

<i>Practice Standard</i>	<i>Auditor Prompts</i>
<p>1. a) Please summarise briefly your agency's historical involvement with this child/young person</p> <p>b) Were there any early indicators which might have precipitated CSE?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has your service/agency suspected that a child/young person is experiencing sexual exploitation or has the child/young person made a disclosure? - If yes, did the worker discuss their concerns with their manager and were CP procedures followed? - Has a CSE Screening tool been completed with the child/yp to determine whether further investigations are needed? Has careful consideration been given to the issue of consent ¹ - If after discussion there remains concerns, has a referral been made to Children's SW and the Police? - Where issues do not meet the criteria for referral to Children's Social Work, has a referral been made to other services such as WISE, sexual health services, LGBT projects, counselling etc? - How effective is CSE prevention work/have the circumstances improved for the child/young person & the need for targeted services lessened? - Where an early help assessment has been undertaken, has it considered the indicators² of children being sexually exploited? - Has the child been missing from home, care and/or education at some point? If yes, has information gathered from the return interview been used to inform the identification of CSE?
<p>2. The quality & timeliness of the original referral to MASH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is the reason for the referral clear? - Is there enough information/evidence to make an informed decision about further action?
<p>3. a) The timeliness and appropriateness of the response to the referral</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there a timely response to the referral from MASH ? - On receipt of the referral has the social worker discussed the case with other services and professionals that they consider relevant and decided on a course of action within one working day of the referral? - Are the reasons for the decision appropriately recorded? - Has a written reply been sent to the referring agency? - Where there is no reply from Social Work, has the referring agency followed this up and ensured that a written reply is received (even if NFA)
<p>b) The quality and timeliness of Immediate Protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where there is a likelihood of serious immediate harm, has appropriate action been taken to secure the immediate safety of the child as follows; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A strategy discussion has taken place to discuss planned emergency action ▪ The child/young person has been seen to decide how best to protect them & the outcome has been recorded ▪ Where necessary legal advice has been sought & the outcome recorded - Is the outcome considered to be appropriate and does it demonstrate sound decision making?

¹ DfE, 2012 What to do if you suspect a child is being sexually exploited, p2: point 6 [StepbyStepGuide](#)

Note: There is emerging evidence that professionals typically view children as consenting to sexual activity and therefore take no further action.

² Barnardos Spot the Signs, August 2011 <http://www.barnardos.org.uk/cutthemfree/spotthesigns>

See also: Sussex Police Operation Kite: 11 Warning Signs

<p>4 The quality & appropriateness of the assessment completed by Children's Social Work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has all relevant information been obtained from professionals and others including historic information held by social work/Is there an up to date chronology? - Was the child/yp previously known to Children's SW? - If this child/young person has a history of going missing has due consideration been given to all the risks associated with this behaviour? - Is there a robust analysis of need which includes risk & protective factors, including parental capacity? - Is the assessment completed in a timely manner? - Was a specialist in depth CSE risk assessment completed to determine a level of intervention/Has the risk assessment been carried out jointly by Children's SW & Police? - Has consideration been given to the particular needs and sensitivities of girls and boys, children with a physical disability or learning disabilities, those from BME communities, or those for whom English is not their first language? - Are child protection enquiries thorough & timely, informed by a decision made by a strategy discussion (involving SW, Police, Health and other bodies such as the referring agency)? - Are the findings in relation to significant harm clear & do they result in urgent action to protect the child/young person? - Is decision making proportionate especially if it was for no further involvement? - Are decisions, actions and engagement with the family and other professionals clearly recorded? - Where the child or young person is not deemed to be in need, did the social worker consider onward referral to agencies who provide services for children and young people with additional needs (for example, the WISE project, sexual health service, counselling, LGBTU projects, etc)?
<p>5 The effective progression of the work from this point forward including the quality & effectiveness of intervention and support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there an outcome focused (safety) plan which specifies immediate & short term actions and who will do what and by when?/Are all of the risks to the child/yp adequately addressed? - Are the actions timely and do they directly address reducing risks to child/young person? - Is the outcome considered to be appropriate and does it demonstrate sound decision making? - Does the plan take into account the particular circumstances of the child and is it tailored to meet their specific needs e.g. whether a child in care and/or preparing to leave care, not receiving a suitable education, often missing from home/care, may have been trafficked and/or may be affected by gang activity? - Has a strategy been developed with the child & family to address the child's needs and help him/her to move on from the exploitative situation? - Is there evidence of interventions & support such as specialist therapeutic support, mentoring, return to ETE, outreach work, help to secure appropriate health services, assistance to develop a positive network of friends/family? - Are services flexible to meet the needs of both young children and adolescents? - Where a child/young person is placed with a foster carer, does the carer have experience of building trusting relationships at skills at containing young people?

Prompts for auditors: Multi Agency CSE Audit

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there evidence that plans and decisions are reviewed and alternative authoritative action is taken where change is not secured and the risk to the child/young people remains or intensifies. - If the case has closed, are the reasons for the decision clearly recorded and has follow-on support been planned for the child and family?
6	<p>a) The focus on the child/YP including: the involvement of the child/yp in decisions made in respect of them</p> <p>b) Is the child's voice heard? If they are not in agreement with the plan, is rationale and decision making clear?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has the child/young person been seen alone at key stages of assessment, care planning and delivery? - Has the child or young person's wishes and feelings/their understanding of their situation been considered when determining what services to provide and before making decisions about action to be taken to protect them? - Has advocacy been provided to assist child/yp in putting forward their views? - Is there evidence of an ongoing and stable relationship of trust between the worker and the child? - Is there evidence that we are really listening to the child/yp? - Have we met the child/young person's language and communication needs? - Has the impact of diversity been considered? Is help and protection for the child/yp sensitive & responsive to age, gender, disability, ethnicity, faith or belief, language, race and sexual orientation?
7	The support provided to parents/carers and other family members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have parents been consulted and kept informed of the outcome of assessments & decisions? - Where parents and carers are not implicated in child sexual exploitation, is access to support available? Is access to support available for siblings?
8	The quality & impact of multi agency working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are agencies working together effectively to protect the child? - Has information been shared as required and is timely? - Are agencies making contributions as required ? - Are agencies measuring the impact and difference they are making?
9	The quality and effectiveness of supervision & management oversight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there evidence of regular supervision and opportunities for staff to reflect on practice? - Is the impact of supervision evident in the case file? - Is the worker receiving the necessary support to work effectively with this case? - Is there effective management oversight, direction and decision making?
10	The quality of reporting & recording in general	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are records clear/concise/accurate/ up to date/complete? - Do records demonstrate analysis and reflective practice? - Is there evidence that Managers have read records & recorded their decisions if appropriate?