



Bath & North East Somerset
Local Safeguarding Children Board

Multi-Agency Protocol for Children and Young People at Risk of Sexual Exploitation

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Contents

1. Introduction
2. Definition
3. Purpose of Protocol
4. Scope of Protocol
5. The role of multi-agency partners in challenging CSE
6. Advice & Referral
7. CSE MARAC
8. Looked After Children
9. Parents & Carers

Appendices

Appendix A CSE MARAC Terms of Reference

Appendix B Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Form

Appendix C – CSE Panel Referral Form

Appendix D – CSE Workflow for Duty

Appendix E – CSE Workflow for Single Point of Contact (SPOC)

1. Introduction

This protocol addresses local multi-agency working arrangements agreed by B&NES Local Safeguarding Children's Board. This protocol draws from the guidance and is consistent with National Guidance and the Bath and North East Somerset LSCB CSE Strategy. It has also adopted the South West Child Protection guidance for Exploitation and Trafficking and Safeguarding Children and Young People at risk of Sexual Exploitation.

2. Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive something (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts and money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child Sexual Exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example, being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phone without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person will have power over them by virtue of age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Abuse, coercion and intimidation are common; involvement in the exploitative relationships being characterized in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

3. Purpose of Protocol

To provide local procedures in line with the guidance stated in Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation 2009.

The aims and purpose of this protocol is:

- To identify and coordinate support to those young people that meet the criteria of being at risk of or being sexually exploited
- To promote the need to take action against those intent on abusing and exploiting children and young people
- To provide awareness raising and preventative education for the welfare of children and young people who are or may be sexually exploited
- To provide timely and effective interventions with children and families to safeguard those vulnerable to sexual exploitation
- To recognise the links between children missing from home and care and sexual exploitation, and the importance of effective multi-agency procedures in relation to missing children

The multi-agency partnerships will seek to work with young people to reduce the risk of sexual exploitation in accordance with the policies, procedures and guidance of the B&NES Local Safeguarding Children Board and the South West Child Protection Procedures

4. Scope of Protocol

This protocol comprises a number of areas in which children and young people may be at risk of sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation is often linked to other issues in the life of a child or young person.

4.1 Sexual Exploitation and links to other types of crime

This includes:

- Child trafficking (into, out of and within the UK)
- Domestic violence
- Sexual violence in intimate relationships (including peer to peer relationships)
- Grooming (both online and offline)
- Abusive images of children and their distribution (organised abuse)
- Organised sexual abuse of children
- Gang related activity
- Immigration-related offences
- Domestic servitude

4.2 Significant Factors

Significant factors for children and young people who may be at risk of sexual exploitation

- Running away from home/care and going missing
- Non-attendance at school and school phobia
- Being in residential or foster care
- Drug and alcohol misuse
- Parents/carers with a high level of vulnerabilities
- Sexually risky behaviour
- Sexual health problems
- Domestic servitude, neglect and violence
- Bullying
- Teenage pregnancy
- Long term sexual, physical and psychological harm
- Forced marriage
- Mental health issues
- Self-harm and suicide
- Changes in behaviour or habits
- Forced isolation from family, friends, community
- Learning disabilities
- Immigration status
- In “relationship” with older male or female
- Involved in gang culture
- In receipt of goods or money as “gifts” or for which there is no account
- Offending
- Homelessness

4.3 Attitudes of children and young people

It is very common for children and young people not to recognise that they are being abused due to the grooming methods often used by the perpetrators. The needs of children and particularly of young people aged 13 to 17 years are likely to be overlooked for this reason. Although faced with limited choice, they may believe themselves to be acting voluntarily. It may take many weeks or months for practitioners who work with young people to build up their trust, and help them to recognise that they are being sexually exploited. It is important to know that not all victims are girls and not all perpetrators are men.

5. The role of multi-agency partners in challenging sexual exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) takes place in local communities and information known to partners could be used to highlight the threat and establish risk. It is anticipated that an improved intelligence picture will enable effective action in a greater number of cases of child sexual exploitation, thereby reducing the harm which would otherwise be caused to the young victims and their families.

