

Contextual Risk Early Identification Tool

Some adolescents are at increased risk of being drawn into gangs, crime, going missing and being sexually exploited. Adolescence can be a confusing and challenging time for many young people, their parents and professionals working with them. It is essential for the multi-agency network to work closely together and alongside families to help young people and to reduce the risk.

Risk can be increasingly external and contextual at this age. Assessing risk for adolescents requires practitioners to think beyond the family situation to also focus on peer relationships, behaviour in the community and how children's adverse history may impact on their ability to navigate situations they encounter in their day to day life.

How should practitioners use this tool?

- The form is designed to help practitioners link what may seem unrelated concerns and to evidence a general sense of unease about the child's welfare and differentiate between general worrying teenage behaviour and concerns that may suggest a degree of risk, including grooming for and active child exploitation, which could be sexual as well as criminal.
- Professional judgement is key. The examples are to help build a holistic picture of a young person's vulnerabilities, risks they may be exposed to and protective factors
- Practitioners can tick boxes, mark them yes, no or unknown to help identify the areas of concern or identify what they need to know more about. It is not a scoring system.
- Some practitioners, depending on their role, may simply use the tick box section to inform a discussion with their safeguarding lead
- For other practitioners, the most important sections of the form are the summary sections where they can review and reflect on their findings and decide on next steps. This may include a discussion with their safeguarding lead, sharing information with multi-agency partners, a referral to a specialist service or a referral to Early Help or Children's Social Care

This tool is not:

- A referral form
- A score card
- A replacement for any risk assessment tools used in individual agencies

When to use the Contextual Risk Early Identification Tool:

- It can be used at **any time** when there are emerging or changing concerns in relation to a young person

If there are concerns about the immediate protection of a child professionals should not delay in responding to these concerns.

Child vulnerability and risk factors - this is not an exhaustive list, always consider information shared by other professionals and the family	Concern?
Family history:	
Living in a dysfunctional home (DV, substance misuse, mental health, neglect)	
Family breakdown-multiple partners	
Attachment issues in child/parental relationship	
History of abuse/neglect (previous CP plan or CIN plan)	
Unresolved bereavement, loss or trauma	
Adverse childhood experiences	
Known to have been trafficked	
Immigration status issues	
Family history of crime	
Looked after child	
Previous involvement with Children's social care	
Emotional health:	
Poor self-image	
Self-Harming -cutting/overdosing/ Eating difficulties	
Difficulty making or maintaining friendship with peers	
Mental health issues	
Conduct disorder	
School:	
History of bullying/victim of bullying	
Pattern of going missing from school for a few hours in the day	
Truancing from school	
Fixed term exclusions	
Peer relationships	
Breakdown of school placements due to behavioural problems	
Additional educational needs	
Behaviour:	
Regularly coming home late	
Staying out overnight without permission	
Going missing	
Drugs or alcohol – consider frequency and dependency	
Extensive use of phone/internet, particularly late at night	
Communicating with unknown people online	
Posting intimate pictures online	
Relationships:	
Associating with gang members, siblings, friends	
Associating with other young person where there are exploitation concerns	
Neighbourhood information	
Other vulnerabilities or risks	

Protective factors - this is not an exhaustive list, always consider information shared by other professionals and the family	Concern?
Family history:	
Living in a stable home environment	
Primary care giver is consistent and available to the young person	
Strong attachment between the young person and their parents	
No previous safeguarding concerns	
Family and professionals have worked well together to address any trauma or loss	
Positive childhood experiences	
Stable situation for the family – housing, immigration, finances	
Positive relationship for young person with siblings and extended family	
Clear and consistent boundaries set and mostly adhered to by parent/care giver	
Looked after children – stable, long-term placement	
Emotional health:	
Young person has a positive self-image	
Young person has good problem solving skills	
Positive, longstanding friendship group	
Robust mental health	
School:	
Does not get involved in bullying either as a victim or perpetrator	
Attending all lessons	
Good attendance	
Good behaviour overall	
Positive peer relationships	
Consistent school provision	
Making good educational progress	
Additional needs being well-met	
Behaviour:	
Comes home at agreed times	
Always ensures that adults know where they are	
Does not go missing	
Infrequent use of alcohol– consider frequency and dependency	
Good awareness of keeping safe online	
Relationships:	
Friendship group do not present concerns	
Not involved in behaviour seen as a problem in the neighbourhood	
Other protective factors	

Child's Details

Full name		DOB	
Disability		Gender	

Home address	Current placement address (if different from home address)	School details, name and address

Family composition:

Summary of child vulnerability and risk factors

Summary of protective factors

Conclusions

**Action – what steps will be taken following the completion of the tool:
If using this tool has identified risk or vulnerability what actions will be taken?**

Completed by

Name		Date completed	
Agency			

This form can be found at <http://www.greenwichsafeguardingchildren.org.uk/site/index.php>