.

- **Key Strength:** The Request for Help Form contains more than one space to include the child's voice.
- **Headline Weakness:** There is no routine mechanism for gathering input from children about support they receive as a response to risk of exploitation.
- **Opportunities:** Consider ways in which existing teams and organisations can obtain feedback from children.

- **Key Strength:** Workers across agencies place emphasis on building relationships with children.
- **Headline Weakness:** Is there good understanding of the role youth services play in the lives of children at risk of exploitation?
- **Opportunities:** Is there a way of linking in with youth services more effectively? Could there be a youth services representative sitting on PIMM?

The Children's Society – Culture of Drill Music

The Met Police – Decoding Drill

Key Themes for Action



Drill Music

- Need to share knowledge around drill music with professionals.
- Consider how to ensure children and parents are aware of drill music and associations with exploitation and SYV.
- Ensure professionals can access support with deciphering the language of drill music.

Exploitation Identification Tool

- Consider review of the tool to ensure it reflects current local and national context around child exploitation.
- Consideration around how to support partners to complete the EIT effectively and to inform next steps for children.

Child Sexual Exploitation

- Number of children identified at risk of CSE is decreasing.
- Sharing of knowledge around CSE with workers across agencies to increase awareness.

Youth Services

- Better engagement with youth services and provision in the local area.
- Ensuring youth services are aware of key processes in South Glos relating to exploitation.
- Exploring whether a youth services representative can sit on PIMM.

Learning from Data

- Plan to increase data regards extra-familial harm; this re-developed Children's Partnership Report should be launched in Q1 2024/25.
- Ensure Partnership has clear view of key data relating to exploitation.
- Use of data to identify and drive forward priorities.

Acronyms:

CSE – Child Sexual Exploitation, EIP – Education Inclusion Project, EIT – Exploitation Identification Tool, MARAMM – Multi-Agency Risk Management Meeting, PIMM – Partnership Intelligence Management Meeting, RMP – Risk Management Pathway, SYV – Serious Youth Violence, TCE – Tackling Child Exploitation