Specialist multi-agency partners will conduct meetings/discussion to share relevant intelligence and information and co-ordinate responses. This will result in greater ability to disrupt and prosecute perpetrators and provide early intervention to reduce harm and promote wellbeing. This information will be shared as appropriate at the regular CSE MARAC (formerly the Risk Management Panel) so that agencies can share intelligence on adults of concern, consider developing themes/concerns that are developing from data and agree plans to reduce risk for young people. This meeting/discussion will **not** take the place of a Section 47 investigation/strategy discussion if it is felt that the age and/or circumstance of the young person warrant the need to proceed under Child Protection procedures.

This improved intelligence picture will inform partners of the extent of the risk posed by perpetrators. All key agencies will work together to keep children and young people safe from harm. These agencies will be drawn from the statutory, voluntary, and community sectors and their work will follow the principles outlined in the B&NES CSE Strategy.

The multi-agency panel will have the potential to call upon the diverse skills and experience available from its members. In conjunction with sharing information to increase the understanding of the risks posed by CSE they will bring together a range of specialist knowledge and partnership agreement to ensure that each organisation plays its role to address the needs of young people considered to be at risk. The panel will also draw up a multi-agency plan that confirms the actions to be undertaken by the respective agencies.

6. Advice and Referral

Professionals in all agencies should be alert to the possibility that a child/young person they are working with may be being sexually exploited. The professional may already have concerns about the child/young person e.g. missing school, missing from home, self-harming. The professional should discuss their concerns with their agency's designated safeguarding lead and complete a Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Form (SERAF) including the professional judgment section. **If the score is under 16 and the child/young person is NOT considered to be at risk or likely risk of significant harm a referral to the single point of contact should be made. Once the discussion has taken place the completed SERAF should be sent to CSE.Referrals@bathnes.GCSX.gov.uk**

Note: Where a child/young person is considered to be at risk or likely to be at risk of significant harm or if the agency's designated safeguarding lead is not available, a referral must be made immediately to Children's Social Care Duty Team 01225 396313 or via the secure e-mail address; childcare.duty@bathnes.GCSX.gov.uk

6.1 Children's Services

If the score on the SERAF is over 16 and OR the child/young person is considered to be at risk or likely to be at risk of significant harm or if the agency's designated safeguarding lead is not available, a referral must be made immediately to Children's Social Care Duty Team 01225 396313 or via the secure e-mail address; childcare.duty@bathnes.GCSX.gov.uk

It is essential that if the score is under 16 but the child/young person is considered to be at risk or likely to be at risk of significant harm or the designated safeguarding lead is not available a referral is made to Children's Social Care duty team.

On receipt of a CSE referral, the Duty social worker will consider the need for completing a Single Assessment. If the child/young person is considered to be at risk a Strategy Meeting/Discussion will take place and a S47 investigation may be initiated with appropriate steps taken to secure the safety of the child/young person.

As part of the Single Assessment (or s47 investigation) the Social Worker must contact the Police for any information they might have, and notify them of the concerns. If the notification is sent via email, the referring social worker must always check that the email has been received. If there are concerns that an adult working with children is involved in the exploitation of children, these concerns must be shared with the LADO, in the same way that other Child Protection concerns are shared.

Where a child/young person is already known to Children's Social Care the Strategy Meeting/Discussion should be chaired by the Team Manager (or Deputy Team Manager) for the allocated Social Worker. If a S47 investigation is required, it should be completed by the allocated social worker or a sufficiently experienced social worker.

In addition, there should be a lead for CSE in your agency you can approach for advice and information.

ALL completed SERAF assessments need to be sent to the email address above. (if you believe the young person to be at risk or likely risk of significant harm then you must send the SERAF and a completed C2 to duty). When the SERAF is received at the single point of contact they will be looked at by the CSE operational lead and they will decide whether they agree with the score on the form. The professional judgement will also be taken into consideration and a discussion will take place with the referrer. The risk category will then be finalized and one of the following will occur:

Scoring and Risk Level

ALL completed SERAFs must be sent to the Single Point of Contact (SPOC). When it is received the CSE operational lead will contact you to discuss the SERAF with you. It is essential that you fill in the professional judgement section of the SERAF.

Score 0-5 – not at risk of sexual exploitation (Level 1)

No change in previous level of intervention (universal, targeted, specialist services) required. No multi-agency forum required if not already in place to address other needs. The worker who carried out the CSE assessment should ensure the child/young person has education to stay safe.

The CSE risk assessment should be repeated if there is any significant change in circumstances that might affect the level of risk of CSE.

Score 6-10 – mild risk of sexual exploitation (Level 2)

Targeted services through CAF and team around the child should be considered and informed by the CSE assessment (SERAF) if not already in place. The CSE assessment (SERAF) should inform planning and review if child already worked with by social care.

The lead professional or a member of the team around the child who has a good working relationship with them should do a specific piece of work on risk awareness and staying safe.

Or

Where applicable the young people who fall into this category may be referred to the Willow Project for a specific piece of work to be completed with them to ensure the risk does not increase

Score 10-15 – Moderate risk of sexual exploitation (Level 3)

Children and Young People who fall within this category will be referred into the Willow Project for further work to be done with them. They will have an ongoing piece of work completed with them (there is not a time limit on this).

Or

If appropriate the young person will be referred in to BASE (Barnardo's Against Sexual Exploitation) project where the risks are applicable for a BASE service

All children who fall into the moderate category will have the CSE risk assessment repeated every 8 weeks

Score 16+ - Significant risk of sexual exploitation (Level 4, a copy must be sent to childcare.duty@bathnes.GCSX.gov.uk & CSE.Referrals@bathnes.GCSX.gov.uk)

Children who fall into this category will be referred into the BASE project

6.2 Perpetrator response when aged under 18

Where evidence identifies the perpetrator of CSE is under 18 years, consideration will be given to what would be the appropriate response. The CSE MARAC will consider any young person who is associated with procuring young people (male and female) who do not understand the concept of consent or are reckless to the abusive nature of their behaviour. The attitude of some young men towards young women reflects societal behaviour that contains elements of domestic abuse and which often expresses itself in terms of sexual violence. For some young women they will not always identify their boyfriend's behaviour as abusive as their expectations are distorted.

There are different levels of intervention suitable to different audiences. At universal level, schools are encouraged to address issues of consent within PHSE. But where intervention needs to be more targeted and are identified within the CSE Panel a specialist approach will be adopted.

A service is being considered that makes links between the work in B&NES that responds to harmful sexual behaviour and the service relating to domestic abuse programme (New Way). Details of this initiative will be circulated in due course. The focus will be on "consequential learning" for them and their victims.

7. CSE MARAC (the CSE MARAC is currently under review)

Each of the organisations engaged to co-operate in the panel will be expected to agree to implement and adhere to the principles set out in the **Terms of Reference** (Appendix A). They will also be required to adhere to the B&NES Information Sharing Protocol. These requirements will extend to any collectively agreed amendments to these documents.

The Panel will not detract from the young people's involvement with Child Protection Procedures and the requirements of safeguarding work if this is felt to be appropriate. Members of the forum will be encouraged to work with the LSCB to ensure the collation of relevant data or information which will inform the practice and service developments.

7.1 Key Purpose of the CSE MARAC

The key purpose of the MARAC is to discuss significant cases of CSE. The MARAC is there to enable disruption in CSE cases. Where information is known about locations and perpetrators (linked to specific cases where appropriate) this is what should be referred to MARAC. Where significant cases are identified there should be police involvement to develop disruption plans and for all professionals to understand and be part of these plans.

MARAC does not and should not replace strategy meetings

MARAC meetings will have a focus on sharing information and providing the Police with information that will assist the disruption of perpetrators. Police colleagues will need to ensure that meetings are able to provide sufficient levels of local intelligence which can be used to disrupt suspected CSE activity.

7.2 Purpose of CSE MARAC

- Share and clarify intelligence
- Systematically gather information regarding links with offenders and young people. This wider strategy could also enable cross-referencing of associates and show relationships between groups of people on a borough wide and cross-borough basis.
- Consider any action against and the likelihood of prosecution of relevant adults
- Agree on action and make recommendations to address the concern
- Consideration is to be given to the impact on the child of prosecution of relevant adults

7.3 Police action following CSE MARAC

A Safeguarding/Disruption Plan targeting identified individuals can be effective. Whenever a young person is the subject of a strategy meeting he/she is entered onto the Police intelligence system, which alerts officers to the fact that they are vulnerable. This means that any information regarding that young person is collated. The young person is flagged up on the police system and links between offenders/pimps/boyfriends and other young people can be identified. If the young person is found with an offender, or potential offender, this will be entered as an intelligence record. Incidents of concern at the address to which the young person goes missing can be collated and addresses can be recorded systematically for the police to check if the young person goes missing again. If the young person is willing to make a formal complaint/allegation a statement/ABE video will be taken. The young person's situation will be monitored through intelligence gathering and a report

will be made to the relevant professionals if further concerns are raised prior to a review meeting being held.

The police can also use Restraining Orders, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, Child Abduction Notices (The Child Abduction Act 1984, Section 2) to disrupt incidences of sexual exploitation.

7.4 Children's Services action following CSE MARAC

Where a case has been deemed to need social care involvement this will continue after panel as normal. **The panel does not replace any child protection, children in need or children in care processes for individual children. The procedure is not intended to replace individual agency procedures nor replace other actions that workers may take to safeguard young people. It offers an additional risk management and information sharing approach to complex and moderate to high risk cases.**

8. Children in Care

The following factors should be taken into account when considering concerns about a looked after child:

- The risks to other children in placement
- Whether the child should remain in placement
- The feasibility of controlling the child's movements and the whether the placement can keep him/her safe
- Whether the child's parents should be informed. Any decision not to inform the parents must be recorded on the child's file
- Other children in the placement should be monitored to identify whether they are also at risk of harm or involved in sexual exploitation
- Foster carers and residential care workers should be asked to take positive action to clarify and record suspicions and minimise the child's involvement in sexual exploitation
- If there is knowledge or suspicion that looked after children are involved in sexual exploitation together or are controlled by the same person there will need to be additional planning and consideration given to using child protection and/or organised abuse procedures
- Our approach is to work inclusively and in partnership with families and carers, acknowledging their concerns and stress factors.

9. Working with Parents/Carers

Parents and carers play the most crucial role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of their children. If a child or young person is suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm through sexual exploitation by someone outside the family, this may not necessarily be as a result of parents or carers having difficulties in meeting their child's needs. Involving parents/families early in interventions can be a significant way forward in protecting and supporting their children.

In some cases, parents and carers will be complicit in the exploitation of their children.



Bath & North East Somerset
Local Safeguarding Children Board

Appendix A

BATH AND NORTH-EAST SOMERSET

CSE MARAC

TERMS OF REFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

These terms of reference cover the organization, decision making and planning aspects of the CSE MARAC set up within Bath and North-East Somerset. The panel will be comprised of professionals, all working within the local area. The MARAC seeks to ensure the safety of young people and to strengthen and further improve multi-profession decision making. The MARAC will look at disruption of CSE across the B&NES area and will commit to developing disruption plans for CSE cases. The CSE MARAC does not replace the requirement for strategy meetings where applicable. The terms of reference need to be read in conjunction with:

- ❖ Defensible Decision Making (MARAC Guidance)
- ❖ South-West Region Child Protection Procedures

INVOLVED AGENCIES

Agencies represented on the MARAC will be as follows:

- ❖ CAMH's
- ❖ Youth Services
- ❖ Avon and Somerset Police
- ❖ Children's Services (Social Care)
- ❖ Children Missing Education
- ❖ Willow Project (representative for)

The panel will be chaired by the police, and Children and Young Peoples Services will act as vice chair. Each panel member is expected to appropriately represent the professional views and responsibilities of their agency.

It is anticipated that members agreeing to recommendations allocated to their agency take full responsibility for the onward delegation of these tasks and for ensuring they have been completed within agreed timescales.

FREQUENCY

The Panel will meet as and when required. With meetings being held at the Civic Centre, Temple Street, Keynsham.

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

All presentations to the Panel will be made by the Lead Professional and where possible or applicable their Team Manager responsible for the young person. They will bring the relevant intelligence and information to the panel.

This paperwork will be circulated to all panel members a minimum of 3 working days prior to the meeting. All panel members will be expected to attend with papers and background knowledge of the cases to be discussed / presented.

Presentations by the Lead Professional (key workers), Team Managers will be scheduled at thirty minutes intervals. Staff presenting cases will be expected to attend promptly at the allocated time. Following discussion of the case by the panel, the chair will complete the Recommendations for action / planning which will constitute the agreed plan to support/ manage / reduce and disrupt the CSE presented (see appendix A). The details of the plan will be confirmed verbally to the presenting worker and agencies at the conclusion of each case discussion. Written confirmation of decisions will be provided to Team Managers by the Chair within 48 hours, with an expectation that recommendations / actions are entered into Care First within 48 hours of receipt of decisions/actions.

CRITERIA FOR CASES

The cases referred to CSE MARAC must have followed the multi-agency CSE protocol that includes referral process for CSE cases

- i) Specific Practice Concerns:**
 - Child Sexual Exploitation
 - Child Trafficking

The primary focus for this panel is to disrupt the criminal activity surrounding CSE and ensure patterns can be identified where possible.

CSE MARAC

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION / DECISION SHEET

NAME OF YOUNG PERSON -----

AGE / D.O.B. -----

ALLOCATED WORKER -----

TEAM / SERVICE -----

INVOLVED AGENCIES -----

NATURE OF CONCERN:

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES IF IDENTIFIED RISK IS NOT REDUCED

ACTIONS AND DECISIONS: (For use by Panel Chair)

RESOURCES / COST IMPLICATIONS: (For use by Panel Chair)



Bath & North East Somerset
Local Safeguarding Children Board

Appendix B

Child Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Form (SERAF)

Child's name & address			
Date of Birth		Gender	
Ethnicity		Languages spoken	
Specify any SEN or disability if child is disabled		Date of this child sexual exploitation risk assessment	
Name, agency and contact details of worker completing assessment			
Known to children's social care? If so, since when?		Is child in care? If so, start date and legal status	

<p>Is child on CP plan? If so, since when?</p>		<p>Involvement with the Youth Offending Service? If, since when?</p>	
<p>Is the child receiving support or services from any other agency?</p> <p>Please list them here e.g. CAMHS, CMES, etc.</p>			
<p>Vulnerabilities</p>	<p>Please tick Score 1 for each ticked</p>	<p>Vulnerabilities</p>	<p>Please tick Score 1 for each ticked</p>
<p>Emotional neglect by parent/carer/family member</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Family history of mental health difficulties</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Physical abuse by parent/carer/family member</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Low self-esteem</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Sexual abuse</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Unsuitable/inappropriate accommodation</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Breakdown of family relationships</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Isolated from peers/social networks</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Family history of domestic abuse</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Lack of positive relationships with a productive/nurturing adult</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Family history of substance misuse</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<p>Moderate risk indicators</p>			<p>Please tick if present on date of assessment or during the past 6 months (Score 1 for each ticked)</p>
<p>Staying out late</p>			<input type="checkbox"/>

Multiple callers (unknown adults/older young people)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of a mobile phone that causes concern	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expressions of despair (self-harm, overdose, eating disorder, challenging behaviour, aggression)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exclusion from school or unexplained absences from or not engaged in school/college/training/work	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disclosure of sexual/physical assault followed by withdrawal of allegation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peers involved in clipping/sexual exploitation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drugs misuse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alcohol misuse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of the internet that causes concern	<input type="checkbox"/>
Living independently and failing to respond to attempts by worker to keep in touch	<input type="checkbox"/>
Significant risk indicators	Please tick if present between 6 and 12 months ago (Score 1 for each tick)
Periods of going missing (most of day, overnight or longer)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older "boyfriend"/relationship with controlling adult	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical abuse by controlling adult/physical injury without plausible explanation	<input type="checkbox"/>

Emotional abuse by controlling adult	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entering/leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults (Not taking and driving away: car theft)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothing or other items	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frequenting areas known for on/off street sexual exploitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CSE risk assessment score		Risk Category (1-4)
Referral to children's social care? If so, give date.		
Principal area of concern (please state in here any names of possible perpetrators and/or locations if known:		

All completed SERAF forms must be sent to:
CSE.Referrals@bathnes.GCSX.gov.uk

All forms with a score of 16+ must also be sent to:
childcare.duty@bathnes.GCSX.gov.uk

This form was originally devised by Barnardos

Revised May 2016

Professional Judgment Sheet

Please provide any additional information in the box below. This box is for you to provide any relevant information that increases your concerns regarding CSE. It is essential that you pass on any relevant information.

This form was originally devised by Barnardos. Revised May 2016



Bath & North East Somerset
Local Safeguarding Children Board

Appendix C

CSE MARAC

Referral Form

This form is to be completed by the allocated Social Worker/Lead Professional working with the young person. It should then be sent to Jean.Williams@bathnes.gcsx.gov.uk

Young Persons Details			
Name		DOB	
Address		School/College	
Living at home	Yes		No
If not at home, where and with whom			

Professional Network	
Please list key agencies involved and contacts within each agency:	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Presenting concerns
Please state your concerns include any names of possible perpetrators, locations and any other intelligence related

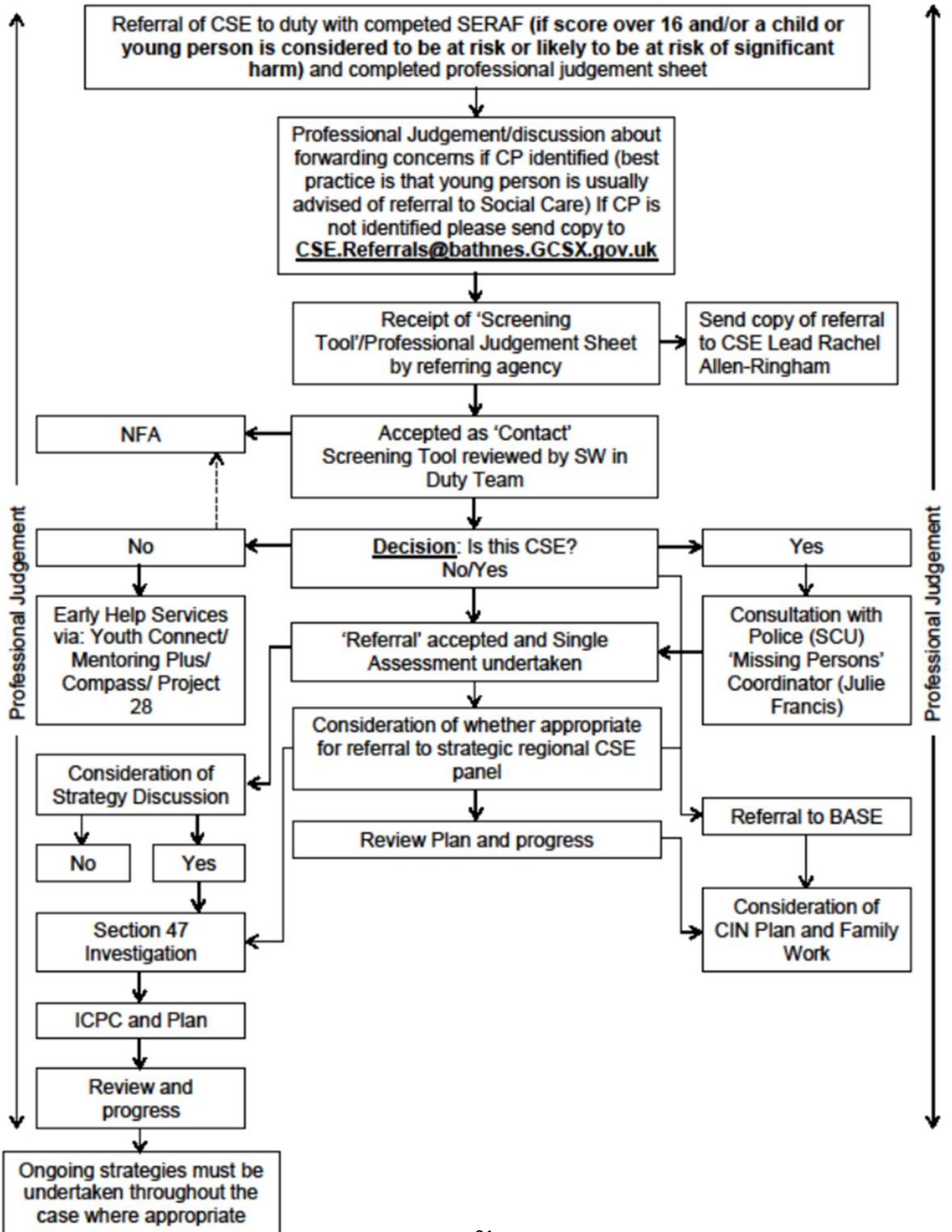
Analysis of current risk
What is the referrer's view of the level of risk and what might be the consequences to the young person if CSE issues are not addressed?

Referrer's details	
Name	
Organisation	
Email	
Telephone no.	

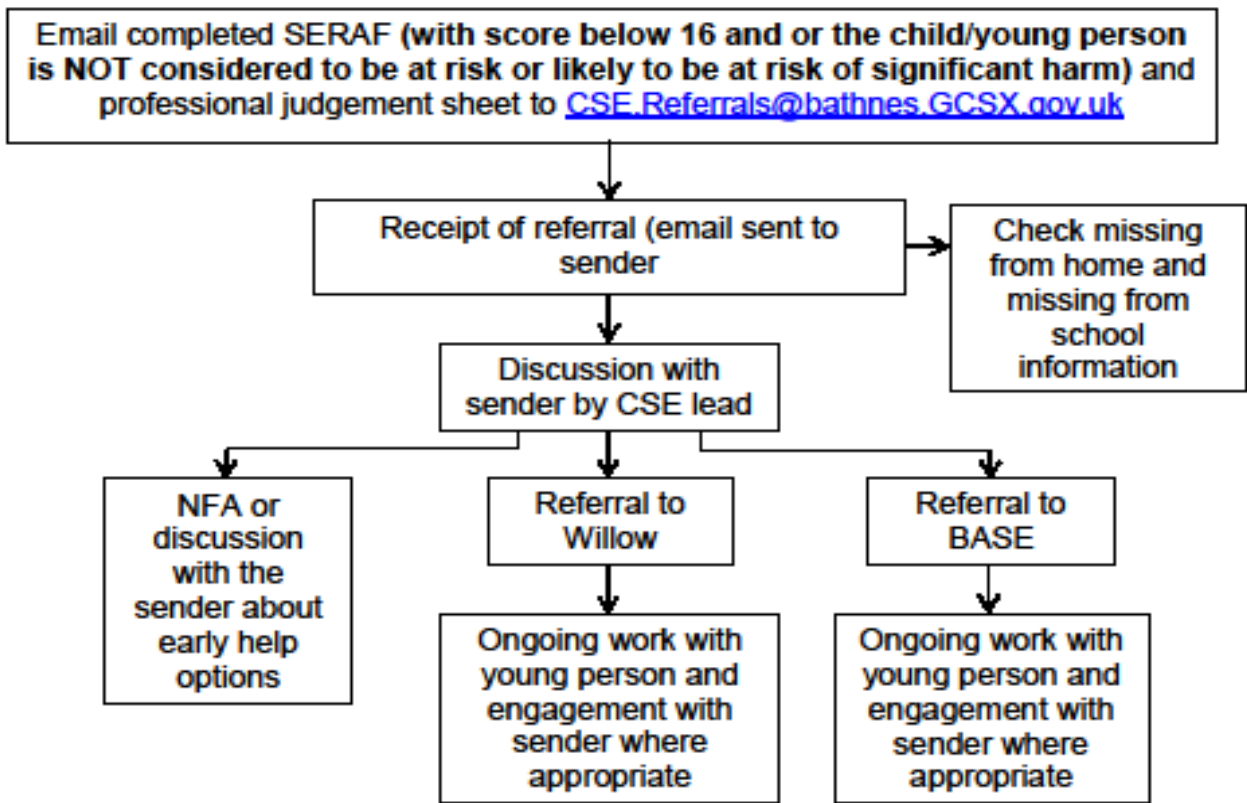
By placing the referral, the Social Worker/Lead Professional commits to attending the Panel and presenting the issues/concerns to the Panel for discussion.

The referral cannot be discussed unless a SERAF is completed alongside this referral

CSE Workflow for Duty



CSE Workflow for Single Point of Contact



Where a child/young person is considered to be at risk or likely to be at risk of significant harm or if the agency's designated safeguarding lead is not available, a referral must be made immediately to Children's Social Care Duty Team 01225 396313 or via the secure e-mail address; childcare.duty@bathnes.GCSX.gov.uk

Professional Judgement

Professional Judgement